

# Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee

## Don Pedro Project – FERC License 2299

Modesto Irrigation District  
Turlock Irrigation District  
City & County of San Francisco  
California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

07 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10:00 AM

Turlock Irrigation District, Room 152

#### SUMMARY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions

#### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Review/revise agenda – No changes.
- Approve notes from March 2017 meeting – Dates were set to conduct the snorkel survey (September 26-28, 2017) and thermograph downloads (September 12 and 13, 2017). No other changes identified. Notes for the last meeting are posted to the TRTAC website: <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/>
- Items since last meeting – The handout list is posted at <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/>
- West/East Turlock GSA's - Debbie Liebersbach explained that most of the work so far has been forming agencies, etc. She stated they had formed agencies, and are preparing to apply for grant funding to assist in developing a GSP. Further, Debbie explained that there is work ongoing to make use of local runoff, and studies being done related to how floodwater might be used to recharge on permanent crops which will help to inform local options as we move forward. She explained that although this idea sounds like a simple task, there are operational restrictions (i.e. maintenance, etc) on the use of the canal system in the off season which make it more complicated.
- The status of Don Pedro Reservoir and minimum flow schedule – Wes Monier Outlined the 60-20-20 process, discussed recent drought and rainfall records, CCSF operations related to emptying Cherry Lake, Don Pedro elevation targets moving forward (797.4' by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>), discussed 2 of 3 predictive sources (European Model (360 hours out), NWS Model (384 hours out)) used by TID to predict runoff in the basin, explained the 45 day minimum flow period (It was requested that a bulleted list of flow triggers be developed – Maloney to process), a discussion was held regarding the spring pulse – JD Wikert will send a proposal to the Districts in the coming days, to Include Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced spring pulse coordination.

#### 3. MONITORING/REPORTS:

- Andrea Fuller addressed RST data and supplied associated graphics. She noted that due to high flows RST operations were suspended in early January, late February and again in May. RST data indicated that fry density was high in Waterford between January and February, once monitoring resumed in May density of fry was lower and smolt size fish began to appear. The Grayson RST site allowed for two traps to be run this year. Data indicated that survival was very high through

January and February and that fish size increased from fry to smolt as early as March at Grayson and persisted through late May.

- Seining was difficult this year due to excessive flows. A final report will be submitted with the annual report to FERC.
- The counting weir will be installed as soon as the river drops to 400cfs.
- Redd surveys will be conducted by Fishbio this fall/winter
- The Dennett Dam Removal Project was postponed due to budgetary constraints. Patrick Koepele is working on a plan to remove the dam in 2018.
- A plan to prevent salmon from entering the canal system was put in place by TID (see the handouts from today's meeting at <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/>). MID is actively working on a similar plan.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- TID has been working on many fronts trying to manage inflow and outflow this year. Run off rates have been inconsistent causing flows on the lower river to rise and fall in response to reservoir filling rates. TID plans on having the river down to 300cfs by October 1, 2017. A fall pulse 5,950 acre feet will be shaped and timed as seen fit by the fisheries agencies.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES: NONE

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS: NONE

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 14, 2017

**TRTAC Meeting Attendees**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Andrea Fuller (by phone)	Fishbio
3.	Allison Boucher	TRC
4.	Noah Hume	Stillwater
5.	Wayne Swaney (by phone)	Stillwater
6.	JD Wikert	USFWS
7.	Laura Heironimus	USFWS
8.	Wes Monier	TID
9.	Debbie Liebersbach	TID