

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

10 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10:30 AM

Meeting was held via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/7403273352?pwd=dGVLVmN4ejFKNmVtNXFUSXBVV1J4QT09>

Meeting ID: 740 327 3352

Passcode: 490692

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Review/revise agenda – No changes.
- Approve notes from June 11, 2020 meeting – No additions or changes.
- Items since last meeting – Notes are being converted due to a Zoom error.

3. MONITORING/REPORTS:

- Snorkel survey: very different than last year: very large fish observed scattered throughout survey area, very few juvenal fish observed in all survey locations.
- Noah asked what the flow was during the survey. TID reported 100-125 cfs. The data be reported in the annual report.
- Brooke DWR asked if this was a normal count. TID reported no, there were more adult fish and fewer juvenile fish than typically observed.
- CDFW (Gretchen) requested that incidental observations of striped bass outside of the survey area be recorded in the report. TID responded: Incidental observations may or may not be recorded due to field conditions.
- DWR Brooke: inquired temperatures of 88F. Noah Hume explained the foothill/valley relationship of temperature to Brooke.
- Thermal refuge noted at TLSRA
- DWR Brooke questioned without flows will restoration be meaningful with temperatures rising so quickly.
- Thermograph downloads; extremely successful; all data was recovered and will be posted to the TRTAC website. TID informed Allison and Dave that we will provide them with the thermograph data requested.
- TID requested an update on Bobcat Flat III. Allison stated that she is working with Brooke and anticipates breaking ground August 1st if permits come in.
- The group requests a CDFW 1600 permit person to be stationed in LaGrange.
- Fall monitoring: The weir will be installed later this month. The Stanislaus weir began operations today.
- REDD surveys are planned to start in October.

- CDFW plans to start carcass surveys the first week of October. However, they must use 3 vehicles due to COVID restrictions.
- Annual reports: standardized production is on point.
- Can standardized reports be provided to the public prior to the annual report submission? Noah of SWS responded yes if stamped conditional.
- Seine surveys cut short due to COVID.
- A letter was sent to FERC about the Districts response to COVID with respect to consultant activities. All reports will reflect such.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- TID will be working with CDFW, USFWS and NOAA to develop a fall through spring flow schedule.
- Flow operations: the 60-20 Index shows 2,352,352AF, indicating a median dry year. The base flow in September shall be 75 cfs and 150 cfs through December.
- We are scheduled to have a pulse flow of 37,060AF however, 32,619AF was sent down as agreed upon with the agencies. The remainder (4,441AF) will be carried over to February however, unlike the interpolation water cannot be carried through April 14, 2021. Its disposition will be decided as storms arise in early 2021.
- Summaries of the flow requirements are provided in tabular form within the handouts.
- Discussions were held regarding rising temperatures in the river and Pacific ocean. JD and Gretchen requested that pulse flows be moved later in October in response to the rising temperatures.
- JD requested pulse flows be stacked rather than spreading them out, with regard to the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers.
- Gretchen stated Merced pulse thought to be 12,500AF.
- Discussion held on safety in regard to fall pulse. Bridge and fisheries issues confirm flows to be insignificant. FishBio indicated flows over 1,200 cfs could be problematic and request notice.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES:

- The 9-99 river clean up group will conduct 3 clean ups prior to the fall pulse

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- WDO's will be making daily observations for fish in canals in the Harding and Nielsen area.
- JD suggested Ag returns be used for ground water recharge and that TID investigate the possibility.
- Infiltration gallery Bill Penney noted the contractor has begun work. It was requested that Bill Penney provide comments to the group. TID will arrange for a speaker in March 2021.
- JD inquired if TID or MID intend to conduct a water transfer as he suggested may be used for multiple benefits. TID and MID responded no.
- A group float does not seem likely due to COVID.
- The culvert on the north bank above LaGrange CDFW office is dangerous.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2020

TRTAC Meeting Attendees

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Noah Hume	SWS
3.	Chrissy Sonke	Fishbio
4.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
5.	Chris Diviney	CDFW
6.	JD Wikert	USFWS
7.	Brooke Watkins	DWR
8.	Bernard Aguilar	CDFW
9.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT
10.	Dave & Allison Boucher	TRC
11.	Brooke Watkins	DWR