

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

14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 9:30 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 September 2017 meeting – Notes are posted at <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/>
Follow up items:
 - Debbie Liebersbach (TID) will update the TRTAC on the status of the West Turlock Subbasin Sustainability Agency at the March 2018 TRTAC meeting.
 - Wes Monier and Patrick Maloney will provide a flow trigger list for JD Wikert.
 - Dennett Dam removal project received replacement funding per Allison Boucher. TID anticipates working with the City of Modesto to coordinate flows during dam removal summer 2018.
- Items since last meeting – Handout's, Materials List and Notes from the September meeting are posted at <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/>.

3. MONITORING/REPORTS:

- Wayne Swaney provided preliminary snorkel survey results: 445 O. mykiss and 54 Chinook salmon were observed during the survey, Chinook and O. mykiss were observed as far downstream as river mile 38 at 7-11 Gravel Mine. Preliminary numbers from the 2017 survey are higher than the last three years, but similar to numbers from 2012 and 2013. The majority of salmonids observed were located above Basso Bridge and in general Chinook were larger (200-250mm) than typically observed. Approximately ½ of the O. mykiss observed were <150mm, and larger fish ranged up to 400mm. Evidence of significant gravel bed movement and gravel cleaning was observed during the survey, most likely caused by high flows in 2017.
- The Tuolumne weir was installed September 26, 2017. To date 2525 Chinook salmon have passed the weir, 30% of those were adipose clipped. No O. mykiss have passed the weir. Jason Guignard reports that the number of upstream migrants has dropped over the last two weeks.
- Redd surveys are in progress and will continue through March in order to account for O. mykiss spawning.
- The Waterford RST was installed in November and fished for 3 weeks but no Chinook were observed. RST operations at Waterford will resume after the first of the year. The Grayson RST has not yet been installed; installation and operations will coincide with the Waterford RST.

- Annual reports are on schedule for the end of March. The seine report may prove to be a little difficult due to high flows and limited access in 2017. Redd surveys running into March may cause the report to run later than others. The RST, snorkel and thermograph data and reports should be on time.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- Tuolumne River base flows through April 1st are scheduled to be at 300cfs. A buffer of 25 to 30 cfs is being added to prevent violating the minimum flow schedule. Don Pedro Reservoir is nearly full at 797 feet in elevation (maximum storage is 830 feet).
- Jason Guignard noted that New Melones Reservoir is presently encroaching on flood control space and that pre flood control releases may occur soon.
- Noah Hume reported that technical memo's will be sent to FERC regarding temperature monitoring and seining within flood plains during high flows of 2017.
- Roger Masuda recommended the location of the TRTAC Meeting be rotated and that annually TAC information be handed off to management of parties represented.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES: NONE

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS: NONE

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 8, 2018

TRTAC Meeting Attendees

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Gordon Enas	MID
3.	Roger Masuda	Griffith & Masuda
4.	Jason Guignard (by phone)	Fishbio
5.	Allison Boucher (by phone)	TRC
6.	Noah Hume (by phone)	Stillwater
7.	Wayne Swaney (by phone)	Stillwater