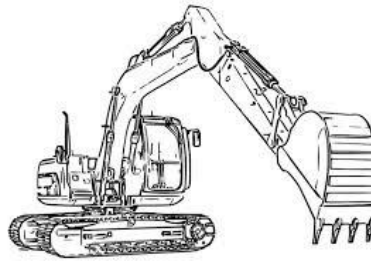


# TUOLUMNE RIVER RESTORATION GROUP

DON PEDRO PROJECT – FERC LICENSE 2299



MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE  
NGO'S AND ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS

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## RESTORATION GROUP MEETING

December 10, 2020 at 9:30 AM  
Via Zoom

### *MEETING NOTES*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introductions were made, a list of attendees follows.
- Speaker: Suzanne Deleon, Central Region CDFW Prop 1 Regional Coordinator who manages Prop1, Prop 68 and FRP Grants. Prop 1 Grant program is a water quality infrastructure improvement act that helps implement the objectives in the water action plan. FRGP is the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program funded thru NOAA that the CDFW implements. It expanded into the central valley 2-3 years ago. Right now they are in between proposal solicitation notices so she can speak pretty openly and candidly about projects. If anyone has any questions or if they think they want to apply for either one of the grant programs, now is the time to ask. Once the PSN's are out, then she can only answer basic questions and is unable to give any advice. Prop 1, proposal application notice is out now for public review and the comments are due December 18<sup>th</sup>. The FRGP proposal solicitation notice will come out in April and Prop 1 will be out in January/February. Workshops will be held for both. Changes implemented with a new database called Web Grant where everything will be uploaded by the applicant. There will be a training process for any grants funded. FRGP is fairly new to the valley so she urges anyone interested to go to the Grant website to review the PSN and contact her with any questions. She will email everyone her contact information along with a new Grant website where you can view and apply for grants and subscribe for information on grants throughout the state of California.
- Power Point Presentation given by Ruth Goodfield, NOAA Restoration Center, (courtesy of Julie Weeder) on the Salmon Habitat Restoration Priorities Process (SHaRP). The finished plan will be rolled out in 2021 and be available to view. Ruth will email the group the presentation and will send Rocko Brown the reference on the Bradbury method.

- J.D. Wikert said that one of the things he has been pushing for is to be using data for decision making and it seems like a good bit of this was driven by opinion and persuasion.
- Ruth Goodfield responded that it was very much a data driven process which was presented on the first day. They stayed with the data and science and the discussions were within those bounds. People with very different perspectives came together to reach common goals and identified central projects.
- J.D. Wikert, do we think that we want to implement this process on the Tuolumne and if so, how do we figure out who will run the show?
- Gretchen Murphey, it seems like this idea requires us to meet in person. To functionally do so the timeline of when we would be able to actually get together is unknown.
- Ruth Goodfield agreed that you need to be in the same room to be able to do this.
- Stacey Smith, it is messy and it is challenging but it is not impossible. The effort will take time to get off the ground. If the Tuolumne group would be interested in something like this we would be looking at the fall of 2021 to do the right ground work to set this up in a way that would be advantageous for running smoothly based on the amount of the data out there and the partners being able to come together.
- J.D. Wikert asked Stacey if NMFS would be willing to assign some staff to help get this process moving forward.
- Stacey Smith replied that this is something that the Restoration Center and the central valley office are really supportive of and with the right ground work that NMFS will be willing to help support this in a significant way.
- Ruth Goodfield, the Restoration Center would certainly be able to give some solid support. Certainly as far as her time is concerned and possibly as far as helping get together maybe to supply a contractor to do some of the data compilation and some of the heavy lifting that comes with report writing.
- Gordon Enas, as far as MID goes, we are actively involved in the FERC relicensing and we don't want to get sideways on that. We are in favor of doing restoration projects on the Tuolumne.
- Patrick Maloney, FERC relicensing is its own entity that will drive itself down the road eventually but in the meantime, the SHaRP program is worth running by Michael Cooke. We are considering all options as far as modeling and group relationships.
- Ruth Goodfield will provide a final draft of the report for Michael Cooke.
- Patrick Koepele, How do you predict the response on any given restoration treatment?
- Ruth Goodfield replied, no that is probably more down the road than this effort. Getting those projects identified is the big step here.
- J.D. Wikert, CVPIA Science Integration Team, has a course resolution model designed to look at what the population responses are of various kinds of actions and could be a tool that we could look at as part of the process.
- Ruth Goodfield, it's just bringing as much data and information to the table as possible.
- Stacey Smith, it is important to recognize that there are different tools and data available to us for different water sheds and this is a way of bringing the biological, environmental and human pillars

together and things like evaluation models or prioritization strategies are encompassed. We can look at other quantification tools to bring in. With SHaRP you can build in the complexities, nuances and variation that the regional data provide. NOAA and the Hydro program have participated in the fish passage evaluation and review of their efforts collaboratively for the last ten years and it is really critical to develop a watershed approach that can be carried out and have some institutional memory. The SHaRP process is one component of that. The NOAA restoration center and the Hydro program, which is collaboratively their FERC efforts see this as an opportunistic way to work through and collaborate FERC relicensing efforts and their on the ground restoration effort. They are best optimized when done together.

- Patrick Koepele, there is a very long history of restoration planning and studies on the Tuolumne with project priorities that came out of that and he is very supportive of trying to prioritize projects. He has some doubts just looking at the relicensing process itself, while there is some restoration action with pretty broad agreement there are others where the agreement isn't there and it isn't clear to him how this process overcomes some of those disagreements.
- Ruth Goodfield, one would be naïve to not have some reservations going into this process.
- Noah Hume, one of the more alchemical aspects of stakeholder interaction is that you jump into a process like this and people come in with their opinions. You observe some formalism and everyone brings their ideas forward and there is a lot of socialization of one another to their different positions and thru that process it is essentially coming up with a common story. Once everyone understands the story fully, whether they agree on the specific details, actions happen. The process does overcome quite a number of things because people haven't considered the full range of points of view.
- Roger Masuda, one of the issues is to what extent can you establish agreed upon sidebars going into the process. In doing so you find out whether the process is actually going to be useful.
- J.D. Wikert, I think we can all retain our individual ideas about what we do/don't need to do in a process like this and still come up with something that is inclusive of everyone. While some parties might not be happy with the prioritization list at the end of things, their ideas should still be represented in the final outcome. It is always challenging in these group consensus processes in that if there are 10 agency people and 2 land owners it is really easy for the agency people to ram through their idea in some sort of a voting methodology. This is one of the reasons that I am hoping to get to a more data driven approach for a decision making process. Spending time in a room with people, having conversations about what their concerns and needs are is really helpful in crafting a win-win or a win-neutral outcome for some of these things. Once there is a prioritized list it gives an opportunity for outside funding to come into the watershed and help us get the job done.
- Roger Masuda, but the CCSF is not here participating in this process and they need to be if we're going to move forward. The process can work but we need to be mindful of the parties' positions.
- J.D. Wikert, if we can get the right people to the table, if they are willing to participate, it's pretty easy for this group to identify the players.
- Gretchen Murphey, as far as potential licensing concerns or conflicts, realistically this won't be able to happen until next fall so the relicensing issues may be cleared by the time we are able to get together.
- Stacie Smith, the licensing issues, even when we have a license, are still there. Having a watershed approach in place, a prioritization scheme, is more valuable before those processes are finalized because it creates greater avenues for funding outside the watershed to come in to put some of the responsibility through licenses and regulations to redirect it back into the watershed. Through a national view we see that these processes are better done before everything in the FERC process is finalized. It's a lot harder or

the benefits take longer to materialize and a lot of that has to do with funding, when it's post license. This potentially creates an opportunity for some of the conversations to happen, personalities to interact on more basis than just the FERC meetings. Stacie is the lead biologist for the Tuolumne for FERC relicensing and she will be involved and engaged to support and to help move people forward to have these conversations.

- Roger Masuda, in the late 90's early 2000's, CDFG received \$30 million in grant funding for the Tuolumne to implement the restoration project. The problem was to do the project you had to get easements or right to riparian land, which can be overcome.
- J.D. Wilert, would like to get back to those days when we were successfully putting projects on the ground every year or even a couple a year. Rocko Brown put together a prioritization for us on the Stanislaus that is entirely data driven and it might be useful for this group for Rocko to present some of the insight of that approach and go over some of the rationale as to why we picked some of those criteria.
- Rocko agreed to present at the next meeting.
- A proposal was made to hold the Restoration Group meetings every other month as an intermediate step. Patrick Maloney will follow up by making and announcing this change and creating it as a calendar invite.
- Gretchen requested that the time be changed if the frequency is changed as she has another meeting at the same time.
- J.D. Wilert, if we as a group feel that SHaRP or something similar is the way to go, we should start planning something now for it to work a year from now. We need to figure out who the subject matter experts are and gather the data sets that we have and figure out who we want to present on what topic and arrange maps and we should be starting on that fairly soon. We may be looking at this time next year to meeting in person again but we should at least start on that path.
- Patrick Maloney, that was the intention of the formation of this group initially. We would start rolling out into what will eventually evolve into a mandated group. We have gathered the maps and the relative papers on the website but they aren't organized yet. We are chipping away at it and the interest is rising.
- Roger Masuda suggested that before the next meeting a poll be taken to see who would be willing to be on the planning committee or such workshops.
- Patrick Maloney will get together with Michael Cooke to discuss this, as it is outlined in the license application.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- Review/revise agenda – No Changes

## 3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Sluice gate restoration and gunitite channel work to begin in May or June 2021
- Parallel strategies for project prioritization: Trying to prioritize by what is the best bang for the buck on the Tuolumne. With private land access where can we actually get something done. We need to continue the discussion and keep the door open to pull together a project.
- Subcommittee was put together to compile maps showing historical restoration projects and identify or rename the riffle/run/pool mapping issue we have. In the group are: Patrick Maloney, Jason Guignard, Noah Hume, Gretchen Murphey, Chris Diviney & Bernard Aguilar. We have had some drone work done on the reach in La Grange by Alex Buenrostro (TID) and the Modesto area near the homeless

encampments and on the north bank by Darren Jesburg (Modesto Fire Dept) who is volunteering his time. The drone work was done during the pulse flow when it was running 150, 175, then maybe 400, 600, 800, 1200 cfs. They are getting drone shots 200 feet above the river in La Grange and Modesto, we are trying to put together a map. If we have any pre-flood releases, they will go out again at known flows. In the coming years hopefully we can capture 2000, 3000, 4000 cfs and see where our flood plains are in those critical areas and river wide if we can. Patrick will share the maps with the group. The subcommittee needs to meet again.

- Chris Guptill shared that they have the least amount of homeless encampments that they have had in many years. They have the river banks fairly clean and clear of that. The cleanups of the last 3 months have addressed the situation. The north side along the park area is clean and camp free with people recreating there. The south side will have a clean-up on Saturday.
- Additional topics

4. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES:

5. ADDITIONAL ITEMS: NONE

6. NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 11, 2021

### **Restoration Group Meeting Attendees**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Dana Ortolan	TID
3.	Roger Masuda	TID
4.	Rocko Brown	Cramer Fish Sciences
5.	Brooke Watkins	DWR
6.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
7.	Suzanne Deleon	CDFW
8.	Chris Diviney	CDFW
9.	J.D. Wikert	USFWS
10.	Gordon Enas	MID
11.	Ruth Goodfield	NOAA Restoration Center
12.	Stacey Smith	NOAA
13.	Wayne Swaney	SWS
14.	Noah Hume	SWS
15.	Krissy Atkinson	San Joaquin Fish Enhancement
16.	Jason Guignard	FishBio
17.	Fred Meyer	McBain & Associates
18.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT
19.	Patrick Koepele	TRT
20.	Alex Williams	River Partners
21.	Reyn Akinoa	River Partners
22.	Trina Walley	ESRCD
23.	Chris Carr	Water Board
24.	Allison & Dave Boucher	TRC
25.	Chris Guptil	9 to 99

