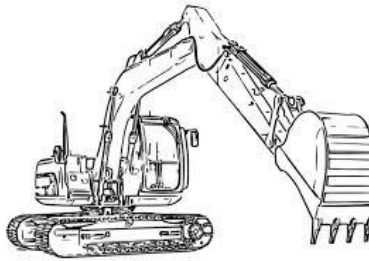


# TUOLUMNE RIVER RESTORATION GROUP

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  
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## RESTORATION GROUP MEETING

December 2, 2021 at 9:30 AM  
Via Zoom

### *MEETING NOTES*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introductions were made, a list of attendees follows.
- No announcements

#### 2. REVIEW/REVISE AGENDA

#### 3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

##### STANISLAUS GROUND WATER BASIN PROJECTS

- Presentation on STRGBA GSA Update given by Gordon Enas
- Allison Boucher stated that she doesn't understand how the water is going to get to the non-district people or what they are doing. It's just a bunch of numbers and letters on the screen.
- Gordon Enas advised that the GSP projects listed are at a conceptual level and they haven't provided a high level of detail. That will occur subsequent to the approval of the plan. MID, from 2017-2019 implemented a ground water replenishment project. During those years, there was a lot of water being spilled from Don Pedro that was not being put to beneficial use in the District. They took that water and made it available to growers in MID. They set up an arrangement where they would install their own diversion system and they were able to divert that water. In conjunction with that they had an agreement where they would not pump a like amount of water. The way they propose to implement this is similar to

the past. They will make water available to growers who are basically not part of MID, who are not currently growers within the District but their property is near to where the diversion facilities are.

- Allison Boucher asked if this is during the growing season. Are you adding more acreage to what you already supply MID water to?
- Gordon Enas replied that they are not adding land to MID. The growers on the East side are depleting the ground water table and creating an overdraft situation. That was determined in their groundwater model. In order to help reduce an overdraft and correct the problem, they are proposing to provide service water to them that they can use instead of pumping groundwater. It is making excess water available to them.
- Stephanie Milsap, if I heard you correctly, this 60,000 AFY only in W/AN years, you are basically taking what water would have spilled into the Tuolumne River and redirecting that to address groundwater issues. As part of the modeling did you take a look at what flows might be like in the Tuolumne River as a result of these actions?
- Gordon Enas, we did the modeling and did our projected baseline using a representative hydrology from 1969-2018. These are really high flow years in the range of thousands of CFS. This is a fairly small amount. If you look at 60,000 AF over a 6 month period, you are looking at maybe 150 CFS. That is a representative flow rate of what they would be diverting off the river in high flow years.
- Kevin Meyer, would these projects be of dynamic in terms of maybe it's not a wet year but we have an atmospheric river and a really high pulse in Oct/Nov but nothing else happens the rest of the year. Does it require it to be a wet year to get this water?
- Gordon Enas, we are talking about spilling water from Don Pedro because it is full and we don't have the ability to store. Individual atmospheric rivers, even though they provide a substantial amount of water, they don't really produce a lot of runoff. It is limited to years where we are spilling from Don Pedro.
- Stephanie Milsap, although I recall from looking at some of the hydrology that there are some W/AN years, especially coming after drought conditions to where the reservoir is really low. Where even though it is a W/AN year as set by the requirements of how W/AN water year is set in April or May that there are times when the reservoir isn't full and so even though it is a W/AN year there is still no spill the following winter simply because the reservoir is refilling at that time. It sounds as if there are some additional caveats with the modeling assumptions that weren't put up on the screen. That it's not just W/AN year, that it's also predicated on storage level within the reservoir. Is that correct?
- Gordon Enas, the modeling that they do is a high level modeling. When MID has made this water available in the past, it has only been in those years when they have been spilling from Don Pedro. It would be a different operation when the year was classified as wet coming off of a critical or dry year. The caveats are the part of these projects that haven't really been flushed out yet. This was a high level groundwater modeling effort to see how we could attain sustainability. To Allison's point even as regard to conveyance and who would get the water and how they would get it, those are the kind of details that have not been worked out yet.
- Cindy Charles, when you were doing your modeling did you run a scenario about if nothing is done and they continue to rely on groundwater. What happens when it is totally over drafted and there is not sufficient water for their operations?
- Gordon Enas, went back to the PMA Groundwater Budget and went over the Baseline column that shows this exact scenario.

- Allison Boucher, it sounded like you said that you are going to use 100 CFS that could be put in the river and we want 500 CFS in the summer. Does that mean that we won't get that because it will go to farmers?
- Gordon Enas, the times where the District has made water available to East Side growers, has been when Don Pedro is spilling. The flow rate in the Tuolumne River, in those years, is in the 1,000's CFS. It would be in those years that they would be diverting maybe 150 CFS during the irrigation season. That is based on if you take the volume of water and spread it out over 6 months that is the flow rate you would get.
- Allison Boucher, what is the average CFS for 2019 from June through September?
- Gordon Enas, I don't know, I would have to go back and look. We are not making a fixed commitment to anything. When we are spilling at Don Pedro that means that we are also generating. Our current FERC license requires a minimum amount of flow and during wet years that is a pretty high flow rate already. Again this will be water that does not impact any of those minimum flow requirements. It is above and beyond that that will be available to those growers.
- Allison Boucher, our concern is that we believe that the FERC flows are not adequate for summer temperatures. That is why we want the spill in the summer and why we aren't happy with farmers taking water in a wet year when it's a year where we might have good temperatures for our trout. We are very concerned that the water is being directed to non-District farmers who really should be in second place behind trout. We are very concerned about that.
- Pat Maloney called time on the presentation as it had gone well over the 15 minutes allotted.

#### NIELSON DRAIN SALMON BARRIER PROJECT

- Presentation on the Nielson Drain Salmon Barrier Project was given by Matthew Hazen.

#### HARDING DRAIN PROJECT

- Matthew Hazen, the Harding Drain Fish Barrier is currently scheduled. We just received our final permits from DWR. We are planning on beginning construction in June 2022 and that will complete our project. We have a fish monitoring plan for our canals in place for after the barriers are put into place. If they perform as we anticipate it should resolve any further issues of fall run Chinook salmon from entering our canal system.

#### TID UPDATE ON MOU

- Pat Maloney read a short statement prepared by Michael Cooke. The Tuolumne River Partners, CCSF, MID and TID continue to work with USFW on opportunities for investing \$4,000,000 in one or more pilot projects on the Tuolumne. The partners are looking at options where their strategic investment can augment an existing project and/or move a project beyond the conceptual stage and make it ripe for grant funding and implementation.

#### PROJECTS IN PROGRESS UPDATES

#### PROJECTS IN PLANNING UPDATES

- Miguel Alvarez, the City of Modesto, J \_\_\_\_\_ cross connection is going out to a design engineer early next year and construction should start in about a year and a half. It helps take storm water off of the sewer system. The sewer system has been known to overflow into Dry Creek and the Tuolumne River

when we have events of high intensity. There will be less risk of those sanitary sewer overflows. That construction is a \$10,000,000 grant and \$5,000,000 that the City of Modesto is putting into that project covering an area of 74 acres and taking storm water off of the sewer system and recharging it locally in a nearby park.

- Sara Sacks with TRT, they have two salmonid habitat restoration projects on the Tuolumne. One near the La Grange Dam and one on Carpenter Rd. in Modesto. Both projects are still in the design phase and they are looking at 30° design being done early next year with construction in the summer of 2023. For the Carpenter Rd. project they are creating a side channel for rearing habitat for salmonids and reconnecting the river to its flood plain. There is a former landfill that is on the area and they are trying to mitigate that and try to figure out if they can use that and not have toxins mobilize into the water. There is also a sewage treatment plant right next to the project site but it is scheduled to be moved.
- Miguel Alvarez, it will be a 10 year process for design and moving all of the primary facilities. Torpedo sludge drying beds, the soil will be removed. The air clarifiers will be removed. The only thing that will be remaining will be the existing pump and some of the buildings supporting the pump. All of the new primary facilities will be installed at the Jennings site.
- Jason Ortega, the City of Modesto Parks has about a dozen projects along the Tuolumne River in Modesto. They are all in design at this point. They will be mostly Parks and Recreation, trails and boat launch with one or two starting this summer.
- Allison Boucher, Bobcat Flat construction is expected to start this summer and they should have all of their permits in place.

#### AVAILABLE GRANTS UPDATES

#### UPCOMING GRANTS UPDATES

#### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

- Peter Drekmeier, FishBio has recorded 5,500 salmon in the Stanislaus and less than 500 in the Tuolumne and wonders why the Tuolumne return was so low this year.
- Discussion took place on possible reasons
- J.D. Wikert, voluntary agreements in the basin have hit a wall and the state is going to pursue a 40% unimpaired flow as part of the Bay-Delta Plan update. It looks like they are going to discuss this at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Does anyone have any more information on what might happen on that front?
- Discussion took place on the Bay-Delta Plan
- Peter Drekmeier is curious if anyone has seen the order on the Mono Lake Tributaries. There was an agreement reached on how the tributaries are going to be managed. It seemed like a good roadmap for ideas. He will send a link to the group.
- J.D. Wikert, it looks like there is going to be some substantial federal funding trickling down from this infrastructure package that will be funneled through various organizations. It might be worth while trying to figure out what opportunities we have to tap into that on the Tuolumne. This is most likely for shovel ready projects.
- Kevin Meyer, there is a State Library Grants Portal where all State agencies are supposed to put their Grant opportunities. He will send a link to the group.

- J.D. Wikert, there is also a Federal Portal at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Kevin Meyer took over for Brooke Watkins and will be managing the Basso La Grange Project and the Dos Rios rubble removal Project.
- A discussion took place regarding greener rubble removal.

NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 10, 2022

### **Restoration Group Meeting Attendees**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Matthew Hazen	TID
3.	Roger Masuda	TID
4.	Kevin Meyer	DWR Rivering Stewardship Program
5.	J.D. Wikert	USFWS
6.	Stephanie Milsap	USFWS
7.	Gordon Enas	MID
8.	Wayne Swaney	SWS
9.	Jason Guignard	FishBio
10.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT
11.	Sara Sacks	TRT
12.	Cindy Charles	TRT, CA Sport Fishing Protection Alliance
13.	Steven Lloyd	State Water Board
14.	Allison & Dave Boucher	TRC
15.	Michael Cane	Division of Boating & Waterways
16.	Fred Meyer	McBain & Associates
17.	Emily Mullins	River Partners
18.	Darcy Brown	River Partners
19.	Jason Ortega	City of Modesto Parks Development
20.	Miguel Alvarez	City of Modesto Water Resource Engineering
21.	Lucia Tercerco	East Stanislaus RCD
22.	Ruth Goodfield	NOAA Fisheries