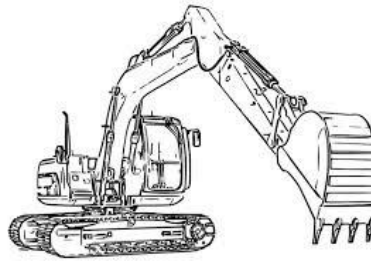


# TUOLUMNE RIVER RESTORATION GROUP

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

September 2, 2021 at 9:30 AM  
Via Zoom

### *MEETING NOTES*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Patrick introduced Sara Sacks from TRT. She is the Habitat Restoration Specialist and an HSU graduate working on two projects, one in La Grange and one on Carpenter Rd.

Patrick also introduced Katrina Harrison from McBain & Associates. She has been with McBain for a little over a year and prior to that she worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for 10 years. She is working on a few of the restoration projects on the Tuolumne River.

- Introductions were made, a list of attendees follows.

#### 2. REVIEW/REVISE AGENDA

- Gretchen Murphey asked to add updates to in progress projects or planned projects to agenda.
- J.D. Wikert asked that we give an update on the MOU with service about the restoration project funding that might be interesting to the group.

Patrick Maloney advised that Michael Cooke has that information and he will ask for an update and email the group with it.

#### 3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Housing of Restoration Group documents – TRTAC Website: <http://tuolumnerivertac.com/> . You can now view any of the TAC meeting or Restoration Group meeting recordings here and eventually the compilation map that is being worked on.

- Status of compilation map: Noah Hume advised that the draft form is very near done. He will distribute as a KMZ and then questions to the group will be posed and a data request. Right now it is just the habitat types, riffles and pools that are in the current data base. They are trying to be a little more expansive in some of the features that they want to include in the GIS. Discussion took place on what is expected/wanted on the map.
- Patrick Maloney advised that he is leading a Boy Scout river clean-up at the Basso Bridge on 09/12/21 at 9am and all are welcome to join.
- Update on Harding & Nielsen Drain fish barrier projects. Patrick Maloney advised that the Harding Drain project has been delayed until next year due to lack of permit. The Nielsen Drain project is almost complete. At the December meeting, Matt Hazen, TID Civil Engineer will give a presentation with a step by step photo essay of the project.
- Group Float Peak Spawning Season – Patrick Maloney will plan a group float during the peak of spawning and will send out an email invitation. Chris Diviney advised that there are salmon in the tail race now. J.D. Wikert advised that they have been running a lot of water on the Stanislaus all summer and water temperatures through most of the reach have been in the mid 60's. On the table there is a 30,000 acre foot water transfer that may happen in late September and into October followed by the Stan pulse flow in October. Water conditions are probably going to be cooled in a couple of weeks downstream as a result of the releases from Stan.
- Water hyacinth update – Patrick Maloney advised that Chris Guptil said that the blockages at Hwy 99 are complete and span the entire channel. Michael Cane advised that they have started scheduling some crews to go out and begin treatment in the Tuolumne River next week. Discussion took place on priority removal.
- Additional topics – Chris Diviney has been monitoring the lower Tuolumne and found a second Sturgeon. They pulled three out of that hole and set them downstream in Mossdale already and didn't successfully capture a fourth one. On Tuesday they found another one about 7 or 8 feet long. They are in the lower Tuolumne and they are probably not going to rescue these because the temperatures have been looking pretty decent. Steve Tsao – they have reported Sturgeon spawning in the lower Tuolumne in late March, early April and have confirmed sighting of it. Fishermen reported Sturgeon trapped because of the shallow water. They mounted a relocation and were able to capture 3 adult white Sturgeon over 60 inches long and were able to document them on the Dixon camera continuously since then. They were concerned that the water temperature might be too high but they seem to be surviving. Now there are 5 over 60 inches in the same pool with no mortality.
- Restoration updates – Fred Meyer, starting at Old La Grange Bridge all the way down to the pinch point along the road downstream of New La Grange Bridge. It extends a little over a mile along the county property and includes the Buck Flat property. That project was funded by DWR Prop 1 & 68 funds and that is design to 100% for most all of the county and public lands there all the way through 100% including permitting. The remaining funds after that is completed which should be around \$1.3 to \$1.5 million to be used for an initial phase of restoration. That would be some in channel work, removal of all of the old haul road debris as well as some flood plain restoration. They are in the early phases of conceptual design. Hopefully sometime early next year they will have a base to design report and a preferred alternative for review. The Zanker Family purchased the Ingalls property which is directly downstream of Buck Flat. It is the whole right bank across from their La Grange project downstream of Buck Flat. That project currently does not have funding, however because they are right there and the hydraulic model includes it they are preparing conceptual designs for that parcel just to keep it moving forward because they submitted a proposal to CDFW FRGP. The Zanker Family owns pretty much along the entirety of the left bank from where the houses end all the way downstream to the creek. They have a current project Zanker Family Farms Phase 1 in the main long pool reach to the first riffle downstream

and they are just wrapping up the existing conditions report and it will be submitted to CDFW for review on September 15<sup>th</sup>. They have submitted another grant to FRGP to do the downstream reach and their partner on that project is Stillwater Sciences and they will be handling all of the permitting elements for both phases. Another mile downstream at Bobcat Flat they are currently working on contracting with CDFW Prop 1. Dave and Allison received \$5.05 million for the first phase of restoration. They plan to do flood plain restoration, lowering surfaces etc. The first phase would basically restore SRP3 which is an old dredger pool that goes all the way down to clay hard pan. The goal is to place about 60,000 to 85,000 cubic yards of gravel in the river starting in 2022 and ending in 2023. Allison Boucher advised that the TRT is carrying the load from the Old La Grange Bridge down through the county on the left bank and the TRC is carrying the responsibility for the remainder.

Sara Sack advised that they are working with the Tuolumne River Regional Park Carpenter Rd. This is a DWR funded project. They just had a kickoff meeting and are trying to use the former landfill as floodplain habitat for rearing juveniles and they are starting to think through design concepts and moving forward with the project.

- Allison Boucher asked if CDFW has any plans for gravel addition above the Old La Grange Bridge in the near future. Per Steve Tsao they do not. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons.
- J.D. Wikert advised at Dos Rios they are looking to remove riprap from the margins of the property. They are completely finished planting out and he thinks that DWR is funding the riprap project.

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS: NONE

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 02, 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.	Brooke Watkins	DWR Rivering Stewardship Program
5.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
6.	Bernard Aguilar	CDFW
7.	Chris Diviney	CDFW
8.	Steve Tsao	CDFW
9.	J.D. Wikert	USFWS
10.	Stephanie Milsap	USFWS
11.	Gordon Enas	MID
12.	Ruth Goodfield	NOAA Restoration Center
13.	Wayne Swaney	SWS
14.	Noah Hume	SWS
15.	Jason Guignard	FishBio
16.	Patrick Koepele	TRT
17.	Sara Sacks	TRT
18.	Chris Carr	State Water Board
19.	Allison & Dave Boucher	TRC

20.	Michael Cane	Division of Boating & Waterways
21.	Katrina Harrison	McBain & Associates
22.	Fred Meyer	McBain & Associates
23.	Tim Caldwell	McBain & Associates
24.	Andrea Wortzel	Troutman Pepper
25.	Jason Ortega	