

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Fisheries Management Work Group
Technical Feedback Group Stakeholder Meeting
May 19, 2008
6 - 8 p.m.**

**Fresno State University
Student Union, Room 309
Fresno, CA**

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Chris Acree	Revive the San Joaquin
Mark Baquera	Interested Party
Robert Brewer	San Joaquin River Association
Jon Ching	Revive the San Joaquin
Marile Colindres	San Joaquin River Conservancy
Ane Deister	Restoration Administrator
Geoff DeMont	Construction
Karen Dulik	CA Department of Water Resources
Charyce Hatler	CA Department of Water Resources
Gerald Hatler	CA Department of Water Resources
Steve Haze	Upper San Joaquin River Project Manager
Steve High	Sycamore Isle
Karin W. Kirkended	Dumna Tribal Government
Dave Koehler	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
Sharon Koehler	Interested Party
Jana Leiran	CA Department of Fish & Game
Abimael Leon	CA Department of Water Resources
Bill Luce	Friant Water Users Authority
Melinda Marks	San Joaquin River Conservancy
Mary McClanahan	River Tree Volunteers
Louis Moosios II	San Joaquin Land Owner
Stephen Neal	Fresno Flyfishers for Conservation
Jim Redmoon	Dumna Tribal Government
Ron Richards	Fresno Flyfishers for Conservation
Monty Schmitt	Natural Resources Defense Council
Bill Swanson	MWH
Stephanie Theis	MWH
Hank Urisach	Kings River Fisheries Management Program
Kim Webb	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff McLain	US Fish & Wildlife Service

Facilitation

Briana Moseley	Kearns & West (Recorder)
Ajay Singh	Kearns & West (Facilitator)

Meeting Overview

Ajay Singh, Facilitator

Ajay Singh presented the purpose of the meeting as two-fold: 1) to introduce the Fisheries Management Work Group to stakeholders, and 2) to gather technical and local input from stakeholders. Stakeholders were encouraged to share input. Ajay presented the Settlement goals, Program milestones and structure, and upcoming Technical Feedback Meeting dates.

Discussion Points:

- Increased involvement from local organizations, including the following:
 - The Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART), Clovis Unified School District. Contact: Steve Wilson (leads the CART Program on the San Joaquin River)
 - Fresno County Office of Education, Watershed Program. Contact : Steve Haze
 - River Tree Volunteers.
 - It was asked that more meetings be held in Fresno, rather than Turlock. The rationale for scheduling Fisheries Management Work Group Technical Feedback Group Meetings in Turlock, is that it is centrally located. However, the Program will provide future opportunities for input in Fresno.

Discussion of Fisheries Management Work Plan

Presented by Kim Webb, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Kim Webb encouraged stakeholders to share insight and comments on Reach 1. She introduced agencies and members of the Fisheries Management Work Group. Kim discussed the Conceptual Model, the Draft Fisheries Management Plan, and the Quantitative Model. The Conceptual model is available now on the website and the Draft Fisheries Management Plan is due in September.

Discussion Points:

- Fish Passage
 - Appropriate fish passage construction materials
 - Materials used near Lost Lake

Discussion of Reach 1 Topics

Presented by Gerald Hatler, CA Department of Water Resources

Gerald Hatler presented Fisheries Management Plan components relating to Reach 1, including the primary objectives and limiting factors under consideration for Reach 1. The objective of the Fisheries Management Plan is to state salmonid life-history uncertainties in the form of hypotheses that can be studied. Management strategies will be adapted as these studies reveal additional insight into the life history of salmonid. Gerald welcomed suggestions for additional areas of study.

Identification of Local Input

Stakeholders were encouraged to provide comments and input.

Discussion Points/Stakeholder Comments:

- Water quality in Reach 1.
 - The Program should monitor water quality, and should address water quality and runoff from the city of Fresno.
- Question regarding restoration flows and how much water will be released to restore river flows (indicated in the Settlement).
- Question regarding how many fish would be restored, and the challenges associated with lack of habitat and gravel availability.
- Need for stronger enforcement of fishing regulations.
 - There was concern that there is a current lack of enforcement of fishing regulations, which could be a hindrance to salmon restoration.
 - There may be a need to outreach to non-English speakers about fishing regulations.
- Need for input on and linkage of land use policies and potential effects on salmon restoration.
- State jurisdictions within the river channel need to be defined. Will the jurisdictions be modified due to restoration flows?
 - Will Reach 1 be designated as a navigable stream?
- Tributaries of the San Joaquin River should be considered when restoring salmon habitat.
 - Cottonwood Creek was identified as a tributary that may provide benefit to salmon.
- Whether the Program would address invasive plant species.
 - Scarlet Wysteria, Parrot feather and *Brazilian elodea* were identified as a problem.
- Bass fishing and Sycamore Island
 - On Sycamore Island, ground water levels need to be high enough to keep water in the ponds for warm water fisheries

- Water in the ponds was higher when the weir was still in the River. It was suggested that a new weir could be constructed for salmon could jump over, although this would raise ground water levels.
- Impediments to fish passage
 - There are barriers to fish passage that need to be addressed (e.g. Highway 41 bridge).
- Agency coordination
 - Implementing agencies should consider working with other agencies that are not part of the Program, to determine whether they have activities that would impact restoration.
 - It was expressed that an unknown agency is spraying vegetation from the waterside.
- Impact on other fish populations
 - Other species of fish in the River, including native fish, should be considered in restoration.
- Prioritization of gravel pits
 - It was expressed that the Program should address gravel pits earlier in the Program.
- Post-restoration vision
 - The Program should create a vision of what the Reach 1 will look like after restoration is complete. This will help the public better understand and advocate for restoration efforts.

Closing Comment

Ajay Singh thanks the participants for attending and encouraged participants to refer to the Program website (www.restoresjr.net) for Program updates and information.