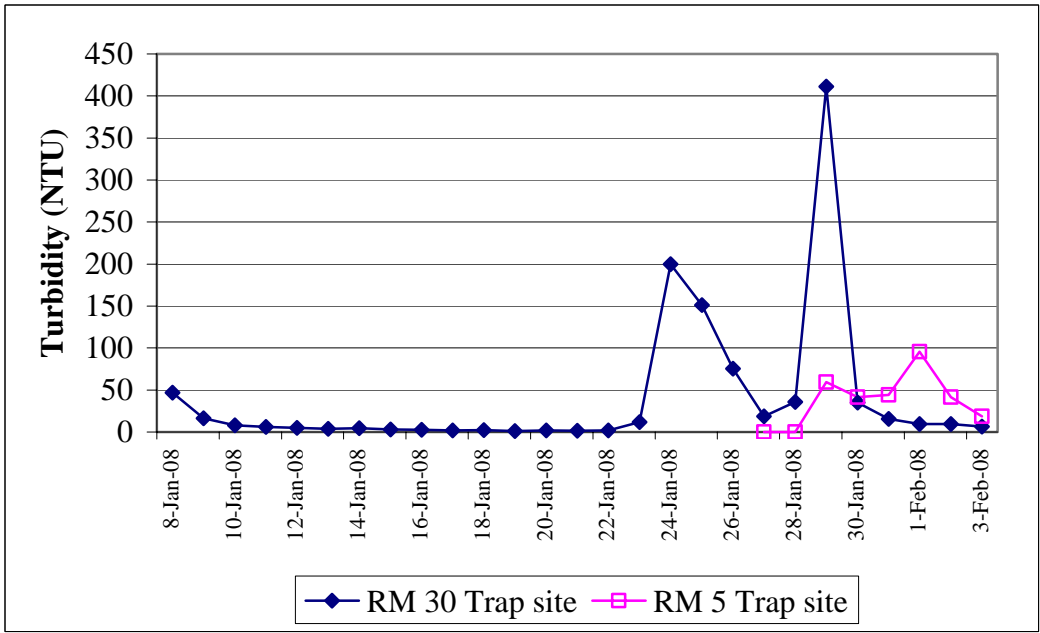


To TRTAC list:

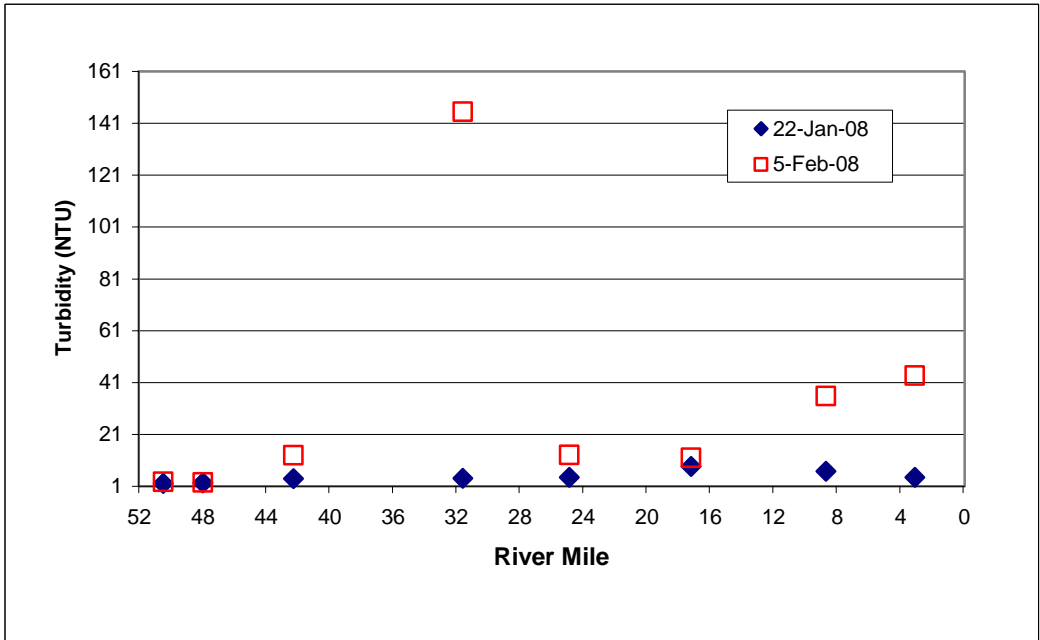
The lower Tuolumne River has had several episodes of extremely high turbidity and associated fine sediment inputs from storm runoff into the salmon spawning reach in 2008. I first became aware of the situation on 11Jan, several days after a storm event, by the river being extremely muddy in Modesto above Dry Creek. In checking upstream I identified a major source from graded land south of Lake Road that drains into Peaslee Creek before entering the river near River Mile 45 below La Grange. CDFG and the Regional Water Board staff were immediately notified by TID. That location is upstream of most of the salmon spawning reach, including the Bobcat Flat/RM 43 and 7-11 project sites (there may be additional erosion problem areas elsewhere of a smaller scale).

In addition to routine turbidity data collected in the course of the screw trap and seine sampling that began in January, we made other recent turbidity readings associated with storm events to further record the magnitude of this input. A few readings were so high that samples had to be diluted to get the NTU reading - some river turbidity measurements were over 100 times higher than we have previously recorded in the river upstream of Dry Creek (our turbidity data goes back to 1998). The attached file has some graphs of turbidity data for this year.

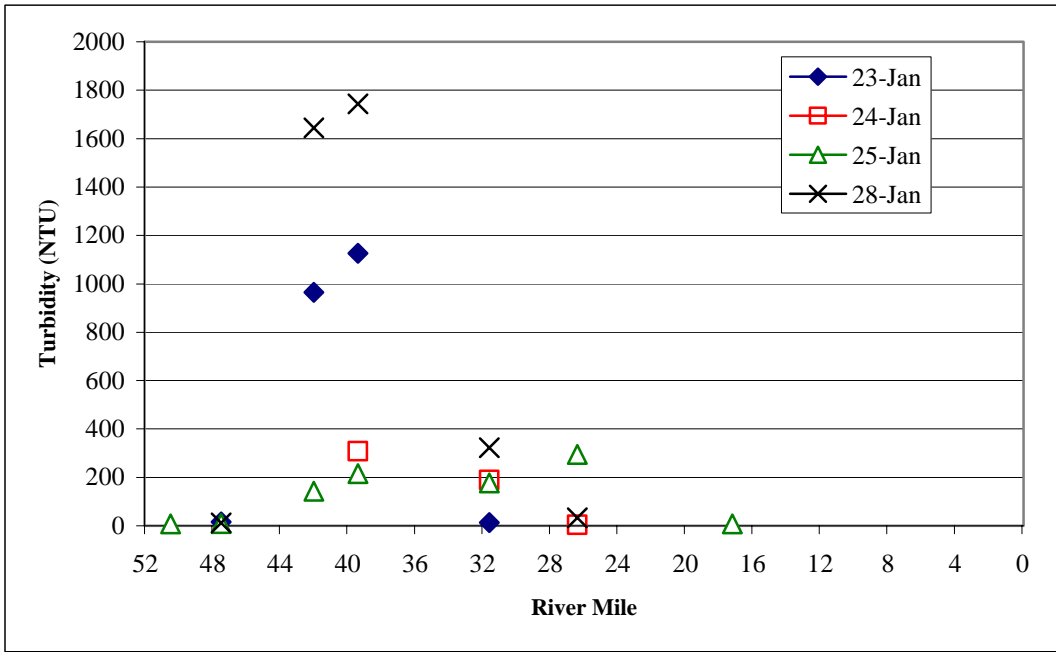
At this time, we are not aware what agency action there has been to date on the situation or if other regulatory agencies (e.g. County, Army Corps) have been involved yet.



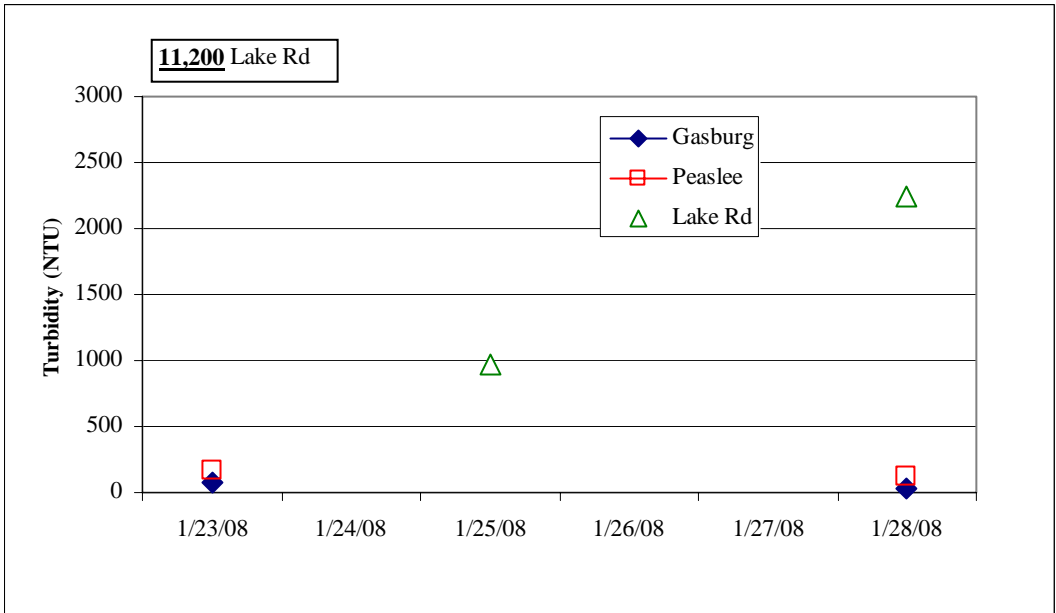
Turbidity measurements at Tuolumne River screw trap sites



Turbidity measurements at seine sites in the Tuolumne River; Dry Creek enters at RM 16.3



Supplemental turbidity measurements in the Tuolumne River



Supplemental turbidity measurements in tributaries near La Grange; a reading of 11,200 was obtained on 23Jan at the Lake Road graded watershed runoff site; Peaslee Creek readings are upstream of the "Lake Road" tributary