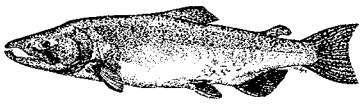
TUOLUMNE RIVER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DON PEDRO PROJECT - FERC LICENSE 2299

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

10JUN, 2004, 9:30 a.m.
Turlock Irrigation District, Lunch Room (2nd floor)
DRAFT AGENDA

1. Introduction
   A. Comments on draft agenda
   B. Correspondence since last meeting
2. **ACTION ITEMS**:
   A. Flow schedule
   B. Review tasks associated with trout issues
3. General FSA Update:
   A. FSA/Order activity, expense tracking, and report status
   B. Review of activities from last meeting
   C. VAMP, Agency, and NGO updates
   D. Monitoring
   E. River operations and forecasts
   F. Restoration
      1. Funding, planning and implementation
      2. Project monitoring
      3. Other restoration information
4. Additional items
5. Next meeting and topics

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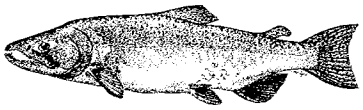

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES of
10 June 2004
DRAFT

1. AGENDA & PRIOR MINUTES

A. The minutes for the March 2004 meeting are incomplete and not available yet. There was discussion of the placement of data files in a PDF format on a website. Ford handed out a list of correspondence since the last TRTAC meeting that was reviewed.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. The flow schedule discussion centered on the way the basin index was continuing to decline. The Basin Index indicted there could be 3,500 AF of interpolation water available this year that amounts to 5 cfs that would be added to releases under the default schedule. DFG indicated they did not want any of the added water in the river flows in the summer. The DFG position was that the FSA water was exclusively for salmon and they want any interpolation water saved for the fall pulse flow. The USFWS did not want to make a decision on the flows because of their linkage with NMFS, but suggested not all the water in a pulse flow, asking for more of a balance. Another option would be to save the water to increase the winter flow. DFG asked that biological comparison be made of the options.

Option	Biological benefit (conceptual)
1. Constant Summer flow increase	Increases miles of river with desired temperatures for trout.
3. Varied summer flows	Used in 2003 to moderate river temperature during hot weather conditions.
2. Fall pulse flow	Improved early season DO in delta.
3. Winter flow increase	More spawning area & wetted perimeter.

No agreement was reached on the use of the interpolation water. As a result, 5 cfs will continue to be added to the default FERC flow schedule for now. NMFS staff indicated they requested the flows be not less than 150 cfs, yet the current FSA schedule calls for 80 cfs (75 cfs base flow plus 5 cfs from the interpolation water).

B. Tasks associated with trout issues and what has been done regarding trout since 2000. There has been an augmented monitoring program developed, but it has not been entirely endorsed or approved by NMFS. Hook & line monitoring started in February 2004 with funds from FOTT, DFG, & CRRF. Preliminary data from otolith analysis were all negative for steelhead, but there is another batch that will go out Wednesday. This was funded by AFRP. Walser indicated there would be a detailed angling & habitat survey that will extend below Roberts Ferry Bridge. NMFS would like to extend monitoring both temporally and spatially for trout. American River protocols may not apply well the Tuolumne River conditions. DFG asked that there be agreement on protocols and details prior to the monitoring to avoid arguments at the end of the study. Ford indicated the need to understand where trout are in relationship to proposed aggregate infusion projects to avoid incidental take. Baker added that aggregate quality is key part of making the available water provide maximum benefit from the infusion project.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Ford went over the 2004 expenditures, noting that monitoring for the period was $48,700 and construction had used up $24,600. Under the fall spawning survey there will be 1 DFG staff and 2 temporaries, if funding comes through. For 2004 DFG will be providing mainly CWT and recovery data.

B. Stillwater revisions to analysis of relationships between flow and smolt survival is complete, but the subgroup has not met to review the report. Marston asked if minority reports were to be included and it these would cover items such as confidence limits for and CWT recovery at locations outside of Mossdale under the FERC report limits. Ford suggested that technical reports for the normal FERC reporting period be submitted in November to provide more time to work on the 10 year summary report due 1 Apr 05. There could include tissues studies for rainbow trout, angling surveys, habitat mapping, redd usage, catch locations (trout), etc.

C. VAMP, Agency, & NGO update.
The VAMP study is done for the year.

Martinez inquired about a tour of the canals after the irrigation water comes out to see why the Districts do not feel trout migrate up the San Joaquin River to get to La Grange. The Federal Register on hatchery fish listing came out the prior week. Martinez presented a brief overview of the key positions, impacts from the Alsea Case, and recommendations. They are also considering changes in the Federal listing for summer and winter run salmon. McLain will be moving from USFWS to NMFS in late June and Martinez will be on detail to DC for 6 months.

Marston indicated there would be a proposal to CBDA to expand the Stanislaus River temperature model to the San Joaquin River. This would include the Tuolumne and he was looking for support from the Districts. There was no specific update on the Tuolumne activities. They will be monitoring the recent gravel infusion when river flows get to 3,000 cfs.

Koepele reported that they would be breaking ground on the Big Bend project this summer with planting in the fall.

D. Monitoring: Ford went over the sampling schedule for the water quality study. There would be 2 sites with 24-hour continuous recordings and 5 sites with grab samples. These are located near the long-term temperature monitoring points.

There are snorkel studies scheduled for June and September to evaluate trout habitat and numbers. Walser felt there should be snorkel studied conducted in July or August depending on the thermograph data. It was agreed to have 12 sites with snorkeling in June, July/August, and September.

Gaedeke joined the meeting by phone to discuss the final report due 1 April 05 and the associated FERC review procedures. FERC staff has not set down their plan for the internal or external review. FERC is expecting recommendations for the next 10 years in the report from the Districts. Marston asked if minority positions would be in the Report or submitted later under the review process. Gantenbein felt the Districts have the option to have input in preparation of the 2005 report. The Article 58 language has the Districts filing the report. The Districts have not made a decision on how collaboration in the report writing would take place. Gaedeke indicated that normally agencies and groups comment on the reports after FERC sends them out for review. Gaedeke inquired as to the status of the Infiltration Gallery. McLain indicated they were looking at $8M to $10M from ERP funds to be used for construction. The USFWS is in discussion with the Districts regarding payment for O&M costs.

There was discussion on the possibility of having the report on spring monitoring in 2005 submitted in May or June rather than with the full report due to FERC Report on 1 April 2005. Ford explained the Districts may submit annual technical reports in November to allow more time for preparing the final report. The 2002 and 2004 macroinvertebrate reports will be updated in the final FERC report.

E. Fryer presented a status summary for the restoration projects managed by the District. The Course Sediment Plan (CSMP) underwent several changes in the final review with input from CRRF. A new CD version of the plan will be sent to the TRTAC members and others in CBDA and DWR. The changes in the CSMP will also be incorporated into the designs

and implementation of the La Grange Gravel Infusion Project.

4. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

None.

5. NEXT MEETING & TOPICS:

The Monitoring Subgroup will have a conference call on 24 June 04 to review water quality sampling and monitoring protocols. A Subgroup meeting was scheduled for 16 August 04 at 9 AM at MID. The next TRTAC meeting will be 16 September 04 starting at 0930 at TID.

FERC 2299 TAC Meeting
10 June 2004

Name	Organization
Tim Ford	TID/MID
Wilton Fryer	TID
Bill Johnston	MID
Patrick Koepele	TRPT
Jeff McLain	USFWS
Ron Yoshiyama	CCSF
John Chester	CCSF
Peter Baker	Stillwater Sciences
Dean Marston	DFG
Tim Heyne	DFG
Dennis Blakeman	DFG
Madelyn Martinez	NMFS
Steve Walser	CRRF
Julie Gantenbein	NHI

REVISED DRAFT – 09JUN2004

Lower Tuolumne River
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead (*O. mykiss*)
Augmented Monitoring Program

TID/MID MONITORING ACTIVITY

Monitoring activities listed here are those that the Districts are using to augment the existing FERC Settlement Agreement monitoring elements to better assess the status of rainbow trout/steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and their habitat in the lower Tuolumne River. The Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts (TID/MID) efforts are in some cases done in cooperation with CDFG or other parties as noted below. Flow levels may affect the opportunity, effectiveness, and safety of conducting some of the monitoring, so some general threshold criteria are suggested. Some elements of this augmented program began as early as 2000.

A. Expanded Underwater Observations

Monitoring objective - to record in greater detail the distribution, abundance, and size of RT/SH in the river in early and late summer. Results through 2003 are summarized in the DEC2003 filing with FERC.

Approach

1) Snorkel twice in the reach from La Grange to Waterford (RM 51-31) with flows < 600 cfs during JUN-SEP period. The FSA JUN snorkeling was expanded from 9 sites to 12 sites in 2001, following a pilot effort at 19 sites in JUN2000. The 12-site snorkel survey in SEP was added in 2001.

2) Number and size of fish observed at each site are counted or estimated for each species. Fish/unit of effort is recorded for time and area covered.

B. Additional spawning surveys

Monitoring objective - Evaluate JAN-APR salmonid spawning activity with DFG. This covers the rest of the peak period for RT/SH spawning.

Approach

1) Float every two weeks (or other interval TBD) in the reach from La Grange to near Turlock Reservoir (or other site as field conditions warrant) at flows <1,200 cfs, allowing 1-2 days to complete the reach. Season may extend into May as needed. Surveys began in FEB2004. Preliminary summary updates are provided by DFG to be followed by a report for filing with FERC.

2) Record number, location, and site conditions of any live spawners, redds, or carcasses

observed. Attempt to distinguish live RT/SH from Chinook salmon.

3) Measure all carcasses and take otoliths, scales, and fin tissue samples from all RT/SH. Tissue analysis will be conducted and reported by the agencies.

C. Additional thermographs

Monitoring objective – Better define water temperature dynamics in the upper river reach and provide more data sites in case of thermograph failure or vandalism. Frequency of downloads may increase.

Approach

1) Three thermographs were added to the upper 7 river miles in 2001.
2) Evaluate and integrate other data records as needed, e.g. DFG thermograph data.

D. Dissolved oxygen and water quality sampling

Monitoring objective – Determine daily range in DO conditions in upper river during low flow period. Collect water samples for water chemistry tests. Began in 2004.

Approach

1) Recording DO probe deployed from 1 to several days at River Mile 50.7 and 43.0 near existing thermograph locations in late May and again in early June. Parameters recorded include temperature, pH, EC, and TDS. Portable DO probe readings are taken in at least four other sites in upper 12 miles. Process may be repeated later in summer under hotter conditions and/or in SEP with additional sampling to be determined.
2) Collect water samples at the recording probe sites in early June. Test for nutrients (ammonia, organic nitrogen, nitrite, nitrate) and contaminants.

E. Macroinvertebrate sampling

Monitoring objective – Characterize riffle macroinvertebrate populations in midsummer, determine longitudinal and interannual variation, and document status of aquatic invertebrate populations available as stream health indicators and salmonid food source. This is an expansion of the annual single-site Hess sampling done prior to 2001. Began in 2001.

Approach

1) Obtain composite kicknet (CBSP methods) samples and/or Hess samples at 5 or more sites in the upper 20 river miles.
2) Process and analyze samples, identify taxonomic groups, determine community indices, and compare methods.

OTHER MONITORING

Angling

Monitoring objective – Obtain information on the size, abundance, distribution, age, genetics(?), and life-history of age 1+ RT/SH during JAN-MAY. DFG began conducting the study in FEB2004.

Approach

1) Float the reach from La Grange to near Turlock Reservoir every two weeks (or other interval TBD) and sample using legal angling methods.
2) Record number and location of all salmonids observed or caught.
3) Measure all salmonids caught and take scales and fin tissue samples from RT/SH. Some fish are kept for otolith study.

RT/SH Locations

Monitoring objective – Identify general locations where RT/SH are likely to be at, based on angling guide experience. California Rivers Restoration Fund identified 47 sites in the upper 12 miles early in 2004.

Approach

1) Float and foot surveys used to identify and mark locations on existing habitat maps.

REPORTING

All field data is incorporated into the existing FSA program that includes e-mail updates, data sheet copies to specific entities, and a report submitted to FERC by the Districts. The reports are provided to FSA participants and other relevant parties. Results of sampling by other parties is usually compiled and reported separately by them, although this information in included when available in reports to FERC.

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OTHER COMPLETED EFFORTS AND ONGOING EVALUATIONS

This list identifies other items regarding rainbow trout/steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and their habitat that have been recently concluded or are ongoing.

Central Valley Rainbow Trout Genetic study by DFG (completed in 2003)

Revision of Tuolumne gravel addition project design (in progress by AFRP)

Survey of trout in canal near La Grange Dam (completed in 2004)

Otolith study by DFG (ongoing – completion by end of 2005)

Scale analysis by DFG (ongoing, but with uncertain timing)

Review habitat suitability data for adult RT/SH on other CV streams (ongoing by subgroup)

Additional review of temperature criteria (ongoing by subgroup)

SNTEMP Temperature model update and data review ($16,000 proposal by SWS – pending)

OTHER SUGGESTED MONITORING

Several other monitoring elements have come up in discussions/correspondence over the last year regarding the status of RT/SH and their habitat in the lower Tuolumne River and are listed here. No specific actions have been decided on these items.

Additional underwater observations

- Mid-summer snorkeling
- Winter snorkeling

Trout blood chemistry and lipid content analysis

Outmigration mortality

Radiotag study

Population estimates of adults and juveniles via angling and photos

Pebble counts of spawning sites

Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

November 3, 2004

Comments of the Revised Draft June 8, 2004 RT/SH Augmented Monitoring Program for the meeting minutes:

Please clarify who is funding each study that the Districts are using. For instance, the Friends of the Tuolumne, CRRF, and DFG funded the Angling monitoring and/or the mapping. In all cases, the funding source should be identified.

E. Macroinvertebrate sampling: Is this a current program? When was it last performed and reports written?

B. Additional spawning surveys: This section should be removed. Only two days were authorized by the TRTAC as a test to see if the float surveys would effective. In fact, the float surveys were not effective and should not have been continued without further TRTAC authorization. No viable data was collected. The Districts should not list these unauthorized and ineffective floats as part of a monitoring program.

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Lower Tuolumne River
Snorkel Methodology Overview

Tuolumne River snorkel surveys began in 1982 with the number, location, and area sampled by site having varied over the years. Summer surveys occurring within the June to September period have been conducted in most years since 1988, although some years with high summer flows, such as 1995 and 1998, were not sampled. Locations were selected to include a range of major habitat types (i.e., riffles, runs, pools) in general areas where salmonids may occur. The overall river section examined is limited to the reach with suitable underwater visibility, this generally being the 20-mile section below La Grange Dam downstream to near Waterford. The snorkeling method employed provides an index of species abundance or "catch per unit of effort" where the species, number, and size of all fish observed are recorded based on area and time sampled. This method does not result in an overall population estimate, as it is not conducted as a census within blocked sections and then further extrapolated.

Each habitat type sampled mostly involves one observer snorkeling a specified habitat area for a certain time period. Whenever feasible, the surveys are conducted moving upstream against the current – an upstream zigzag pattern is used if a greater width of a survey section dictates. Occasionally, two snorkelers move upstream in tandem, with each person counting fish on their side of the center of the survey section. Whenever possible, the entire width of the river section selected is surveyed - the exceptions are some riffle habitats that are too wide to cover with two observers. If high water velocity precludes upstream movement, snorkelers may float downstream with the current, remaining as motionless as possible through the study area, although stream margins at those sites may still be viewed in an upstream direction.

When a snorkeler observes a fish, the total length of the fish is estimated using a ruler outlined on the diving slate to the nearest 10 mm. For some larger fish, the length may be estimated by viewing the fish in reference to an adjacent object and then measuring that estimated length. In cases where larger numbers of fish are observed, the observer estimates of the length range and number of fish in the group. Care is taken to observe and count fish just once as fish pass by.

Data that is recorded for each location include time, water temperature, electrical conductivity, turbidity, and horizontal visibility. Site-specific data that is recorded includes area sampled, average depth, sample time, and general habitat and substrate types.

The following table lists the general habitat types for the snorkel sites of September 2003, the mesohabitat mapping designations of those sites, and 2004 CRRF *O. mykiss* survey site number.

Tuolumne River snorkel locations (Sept. 2003)

LOCATION	RIVER MILE	SITE	AREA (Sq. Ft.)	AVG. DEPTH (FEET)	General Habitat type	McBain & Trush Mesohabitat types	CRRF habitat locations
Riffle A7	50.7	1	4,500	1.5	Riffle	Spawning area / riffle	upper section of Box 2
(1)		2	5,000	3.0	Riffle-Run	Formerly Pool (Gravel added by DFG)	Box 2
Riffle 2	49.9	1	3,700	1.3	Riffle	Spawning area / riffle	
		2	3,000	8.0	Pool	Pool / run	Box 8
		3	4,000	5.0	Run	Pool	Box 9
Riffle 3B	49.1	1	4,000	2.0	Riffle	Spawning area / riffle	Box 11
		2	5,000	2.5	Run-Riffle	Pool / spawning area	upper section of Box 12
Riffle 5B	47.9	1	1,500	1.8	Riffle	Riffle	Box 16
		2	6,000	4.5	Run	Pool	lower section of Box 16
		3	5,000	5.0	Run-Pool	Pool	Box 17
			41,700				
Riffle 7	46.9	1	1,800	1.3	Riffle	Spawning area / riffle	lower section of Box 18
		2	6,000	3.5	Run	Run	Box 19
Riffle 13B	45.5	1	4,500	2.5	Riffle-Run	Spawning area / run	Box 23
		2	3,600	2.0	Riffle	Spawning area / run	Box 23
Riffle 21	42.9	1	1,800	2.2	Riffle	Riffle	Box 34
		2	4,000	4.5	Run	Pool	
Riffle 23C	42.3	1	2,250	2.0	Riffle-Run	Run / Pool	Box 39
		2	3,000	1.5	Riffle	Riffle	Box 40
			26,950				
Riffle 31	38.0	1	4,000	1.5	Riffle	Riffle	
(2)		2	3,750	3.0	Run-Pool	Riffle / Pool	
Riffle 35A	37.1	1	2,100	1.2	Riffle	Riffle	
		2	5,250	3.0	Run	Riffle / Pool	
Riffle 41A	35.3	1	2,400	2.0	Run-Riffle		
		2	2,400	5.0	Pool		
		3	3,000	2.5	Run-Riffle		
Riffle 57	31.5	1	5,000	1.5	Riffle		
		2	7,000	2.0	Run		
			34,900				

(1) Location 2 was modified by CDFG in 2003
(2) New snorkel site (replacing Riffle 30B).

Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

November 3, 2004

Comments on Snorkel Methodology Overview to be included in meeting minutes:

What is the goal?

What was the reason new sites were added? Need to document reasons for any changes in the protocol, including change of sites, techniques, months, etc.

We need GPS locations so that we can visit the specific sites.

Why were the summer months the only snorkel months? The reasons need to be spelled out in the protocols. As you know, the steelhead are in the river during winter months.

Can one observer do adequate coverage for the extra-sensitive adult trout?

What is the maximum cfs conditions that allow snorkeling? Are there conditions that would disallow snorkeling?

What times of day is snorkeling?

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TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

WATER PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO: TRTAC
FROM: Wilton Fryer
DATE: 9 June 2004
RE: Project Status Update

Project	Funding	Status
SRP 9	Full	Construction completed, revegetation planted and maintained for two years, and final replacement planting completed in December 2003. NOC filed March 2003.
SRP 10 Dike	Full	Construction complete. NOC filed March 2003.
7\11 Segment	Full	Construction complete with remaining revegetation planted in December 2003. 7\11 Materials NOC filed March 2003. HART NOC filed May 2004. A separate limited irrigation & maintenance agreement is in place for 2004, funded by MWD.
MJ Ruddy	Full	ROW appraisal rejected by Interior Dept., but working with staff to revise in new Federal format. Acquisition now scheduled for August 2004. Construction could be delayed for 2nd year. An amendment will be prepared reinstating the revegetation work deleted in the last amendment.
Warner-Deardorff	Partial	Design at 90% stage, remaining permitting and ROW appraisal on hold. Based on instructions from CBDA, work on contract with GCAP Service for remaining committed funds is proceeding w/o resolution of review by CBDA-ERP on Directed Action package submitted 21 November 2003.
Design Manual	Full	Final Report submitted 26 February 2004.
Course Sediment	Full	Report being modified to expand on methods and techniques to protect existing salmonid habitats during implementation.
La Grange Gravel	Full	Amendment request was presented 25 Mar 04. CBDA requested completion of the CSMP revisions before finalizing approval of amendment request. Proposed SOW revisions to

		delete the aggregate mining and expand inchannel gravel infusion work are due to contract manager in 2 weeks.
Fine Sediment	Full	A revised Gasburg Creek watershed analysis and site plan has been reviewed by DFG management in Fresno. Meeting slated for 11 June with DFG to determine next steps.
RM 43	Full	Design work is in final stage. Agency site visit comments have been incorporated. Permits and CEQA process under way.
SRP 10	Partial	Design concepts being finalized with input from the SRP 9 post project monitoring results and the use of a 2D model for SRP 9 and SRP 10. No date set for the next funding cycle for PSP on Phase II – Acquisition & Construction. AFRP is looking to place $4.5M in their 2006 budget to be used on this project.

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
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TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA 95381
(209) 883-8300

Don Pedro Dam and Powerhouse

28 July 2004

RE: Course Sediment Management Plan – Final Revision

Dear TRTAC members and project reviewers:

McBain and Trush and the District have been working closely with the California Rivers Restoration Fund (CRRF) to address concerns regarding potential impacts & benefits to *O. mykiss* with implementation of the initial version of the Tuolumne River Coarse Sediment Management Plan (CSMP) as presented to the TRTAC in November 2003. The enclosed CD represents the completion of those efforts and revision of the CSMP into its final form. I would like to thank those TRTAC members and others who helped with these revisions and the AFRP for funding the additional work to make these changes. Revisions to the plan include:

1. Adding information on *O. mykiss* life history and habitat requirements;
2. Incorporating the general *O. mykiss* habitat maps completed by the CRRF;
3. Incorporating measures (such as avoiding certain pools and protecting cover) to reduce impacts to *O. mykiss* at course sediment augmentation sites;
4. Adding projects that create pool tail-riffle units in long pool (bedload impedance) reaches; and
5. Incorporating a review process through the TRTAC and other involved parties for moving from conceptual plans to design-level plans to implementation to ensure that impacts to *O. mykiss* are avoided and intended project benefits are realized.

Completion of the CSMP revisions is linked to the CBDA review of the TRTAC amendment to the La Grange Gravel Development and Infusion Project. The CBDA requested that the CSMP revisions be completed first because the CBDA will be treating the CSMP as a design document to be used as the basis for amending the gravel infusion scope of work in the Project.

Carl Mesick and Steve Walser of CRRF have reported that they are pleased with the revisions and appreciate having the opportunity to collaborate on the CSMP. Through this collaboration, we feel that we have improved the CSMP and resolved controversies that had potential to delay project implementation.

If you have any questions regarding the revision, please feel free to contact Jennifer Vick or me. Jennifer can be reached at 415-821-2059 or e-mail fishvick1@yahoo.com. I have the CSMP master, if additional CD's are needed, and can be reached at 209-883-8316 or e-mail wbfryer@tid.org.

Sincerely,

Wilton B. Fryer, P.E.
Water Planning Department Manager

Enc.

wbf: SedMgt\CSMP Rpt\Ltr to TRTAC 28Jul04.doc