

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 & Wildlife
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

333 East Canal Drive
Turlock, CA 95381-0949
Phone: (209) 883-8278
Fax: (209) 656-2191
Email: pemaloney@tid.org



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 AT 9:30 AM

VIA ZOOM

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions
- J.D. Wikert advised that CDPIA has their notice of funding opportunity up for the next three years of funding. The link is available on grants.gov.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Review/revise agenda – No changes.
- Comment on notes from June 2021 meeting – very thorough.
- Items since last meeting – Noah Hume advised that he is working on comments on the maps which will go out to the first level of commenters and then the larger group.

3. MONITORING/REPORTS:

ROUTINE SNORKEL AND TEMPERATURE

- Wayne Swaney went over the snorkel survey results.
- Patrick Maloney advised that they saw several striped bass a little lower in the system. It seems that there are more larger fish and fewer juveniles than normal among all species. The water hyacinth was not a big problem in the upper end.
- Wayne Swaney advised that he did not compile the thermograph data. He can provide this in the future if needed.
- Patrick Maloney advised that a briefing of thermograph downloads from the year can be presented at the December meeting.
- Discussion on temperatures, surveys and time of day & fish sighting correlation took place.

FALL MONITORING PLAN 2021

- Jason Guignard advised that they are starting to prep the weir now. The tentative install date is the week of September 27th. Depending on conditions and number of fish that they see moving into the river they will start red surveys soon after that. The scheduling depends on pulse flows and when they are able to get out and conduct those surveys. Mid October is when they are planning on starting the red surveys.
- Chris Diviney was there on 09/07/21 and didn't observe any reds there. There were 13 hunkered up closer to the outflow at the pump house.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

FALL FLOW SCHEDULE

- Patrick Maloney – This is an extremely dry year and therefore there is no fall pulse or interpolation water available. He went over the flow schedule.
- Michael Cooke advised that theoretically if it starts raining again and they don't lift the curtailment order, TID/MID won't be able to store that water in Don Pedro and will have to just

pass it through. So depending on what the state does there could be higher flows in the winter if the curtailment order stays in place. They don't know if that is the case or not and are trying to find out what the criteria are for the state lifting the curtailment order and allowing the Districts to divert and store water. The way it works right now is the Districts have to release the full natural flow in the watershed. The full natural flow on the Tuolumne right now is about 66cfs and they are releasing 100cfs to improve the health of the river. If it starts raining again and the full natural flow is 300cfs, ordinarily the Districts would divert 200cfs to be stored and maintain 100cfs in the river for the flow schedule. If the curtailment stays in effect, the 300cfs would stay in the river and none would be diverted to storage. There is no written criteria on when the curtailment would be lifted.

- Discussion took place on how much water is banked for CCSF.

INFILTRATION GALLERY

- Patrick Maloney went over the Infiltration Gallery update and advised that it is scheduled for completion in the middle of 2023.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES:

- Michael Cooke – Update on MOU between San Francisco, TID, MID & USFWS. They have met three times and have had high level discussions with no project level discussions yet. The Districts and CCFS put up \$4 million to do some early implementation pilot project(s) to try and make a difference on the river now before the license is issued. There are no preconceived notions as to what type of project(s) will be done. The goal is to have lots of projects out there at various stages and whatever they can do to have a synergistic effect would be beneficial. Also the use of pilot work as a pre-cursor to more projects so it is kind of a pipeline of more actions on the Tuolumne over time. The goal is to be cost effective, have the biggest impact on fish and do something that will have the biggest immediate impact. Hopefully by the end of the year they will come up with project(s) as well as additional work with the people on the Tuolumne to develop a pipeline of projects.
- Stacie Smith – In response to the Infiltration Gallery, back in April they told SRWA that they felt that an interim operations consultation was warranted for future operations management of the Infiltration Galleries as well as SRWA's system and they have not heard back from them. There is no take coverage for the project and associated operations and maintenance of the Infiltration Gallery either. The recommendation was that they do an interim consultation, understanding that the FERC license is probably a ways off.
- Michael Cooke – Would the interim consultation be with the SRWA for the drinking water plant or with TID and the others for the FERC license.
- Stacie Smith – If the facility is operating, there is no take coverage associated under ESA. The LOC that was written back in 2018 was purely for testing of the facility, not operation and maintenance. If that facility goes on line, it is operating without take coverage. It would be both the facility and associated water diversion networks. SWR has the potential to purge the system and also cause functional ecological effects. It is the operation and maintenance that is the most concerning about Infiltration Galleries.
- Michael Cooke – I have a meeting with the General Manager of SRWA and will bring it up.

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Patrick Maloney has sent a doodle poll for the float during the spawning season.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 09, 2021

TRTAC Meeting Attendees

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Dana Ortolan	TID
3.	Michael Cooke	TID
4.	Roger Masuda	TID
5.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
6.	Bernard Aguilar	CDFW
7.	Chris Diviney	CDFW
8.	Steve Tsao	CDFW
9.	Peter Dreke-meier	TRT
10.	Sara Sacks	TRT
11.	Stephanie Milsap	USFWS
12.	J.D. Wikert	USFWS
13.	Allison Boucher	TRC
14.	Brooke Watkins	DWR
15.	Ruth Goodfield	NOAA Restoration Center
16.	Stacie Smith	NOAA
17.	Noah Hume	SWS
18.	Wayne Swaney	SWS
19.	John Mauterer	MID
20.	Chris Carr	State Water Board
21.	Fred Meir	McBain & Associates
22.	Jason Guinard	Fish Bio
23.	Nathan Houx	City of Modesto
24.	Chad Tienken	