

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
April 21, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Roberts, Edwards, Alternates Conarroe, Madison and Holbrook, Secretary Lytle, Vice Chair Alternate Williams. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting(s) of March 17, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 17, 2010 (Edwards/Roberts).

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

A. Special Presentation – Striped Bass Predation in the San Joaquin Basin and its Potential Impacts on Native Salmonid Populations – Doug Demko J.D.

Doug Demko, President of FISHBIO Environmental LLC. (FISHBIO) gave a presentation on research into Striped Bass predation of Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin Basin. Historically, the Delta was relatively predator free. Today 95-98% of the bio-mass in the Delta today was introduced either accidentally or on-purpose for the establishment of select fisheries. In 1870-79, the striped bass was introduced from the east coast and immediately became popular with fisherman. Within 10-years, a commercial fishery was established and the Delta became a very productive environment. The striped bass can easily travel between salt water and fresh water, so unlike other fish which are territorial or have smaller home ranges, these fish follow the prey. The striped bass have the opportunity to prey on fish in the ocean, the San Francisco and Suisun Bays, the Delta, the Sacramento River, the Lower San Joaquin, and in the tributaries.

Water user groups tributary to the San Joaquin River are interested in managing and researching predation of anadromous fish in the Delta and in the tributaries. A fish weir was installed 7 or 8-years ago in the Stanislaus River to count Chinook salmon. The concern was that the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) was not getting an accurate picture of the salmon population. The weir also ended up being used over the last couple of years during March, April, May and June to determine the striped bass populations as well. There are two traps upstream and downstream. Daily, weekly and yearly estimates are made of the number of Chinook salmon moving downstream. For example, a million fish travel by the upstream trap, where only 100,000 travel by the downstream trap. In 2001, a loss of 80-85% of the fish population occurred in this one reach of river, which was even worse the following years. Over the course of 7 years, 75-80% of the fish population did not make it out of the Stanislaus.

The Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP) was designed to help analyze the paths that fish take to move out of the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. Generally, fish in the San Joaquin system have a shorter route to the Bay and don't have to travel by the pumping facilities. VAMP fish migration studies utilize a wireless tag which allows for tracking of large groups of fish. Only 1,000 are tagged for tracking at a time. For the last three years, researchers have been learning more about the extent of predation and where the fish are being lost. For instance in 2009, a study of 1,000 acoustic tagged fish were released upstream of Clifton Court Forebay. Unfortunately, 40% of the fish were gone before they reached the first test facility. The predation rate of loss was much higher than expected within the eight miles of river, which is more fish friendly than channels downstream. Concentrated locations of mortality are being found. The fish that made it to the facility at Clifton Court Forebay, an estimated 90% when detected, were either ingested by predators or tagged and defecated out into the stream bottom. Mr. Demko concludes that there are significant losses due to predation.

B. Update on San Joaquin County Flood Protection and SJAFCA Activities – Mark Connelly

Mr. Connelly, County Flood Management Division stated work is being done on the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study, and still waiting for the State to approve the federal cost share agreement. The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) submitted a conditional letter of map revision to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the installation of an inflatable gate at Smith Canal. A response from FEMA is expected by the end of April. The Water Education Foundation Flood Management Tour will be held on May 12-13, 2010. Also, General Rock Donahue, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be visiting and touring San Joaquin County on Monday, August 16, 2010.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on 5-Delta Counties Coalition and other Delta Activities – Mel Lytle

Dr. Lytle updated the commission regarding the 5-Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) and other Delta activities. A letter was sent to Senator Boxer from the DCC describing the positions and issues regarding the Delta. The letter was signed by the Counties of Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa and San Joaquin; however, Yolo County did not sign on and instead opted to deal with some of the issues on their own. Specifically Yolo County expressed highlighting their interests in the Yolo bypass. The letter from the DCC minus Yolo County describes water rights which need to be upheld, the threat of water quality, inadequate flood protection measures, BDCP and biological opinion impacts, insufficient attention to sound science, inadequate economic and ecosystem recreation assistance, and Peripheral Canal legislative protection from 1982. The DCC is also trying to distinguish in what arenas they would like to try to influence. Also, a board action taken by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to support proposed assembly bill AB-2092 (Huffman) which focuses on funding for the Delta Stewardship Council.

II. Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action on Joint Meeting of the California partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and 5-Delta Counties Coalition – Mel Lytle

Dr. Lytle updated the commission regarding the 5-Delta Counties and the California Partnership. A meeting was held on April 1, 2010 with representatives from the 8 valley counties and DCC to discuss and define common ground regarding a resolution for the IRWMP framework and the Multi-County resolution regarding water and Delta related issues. The items agreed upon for support in the future include: Through-Delta Conveyance, Dredging, Levee Reconstruction, Projects that Reduce Reliance on the Delta, Extension of Levy Subvention Program, Storage and IRWMP's. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010.

No action was taken by the Commission.

III. Communications:

- A. SWRCB Notice of Public Hearings on Cease and Desist Orders against Various Delta Farmers in San Joaquin County
- B. Information on Dedication of the Freeport Regional Water Project
- C. Washington Post Article – LA Billionaires Sued Over Calif. Water Sales

Public Comment: None

Possible Future Agenda Items: None

Adjournment: 2:50 pm

Next Regular Meeting: May 19, 2010, 1:00 p.m.
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