



# California Fish Passage Forum Meeting Meeting Minutes

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December 9, 2014  
Sacramento, California

**Attendees:** Michael Bowen, Michael Kellett, Melinda Molnar, Frank Meraz, Robin Carlson, Donnie Ratcliff, Bob Pagliuco, Lisa DeBruyckere, Marc Commandatore, Liam Zarri, Steve Rothert, Chris Unkel, Tom Schroyer, Kevin Shaffer, Anne Elston, Sam Assad, and guests Michelle Workman, Rebecca Scully, Jen Bayer, Jennifer Garrison, and Richard Lis.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Carryover from September meeting:**
  - Michael Kellett to produce \$100,000 scope of work for California Water Temperature Network Development (working with Dan Izaak)
  - Agencies and organizations to provide letter of support on PAD
  - Lisa to receive 5C language for Forum MOU
  - Marc will sit down with Anne to incorporate their data into PAD.
- Michael Bowen will sign the Trabuco letter and send it to the US Forest Service on behalf of the Forum – Lisa will incorporate the suggested minor word edits.
- Lisa will place all of the different existing lists as well as all recovery plans (or links to) on the Forum website – especially the priority actions sections.
- The Forum will run its optimization tool for the Spring Forum meeting, review the outcomes, and identify the top 100 barriers by region.
- Lisa will create a fish passage barrier page for all of these actions on the Forum website.
- Lisa will add the concept of a Central Valley Salmonid Joint Venture to the Spring Forum agenda and will connect with Chris Unkel between now and then.
- Lisa will work with the Governance Committee to notify 2015 Forum project recipients of the status of the project rankings.
- Michael Kellett will move forward with developing the \$100,000 scope of work for the water temperature network development in California.
- Kevin Shaffer will follow up with the Water Board and distill what they are doing relative to water temperature networks as well as their timeline.
- Lisa will update the 2014 work plan on the Forum website.
- Everyone will send Lisa their committee and working group 2015 work plans by mid-January 2015.
- Lisa will produce the draft 2014 NFHP annual report by the end of December.
- Lisa will connect again with Steph Wald regarding their interest in joining the Forum.
- The Science and Data Committee will compile representative examples of case studies by inquiring within Forum members, and Lisa will produce a glossy 11x17” document that highlights these case studies.
- Donnie will contact Jesse about adding layers (e.g., counties) to the optimization tool.

**Announcements:** Michael Kellett is changing positions within the US Forest Service, and is heading to Prescott National Forest. Michael will be working with US Forest Service for replacements on both PMEP and the Forum. Donnie Ratcliff received a promotion within the USFWS, and is taking steps to retain his responsibilities with the Forum.

**2015 NFHP Funded Projects:** Forum members discussed each of the projects submitted for funding in 2015 and ranked and ordered the projects as follows:

<b>2015 NFHP Forum Project Proposals</b>	<b>Amount of Forum funding requested</b>
1. Memorial County Park Fish Passage Barrier Remediation	\$67,243
2. Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge Modification Project	\$33,248
3. Central CA Traction Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Improvement Project	\$40,000
4. Augmenting Southern CA Steelhead passage on the Manzana and Sisquoc Creek	\$35,160
5. Strawberry Creek Restoration-West Tributary Fish Passage Project	\$100,000
6. Beaver Dam Fish Passage Device Pilot	\$15,288
7. Yellowjacket Creek Habitat Restoration Project	\$30,000
8. Green Gulch Creek Habitat Enhancement Project	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$330,939</b>

**ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will work with the Governance Committee to notify project recipients of the status of the rankings.

**Trabuco Creek:** The letter to the US Forest Service was briefly discussed, with most comments centered on the collaborative effort to create the letter as well as the positive tone. There was a unanimous vote for the Forum to send the letter. **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will finalize the letter and send it to Michael for his signature.

**Regional Fish Passage Barrier lists:** Agencies are being asked to provide regional fish passage barrier lists, and there is desire to make forward progress to align the existing lists, recognizing agencies will retain their existing priorities. The Forum’s optimization tool could use input from the lists and make model runs based on existing budgets and other factors. The Forum could then endorse projects, noting they are high priority projects within the bounds of the model runs. Potentially, the Forum could produce a top 100 barriers list, which could be divided by region (political boundaries, congressional districts, counties, etc.). **ACTION ITEMS:** Lisa will place all of the different existing lists as well as all recovery plans (or links to) on the Forum website. The Forum will run its optimization tool for the Spring Forum meeting, review the outcomes, and identify the top 100 barriers by region. Lisa will create a fish passage barrier page for all of these actions on the Forum website.

**East Bay Municipal Utility District:** District representative Michelle Workman discussed activities in the Mokelumne river watershed that are facilitating fish passage and management and recovery of Chinook and Steelhead populations. The last barrier was remediated in 2000, thus the district is now focusing on flows, decreasing stray rates, improving spawning and rearing habitat, and controlling temperatures.

**Forum Optimization Tool:** All components of version 3.0 have been delivered, excluding the data portal, which awaits some additional cost estimates. The draft user manual is ready for review. There is a draft review of current barrier assessment protocols. The Forum will be requested to comment on any issues associated with downloading software, software operation, and review of the manual. Forum members will be asked to comment on the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, Part IX: Fish Passage Evaluation at Stream Crossings. Liam Zarri has been busy synthesizing cost data from numerous datasets.

**MOU:** A total of four partners have signed the MOU to date: American Rivers, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal Conservancy, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Central Valley Salmonid Joint Venture:** American Rivers representatives present proposed discussing a Central Valley Salmonid Joint Venture at a future meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will add it to the Spring agenda and connect with Chris Unkel between now and then.

**California Water Temperature Network Development:** The Forum decided that although California will be coming online at some point in the future, it would like to accelerate the work for California by completing a scope of work with Dan Izaak, and share it with others to solicit funding. **ACTION ITEM:** Michael Kellett will move forward with developing the \$100,000 scope of work. Kevin will follow up with the Water Board and distill what they are doing as well as their timeline.

**Multi-state conservation grant:** PMEP and the Forum will be sharing \$85,000 from the 2015 multi-state conservation grant proposal. The Forum could potentially partially fund the water temperature network scope of work with these funds.

**Salmon Federation Conference:** The Forum will present at SRF this year – Michael Bowen is taking the lead on the presentation.

**Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP):** PNAMP representatives gave a presentation remotely via webinar to share the work they have done in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California regarding the development of a database for aquatic monitoring. There was discussion about what would be needed to better engage the entire State of California in the use of the database, as the majority of efforts to date have focused on the Pacific Northwest.

**Work plan:** **ACTION ITEMS:** Lisa will update the 2014 work plan on the Forum website. Everyone will send Lisa their committee and working group 2015 work plans by mid-January 2015.

**Science and Data Committee:** The Science and Data Committee has been discussing the relevance of documenting fish passage barrier projects in California. CDFW is been receiving requests from the media regarding the number of dams that have been taken out, locations of the highest priorities, etc. A comprehensive statewide analysis would be helpful. **ACTION ITEM:** The Science and Data Committee will compile representative examples of case studies by inquiring within Forum members, and Lisa will produce a glossy 11x17” document that highlights these case studies. The presentation Leah Mahan gave in 2014 could serve as the basis for the case studies.