



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Sandi Jacobsen, Gena Lasko, Emily Seigel, Anne Elston, Neal Scheraga, Holly Eddinger

Absent: Bob Pagliuco, Tim Loux, Van Hare, Mark Guard, Andrew Hampton

Meeting attendance:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NApL93PWEhVy2thUfWbRoe0ILJVullm5_YTjQfazKil/edit?usp=drive_link

5/1 Agenda

- Updates from Holly
- 2024 funding allocation update
- Other (reminder about nominations and presentations)
- PAD update – Anne /Neal
- Southern CA Steelhead listing – Sandi
- Passage Structure Assessment update – Sandi
- Funding ideas/updates - All
- 2025 Workplan – Gena

5/1 Meeting Minutes:

2024 Funding Allocation Update

Our allocation from Congress for FY 24 should be arriving any day. Total allocation is \$337,040. This means for 2024, we can fund 4 projects in full. 1-Coordination & Operations, 2- Designing for Sturgeon Passage in the San Joaquin River at Eastside Bypass Control Structure, 3-Jenny Creek Man-made Barrier Removal, 4- Weaver Basin Fish Passage Assessments, and 1 project partially with \$69,840 (Wildcat Creek Fish Passage and Community Engagement Project (Phase 3)). Stan and Holly have confirmed that the Watershed Project will accept partial funding.

This means 4 projects will not get funding. Mid-Klamath Rearing Habitat Assessment and Enhancement Project, North Fork Schooner Gulch Culvert Replacement, Channel Design at River Road Bridge Crossing, Gill Creek, Sonoma County, CA, and Blodgett Dam Restoration Feasibility.

The list of projects has gone to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for final approval, and Holly has been advised not to make announcements about funding award until the funding has officially been approved. As such we have not made any announcements about funding award to the 2024 intended project recipients, or announcement of recommendation for funding from the FY25 RFP, which closed in February.

Other (reminder about nominations and presentations)

Holly reminded the committee that we are seeking nominations for additional signatories for the forum, and Holly sent out a nomination form via email in mid-April. The nomination form satisfies the requirement in the bylaws for a written nomination of entities considered for membership. Holly answered questions about the nomination process from committee members, which includes whether or not someone has to be aware of the nomination in order to be nominated, the answer is no not necessarily, because we will reach out with an invitation for membership to that entity, nomination is a first step internally, and not necessarily relevant to the nominated party. The other question is if we need a specific person in mind. Holly's perspective is that if there is a person specifically that a former member has worked with that could make a good designee from a new organization, we welcome that suggestion, however it is up to the organization to determine who the designated member of the form is to be.

Sandi is intending to put forth nominations for several organizations, including BOR, EPIC, SusCon and USACE. Anne is intending to nominate American rivers. Gena is intending to nominate the National Park Service. The group agrees that the NPS could be a good member especially since they have a project with Cal Poly currently to assess barriers to fish passage in the redwoods. The Suggested potential contacts at NPS and mentions she has worked with Michael Reichmuth NPS Pt Reyes (Michael_Reichmuth@nps.gov). Sandi suggests David Symanski, director of the director for the Pacific West Region.

Holly mentions that the nomination process is straightforward, simply sent in your filled nomination form to Holly and we will continue the conversation from there as to the intended recipients of the invitation, and work with Governance Committee from there to approve and send out invitations for membership.

PAD update – Anne /Neal

Neal has taken a new job, congratulations! His last day is May 10th, so this will be his final meeting with the forum. The group congratulates Neal and thanks him for all his hard work on the PAD over the last few years. Anne specifies that they are done with the Region 1 desktop review. The Region 1 coastal webinar is set for May 15th, in two weeks, and has 39 registrants so far. The Region 1 inland webinar will be sometime in June. After the PAD plan is complete, Anne recommends the Forum host some future meetings for fish passage experts within and across the Regions to discuss known barriers and plans for remediation, etc. Holly mentions that this seems in line with Andrew recommendation to hold meetings for groups to discuss their remediation priorities. We will continue discussing our future for PAD outreach and maintenance after the PAD plan is complete.

Southern CA Steelhead listing – Sandi

The California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously on April 18, 2024, to list Southern California steelhead (Coastal basins from the Santa Maria River (inclusive), south to the U.S.-Mexico Border) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). There are some differences

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between the state listing versus the federal listing, Sandi mentioned that the coastal range above the first barrier is not covered under the state listing, Highlighting the importance of remediating downstream barriers such as Matilija Dam in the Ventura River watershed and Rindge Dam in the Malibu Creek canyon. CalTrout Was instrumental in generating 7000 signatures on a petition and advocating for the listing to the California fishing game commission. Go Sandi!

Sandi mentions that California Trout as well as other organizations have a large list of possible projects benefiting Southern California steelhead, to which the listing will hopefully increase the support and funding justification for these projects. Sandi also mentioned that she reached out to practitioners in that area when BIL money first was becoming dispersed, it's a good time to reach out again to check on the status of those projects. Holly will include news of the listing in the next forum policy news disbursement.

CalTrout Article on Listing: <https://caltrout.org/news/southern-steelhead-listed-as-endangered-under-californias-endangered-species-act#:~:text=The%20California%20Fish%20and%20Game,on%20the%20brink%20of%20extinction.>

Passage Structure Assessment update – Sandi

Sandy confirms that the statewide effectiveness assessment prospectus is ready to be shared outside the forum. The perspective has been reviewed by several technical experts and will likely get some additional perspectives from others as we continue searching for funding. Now is the time to start looking for funding sources, and opportunities for cost shares since it is an expensive project at around 250K. Holly will check Sandi to see if she would like the proposal formatted with form branding, or attached to a narrative or justification, prior to posting to solicit funding.

Wildlife conservation board grants: <https://wcb.ca.gov/Grants>

Prop 1: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/Prop-1>

Prop 64: <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/project/proposition-64-california-adult-use-of-marijuana-act/>

From our last meeting, Bob mentions that They are getting some funding for Klamath Dam removal monitoring from the North Coast water quality board funding. Sandi will contact Bob about that option.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/grants/

2025 Workplan - Gena

Now that the 2024 work plan is done and finalized, the forum should start to populate our intended 2025 work plan, with the goal of the 2025 work plan being ready before 2025. Gena recommends we start this at our next meeting (June). The group discussed the format of the work plan. There are no immediate objections to the current tabular format, however Holly is happy to take suggestions as we move forward. Holly will create a 2025 work plan document based on the 2024 work plan, it will live in the Google drive, and we can start adding to it at any point, with a focus of next meeting being starting on the work plan.

Review outreach calendar.

Review and add to the form shared outreach calendar to add upcoming events to which we can coordinate form outreach efforts.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tZQ9SJv0sj40CxgL_T6MSG6vF3ZUwgBWmEop81JMmHQ/edit

Action Items:

- Holly and Anne to oversee Region1 coastal PAD expert review webinar on May 15th
- Sandi, Gena, and Anne to send in their nomination forms.
- Holly to check with Sandi about formatting the Effectiveness Assessment Proposal
- Holly to create a 2025 Work plan document
- The Committee to start considering items for the 2025 Forum work plan, which we will take a deeper dive into in our June meeting.