



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Policy & Permitting Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Sandi Jacobson, Stephanie Falzone, Erika Lovejoy

Absent: John Sayers

Meeting attendance:

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

4/2 Agenda

- Reminder of Holly maternity leave and general plan for committee work while I am away
- Schedule next interviews for permitting case studies
- High-level review and edit of Quiota Creek Case Study draft
- Reminder of Virtual Steering Committee meeting

4/2 Meeting Minutes:

Reminder of Holly maternity leave and general plan for committee work while I am away

This is Holly's last P&P meeting before heading on maternity leave. Grace Adams, gadams@nrccorp.com will be facilitating in her absence. Anna as committee chair will work with Grace to get committee agendas out and keep committee work going.

Discussion of scope of permitting case studies

The committee discussed the scope and goals of the permitting case studies. The goals, in order of priority of publishing these case studies are:

1. Communicating what has worked well re. simplified permitting pathways within individual interviews.
2. Communicating challenges encountered within individual interviews.
3. Exploring where consistent challenges exist in broader document which include common themes identified from previous interviews.

Ideally, case studies strike a balance between communicating information which is broad enough to apply to many practitioners, but specific enough to be more useful than common knowledge. The committee also discussed how sometimes the most interesting details of a project come from site conditions or constraints. The interviews may naturally touch on those and how those effect the implementation of the project (including getting the permits). Two examples are:

Strawberry Creek at Clam Beach- Trout Unlimited.

Science and Data Committee Meeting Agendas- Working Document- California Fish Passage Forum

Details of that project that influenced getting permits were related to timing of poured concrete curing, and when to rewater the channel. Agencies had input on concrete curing times- interesting!

Santa Margarita Bridge- California Trout

This project is navigating a condition of the USFWS BO that includes holding a conservation easement for the area. This is complicated by the size of the project and the number of partners involved. It would be interesting to learn if other projects deal with this, who carries the easement, how its priced, etc. The committee mentions that this may be an uncommon case, since this doesn't seem to be part of a programmatic BO, maybe more a condition of the regional office handling the project.

The committee may decide to develop case studies about outlying situations as they are deemed relevant, but for now we are going to stick with case studies that meet the numbered goals above.

An example of a common theme independent of any project is the inconsistency with agency personnel interpretation of permitting compliance. Sustainable Conservation touched on this in their White Paper [“Accelerating Restoration in the Sacramento Valley and Beyond: Progress and Next Steps to Cut Green Tape in California.”](#) Where one of their recommendations included agencies providing policy recommendations and direction to regional and local staff to reduce inconsistency.

Schedule next interviews for permitting case studies

[Case study candidate list](#)

Anna will consider who else from the TU team would be good to have on the interviews for Noyo, No Name Gulch and (perhaps separately, Strawberry Creek). Anna will talk with her project managers and coordinate with the committee and Grace to schedule the next suite of interviews.

High-level review and edit of Quiota Creek Case Study draft

The committee will review the draft and send edits within the next few weeks. Finalizing the case study may wait till Holly is back from maternity leave, unless another committee member wants to take it on.

Reminder of Virtual Steering Committee meeting

The mid-year Steering Committee meeting will occur in June and have an opportunity for signatories to share updates of their work. Holly will be sending out an announcement of the meeting and a scheduling poll on Monday 4/7.

Results of Survey to inform changes to Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects

The State and Regional Water Boards are currently in the process of updating the [Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects](#) (Order) and Sustainable Conservation is conducting this survey to help inform potential changes to the Order.

Stephanie and Erika can give an overview at next P&P meeting of the results of the Survey to inform the planned changes to the Water Board Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.