



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Governance Committee Meeting

Present: Holly Steindorf, Andrew Hampton, Sandi Jacobson, Anna Halligan, Gena Lasko, Marisa Parish, Tim Loux, Van Hare, Megan Quinn, Adrenne Chenette

Absent: Holly Eddinger

[Meeting Attendance \(Google Sheets\)](#)

4/3/25 Agenda

- Notice of NFHP Accomplishments Report and FY26 Project Submission (Holly)
- Next steps on Prioritization meetings (Holly, Andrew, and Megan Quinn of American Rivers)
 - Short presentation by Megan Quinn of American Rivers on the joint prioritization process to inform the Active 150 list and the concept of partnering with the Forum to have a meeting with Forum signatories to get feedback on the criteria, process, and results.
- Announcing New Forum Chair, to transition in September (Sandi)

4/3/25 Meeting Minutes:

Notice of NFHP Accomplishments Report and FY26 Project Submission (Holly)

Holly submitted the NFHP Accomplishments Report and FY26 Projects to NFHP. She will also send it to the Steering Committee on Monday 4/7/25, along with a request for availability for scheduling the mid-year virtual Steering Committee meeting.

Next steps on Prioritization meetings (Holly, Andrew, and Megan Quinn of American Rivers)

The Forum has discussed providing a platform for multi-agency, multi-organization discussion of prioritization, with the goals of avoiding double-work, and elevating those projects which appear on multiple priority lists. A great opportunity to advance this goal could be by partnering with American Rivers, who utilized a joint process to develop a prioritization model that is applied to their active 150 list, which provides a rolling list of 150 dams which could be picked from for removal.

Active 150 encompasses all active removals, as well as info on dams which are ranked for feasibility based on landowner communication, dam status and ecological priority.

What makes something an ecological priority? American Rivers used the UC Berkeley TAC, solicited additional input from partners on their criteria. Created prioritization model, which is updated through interactive process. Categories of criteria each have multiple weighted factors and include Habitat quality, benefit to species, Climate Refugia, and Social and Feasibility. The last category may be removed as it is having a disproportionate effect on ranking.

Governance Committee Meeting Agendas- Working Document- California Fish Passage Forum

Applying the prioritization model to barriers (in this case dams), you can toggle on/off certain criteria. For example, you can view dams to be removed only based on impact to species, etc.

The smallest of check dams, and huge dams are all considered. A functional ladder or fishway are not considered.

How much can this be tailored to anadromous waters and species? It is partially tailorable, the existing criteria don't include anadromous only, more so habitat quality, biodiversity, etc. However, adding in anadromous species distribution layers and the considering anadromous waters from the baseline fish habitat layer could allow for filtering by anadromy, after a few hours of data work. Anadromy is currently 30% of criteria, which would go up if/when the social criteria is removed.

Sandi suggests sending it to the Science and Data committee for refinement, especially for process of tailoring to anadromous-only watersheds. If available, Megan and Adreinne can come to the next science and data committee meeting on May 7th 11am. After that Andrew, Megan, Grace can pursue meeting with the Steering Committee and invited members of signatory organizations.

Announcing New Forum Chair, to transition in September (Sandi)

The next chair of the Forum will be announced to the Steering Committee at the virtual mid-year meeting, and transition into chair duties in September.

Review of suggested changes to Bylaws- to be voted on at mid-year SC meeting

The committee approves the wording changes to the Bylaws, to be presented and voted on by the Steering Committee at the virtual mid-year steering committee meeting. Changes to the Bylaws require 2/3 majority to pass and must be communicated in advance by the Forum Chair. Sandi will send the proposed changes closer to the mid-year meeting.

Agenda item for next meeting 5/1/25:

- Adjustments/changes to in-person meeting plan based on weather. Field trips to dam removal sites maybe not be possible during winter. Suggestions, move meeting up? Workarounds?