



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Governance Committee Meeting

Present: Holly Steindorf, Sandi Jacobson, Andrew Hampton, Van Hare, Gena Lasko

Absent: Marisa Parish Hanson, Tim Loux, Anna Halligan

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

10/2/25 Agenda

- Formal transition to new Forum Chair and Vice Chair, welcomes, and thanks for former chairs (All)
- Update on International Fish Passage Workshop plan (Holly)
- Notice of BLM interest in the Forum (Holly)
- CDFW Prioritization List Update (Andrew)
- Spring Symposium Planning (All)

10/2/25 Meeting Minutes:

Formal transition to new Forum Chair and Vice Chair, welcomes, and thanks for former chairs (All)

Andrew Hampton and Gena Lasko are now officially the Forum Chair and Vice-Chair. They will serve concurrent 2 year-terms, after which Gena will move into the chair position, and we will hold a new election for Vice chair. Sandi will continue to attend meetings until December, after which she will hold no committee positions on the Forum.

The committee thanked Sandi for her time as Chair, her dedication, insight and perspectives from her work at CalTrout. She has been an excellent addition to the Forum. Andrew is grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and hopes to bring actionable, out-of-the-box solutions to keep the Forum engaged. Andrew mentions there is lot happening in the fish passage world, and in a recent visit to So Cal he remarked "more has happened in the last 3-5 years than the last 20."

Andrew reaffirms that we should go up to the Klamath in the Spring. Sandi mentions that people are just craving getting together, bringing people together with a common interest is important and we should continue to invest in that in the Forum.

Andrew will be taking paternity leave and taking half time for the rest of the year.

Update on International Fish Passage Workshop Plan (Holly)

Ross Taylor is interested and available in partnering on a workshop for the conference. Andrew mentions that himself, Jonn Mann and Mark Guard took up the task and have submitted a workshop proposal

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already. Mark Guard would co-lead the workshop, where the field portion would involve doing a full passage assessment at a barrier around Davis. Andrew relays that Mark has places in mind that would be good for this.

AT up to 35 attendees, having 2 leaders (ross and Mark) would be ideal. Holly will reach out to the inbox for the conference to inquire about getting a copy of the workshop submission, and will follow up with Mark, Ross, Andrew and Jonn to develop the workshop plan within the Science and Data Committee.

Gena brings up that the conference also includes a [Career Achievement Award and Distinguished Project Award](#). Submissions are due by January 16th, 2026. Gena recommends we submit a nomination for each. Holly will clarify if we are submitting a nomination jointly as a Forum or calling for Forum members individually to submit nominations, and facilitate that process over the November and December meetings so we can meet the deadline.

New signatories and notice of BLM interest in the Forum (Holly)

Stacie Fejtek Smith, formerly NOAA, now BLM, reached out to Bob Pagliuco about being involved in the Forum. Sandi confirms Stacie would be a great fit, and her PhD dissertation “The Implications of Current Restoration Practices and Regulatory Policy for Recovery of the Federally Endangered Southern California Steelhead” moved forward Steelhead biology and policy. BLM has long been on the list of signatories to engage with for the Forum.

Holly will also be reaching out to TNC for their interest in joining the Forum as a signatory. Sandi Recommends Monty Schmitt, Sr. Project Director, Environmental Flows. Holly will continue this process and keep the Governance Committee Updated.

CDFW Prioritization List Update (Andrew)

Andrew mentions the CDFW priority list will be published by the end of 2025. Sandi mentions she put together a list of all the south coast projects with contact information and status, and she will send that list over to Andrew. In 2026, the Forum will reengage with the American Rivers project to hold prioritization meetings to elevate priority projects.

Spring Klamath Symposium Planning (All)

Title: Restoration Inspiration: Connecting the Klamath, A networking symposium hosted by the California Fish Passage Forum

Holly shared a draft description of the symposium. Next steps are to reach out to Taz Soto of the Karuk Tribe so see if they are interested in partnering and presenting at the event, and if so, inquiring about the use of the Karuk community center, setting a date, and planning from there. The committee emphasized that reaching out should be framed as an invitation to collaborate on the event, not a statement that the event is planned and we need a place to hold it. We want to include Karuk perspectives on how the event can be valuable to them.

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Holly will reach out to Taz and keep the Governance Committee informed of developments. As soon as we have a date we can proceed with invitations, budgeting, and more detailed planning.

Sandi and Holly will reach out again to Damon about CalTrout managing the field trip for the Forum to get out on the water.

Future Agenda Items

- Continued updates on new signatories
- Agenda for December Virtual Steering Committee Meeting
- Continued planning for Spring Symposium
- Review of 2025 and 2026 Work Plan