

OUTCOMES MEMORANDUM

TO: Core Working Group

RE: June 22, 2021 Core Working Group Meeting #3

Meeting Attendees:

Jacob Katz, Cal Trout

Colin Purdy, CDFW

Andrea Buckley, CVFPB

Mike Zelazo, CVFPB

Jesus Esparza, DWR

David Pesavento, DWR

Maya Kepner, Dos Rios Norte

John Brennan, Goose Club

Brian Ellrott, NMFS

Rene Henery, Trout Unlimited

Julie Retner, River Partners

Helen Swagarty, River Partners

Consultant Team

Chris Campbell, CBEC

Greg Kamman, CBEC

Bruce DiGennaro, Essex Partnership

Terra Alpaugh, Kearns & West

Sharon Hu, Kearns & West

Mark Henderson, USGS - Humboldt State

Josh Viers, UC Merced and Pacific Agroecology

Josue Medellin-Azuara, UC Merced and Pacific Agroecology

Action Items:

- Schedule a **Fish Subteam modeling meeting** to discuss modeling assumptions (as well as the Tisdale and Sutter Bypass Management plan, salmonid benefits, and habitat diversity).
- Schedule an **Ag Subteam meeting** to review land use data.
- **Brian Ellrott** to follow up on status of NW Fisheries Science Center tool for modeling fish per acre.
- **Andrea Buckley** will follow up with any relevant information related to the definitions for “flood risk reduction” v. “flood control protection.”
- **Bruce** to share revised Objectives document with CWG members.

Discussion Highlights:

1. Project Objectives

- a. The SDM Lead shared the Revised Draft Objectives for the Lower Sutter Bypass Anadromous Fish Habitat Management Plan for feedback.
 - i. The Fundamental Objective should capture the broader multi-benefit intent, inclusive of anadromous fishes and other species of conservation concern.
 - ii. Means Objectives are important for providing specific actions that, in aggregate, provide multiple benefits.
- b. CWG members revised the Fundamental Objective to read “*Increase the ecological functions of the Lower Sutter Bypass to benefit anadromous fishes and*

other species of conservation concern while reducing flood risk and improving agricultural viability” and discussed the following key points:

- i. The fundamental objective can include the concepts of flood risk reduction and agricultural viability to demonstrate the relationship between ecological benefits and other functional aspects of fish habitat.
 - ii. NOAA Fisheries, DWR, CBEC, Trout Unlimited, and Cal Trout noted that the term *flood control protection* is too general and should be revised to *flood risk reduction*.
 1. CVFPB will look into whether the meaning of the term *flood risk reduction* is different from the term *flood control protection*. *Flood control protection* generally applies to hardscaping and CVFPB has adopted the use of the term *flood risk reduction* in place of *flood control protection*. **[ACTION ITEM]**
 - iii. *Improving agricultural viability* refers to the importance for landowners to balance ecological benefits and revenue sources via land use.
 1. Dos Rios Norte landowners consider “viability” as “being able to continue farming rice.” The landowners are interested in ensuring that projects are designed to be compatible for both fish and rice farming. Agricultural viability should be specific to the properties within the scope of this plan.
 - c. CWG members discussed revisions to Means Objectives #1 *“Increase hydrologic connectivity between the Lower Sutter Bypass and the Sacramento and Feather rivers and lower Butte Creek to provide access onto and off-of the floodplain for juvenile salmon.”*
 - d. CWG members suggested adding a Means Objectives to address juvenile fish objectives and the two components in the Fundamental Objective to address needs outside of ecological functions.
 - i. Draft Means Objective #4: ***“Improve juvenile migration, movement, and access to functional habitat.”***
 - ii. Placeholder for Means Objective #6 ***“Consider timing for rice production.”***
 - iii. Placeholder for Means Objective #7 ***“Give thought to means for flood risk reduction.”***
2. Technical Team Modeling Approach and Tools
- a. CBEC provided an overview of the analytical approach for hydrodynamic models, which are rooted in the hydraulic models.
 - i. CBEC is adjusting the approach to the WUA to focus on evaluating indices of habitat quality that meet a baseline level of suitability.
 1. The habitat diversity model can be modified to incorporate additional suitability indices, including inundation duration periods and cover type.
 - ii. Northwest Fisheries Science Center is developing a fish per acre tool that

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- may be relevant to this process. Brian Ellrott will follow up with the status of this effort. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- iii. The food web model may require an additional literature review to ensure that the model is inclusive.
 - iv. The CVPIA database has juvenile catch data that can be exported.
 - v. The Tisdale and Sutter Bypass Management Plan is primarily driven by flood and agriculture management, not ecological benefits.
 - vi. A subteam will meet to discuss assumptions built into fish modeling, as well as the Tisdale and Sutter Bypass Management Plan, salmonid benefits, and habitat diversity. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- b. Pacific Agroecology provided an overview of the hydro-economic model for agriculture in the Sutter Bypass.
 - i. Maya Kepner noted that the Dos Rios Norte landowners also have land use data and requested a follow up meeting with Pacific Agroecology to discuss data inputs and economics of rice farming.
 - ii. A subteam will meet to discuss assumptions built into the hydro-economic model. **[ACTION ITEM]**
3. Planning for Workshop #4
- a. The next meeting will be Workshop #4 on Monday, June 28, 2021 to discuss Flood Management.