

To: Trinity Management Council

From: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Quarterly Report, December 14, 2001 to March 7, 2002

1. Summary: During the past quarter, I have focused on three key areas: 1) personnel actions aimed at having a fully staffed AEAM Team by late spring or early summer; 2) working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to achieve a signed lease agreement and approved office design that will allow us to begin construction in time to occupy the space by early to mid-June; and 3) coordination of the nomination process for the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group and assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service in developing a set of recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior's approval.
2. Follow-up on December 13, 2001 Action Items: The following items were identified by the TMC (refer to minutes of the 12/13/01 meeting) for action by the Executive Director. Current status is summarized for each task.
 - Send out 12/13/01 Director's Quarterly Report: The December 2001 Director's Report was posted electronically on the Trinity list server and by mailed (hardcopy) by Tom Stokely on February 22, 2002. This and future reports will be posted electronically within one to two weeks of each TMC meeting.
 - Prepare correspondence: A letter of support for the Citizen Advisory Committee's SB271 (and related) funding recommendations in the Trinity and Lower Klamath Basins was mailed to Director Robert Hight, California Department of Fish and Game on January 11, 2002. A reply to the November 23, 2001 stakeholder letter regarding budget priorities was mailed to all signers on January 18, 2002. Copies of all letters were sent to TMC members on those dates, and copies were also distributed along with the 12/13/01 TMC meeting minutes by Tom Stokely on February 22, 2002.
 - Complete updated budget spreadsheet with project proposals: In response to a request by Mary Ellen Mueller and others, Doug Schleusner and Russell Smith expanded and modified the existing FY2002 budget spreadsheet to include source of funds, distribution of funds, subtotal of current proposals, and funds still unallocated. A copy was distributed to the TMC for review on February 27, 2002, and the subject placed on the agenda for the 3/7/02 meeting. See Item 5 (below).
 - Incorporate comments on FACA committee nomination process: Comments on the proposed nomination process (distributed on 12/13/01) received by January 7, 2002 were incorporated. A news release was prepared in cooperation with, and distributed by the Fish and Wildlife Service on January 18, 2002. See Item 6 (below) for a summary of the current status.
 - Confirm and announce monitoring workshop dates: The call letter for the Trinity River Monitoring Strategy Workshop was mailed on January 8, 2001. See Item 9 (below) for a summary of the workshop.

- Draft TMC roles and responsibilities for March meeting: The summary of roles and responsibilities distributed at the 12/13/01 TMC meeting has been updated. Additional material was prepared and distributed to the TMC for pre-reading on February 27, 2002.
 - Establish TMC sub-committee to work on budget strategy: Initial calls were made to TMC members and alternates that expressed interest in this subject. Tentative sub-committee members include: Mike Orcutt, Dave Hillemeier, Tim Ramirez, Russell Smith, Tom Stokely, and Doug Schleusner. A meeting will be scheduled later in March to begin development of the FY2003 process.
 - Draft outline of Science Advisory Board (SAB) structure and process: Given the current status of the Restoration Program's organization (i.e., lack of a Modeling and Analysis Group Leader), this task was deferred to a later date.
3. Staffing: Based on evaluations received by January 7, 2002 from TMC members who reviewed the application packages for the Technical Modeling and Analysis Group Leader, an offer was made on January 10. On February 7 the job offer was declined. The vacancy was readvertised on February 11, and will close on March 8. Extensive outreach has been conducted, including 35 universities with graduate programs in fisheries and watershed management, professional associations, and research community (e.g., Forest Service Research Station Directors).

The position of Rehabilitation Implementation Group Leader was offered to and accepted by Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Engineer Ed Solbos on January 17. His effective date (full time work on the program) was February 24, and he will report to Weaverville when the office is completed.

The Secretary/Administrative Assistant position was advertised on January 22 and closed on February 15. The certificate of applicants was received on March 6, 2002, and a selection should be made by March 22.

Position descriptions for the remaining staff positions will be prepared in the coming weeks and advertised both internally (current federal government) and externally (all applicants) with the goal of having new employees reporting in late June or early July. Summaries of available positions will be shared at the Weaverville/Trinity County Job Fair on March 12.

4. Office Space: Basic design requirements and a conceptual office plan were submitted to GSA on January 9, 2002. An initial site visit with GSA representatives was held on January 15, followed by a working design session on February 22 with the GSA space planner and their contract architect. The initial conceptual plans have been revised and are being refined by the architect. CAD drawings should be available within the next several weeks. The occupancy agreement between Reclamation and GSA was signed on February 21, and the final lease agreement should be signed by all parties on/about March 15. Best estimate of occupancy is mid-June.

5. Budget: The following summary table displays the approved FY2002 budget using six major functional categories. The detailed spreadsheet showing the funding status of all approved tasks is a separate handout, and will be discussed later in the agenda. The major focus of the discussion will be on the lack of proposals for approximately \$1.1 million in approved funds, the need to receive the remaining proposals in a timely fashion, and the potential for reconsidering the mix of approved projects.

FY2002 BUDGET SUMMARY

PROJECT OR TASK ¹	APPROVED BUDGET	PERCENT OF TOTAL
ADMINISTRATION		
Office: lease, furnishings, operations	\$ 440,000	4.3
Staff: salary, relocation costs	670,000	6.6
TMC: administrative costs	940,000	9.3
Subtotal	2,050,000	20.2
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES		
Supplemental EIS: contract, associated costs	1,000,000	9.9
Bridge replacements: design for 4, construction of 1	1,500,000	14.8
Project planning/NEPA compliance: bank rehab, gravel supplementation	1,400,000	13.8
Subtotal	3,900,000	38.5
RESTORATION PROJECTS		
Sediment pond monitoring and maintenance: Grass Valley Creek	150,000	1.5
Watershed restoration grant program: Trinity County	200,000	2.0
Subtotal	350,000	3.5
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT		
Baseline aerial ortho-photography	350,000	3.5
Geographic Information System: system development, data collection	120,000	1.2
Other related information management projects	315,000	3.1
Subtotal	785,000	7.8
MONITORING AND ANALYSIS		
Geomorphology and hydrology: stream flow and sediment monitoring, gaging stations, gravel management plan, and related	519,000	5.1
Riparian and wildlife: habitat monitoring	260,000	2.6
Fish physiology: water temperature monitoring, laboratory studies of related juvenile/adult fish growth and health	410,000	4.0
Fish habitat: baseline monitoring and analysis	399,000	3.9
Subtotal	1,588,000	15.6
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		
Fish habitat: run-size and angler harvest estimations	659,000	6.5
Fish habitat: marking and tagging of fish	446,000	4.4
Fish habitat: emigration surveys	233,000	2.3
Fish habitat: spawning/carcass surveys	130,000	1.3
Subtotal	1,468,000	14.5
TOTAL (does not equal other budget tables due to rounding)	10,141,000	100.1

¹ Summarized from detailed spreadsheet containing over 85 projects or tasks; approved by TMC on 9/17/01.

6. Advisory Committee Status: The nomination period for the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) closed on February 15, 2002. Twenty-four nominations representing a broad range of public interests were received. The major interest categories included: Central Valley water users, industrial and non-industrial forest land owners and managers, Trinity Lake marinas and resorts, electrical power users of northern California, watershed restoration and conservation, commercial ocean fishing operations, gold dredgers and miners, small businesses and economic development in the Trinity River basin, whitewater rafters/kayakers, trout and salmon sport fishing and conservation groups, long term local residents, federal resource management agencies (not represented on the TMC), Humboldt County Supervisors, scientific interests, river outfitters and guides, and environmental (forest management and water quality) concerns. A recommendation package is being prepared and will be submitted in the near future by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Secretary of the Interior for approval.

7. Status of SEIS: CH2MHill was selected in late December 2001 as the contractor for the Supplemental EIS. They have met with the four co-lead agencies, as well as the Western Area Power Administration, and instituted regular conference calls for planning and coordination purposes. Initial discussions have included such topics as what constitutes the “no action” alternative, “b(2)” assumptions, and the biological opinion. CH2MHill has developed an initial schedule that will be monitored and updated on a regular basis. As presently scheduled:
 - The public scoping meeting will take place on May 9, 2002 at the Holiday Inn in Redding from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Comments will be received until May 23.
 - The critical path for the project is based on development and completion of the CALSIM2 model runs for the alternatives with a start date of June 3, 2002.
 - Completion of the administrative draft is scheduled for February 2003. The current timeline projects a record of decision in time to implement the 2004 flow schedule.

8. Restoration Project Status:
 - Trinity River Bridges – The replacement and/or reconstruction of four bridges involves substantial environmental analysis and documentation, and requires both an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Reclamation has hired a contractor to prepare both the EA and EIR. Work is currently focusing on the development of a Purpose and Need statement, performing species and habitat surveys, and conducting public scoping sessions (tentatively scheduled for late April). The environmental documents will tier into site-specific permit applications to address flood plain modifications, potential impacts to threatened and endangered species, cultural resource and historic preservation issues.

A flood frequency analysis will be prepared to identify 100 and 50-year peak flows entering Trinity Reservoir. These flows will be routed through the reservoir with Safety of Dams (SOD) constraints to obtain peak reservoir releases. Peak flows in the tributaries below the reservoir, but upstream of the bridge sites, will be added to reservoir releases to obtain design flows. Flow data will be entered into hydraulic

models created in FY 2001 for each bridge site to prepare conceptual designs and cost estimates. Alternatives will be developed for public scoping meetings that may include modifying the existing bridges, replacing one or more of the existing bridges at their current locations, or installing one or more new bridges at different locations.

- Channel Rehabilitation Sites – To improve the quality of planning and design for proposed restoration sites and reduce overall cost, a new set of aerial photography was obtained in November 2001. By the end of March 2002, these photos will be ortho-rectified and available for use in creating “one foot to the inch” scale topography (contours) at any desired location. Accuracy of the photogrammetry will be validated in the near future by comparing it to a ground surveyed test site.

A NEPA/CEQA contractor has been hired for the channel rehabilitation site analysis, and bi-weekly conference calls are being held to coordinate activities. A design team meeting is scheduled for March 14 to identify what level of detail is needed for conceptual designs in the environmental documents, and to “walk through” an example as a group. Design concepts for addressing the Rush Creek delta are also being prepared for discussion at the meeting.

9. Monitoring Strategy Workshop: The monitoring workshop discussed at the December 13, 2001 TMC meeting was held on February 4-6, 2002 at the Weaverville Victorian Inn. Termed the "Trinity River AEAM Overall Monitoring Strategy Workshop", it was designed to develop a broad-scale and multi-disciplinary sampling strategy for the upper 40 miles of the Trinity River. The workshop participants included seven professionally recognized scientists and statisticians with experience in developing broad monitoring strategies, and approximately thirty local scientists and technicians that have been or are currently conducting monitoring and research on the Trinity River.

The first day of the three-day session was a field trip designed to orient the external scientists to the Trinity River and the key issues related to the restoration program. The second two days addressed monitoring strategies for water temperature, smolt/juvenile salmonid outmigrant trapping, adult salmonid immigration inventories, geomorphology, hydrology, and channel rehabilitation efforts. A short presentation was given to illustrate the governing hypotheses and management objectives for each topic, the historic and existing monitoring strategies, and the proposed monitoring strategies. Following these presentations, the group developed ideas and recommendations that would help improve the monitoring strategies.

Based on notes and contributions of the participants, a summary of the workshop proceedings is now being prepared and will be widely distributed. Some of the preliminary findings include: 1) the need to focus monitoring efforts on key areas that are most important for management of the river, and 2) the need to improve both quality and timeliness of technical work (and reporting) conducted on the river. Informal discussions with local participants after the workshop indicated general satisfaction with the progress made during the workshop, broad support for continuing this process, and general belief that the external scientists added a great deal of objectivity to the development of an overall monitoring strategy. The nature and timing for subsequent workshops is currently under discussion.

10. Letterhead: A number of TMC members and stakeholders have expressed the desire to have a separate logo represent various components of the Trinity River Restoration Program, including the TMC, the Advisory Group (TAMWG), and the AEAM staff. Draft logos have been submitted to a graphic design specialist in Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, and a number of alternatives have been considered, reviewed, and modified. A proposed design along with a request for approval will be submitted to Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the near future. Variations of the logo will be used for stationary letterheads, office signs, brochures, and other types of information, education, and outreach materials.
11. Washington, DC Interior Coordinating Group: the Secretary of the Interior in Washington, DC has established a "Trinity River Working Group". The purpose of this group is to share and coordinate information among all Interior agencies with an interest in Trinity River issues at the Headquarters level. The group had their first meeting on February 8.
12. Key Contacts and Meetings:
 - Review of geographic information system (GIS) program status, concerns, and opportunities with Gary Emery (Hoopa Valley Tribe) and Kelly Sheen (Trinity County Resource Conservation District) on December 20, 2001.
 - Conference call with stakeholders regarding advisory committee nomination process and roles/responsibilities on January 22, 2002.
 - Mainstem channel rehab project working group meeting on January 25, 2002.
 - Presentation of advisory committee nomination process to the CVPIA Restoration Roundtable on January 30, 2002.
 - South Fork Trinity River Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) meeting on January 31, 2002.
 - Trinity River Monitoring Strategy Workshop on February 4-6, 2002.
 - Weaverville – Trinity County Economic Summit on February 12-13, 2002.
 - Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference and Workshop (Ukiah, CA) on February 28 to March 3, 2002.
13. Upcoming Events:
 - Mainstem channel rehab project NEPA planning meeting on March 8, 2002.
 - Weaverville – Trinity County Job Fair on March 12, 2002.
 - Invited guest speaker at Weaverville Rotary luncheon on March 26, 2002.
 - South Fork Trinity River Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) meeting on March 28, 2002.
 - Trinity River bridges NEPA planning meeting on March 29, 2002.
 - Briefing for Washington, DC – Reclamation managers (Director of External Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief of Public Affairs, and Legislative Liaison) on Trinity River Restoration Program at Whiskeytown Overlook on April 18, 2002.
 - Presentation of FY2002 CVPIA Annual Work Plan for Trinity River Restoration Program at the Restoration Roundtable (Sacramento) on April 30, 2002.