

Priority / NCAO

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2010

Secretarial Appointees to the
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

c/o Arnold Whitridge
P. O. Box 128
Douglas City, CA 96024-0128
530 623 6688 awhitridge@snowcrest.net

Date 1/11/10

VIA: Federal Express

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Trinity River Restoration Program

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The undersigned members of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) urge you to take immediate actions to make the Trinity Management Council (TMC) the effective "board of directors" prescribed in the 2000 Record of Decision for the Trinity River Restoration Program.

At present, the TMC is unable to provide effective program leadership. Because its current bylaws require near-unanimity for any decisions, the TMC often cannot reach any agreement on program policies, priorities, and budgets, and this cripples Program planning and operations.

The TMC's dysfunction has been addressed in a March 2004 Program Evaluation conducted by program participants, and in a May 2008 Situation Assessment prepared by an outside conflict resolution service, and in quarterly letters from TAMWG to the TMC. The Council's supermajority approval requirement has prevented implementation of the reforms recommended in these documents.

Classification
Project
Control No.
Folder I.D.
Date Input: & Initials

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
January 11, 2010
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By default, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service have attempted to provide program direction when the TMC cannot. However, this is a less collaborative form of management than was prescribed in the Record of Decision, and has not proved to be a satisfactory substitute. To make the TMC the functional, collaborative leadership body intended for the Program, we strongly urge that you:

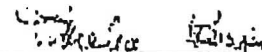
- Amend the TMC's bylaws to provide for decision making by a simple majority vote; and
- Add three (3) members to the Council: the Bureau of Land Management, the County of Humboldt, and the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group.

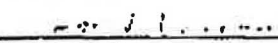
We believe that Secretarial approval of these measures is necessary to provide a promising, capably staffed Program with the leadership and direction it needs to succeed.

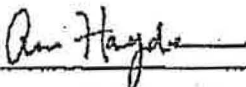
We look forward to your swift action.

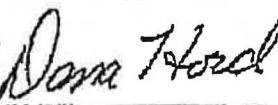
Sincerely,

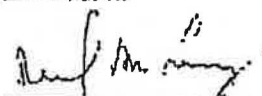
Members of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group


Emelia Berol

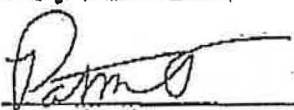

Edgar B. Duggan

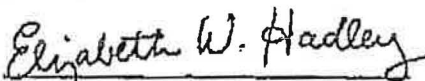

Ann Haydel

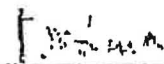

Dana Hord

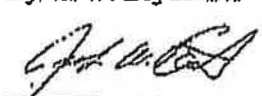

Richard Lorenz


Sandy Willard Denn

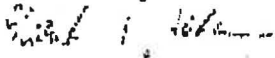

Patrick Frost


Elizabeth W. Hadley

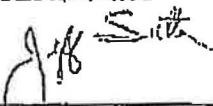

Byron W. Leydecker


Joseph McCarthy

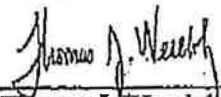
The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
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Page three



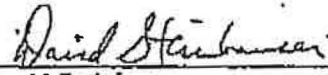
Gilbert Saliba



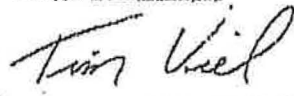
Jeffrey Sutton



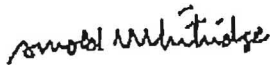
Thomas J. Weseloh



David Steinhauser



Timothy Viel



Arnold Whitridge



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093

PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

January 19, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 30240

Re: Trinity River Restoration Program

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Board of Supervisors of Trinity County writes this letter in support of the recommendations of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group.

The Trinity Management Council created under the 2000 Record of Decision can be credited with good work in its oversight of the Trinity River Restoration Program.

The recent dry winter cycles that have been experienced in the Trinity River Basin have created an environment that makes the Council ineffective with the competing positions of its members. The super majority voting requirement has made the decision process difficult at best and impossible at worst. The need to act is more important than ever but action has become impossible. The Council has not been able to make the decisions recommended by the technical support staff or the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group at a time when the recommendations are most needed.

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors supports the recommendations of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group in reducing the voting requirements to a simple majority and adding additional members to the Council to better represent the needs of the Community and the health of the River and its fisheries.

Sincerely,

TRINITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith N. Pflueger".

JUDITH N. PFLUEGER, CHAIRMAN

BOS:dbf:wt

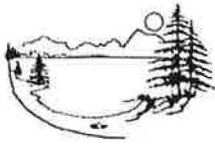
JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGLER
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN
DISTRICT 4

WENDY REISS
DISTRICT 5



Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance

Via Email and First Class Mail

January 28, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 30240

RE: Trinity River Restoration Project

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance asks you to support the recommendations of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group, as stated in their January 11, 2010 letter.

The Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance is a community organization representing the people and businesses surrounding Trinity Reservoir. Superior management of the Trinity River Restoration Program, and therefore the water pool in the reservoir, is essential to the survival of our local communities, ecosystem, and economy, as well as the health of Trinity County.

The success of the Trinity River Restoration Program depends on effective and decisive leadership. The Trinity Management Council, for years, has been unable to act on decisions due to the supermajority approval requirement and has been unable to develop consensus on controversial topics. A change to a simple majority vote will help to eliminate stalemates and move the restoration program forward.

The addition of the Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt County, and the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) will bring more balance to the Council. TAMWG's addition will be extremely beneficial since the Working Group represents many public and local organizations that are currently under represented.

The proposed Council by-law changes will be one step forward to improving a long standing problem that puts the equitable success of the Trinity River Restoration Program in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelli Gant, chair
Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance

Encl: TAMWG 1/11/10 letter
Cc: Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
Trinity County Board of Supervisors



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 · PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 302040

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Trinity River flows through much of Humboldt County and is a proud part of our history. Our residents and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors have a great interest in the Trinity and its resources.

A few years ago, the Department of the Interior reduced the Trinity River Task Force membership, eliminating Humboldt County's historical seat. In addition, the present day Trinity Management Council's technical support team continues to struggle with a "super majority" voting requirement. Their decisions are essential for the recovery of fisheries and prudent water management.

Accordingly, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that Humboldt County receive a seat on the Trinity Management Council and that voting requirements for the Trinity Adaptive Management Group be reevaluated. Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Clif Clendenen, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC:kh



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 26 2010



Chairman Arnold Whitridge and Members of the Trinity
Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG)
P.O. Box 128
Douglas City, California 96024-0128

Dear Chairman Whitridge and Members of the TAMWG:

On behalf of Secretary Ken Salazar, I am responding to your letter of January 11, 2010, expressing your concerns with several aspects of the Trinity Management Council's (TMC) function and governing structure. Although it was sobering to read of your disappointment in the TMC's lack of effectiveness, I appreciate your candor.

I similarly appreciate the important role that the TAMWG has played in the Trinity River Restoration Program (Program). The Program is founded on partnership and consensus among stakeholders and other river interests. Your input and guidance are critical, and your intended role can only be fulfilled if an effective working relationship is maintained between the TMC and TAMWG. I regret noting that this important relationship is obviously strained, and I urge both TAMWG and TMC members to continue engaging in measures to address long-standing issues and to remove the barriers toward developing a more effective understanding of each groups' perspective. I am encouraged that the groups intend to hold one or more joint discussions as a part of future meetings — facilitated if necessary — to identify and resolve concerns.

I am aware of the earlier recommendations advanced to the TMC from the TAMWG as described in your letter and of the membership structure described in the Implementation Plan. In addition, I have learned of the voting protocol in the TMC bylaws that you indicate hinders decision-making. The fact that the TMC bylaws require a supermajority is another clear reflection of the partnership-based Program foundation and an indication of the original intent that TMC members work toward commonly valued objectives for the Program. Conversely, I agree that the supermajority requirement can inhibit progress on key Program issues by preventing a passing vote on motions concerning matters about which TMC members are divided in their opinions.

I am concerned that moving to a simple majority vote will not resolve your general concerns without being offset by further fractiousness within the TMC membership. I do commit, however, that the Regional Director of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, Mr. Donald Glaser, will thoroughly discuss and consider this recommendation with his U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counterpart, Mr. Ren Lohofener, as well as with Program representatives. Any further consideration of a change to the TMC bylaws will also require Government-to-Government consultation with both the Yurok Tribe and the Hoopa Valley Tribe. One of the founding principles of the Program is the Department of the Interior's commitment to its tribal trust responsibilities to the two Tribes, to be fulfilled through implementing the Program; thus, it is imperative that any consideration of changing TMC membership or current voting protocols must be carefully assessed in order to prevent potential adverse impacts on our tribal partners.

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In your letter, you also recommend adding three members to the TMC, representing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Humboldt County, and the TAMWG. I have been briefed on the outcome of TMC motions to add BLM and TAMWG and the basis for some TMC members voting against admission. The TMC Chair, Mr. Brian Person, recently contacted Humboldt County to discuss their interest, and they preliminarily indicated their desire to join the TMC. Mr. Person has indicated that he will include this topic on the agenda for the next TMC meeting.

I am reluctant to recommend to Secretary Salazar that he unilaterally add members to the TMC outside the provisions in the bylaws and inconsistent with the direction provided within the Implementation Plan. While it may indeed shift the nature of the TMC deliberations and even the voting outcome, to do so would be counter to the Program's founding tenets; I would rather encourage the TMC members to continue to seriously evaluate the merits of broader TMC membership and the associated benefits. I am also concerned that other Program partners and interests may follow suit by seeking unilateral changes to their specific liking, further eroding the partnerships within the Program, however tenuous they might appear.

Although I cannot recommend that the Secretary unilaterally implement the specific changes you are requesting, I will continue to lend my support toward improving the Program's effectiveness. It is my sincere desire that the accomplishments and cohesiveness of the Program will dramatically improve as a result of all of our efforts, and it may be that some of the tangible changes you are now seeking could follow in the future as a result of increased TMC/TAMWG coordination and a greater mutual understanding of respective concerns.

Should you require additional information, please contact Mr. Donald Glaser, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, at 916-978-5000 (TTY 916-978-5608) or Mr. Brian Person, Area Manager, Northern California Area Office, at 530-275-1554 (TTY 530-275-8991).

Sincerely,



Michael L. Connor
Commissioner

cc: Mr. Donald R. Glaser
Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Mr. Brian Person
Chairman
Trinity Management Council
P.O. Box 128
Douglas City, CA 96024-0128

GEORGE MILLER

7TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

georgomiller.house.gov

2205 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0507
(202) 226-2095DANIEL WEISS
CHIEF OF STAFFCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN**Congress of the United States****House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-0507

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VALLEJO, CA 94592
(707) 645-1888

JUN 28 '10 PM 1:13

June 23, 2010

Commissioner Michael L. Connor
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001Regional Director Donald R. Glaser
Mid Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825-1898

Dear Commissioner Connor and Regional Director Glaser:

As you know, many of the long-time proponents and stakeholders of the Trinity River Restoration Program have raised concerns that disagreements and structural problems within the program are impeding efforts to restore and enhance the Trinity River and the river basin's fish and wildlife. I have worked on Trinity River restoration efforts for years, and these developments are worrying to me.

While there have been several letters exchanged on the matter, I believe that our shared interest in a robust and successful Trinity River Restoration Program necessitates additional steps, and I would appreciate the opportunity to work with you to move the program forward.

In order to help resolve the disputes, I propose that my office convene a meeting with your offices and key members of the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group, followed by a meeting with the other members of the Trinity Management Council. My staff will follow up with your offices to pursue this recommendation further.

I am hopeful that a discussion of the specific concerns and recommended solutions of the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group will provide additional information that the Department of the Interior and program stakeholders can use to help to break the present impasse.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you on our shared interest in a thriving Trinity River Restoration Program.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER

Member of Congress

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92-00000
92-30000
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94-30000

OFFICIAL FILE WASHINGTON		
ACTION DUE DATE 7/12/10		
Date	Initial	Routing Code
		96-42020
CENTRAL FILES 91-12130		
CLASS	ADM-110	
PRI	61-4481	
CONTROL#	10046889	



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 14 2010

Honorable George Miller
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your letter of June 23, 2010, regarding the concerns raised by proponents and stakeholders of the Trinity River Restoration Program (Program) that disagreements and structural problems within the Program may be hindering progress in completing the restoration effort. You propose meeting with Reclamation and key members of the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG), followed by a meeting with the Trinity Management Council (TMC), to help resolve the disputes.

Knowing how busy you are, I appreciate your generous offer. Further, I applaud your efforts over the years in support of the Program. The Program represents a unique opportunity not only to restore a treasured fishery and its river ecosystem, but also to take actions consistent with our trust responsibility to two Native American tribes, which is among the top priorities of the Administration.

The TAMWG has also been a key contributor to the program, providing meaningful guidance to the TMC on a wide variety of matters. While the TMC has adopted many of the recommendations forwarded by the TAMWG, their recent urging to add up to three members to the TMC, along with modifying the voting structure within the TMC, failed to garner the unanimous affirmative votes necessary for passage.

The bylaws require that a super majority is necessary to pass motions on issues other than membership or voting structure, and there have been several instances where a motion that did not gain a super majority would have passed if only a simple majority were required, as the TAMWG suggests. We believe this to be their chief concern. But we have frequently reminded our respective managers overseeing the program that they are not relieved of their responsibility to implement the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD) if the TMC fails to attain a super majority vote on any or all issues, as the TMC's role is advisory to the Secretary. On several occasions when the TMC did not pass a motion on a particular recommendation, Program officials have taken into account the substance of conversations preceding the vote in determining a particular course of action.

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Honorable George Miller

We are concerned that moving to a simple majority would result in some motions being passed by the TMC which the Yurok Tribe and the Hoopa Valley Tribe both oppose. Because the Department must fulfill its trust responsibility to both tribes, in those instances doing so would often negate the TMC's motion.

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made toward restoring the river ecosystem since the successful resolution of legal challenges in 2004. For example, nearly half of the channel rehabilitation projects (23 out of 47) described in the ROD will be complete by the year's end. In addition, over 60,000 cubic yards of coarse sediment and over 1,000 pieces of large woody debris have been added to the channel to enhance the river's geomorphic and ecological functions. Since the bridges and other channel improvements were completed in 2006, the Trinity River can now safely pass the flow regimes described in the ROD.

Because of this significant progress, we do not consider your formal intervention necessary at this point. However, we would welcome the opportunity to tour restoration sites and other program activities with you while discussing the program in greater detail. We would also gladly accompany you or your staff during discussions with Program stakeholders. Should you require additional information or wish to schedule a tour or the discussions you mentioned in your letter, please contact Mr. Don Glaser, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, at 916-978-5000.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Connor
Commissioner

cc: Mr. Rowan W. Gould
Acting Director
Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

Hoopa Valley Tribe

P.O. Box 1348 ~ Hoopa, California 95546 ~ Phone (530) 625-4211 ~ Fax (530) 625-4594



Leonard E. Masten Jr.
Chairman

By Facsimile

July 29, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn Building
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20015

Re: Trinity River Restoration Program

Dear Congressman Miller:

The Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tribe) deeply appreciates your enduring commitment to protect and restore the Trinity River, the heart of our homeland since time immemorial. The Trinity River provision of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Pub. L. 102-575 §3406(b)(23), which you championed, is essential to Trinity River restoration and protection of the fishery resources that the United States holds in trust for our Tribe. The CVPIA's affirmative statement of a federal trust responsibility for tribal trust resources is unique in Reclamation Law.

Further, we appreciated your co-sponsorship with Congressman Mike Thompson of H.R. 2733 in the 110th Congress, which would have put Trinity River restoration funding on a secure footing. That legislation was opposed by both the Bush Administration and Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors who have fought for nearly two decades to evade their financial responsibility to the Trinity River. We also appreciate the offer in your June 23, 2010 letter to Reclamation Commissioner Connor and Regional Director Glaser to facilitate resolution of issues associated with the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). We regret that the Commissioner's July 14 letter declines your offer because there are major problems with the Department's implementation of the TRRP. In fact, Reclamation and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and TRRP partners have been engaged in facilitated discussions over the past two years trying to define respective agencies 'roles and responsibilities' as it relates to implementation of the 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD). The Trinity Management Council (TMC) was given an opportunity in 2007 (see attachment) to provide input to Reclamation and USFWS on how to better define and reach agreement on the roles and responsibilities of the various entities that are part of the Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Monitoring organization. Unfortunately, to date, aside from a few minor and incomplete structural changes, many significant issues remain unresolved including the appropriate role of the Tribe as it relates to implementation of the TRRP.

The purpose of this letter is to request your attention to two critical matters our efforts to persuade the Bureau of Reclamation to: (1) enforce the environmental restoration payment

obligations of CVPIA pertaining to the Trinity River; and (2) fully implement the restoration program.

1. Funding Section 3404(c)(2) of the CVPIA states:

Upon renewal of any long-term repayment or water service contract providing for the delivery of water from the Central Valley Project, the Secretary shall incorporate all requirements imposed by existing law, including provisions of this title, within such renewed contracts. The Secretary shall also administer all existing, new, and renewed contracts in conformance with the requirements and goals of this title.

One of the requirements referred to in section 3404(c)(2) is set forth in the Trinity River provision of the CVPIA, Pub. L. 102-575 §3406(b)(23) which states in part: "Costs associated with implementation of this paragraph shall be reimbursable as operation and maintenance expenditures pursuant to existing law." This provision requires CVP contractors to fund Trinity River restoration as a cost of service associated with the environmental restoration needs arising from the storage and diversion of Trinity River water to the Central Valley. As you know the Trinity River is the only source of water imported to the Central Valley. When Congress authorized the Trinity Division in 1955 it expressly conditioned the export of water on the protection of fishery resources.

The cost of the Trinity River restoration program will continue for so long as water is diverted to the Central Valley. The CVPIA is clear that those costs should be charged to the contractors and not the federal taxpayer. However, the Bureau of Reclamation has refused our longstanding and repeated request that all new, renewed and interim CVP contracts include an explicit obligation by the contractor to pay the costs of Trinity River restoration. The Bureau has also refused to include the costs in the rate-setting procedures for the CVP. Instead the funding levels have been chronically below those identified as needed to implement the Trinity ROD. By letter of May 24, 2010, Commissioner Connor advised us that "it will be difficult to sustain funding levels in these economic times." We know of no reason why funding levels cannot be maintained so long as the full amounts are identified in contracts and assessed and collected from CVP contractors. In spite of our requests the Bureau is proceeding to convert Friant Division contracts to permanent repayment contracts and is under a legislative mandate to conclude that process by December 31 of this year. The Bureau is also negotiating CVP contracts for the San Luis Unit whose members have long been antagonists to Trinity River restoration. We have prepared detailed contract provisions and represented them to the Department for inclusion in the contracts being negotiated pursuant to section 3404(c) of the CVPIA, but to date the Department has refused to explain why it is not complying with the CVPIA.

2. Implementation In addition to under-funding the Trinity River restoration program, and probably as a direct result of that, the Bureau of Reclamation has decided not to implement the ROD according to its terms. Section 3406(b)(23) directed the Secretary to complete the development of a restoration program in consultation with the Hoopa Valley Tribe. "If the Secretary and the Hoopa Valley Tribe concur in these recommendations, . . . [they] shall be implemented accordingly." *Id.* On December 19, 2000, the Secretary of the Interior traveled down the Trinity River in a traditional redwood canoe to the Hupa peoples' most important and oldest spiritual site. There the Tribe and the Secretary signed the Trinity ROD.

As you know, the ROD is the product of an extensive, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary scientific process. My staff informed me that you attended one of the many meetings held to formulate the

ROD to observe this process, and that you and your wife later traveled to our reservation and floated down the Trinity River with our Fisheries Director to see first hand the need for fishery restoration.

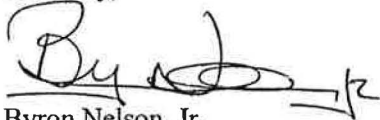
Over our objections, the Bureau of Reclamation has shelved many of the key prescriptions identified in the scientific process and otherwise has deviated from the ROD. As a result, key restoration sites will have to be entirely rebuilt at great cost in time and money and scientific programs for assessing restoration progress have not been developed. We documented our prediction that restoration would fail if the ROD's prescriptions were not followed and we have documented the outcome that we predicted. These failures are the direct result of the Bureau of Reclamation's program managers compromising the ROD to pursue cheap and expedient measures that have no proven scientific foundation.

In June, the Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River restoration program office in Weaverville published a final report on the design and implementation process for Trinity River restoration. On page 2 of the Executive Summary the report states: "[W]e have noticed what appears to be a potential disconnect in the rehabilitation vision, likely a result of the multiple versions of rehabilitation goals stated in multiple program documents." In fact the ROD is the only "vision" for restoration. The Hoopa Valley Tribe has never concurred in any amendment to that vision. The statutory mandate to implement the ROD "accordingly." Should be enforced. Until the ROD is unequivocally reinstated as the prescription for restoration, it is our view that the Secretary is in violation of his fiduciary responsibility to our fishery restores as stated in the first sentence of section 3406(b)(23) in the CVPIA.

As noted previously, there is an urgent need for the Department of the Interior to clearly define the appropriate role for the Tribe in implementation of the TRRP. Here, we'd seek immediate implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding which has now undergone six years of discussion between the Tribe, USFWS, and Reclamation.

Conclusion After a decade since signing the ROD, the entire program for the Trinity River is at risk. We respectfully disagree with Commissioner Connor's conclusion that your assistance and oversight are not needed to get the Trinity River program back on course. We request the opportunity to meet with you and your staff and present specific funding and implementation proposals for the Trinity River program that will be budget neutral and scientifically sound. Your attention to our concerns is appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Finally, we would be pleased to welcome you and your family to the Hoopa Valley Reservation and the Trinity River this summer.

Sincerely,

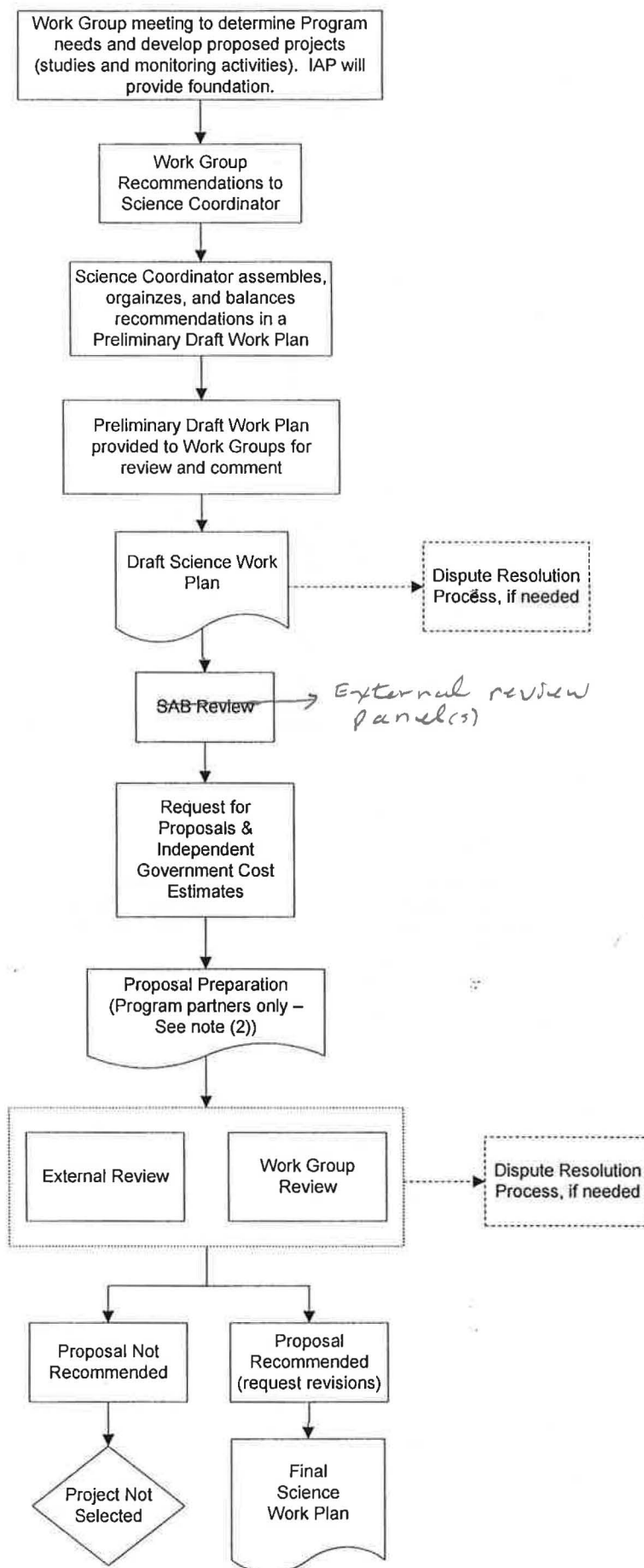


Byron Nelson, Jr.
Vice-Chairman,
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein,
Senator Barbara Boxer,
Congressmen Mike Thompson,
Congresswoman, Grace Napolitano

Science Work Plan Development Process

- Terminology change
- Plan of work
- ≠ budget driven work

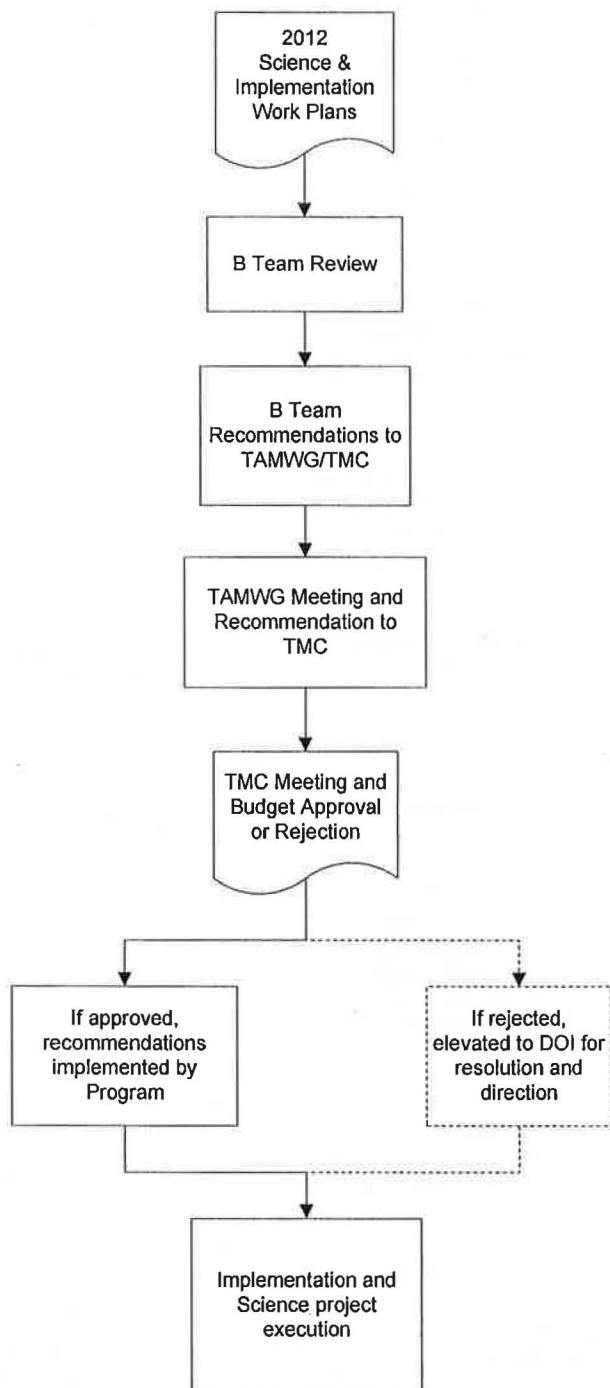


Notes:

(1) Recurring or on-going projects may not be subject to this full process.

(2) Non-Program partner projects to go through formal RFP process after TMC approval of budget.

2012 Budget Process



Immediate Considerations for Reducing the WY2011 450 cfs - 300cfs Baseflow Recession Rate

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Proposal

Currently the change from the summer baseflow of 450 cfs to the winter baseflow of 300 cfs occurs in one day on Oct 15. The proposal is to change the winter baseflow ramp down to a maximum stage change of 0.10 feet/day (as defined by the rating curve at the Lewiston USGS Gage#11525500) to benefit riparian re-establishment on floodplain surfaces. This is accomplished by ramping at a rate of ~35 cfs per day over four days. The modified winter baseflow ramp down rate should be conducted in WY2011 and in subsequent years if the previous water year was extremely wet, wet, or normal. The reduced winter baseflow rampdown period should be centered on October 15 to remain water volume neutral.

The gates at Lewiston Dam are large and small reduction or increases in discharge are difficult to achieve, so a 35 cfs per day rampdown rate may not be logistically possible. If not, then a maximum rampdown rate of 50 cfs per day over 3 days is recommended.

Background

Rapid stage declines associated with managed streamflow recession is one factor that may be limiting young of year seedlings ability to successfully establish on constructed floodplains and other higher elevation riparian surfaces. The ROD streamflow recession from 450 cfs to 300 cfs occurs in the middle of October at the driest time of the year and near the end of the riparian woody plant growing season. The recession from 450 cfs to 300 cfs drops river stage 0.38 feet in one day.

Recession limbs included in spring and early summer ROD release schedules were tailored in normal and wetter years to meet the root growth capabilities of young of year seedlings. The recession limbs included in the spring ROD release schedules occur at approximately 0.10feet per day at Lewiston and are not likely to exceed root growth at Lewiston. Further downstream from Lewiston stage declines associated with all ROD recession limbs exceed 0.10 feet/day (e.g., USGS#11525655 below Limekiln Gulch).

Seedlings that germinate on higher elevation surfaces (e.g., natural or constructed floodplains) are the most prone to effects of the rapid October recession.

The shift from summer to fall baseflows in October was assumed to be negligible in the Flow Evaluation Study but is likely exceeding young of year riparian seedling root growth rates on surfaces higher and farther away from the 450 cfs water edge. Seedlings growing three feet or more above the 450 cfs streamflow elevation are vulnerable because their roots have followed declining soil moisture resulting from receding spring ROD streamflows and may only shallowly infiltrate the upper end of soil moisture sustained by 450 cfs. When the soil moisture profile drops rapidly as result of streamflow recession (i.e., a 0.38 foot decline), roots infiltrating only the upper end of the 450 cfs capillary fringe may be left dry killing young of year seedlings.

Monitoring

In WY2011 the locations of living and dead seedling will be documented during riparian vegetation mapping and band transects monitoring conducted at GRTS sites as part of the 2011 Interdisciplinary Salmonid Habitat Assessment (ISHA) and reported in the WY2011 ISHA report.

