



Trinity River Restoration Program

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SEP - 5 2014

Ms. Elizabeth Hadley
Chairman, Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
City of Redding Electric Utility
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Response to Your Letter of June 2014

Dear Chairwoman Hadley:

Thank you for your letter summarizing the proceedings and offering several recommendations developed during the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) meeting held June 9 and 10, 2014. I appreciated the opportunity to join you during the first day of the meeting to provide a Trinity Management Council (TMC) update and answer several questions posed by TAMWG members.

The TMC discussed each of the recommendations during its June 18-19, 2014, meeting in Redding. Each recommendation from your letter is paraphrased below in italics, followed by our response.

1. *...recommends supporting the Restoration Program budget as presented.*

The TMC discussed the same fiscal year 2015 budget category proportions (administrative at 18%, science at 33%, and rehabilitation implementation at 49%) during our June meeting. It was again acknowledged that there may be adjustments prior to implementation, and that the total budget of \$15.7 million has not yet been appropriated and should therefore be considered provisional.

2. *...recommends that the December 10, 2013 and March 24, 2014 recommendations to the TMC regarding watershed restoration and tributary restoration be clarified. They include:*

- a. *What does the Science Advisory Board (SAB) identify as the causal linkage, if any, between watershed restoration activities downstream of the North Fork (including the South Fork Trinity) and the construction and operation of the Trinity River Division of the CVP?*

This question was asked of the SAB via email, to which they responded that the request should be provided more formally in a letter. Said letter was then submitted.

- b. *Does the SAB think that performing a variety of tributary restoration activities throughout the Trinity River Basin (including areas upstream of the North Fork) that are not specifically included as part of the Trinity ROD and Final EIS would help meet the TRRP's fishery escapement goals?*

Trinity Management Council

Brian Person, Chair, Bureau of Reclamation – Ann Garrett, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries
Dave Myers, USDA Forest Service – Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe – Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe –
Tony LaBanca, California Department of Fish and Wildlife- Judy Pfluger, Trinity County
Bruce Bingham, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Robin Schrock, Executive Director

The TMC has discussed this nexus on several occasions, and while no motion was introduced, there was universal agreement among members that credible restoration activities within the entire basin---and not necessarily within the mainstem---will help meet fishery escapement goals. Those TMC members with technical expertise in fisheries indicate this conclusion is obvious, and there is therefore no need to seek an opinion from the SAB. Nevertheless, we invited the SAB to opine on the topic if they so choose. The TMC also emphasized during discussions that tributary activities are limited by the authority of the Restoration Program as determined by the Office of the Solicitor. This resulted in a motion, passed by unanimous vote, that the "TMC understands that the Office of the Solicitor considers some types of stream restoration involving construction activities is beyond the authority of the Trinity River Restoration Program."

The TMC has remained supportive of watershed work within the authority limitations described above. During the June meeting, the TMC unanimously approved the Watershed Workgroup's proposal for 2015 at up to the \$500,000 level but excluding the Lower Sydney Gulch project.

Again, thank you for your letter. We greatly appreciate the guidance and insights provided by the TAMWG.

Sincerely,

Brian Person
Chairman, Trinity Management Council

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