

# Pilarcitos Restoration Workgroup Meeting SUMMARY

Coastside County Water District

October 25, 2011

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

## Workgroup Members in Attendance:

X	CCWD	Jerry Donovan, Chris Mickelsen, Cathleen Brennan
X	CDFG	George Neillands
	City of Half Moon Bay	
X	Coastside Land Trust	Deborah Meckler
	Committee for Green Foothills	
X	Farm Bureau	Bill Gass
	MROSD	
X	NOAA	Pat Rutten
X	PCAC	Tim Frahm
X	POST	Meghan Scanlon
X	SAM	Steve Leonard
X	San Mateo County RCD	Kellyx Nelson, Chelsea Moller
X	SFPUC	Jim Salerno, Jane Lavelle, Lori Schechtel, Rebecca Leonardson
X	SMC	Julie Casagrande
	State Parks	
	Surfrider	

## Guests in Attendance:

John Klochak, USFWS Coastal Program

Dick DeAtley, West Coast Aggregates

Kevin Torell, Benchmark Resources (consultant for West Coast Aggregates)

## 1. Introductions

## 2. Open Comments and updates

USGS sent a letter regarding reduced funding for the lower Pilarcitos gage. Watershed work depends on having an upper and lower gage, so the group needs to secure long term funding.

- **ACTION: The group agrees to create a Gage Funding Committee to address this problem.**
- **ACTION: Jim Salerno, Chris Mickelsen and Steve Leonard agree to be on the Gage Funding Committee**

3. Presentation from West Coast Aggregates about quarry expansion proposal

Kevin Torell of Benchmark Resources presents on the master expansion and water resources plan for the Pilarcitos Quarry (attached).

- **ACTION: Tim Frahm agrees to act as a liaison between West Coast Aggregates and the Pilarcitos Workgroup.**

4. Discuss Wikipedia Pilarcitos Creek page

Kellyx was contacted by someone who wrote a Wikipedia page about Pilarcitos Creek. There is general discussion regarding the information on the page that can be updated or corrected, and the role of the Workgroup to make those edits.

- **ACTION: Nelson agrees to send an email with proposed changes to the page out to the group so everyone can make edits/comments as they see fit.**

5. Revise/approve notes from April 2011 Workgroup meeting

Nelson requests that item # 5 be removed from the agenda.

- **ACTION: Nelson will distribute the notes by email for review/approval.**

6. Discuss IWMP implementation progress

There is general discussion regarding the upcoming expiration of the MOU and the need to update the agreement. Nelson distributes a list of projects to facilitate a discussion regarding which projects are complete and which projects need to be moved forward or revised to make completion more likely. The group discusses a need to revisit projects that are not progressing and determine which are feasible to complete within the project timeline. Jim Salerno offers to provide resources to move a couple projects forward if they are feasible to complete. The colors in the table indicate whether or not the project is anticipated to be completed on time. Red means the project is past-due, yellow means it is running behind, and green means the project is on schedule.

Leads	Project		Priority	Status
DFG (5)	5.5.7	Preliminary Arroyo Leon Fish Habitat Assessment	1	• Project on track, nearly complete

	5.4.3	Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Opportunity Program	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCD is conducting spatial analysis to locate properties on creek with 4% grade or less to identify potential projects</li> <li>IWRP will fund analysis and some project design</li> </ul>
	5.5.5	Systematic Watershed-Scale Fish Habitat Assessment Project	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDFG will provide a write up on this project by spring or sooner</li> </ul>
	5.5.6	Assess Habitat Management and Restoration Opportunities for Sensitive Wetland Species	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress to date</li> <li>Need to revisit partners, FWS might be a good lead for this project</li> </ul>
FB (2)	5.3.3	Recycled Off-channel Water Storage Feasibility Study	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project needs to be revisited due to changes in circumstances</li> </ul>
NOAA (1) DFG	5.5.3	Geomorphic Channel Assessment	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue FRGP funding if project is eligible</li> </ul>
POST (3) FB	5.3.2	Pilarcitos Creek Watershed Protection Easement Program Feasibility Study	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress to date</li> </ul>
	5.3.4	Diverted Off-channel Water Storage Feasibility Study	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress to date</li> </ul>
POST RCD	5.3.5	Arroyo Leon Pond Sites Conceptual Rehabilitation Restoration Alternatives Study	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project could be completed on time if POST gets FRGP funding, RCD can assist through IWRP</li> </ul>
RCD (8)	5.3.1	Pilarcitos Lagoon Habitat Enhancement Opportunity Study	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The study was completed but action is unlikely.</li> </ul>
	5.5.2	Road Assessment Project	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 26 miles of road have been assessed, currently working towards implementation with landowners</li> <li>Presence of San Francisco garter snake has been a complication, RCD is pursuing funds from the Coastal Conservancy through IWRP to develop a strategy in light of this.</li> <li>New legislation may allow for take. The group may want to establish a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).</li> </ul>
	5.4.2	Eucalyptus Control and Removal Planning	3	Completed report about regulatory barriers to eucalyptus removal. No funding identified to develop programmatic permits.
	5.4.1	Watershed Monitoring Program	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will need more funding to pay for monitoring and spawner surveys</li> </ul>

	5.5.1	Water Budget Development Project	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is on hold until another project is completed</li> </ul>
	5.5.4	Riparian Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Eradication Assessment	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCD feels better equipped to partner than lead</li> </ul>
	5.2.4	Fish Passage Improvement Project	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress to date</li> </ul>
SFPUC (1)	5.2.2	Pilarcitos Reservoir and Stone Dam Operational Flexibility Improvement Project	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May need to split into two projects – (1) improve infrastructure at Stone Dam, (2) aerate Pilarcitos Reservoir.</li> </ul> <p>Two new gages have been installed to provide better perspective on upper watershed</p>
SAM (1) CCWD (1)	5.2.1	Recycled Water Project	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is top priority, may need to revisit leads and partners to ensure project completion.</li> <li>Won't be ready for IRWMP funding this year.</li> <li>SAM Board of Directors will not continue work until there is an agreement among all water agencies.</li> <li></li> </ul>
State Parks (1)	5.2.3	Equestrian Bridge	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress to date</li> </ul>

- **ACTION: Nelson agrees to meet with Bill Gass to discuss the POST/Farm Bureau projects (5.3.2 & 5.3.4) to get him up to speed.**
- **ACTION: RCD will coordinate efforts among the Workgroup to raise funds for project 5.4.1 – Watershed Monitoring Program.**
- **ACTION: Neillands will provide a write up on project 5.5.5 – Systematic Watershed-Scale Fish Habitat Assessment Project by spring or sooner.**

#### 7. Discuss updating the IWMP, as required in the Implementation Strategy – Section 5.1.2 of Plan

There is general discussion about the need to update the plan. Section 5.1.2.1 says that the IWMP will be updated every year in order to adjust the plan as needed and to identify specific upcoming tasks and projects. The same section says that the implementation plan will be updated annually to reprioritize and update activities that have occurred throughout the year in the watershed.

- **ACTION: The group agrees to form a committee to update the IWMP, consisting of the following members:**
  - **Kellyx Nelson (RCD)**
  - **Tim Frahm (PCAC)**
  - **Meghan Scanlon (POST)**
  - **George Neillands (CDFG)**

There is general discussion about creating a postcard to evaluate progress on each project which can be sent to partners and stakeholders, and may be more effective than the RCD creating a newsletter.

#### 7. Discuss upcoming expiration of MOU establishing the Workgroup

For the first few years our focus was to develop the plan. Now we are in a different phase. Sections 1C, 3B, and 6B of the MOU establishing the Workgroup focus on developing the IWMP, which has been completed.

There is general discussion of the need to revise and renew the MOU, and no members object to beginning this process. The MOU expires 5 years from the date of execution by all parties, which will be May 31, 2012. It is noted that some members of the MOU are not actively participating or coming to meetings, and perhaps should not be included in the revised MOU.

- ***ACTION: RCD will propose updates to the MOU and send to the group for review.***

#### 8. Set next meeting date

- ***ACTION: The next meeting date is set for March 6, 2011 from 10 am – 12 pm at CCWD.***