

Pilarcitos Creek Restoration Workgroup Meeting  
San Mateo County Farm Bureau Boardroom  
765 Main Street, Half Moon Bay  
Thursday, October 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Tim Frahm (PCAC), Patrick Rutten (NOAA Restoration Center), Ed Schmidt (CCWD), Chris Mickelsen (CCWD), Carolann Towe (Surfrider – San Mateo), Rich Allen (San Mateo County RCD), Joe Guistino (CCWD), Joanne Kerbavaz (California State Parks), Jack Foley (SAM), Kellyx Nelson (San Mateo County RCD), Paul Ringgold (POST), Jim Salerno (SFPUC), Molly Petrick (SFPUC), Tim Ramirez (SFPUC), Jane Lavelle (SFPUC), Josh Milstein (City & County of San Francisco)

### **Draft Meeting Summary**

#### **Pilarcitos Creek Comments/Updates**

Tim Frahm asked about invasive species project near the bridge in Half Moon Bay. He also distributed a graph showing the relationship of Pilarcitos Creek discharge at the USGS gauge below Stone Dam to the discharge at the USGS Half Moon Bay gauge.

Tim Ramirez relayed that SFPUC staff was out in the Pilarcitos Creek watershed on September 25 and decided to make experimental releases from Stone Dam to the creek. SFPUC biologists have been sampling below Stone Dam, and found many fish this year. As a result of this experiment release, the stage is ¼ foot higher at the USGS gauge below Stone Dam than previous to the release, which is approximately 2 cubic feet per second (cfs). This release shows up at the USGS Half Moon Bay gauge as a 0.1' increase in stage. Tim Frahm commented that the release from Stone Dam shows up at the USGS Half Moon Bay gauge due to the very wet water year. Jim believes that 2006 was the wettest spring of the past ten years.

Ed Schmidt noted that when he arrived at CCWD approximately five years ago CCWD received their water from Crystal Springs Reservoir (CSR) starting in August, and since then the SFPUC has changed operations (to address flood control issues below the Peninsula reservoirs) in a manner that results in CCWD going to CSR in June. Going to CSR earlier costs CCWD approximately \$35,000 per month for pumping.

Tim Frahm commented that if California State Parks has money for the redesign of the walkway it would help equestrian folks. Joanne Kerbavaz responded that it is one of many projects being considered.

Rich Allen suggested that the group re-invite the City of Half Moon Bay. Starting in November there will be a new HMB City Planner (Marsha Raines) with an interest in restoration.

Kellyx Nelson informed all that she submitted a proposal for NOAA's community-based restoration grant process. The proposal includes diverse community members in projects to remove trash and non-native vegetation and establish native plants in Pilarcitos Creek. The landowners who have thus far agreed to participate include: 1) City of Half Moon Bay, which owns parkland along the creek, 2) Zaballah Square, on Main Street owning creekside property on the south side of the bridge, and 3) Half Moon Bay Feed-n-Fuel, on Main Street, owning creekside property north of the bridge.

Patrick relayed that NOAA is likely to renew Fish America, Trout Unlimited, and others for three-year national partnerships. NOAA staff will be getting together soon to review proposals and make selections.

Tim Ramirez relayed information about the early October visit from other Pacific Northwest watershed managers, which included representation from Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, and Victoria. They, too, provide unfiltered water, and are wrestling with fish issues that are similar to the ones SFPUC and the Workgroup are involved with. The group spent one day on the Peninsula and went to Pilarcitos Dam. Some of the watershed managers have done HCPs while others have not done anything yet. They gave some feedback

indicating that steps we are taking are the right ones. Portland mentioned that global warming will potentially affect their water supply by 40%.

Patrick communicated that both Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries want to follow the Workgroup's process.

**Action Item:** Kellyx to contact Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District.

Ed voiced that CCWD is interested in getting more specific about what needs to be done in the watershed. He requested that domestic water supply be added to the MOU language.

### **Discussion about Draft MOU**

The group reviewed and commented on the revised Draft MOU and made suggestions for edits. The next iteration of the MOU will reflect comments made at the meeting. The inclusion of Caltrans was mentioned. There was a brief discussion about Highway 92.

Next steps associated with the MOU include: 1) making revisions based on comments discussed at today's meeting, 2) recirculating the next version amongst Workgroup members, 3) completing legal review within our respective organizations, and 4) presenting the MOU to our respective governing boards in January 2007.

Carol raised the issue of representation by San Mateo County. Rich Gordon was suggested.

**Action Item:** Kellyx to contact Rich Gordon.

### **Discussion about Draft Project Scope of Work**

Tim Frahm, Kate Symonds, Jack Foley, Gillian O'Doherty, Jim Salerno, Chris Mickelsen, and Kellyx developed a draft project scope of work. The draft scope was reviewed and commented on by the group. Changes will be reflected in a revised draft.

There was a discussion about setting up the first public workshop. It is important to ensure that anyone else interested in participating can become involved in developing the IWMP. The next version of the MOU can be used to inform folks. Tim Frahm suggested that the workshop include presentation of data gaps, etc. (information to be included in the Initial Report), and that comments be gathered to incorporate into the draft IWMP.

It was clarified that consultant would be doing Tasks 3, 4, and 6 as defined in the MOU. The Workgroup will be involved in managing the work.

It was suggested that Task 3D be added. This task would involve conducting additional research and/or fieldwork to fill gaps identified.

### **Discussion about Request for Qualifications**

The subcommittee working on the project scope of work decided that it might be best to draft the RFQ and do an initial screening of consultants. It was suggested that a smaller group consisting of the RCD, CCWD, PCAC, SFPUC and NMFS participate in this process. Kellyx asked the Workgroup for approval to take the approach described above. Approval was granted, and it was decided that the RFQ would be sent to the Workgroup for a one-week review. The group briefly discussed the issue of whether or not the MOU should be approved by Boards prior to RFQ release. It was pointed out that the consultant would not be selected until after the governing boards of the MOU signatories have approved the MOUs, so the timing is expected to work. The plan for distributing the RFQ to potential consultants includes reconvening the subcommittee on October 30th to create a final draft, soliciting final comments from the larger Pilarcitos workgroup, finalizing the document, and then distributing the RFQ in November.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Monday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Cypress Cottage.