

Pilarcitos Workgroup Meeting Minutes (7/9/07)

- I. Introductory Remarks
 - a. [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] SFPUC recently completed Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program. Chapter 5 has information regarding operations in the Pilarcitos Watershed.
 - b. [Unknown] – WG members should record generic comment to EIR which allows them to stay informed of progress of EIR
- II. Watershed Assessment Update Review
 - a. [Jim Howard, NRCS] - Could use more on overall geomorphic condition as it relates to overall watershed function
 - i. Compare Arroyo Leon to Pilarcitos in terms of impaired vs. unimpaired conditions
 - ii. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – How does the lack of a winter hydrograph impact habitat in the watershed
 - b. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Should include review of USFWS RLF studies by Rich Seymour and Mike Westphal on Arroyo Leon Ponds
 - c. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Lack of information on effects of hydromodification on channel. Review existing reports on the effect of Quarry on Nuff Creek.
 - d. *General Comment* [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] – WG should re-visit the grant documents, keeping in mind there are built-in phases for WG & Public review of technical documents including the IWMP
 - e. [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] – Title page and Intro should identify funding entities and different mechanisms for financial support of Pilarcitos IWMP
 - f. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Water quality data is sparse
 - i. Obtain reports from Carol Ann Towe [RCD/Surfrider]
 - ii. SFPUC limnology data
 - iii. First flush data
 - iv. Pending SFPUC monitoring report
 - g. [Jim Howard, NRCS] First mention of seawater intrusion. Important issue to track.
 - h. [Mike Liquori, Sound Watershed Consulting] – Need to define Critical Watershed Issues
 - i. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] –Upper Pilarcitos watershed not covered in 1996 Restoration Plan. Brief summary on available data should be included in Watershed Assessment Update.
- III. Partial Data Gaps Memo
 - a. [Adam Parris, PWA] – Distributed partial Data Gaps Memo focusing on questions surrounding uncertainties in the watershed. Proposed that Final Data Gaps should be completed after the Goals and Objectives to better prioritize proposed projects or future efforts to Fill Data Gaps. Limited budget available to acquire data during 2007, but it is a special opportunity considering “dry” conditions.
 - b. [???, State Parks] – Thought the goal was to focus on improving aquatic resources. Can IWMP resolve Johnson ponds?

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- c. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – Agreed Data Gaps should be shaped by Goals and Objectives. Goal of IWMP is to identify and prioritize projects for funding. For example, if Johnson ponds are beneficial, then identification in IWMP would facilitate funding to restore ponds.
 - d. [???, State Parks] – Johnson ponds should be identified as opportunity
 - e. Regarding need to collect data in 2007
 - i. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – According to Half Moon Bay USGS gage, Pilarcitos Creek flow right now is generally greater than 80% exceedance flow (compared to <20% for other coastal streams), possibly due to experimental releases by SFPUC increasing flows from PUC. 2007 may not be representative “dry” year as a result.
 - ii. [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] – Status of water year 2007 (i.e., wet vs. dry) still unclear even with experimental releases. Probably end up dry.
 - iii. [Jerry Smith, San Jose State/Technical Team] – Will experimental releases last past Sept.?
 - iv. [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] – If water level falls below spillway at Pilarcitos Dam, cannot pass water to Pilarcitos Creek. Should check the precipitation amounts at Pilarcitos Dam for this year.
 - v. [Jerry Smith, Tech Team] - Upper Apanolio (BFI Property) and Upper Arroyo Leon are likely uniquely dry in 2007. Pilarcitos may also become dry.
 - vi. [???, State Parks] – Good opportunity to evaluate dry year. May want to look at reach conditions.
 - f. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Evaluation of the success of completed projects is a Data Gap. Can go back to past projects and look at success.
 - i. Nursery
 - ii. Mills Creek Fish Passage
 - g. [Jerry Smith, Tech Team] – Upper Arroyo Leon is a Data Gap. Upper Apanolio is a Data Gap.
 - h. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Contaminated beaches are impact to community. Source of contaminants is a Data Gap.
 - i. [Jim Howard, NRCS] – Suggest developing a snapshot or identification of specific areas and using that information to lobby for additional funding.
 - j. [Tim Ramirez, SFPUC] – Lack State Water Resource Control Board presence on Workgroup. Should present Draft Watershed Assessment Update to SWRCB to solicit participation on Workgroup.
- IV. Goals and Objectives/Upcoming Public Workshop/Project Schedules
- a. [Jim Howard, NRCS] – Public comments to Watershed Assessment, Goals and Objectives may be extensive. Can they be addressed in less than one month?
 - b. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – Propose to delay Public Workshop till September
 - c. Workgroup agreed.
- V. Media Policy
- a. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – RCD and PUC should represent Workgroup efforts to the Media

- b. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Should be able to discuss issues facing the Workgroup with the Media
- c. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – Opinions of individual members should not represent Workgroup substance
- d. [Tim Frahm, PCAC/SM Farm Bureau] – Desirable to have talking points about positive aspects of Workgroup
- e. [Paul Ringgold, POST] – Second the need for the ability to discuss and support agreeable aspects of Workgroup
- f. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – RCD prefers that members of the Workgroup direct Media to RCD and PUC to discuss positive aspects of Workgroup with Media

VI. Public Workshop

- a. [Kellyx Nelson, RCD] – Open floor to suggestions for Public Workshop Agenda Items
- b. Suggested Items
 - i. Intro to Watershed
 - ii. Presentation of Assessment and Objectives
 - iii. Success Stories (Before and After)
 - iv. Update on reclaiming water