

**Meeting Notes
DFG, RWQCBs and SWRCB
Timber Harvest Review**

Thursday September 30, 2004

1. Introductions
 - a. In attendance: Marty Berbach, Kellie Price, William Condon, Curt Babcock, Dawn McGuire, Ken Moore, Stephen Puccini, Stephanie Tom Coupe, Joyce Young (DFG); Gaylon Lee (SWRCB); Cat Kuhlman, Holly Lundborg, Christine Wright-Shacklett, Bob Klamt (NCRWQCB).
Via conference call: Mark Stopher, Mara Noelle (DFG); Mark Neely, Dave Parsons (NCRWQCB); Jim Pedri, Angela Wilson (CVRWQCB); Tom Suk (Lahontan RWQCB); Howard Kolb (CCRWQCB).
 - b. Purpose of meeting: Establish better communication & cooperation, avoid conflicts on project review.
2. Update on listing status of coho salmon
 - a. Current status: as of the date of this meeting coho salmon are still a state candidate species. The listing regulations are in process and will be transmitted for review by the Office of Administrative Law.
 - b. Clarification of (F&G Code) 2112 regulations: These would be guidelines for issuance of incidental take permits [via F&G Code 2081(b)] would require a separate set of regulations adopted by DFG. This process is subject to the Administrative Procedures Act and CEQA. DFG has not begun this process.
 - c. Update on implementation of Recovery Strategy: is being implemented in the salmonid restoration grant program. Coordination meetings such as this one is part of the recovery strategy. We need to work cooperatively in implementing the strategy and to obtain additional funding.
3. 1600 process
 - a. Overview of notification and SAA process: DFG wardens will no longer write SAAs as of October 15. THP SAAs will continue to be written by Environmental Scientist staff.
 - b. Fee schedule <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/1600/index.html>; the new fee schedule has not yet been implemented and is a work in progress.
 - c. 1611 notification for timber harvest: The THP can be used for notification but ultimately the SAA must comply with all of the provisions of 1602.

4. Addressing flood plain issues: has been an issue with two landowners in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties (Hawthorne/Campbell and GRI). Our geomorphologist Kris Vyverberg has been helping Regional staff in reviewing THPs with these two companies where they propose to harvest within the channel zone. DFG is focusing on the function of the riparian and channel zone rather than the precise definition in the Forest Practice Rules.
5. Waivers/WDRs update: waivers are for low impact, light-touch operations such as NTMPs (with an ECP), exemptions, emergencies, and THPs with specific conditions. Waste Discharge Requirements are information dependent. There are opportunities for more coordination among DFG-WQ staff. Regional WQ and DFG staff will meet at least monthly to coordinate ECP, PHI and SAA activities, and WQ staff will meet with DFG to explain the ECP and waiver process. An ECP is generally an inventory of active anthropogenic erosion sites that can deliver to watercourses along with a schedule to fix these sites.
6. Relationship and coordination of WQ ECPs with DFG review of THPs, SAAs and monitoring reports: The ECP requires a list of point sources and a schedule to repair them. Opportunity for DFG-WQ staff to work together, especially re:PALCO.
7. GRI watershed-wide WDR heads-up: The NCRWQCB is placing a greater emphasis on property-wide and watershed WDRs. DFG and NOAA Fisheries should be part of the process.
8. Palco's contention that processing of wildlife permits is causing delays: PALCO is implicating DFG as the cause for delays in implementing NCRWQCB's cleanup and abatement orders. It was agreed that there needs to be a DFG-WQ-PALCO problem solving session.
9. Update on Elk R. Sensitive Watershed Petition to BOF: although NCRWQCB staff don't expect BOF action, it is providing valuable information to staff.
10. Update on TMDLs: Elk and Freshwater plans are due August 2006. NCRWQCB is moving away from watershed by watershed TMDLs and toward ownerships. CCRWQCB has a sediment TMDL for San Lorenzo watershed and is posted on their web site:
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/BasinPlan/Index.htm#BasinPlanAmendment>

11. Use of seed for erosion control: unanimously agreed that non-native, invasive species won't be recommended on THPs for erosion control. NRCS and US Forest Service have compatible lists of seed mixes they use. Recommend weed-free mulch, too.
12. Establish a process to avoid interagency conflicts on timber harvest review
 - a. Chain of command: every employee has a supervisor
 - b. Quarterly meetings: Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 12, 2005, at the NCRWQCB's Santa Rosa offices (5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, 707-576-2220). A teleconference line will be arranged.
13. Personnel changes: DFG Deputy Director Rom Rempel is retiring as of October 13. Acting in the position will be Sandy Morey until a replacement is hired; Bob Klamt is the new supervisor for the NCRWQCB Timber staff; Howard Kolb is the new the CCRWQCB Timber staff.