

DRAFT proposed letter from the TAMWG to the Trinity Management Council

Mike Long, Chair
Trinity Management Council

June 19, 2007

Dear Mr Long,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group is pleased with TRRP staff's professional and transparent work in a challenging environment towards effective implementation of the December, 2000 Record of Decision. However, the TAMWG is very concerned about shortcomings in the leadership provided by the Trinity Management Council, and believes that significant changes must be undertaken immediately to minimize lasting harm to the Trinity River restoration effort. Specific causes for TAMWG concern include:

- TMC inability to reach timely decisions on important matters (TMAG budget, IAP Part 1, roles and responsibilities of program participants...) through successive unproductive meetings, with resulting uncertainty, delays, and an unacceptable burden of extra work for TRRP staff and program partners;
- Resistance of some TMC entities to the strong central TRRP office prescribed by the ROD;
- TMC failure to define and request adequate TRRP funding;
- Ineffective communications among some TMC entities, and between some TMC entities and TRRP staff;
- TMC neglect of Science Advisory Board and TAMWG recommendations; and
- Withdrawal of FWS TRRP funding from TMC budgetary oversight.

To remedy an unacceptable situation, the TAMWG strongly recommends that the TMC:

1. Recognize that the current state of TMC affairs obstructs restoration progress and puts the long-term success of TRRP in jeopardy;
2. Adopt a simple-majority requirement for TMC decision-making;
3. Request direction from the Department of the Interior about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of member entities and the TRRP central office;
4. Adopt measures to limit conflicts of TMC member entity financial interest in specific TMC decisions, including recusals as necessary and a universal RFP/competitive bidding process;
5. Include additional entities to the TMC that do not have conflicts of financial interest; and
6. Consider and respond explicitly to recommendations from the SAB, independent review panels, and the TAMWG.

I'd be pleased with the opportunity to discuss these recommendations with the TMC on June 20.