



Trinity River Restoration Program

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Ms. Elizabeth Hadley
 Chairperson, Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
 City of Redding Electric Utility
 777 Cypress Ave
 Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Response to Your Letter of March 24, 2014

Dear Chairperson Hadley:

Thank you for your letter summarizing the proceedings of the March 17-18, 2014, Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) meeting and offering several recommendations. I appreciated the opportunity to join you during a portion of the meeting to provide a Trinity Management Council (TMC) update and answer several questions posed by TAMWG members.

The TMC discussed each of the recommendations during its March 26-27, 2013, meeting in Redding. In the interest of clarity, I will paraphrase below each of the recommendations presented in bold font in your letter, followed by our response.

1. *...recommendation that the TMC write a letter of support to the [Bureau of Land Management] for land acquisition along the Trinity River, subject to maintaining or improving public access, and that the BLM continue the payment of in-lieu taxes to Trinity County.*

The TMC passed a motion supporting the BLM purchase, along with the recommendation that payments to Trinity County in lieu of taxes continue. A letter of support has been drafted, and will soon be sent to the BLM.

2. *...recommendation that the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) not inject gravel if the water year is designated as Critically Dry or Dry.*

During discussions on this topic at several of the most recent TMC meetings, it was emphasized that decisions regarding gravel augmentation must be science-based. Therefore, at its September 2013 meeting, the TMC directed TRRP staff to produce a long-term gravel augmentation plan with completion anticipated in October of 2014. After a presentation by Mr. Robert Franklin, Coordinator of the Gravel Augmentation Workgroup at our March meeting, the TMC discussed their recommendation to inject no gravel under a Critically Dry water year class designation,

along with their recommendation to inject 1,400 cubic yards at high flows and 670 cubic yards at low flows if the water year designation improves to the Dry designation. It was emphasized during the discussion that the current water year type distinction is moot, as the probability hydrologic conditions improving to a Dry designation was near zero. The TMC also acknowledged the Workgroup's analysis regarding the sediment transport rate. The TMC passed a motion to accept the Workgroup's recommendation.

3. ...*TAMWG recommends that the TMC adopt the Flow Workgroup's recommendations.*

The TMC adopted the Flow Workgroup's recommendation and further recommended that the Bureau of Reclamation seek strategies to optimize carryover storage in Trinity Reservoir. That recommendation was conveyed to Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Director and the Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Region, and subsequently they concurred with the restoration release hydrograph.

4. ...*TAMWG requests to hold a joint meeting with the TAMWG, TMC, and TRRP management staff to address the TAMWG's list of issues.*

The TMC fully supported this recommendation, and its members appreciated the opportunity to discuss several of the TAMWG's concerns at the May 15, 2014, joint meeting. We regarded the session as being very productive.

5. ...*TAMWG recommends that the TMC defer outreach until a joint meeting so that we can agree on a consensus approach to the outreach.*

The TMC discussed this concern at length, but took no action prior to the joint meeting. During the meeting, several TMC members emphasized that all TRRP representatives and partners, including TAMWG members, have an important responsibility to convey accurate information regarding the Program's goals, objectives, and activities, to the inquiring public. There is much work to be done in this arena, and we look forward to further collaboration with TAMWG members in that pursuit.

6. ...*TAMWG asks that the TMC request the Science Advisory Board (SAB) to determine if tributary restoration throughout the basin could help meet the TRRP goals for all species.*

This recommendation is restated from the TAMWG's December 13, 2013, letter in response to which the TMC stated it would take up the matter during its March, 2014 meeting. At the March meeting the TMC passed a motion to ask the SAB to provide their expert opinion on whether or not there is a biological, causal linkage between watershed restoration throughout the entire basin below the dams and construction, and the operation of the Trinity River Division. The request was transmitted to the SAB by email; however, the SAB requests a formal letter from the TMC articulating the request.

Another recommendation in the December 13, 2013, letter deferred to the March, 2014, meeting, is as follows:

Trinity Management Council

Brian Person, Chair, Bureau of Reclamation – Ann Garrett, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries
 Dave Myers, USDA Forest Service - Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe - Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe –
 Tony LaBanca, California Department of Fish and Wildlife- Judy Pfluger, Trinity County
 Bruce Bingham, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Robin Schrock, Executive Director