



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trinity Management Council (TMC)  
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG)

**FROM:** Doug Schleusner, Executive Director

**CC:** TMC/TAMWG Technical Representatives; Staff

**DATE:** January 3, 2008

**SUBJECT:** FY2009 Draft Budget Proposal and Review Guidelines

On September 28, 2007, the TMC unanimously passed a two-part motion that directs us to: 1) develop and adopt a fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget in the most streamlined and time efficient manner possible; and 2) concentrate our energies on a FY2010 budget and acquisition process that fully implements an objectives-driven and request-for-proposal (RFP) based approach.

The TMC directed me to use the recently approved FY2008 budget as a starting point for FY2009, with the expressed intent of making only minimal changes to reflect construction schedule updates and truly compelling problems or significant new information. Using these fairly limited and simple criteria, I have worked with my staff to develop the draft proposal in the attached spreadsheet. Because of the many other meetings that are already scheduled for the Integrated Assessment Plan (IAP), flow scheduling, and rehabilitation site designs, the process for the FY2009 budget will not include workgroup meetings.

Instead, I am asking each TMC member to provide a single set of consolidated comments that focuses on the limited set of changes described above, and represents the recommendations of their agency or tribe. The TAMWG is meeting on January 22 to develop a consolidated set of comments and recommendations. My staff and I will review and consider all comments, and incorporate those that demonstrate a compelling need into the revised recommendation from this office, possible alternative budget scenarios, or explain how they were otherwise addressed. The revised proposal will be distributed in late February so that the TAMWG and TMC members will have adequate time for review, recommendation, and approval at the March TMC meeting.

The following dates summarize the key milestones of this process:

September 28, 2007: TMC approves motion to use a streamlined process for FY2009

October 31, 2007: Budget Subcommittee meets to discuss basic concepts of this approach

December 6, 2007: Director summarizes process at TAMWG meeting

January 8-9, 2008: Draft proposal/handouts presented at TMC meeting and distributed electronically to TAMWG, with comments due February 8

January 22, 2008: Draft proposal and review process presented/discussed at TAMWG meeting

February 8, 2008: Comments due to Director on draft proposal; Director and staff revise as appropriate based on comments and develop narrative explanatory notes

February 29, 2008: Revised proposal distributed to TMC and TAMWG

March (13-14?, date TBD), 2008: Revised proposal discussed by TAMWG; recommendations forwarded to TMC

March (19-20?, date TBD), 2008: Revised proposal presented to TMC for approval

Draft Budget Proposal for FY2009  
With Rationale for Changes from FY2008

Program Administration

- No change in personnel costs other than allowance for government-wide COLA.
- Partial reinstatement (\$38,000) of office operation cost reduction (\$60,000) imposed by Brian Person and Mike Long for FY2008 to match projected actual expenditures.
- Continuation of TMC Participation/Program Support costs at FY2008 levels, adjusted for comparable COLA and to reflect multi-year agreements that used prior year funds (Note: a separate briefing paper regarding the previously agreed-to definition for allowable costs of this line item will be provided to the TMC at a later date).
- Modest increase (COLA) for FWS support costs to TAMWG operations.
- No change for SAB or independent review panels.
- Total increase of \$102,000 in Program Administration mainly results from 3% COLA for TMC and Weaverville staff.

Rehabilitation Implementation

- Personnel costs adjusted to allow for a government-wide COLA and reflect new hire of entry level civil engineer to fill existing vacancy. Second vacancy deferred in the short term, and overall costs (compared to last year) reduced accordingly.
- Reimbursement costs for floodplain structure modifications reduced by \$100,000 to match reduced level of activity in final year of well/sewage disposal assistance program.
- No change to NEPA/CEQA compliance costs.
- Channel rehab construction costs are adjusted to reflect completion of the Dark Gulch/Lewiston 4 project in FY2008 and the shifting of the Remaining 8 (R8) projects into FY2009. With updated cost estimates for the R8, only \$1.4 million of the \$3.4 million needed would be covered in FY2009, with the balance (approximately \$2.0 million) to be funded in FY2010 (the "bow wave").
- Coarse sediment augmentation costs remain the same as FY2008, with the exception of design/planning costs, which are not needed in FY2009.
- The total reduction of about \$500,000 is mainly due to lower personnel costs than previously planned, a reduction in the well/sewage disposal assistance program, and rescheduling of the R8 rehab sites from FY08 to FY09; most of these savings were shifted into the TMAG portion of the budget to offset those line items where FY2007 year-end funds were used to cover a number of FY2008 activities.

Technical Modeling and Analysis

- Personnel costs are adjusted to allow for a government-wide COLA and reflect filling one of two existing vacancies later in the fiscal year.
- No costs are shown for the IAP in FY2009, based on current schedule which has both Parts 1 and 2 completed by the end of FY2008.
- Modest funding for Second Biannual TRRP Science Symposium is added, offset by savings in aerial photo acquisition costs.

- No costs shown for temperature modeling since Reclamation has assumed these monitoring duties at no cost to the Program and transition years of 2007-2008 with FWS Arcata temperature model are completed.
- Sediment monitoring costs (mainstem only) for a Normal water year are shown, comparable with FY2008 needs. Note: FY2008 monitoring was covered by FY2007 end-of-year funds.
- No other changes to Physical tasks in the TMAG budget between FY2008 and FY2009.
- Wildlife monitoring for FY2007 is increased from \$130,000 in FY2008 (covered by FY2007 end-of-year funds) to \$190,000 based on advice from CDFG that this activity needs to meet minimum regulatory monitoring requirements for wildlife population responses to vegetation disturbance and replanting.
- No changes were made to any of the fishery monitoring activities.
- The total increase of about \$370,000 is made possible by the shift of RIG funds into the TMAG portion of the budget to offset those line items where FY2007 year-end funds were used to cover a number of FY2008 activities.