



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
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October 22, 2012

Brian Person, Chair
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Person:

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) held an in person meeting on September 10, 2012, with a follow-up conference call on October 17, 2012. This letter serves to provide you with a summary of those meetings, along with our resulting policy management recommendations, as required by the TAMWG's Bylaws.

During the meeting on September 10, 2012, many comments were made in support of the TAMWG/Trinity Management Council (TMC) joint meeting that was held this past August. The TAMWG believes that the joint meeting was a worthwhile effort, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in order to facilitate optimal communication between our committees.

We learned that the Trinity County Resource Conservation District is developing a "TMC Response Matrix" we believe will serve as a useful tool for monitoring the TMC's responses to the TAMWG's recommendations. In addition, to ensure we thoroughly understand the reasoning behind these responses, **we are requesting that the TMC Chair (or his/her designee) walk through the TMC responses to the TAMWG's recommendations during the "TMC Chair Update" at each TAMWG meeting.**

We received a presentation from the Office of the Solicitor on the structure and parameters associated with a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Committee, such as TAMWG. We thoroughly appreciated this overview, given our many new members, to ensure we are following the FACA's rules and requirements.

We received an update and status report from each of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) workgroups and the 2012 water year. TRRP Executive Director, Robin Schrock, provided us with a presentation of the fiscal year (FY) 2012's accomplishments; the TAMWG is very pleased with these accomplishments and believes that Ms. Schrock has done an excellent job in carrying out the TMC's directives.

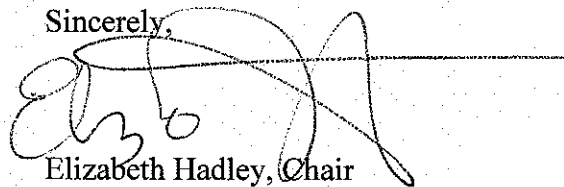
Given the FY 2013 budget was not available during our September meeting, the TAMWG convened a conference call on October 17, 2012, at which time Ms. Schrock presented us with the draft FY 2013 budget for our review. The TAMWG has three recommendations for the TMC, concerning the Draft FY 2013 budget:

1. **If additional funding is available, the TAMWG recommends that the TMC add at least \$500,000 to the Watershed Planning and Implementation Budget for FY 13;**
2. **The TAMWG requests that the Science Advisory Board review the efficacy of the "Lower Trinity River Sport Harvest Survey" given the limited public access; and**
3. **The TAMWG recommends the TMC approve the priorities as presented in the FY 13 Budget, with the caveat of the previous two recommendations, above (*please note the attached minority opinion corresponding to this recommendation*).**

Lastly, during our September 10, 2012, meeting the TAMWG received a presentation from the California Department of Water Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on how the water year designations are surveyed and determined. In an effort to ensure the most accurate data is being collected and calculated, the TAMWG requested DWR and NOAA to develop a list of helpful tools or opportunities for the removal of barriers that could aid in their ability to perform snow surveys. The TAMWG received a letter from DWR and discussed a response during our October 17, 2012, conference call. As a result of that discussion, **the TAMWG recommends that the TMC receive the October 9, 2012, letter from DWR to the TAMWG (attached), and take into consideration the issues presented in the letter with regards to the snow surveys.**

We greatly appreciated the TMC's acknowledgement to our June 18, 2012, letter and look forward to your response to the TAMWG's recommendations included herein. On behalf of the TAMWG, I am available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hadley, Chair

Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

CC:

Nancy Finley
Ann Garrett
Dave Hillemeier
Roger Jaegel
Emilia Berol
Ed Duggan
Liam Gogan
Tiffany Hayes
Joe McCarthy
Tom Stokely

Curtis Milliron
Mike Orcutt
Sharon Heywood
Gil Saliba
Sandy Denn
Kelli Gant
Paul Hauser
Richard Lorenz
David Steinhauser
Jeff Sutton

Robin Schrock

October 22, 2012

Elizabeth Hadley, Chair
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA

Subject: Minority opinion on TAMWG FY 2013 Budget Recommendation to TMC

Dear Elizabeth;

We strongly support a science-based Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) that complies with the 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision. We strongly support the goals of the TRRP and believe that the Trinity River still has the opportunity to be a national model for restoration of an aquatic ecosystem that supports robust sport, tribal and commercial fisheries.

We submit you this minority opinion regarding our abstention from the October 17, 2012 recommendation of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) to the Trinity Management Council in support of the funding priorities as presented in the proposed FY 13 budget.

We do not object to the two caveats that funding be increased for watersheds or that the SAB review the efficacy of the Lower Trinity River sport harvest survey. Instead, we have the following concerns with the funding priorities in the proposed FY 13 budget:

- We object to the inclusion of funding for additional channel rehabilitation projects without having the benefit of the long-delayed Phase 1 review being conducted by the Science Advisory Board. Based on the schedule the TAMWG was provided, final design team meetings with the public will be convened prior to receipt of the final Phase 1 report. The budget priorities blindly assume the outcome of the Phase 1 Review. The ROD called for a review of Phase 1 projects following their completion. This has yet to be completed, but millions are planned to be spent in the face of scientific uncertainty and public concern.
- We object to plans to perform additional gravel injections into the Trinity River without the benefit of independent scientific review of past projects. Given the large number of complaints from the public that numerous pools in the Trinity River have been filled with spawning gravel, it behooves the TRRP to investigate and substantiate the concerns before proceeding. To date we have not seen any analysis of how much the pools have filled, even though it was promised months ago. To the best of our knowledge, the Phase 1 review does not address the biological benefits and impacts of gravel injection, nor is there an intention to do so. Despite the fact that no FY 2012 funds are being

provided for this project, we object to gravel injection in 2013 as part of the overall TRRP funding priorities.

- We object to the chronic underfunding of watershed restoration. There is, in part, inadequate funding for watershed planning and restoration because the TMC failed to approve the Watershed Assessment Project in FY 2012. Failure to approve the project resulted in a semi-permanent reduction in watershed funding due to continuing federal budget resolutions. The watershed component of the Trinity ROD was intended to provide \$1.8 million/year of funding in all areas of the Trinity River basin, but has been chronically underfunded due to a bias against work outside of the upper 40 miles of the Trinity River.

In conclusion, we do not believe that the TRRP is proceeding in compliance with the 2000 Trinity ROD. Watershed restoration activities to reduce fine sediment inputs into the Trinity River are long-neglected and chronically underfunded. Mainstem restoration projects and gravel injections are being planned to be constructed without the benefit of independent scientific review in the face of increasing public scrutiny and skepticism.

That being said, we believe that the large fish runs being experienced this year are a direct result of the higher flows that have been implemented in recent years by the Trinity River Restoration Program. Furthermore, the supplemental flows provided to the Lower Klamath River in August and September of this year were important pieces in protecting the large salmon returns moving up the river at that time. We strongly support those higher flows and the involvement of the TRRP to ensure that the water is wisely used to meet the fishery restoration goals mandated by Congress.

Sincerely,

Emelia Berol & Tom Stokely
TAMWG Members

Unique program nationally- support and funding from DC;

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 219000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-9000



October 9, 2012

Ms. Elizabeth Hadley, Chairman
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
City of Redding Electric Utility
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California 96001

Dear Chairman Hadley:

This letter is in response to your inquires on September 10, 2012 at the TAMWG meeting regarding possible solutions to improve snow survey data collection and augment automated climatic data collection of your watershed.

In regards to the snow surveys, of the nine snow courses in the Trinity River watershed, three require the use of Foster's Cabin in order to safely measure the courses. We are working with our partners in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to finalize access and permits for use of Foster's Cabin. Overnight use of Foster's Cabin is essential for the surveyors since travel to and from the courses is more than one day on skis. Travel to these courses can only be conducted on skis since they lie within the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area and helicopter operations were suspended several years ago for safety reasons. We hope to get permission to perform the necessary cabin refurbishments and repairs in time for the upcoming winter and are working closely with our U.S. Forest Service (USFS) partners to make this happen. Overall, reestablishing the routine measurement of the snow courses in the Trinity River watershed has been going well, thanks in part to our USFS partners and the efforts of Joshua Smith at the Watershed Center in Hayfork. Last year was a bit of an experiment in reestablishing regular measurements and I am sure there will be more lessons learned this coming winter. If there are ways that the TAMWG can assist, I will not hesitate to contact you.

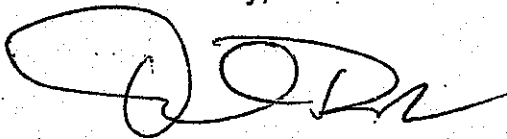
As far as augmenting the automated climatic data collection system in the Trinity River watershed, we are in pretty good shape. We are currently receiving precipitation data for all the required precipitation stations to produce a statistical water supply model and summer maintenance has been performed. This last water year we installed a state-of-the-art weather station at the existing NOAA Cooperative Precipitation Station at Coffee Creek; a location that correlates well to the Trinity River forecast. Generally speaking, the more gauges available to collect data in a watershed, the better a forecast can be and reservoir operations can improve. However, a thorough study should be conducted to determine where additional instrumentation would be beneficial in order to maximize the benefit-to-cost ratio of installing any new gauges. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to evaluate your watershed climatic station data needs. However, if the TAMWG were to look into this type of investigation, I would encourage the group to include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the USFS, and our Snow Surveys

Elizabeth Hadley
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group in this discussion, since we collectively provide the management of the land and water resources in the Trinity River watershed.

Thank you for your interest in the Trinity River runoff forecasts and for the stewardship that the TAMWG provides within the Trinity River watershed. As opportunities to assist with the snow data collection or other gauging efforts come to our attention, we will be sure to let you know.

Sincerely,



David Rizzardo, Chief
Snow Surveys Section
Division of Flood Management

cc: Mr. Seth Naman
National Marine Fisheries Service
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Ms. Teresa Connor, PE
Department of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, California 96080