

**Matilija Dam Ecosystem Project
Fine Sediment Study Group Meeting
December 10, 2010
Raw Notes from Flip Charts only
(Center for Collaborative Policy)**

Flip Chart Notes on Draft Charter

Mission:

Change “viable” to “possible”

Decision Rule

Discussion re 3-6 or 4-6.

Solution: Revise, collapse 3 and 4 into one.

Membership

Revise language re Project Partners. To read that all Study Group members are partners.

No signature page.

Flip Charts 1-3: Clarifying Questions, Background and Comments on Assumptions underlying Alternative 4b Development

Water Quality:

Keep the water districts whole: no contaminants in river

Concerns also about effects of increased turbidity on fish

Anticipated strict requirements from the Regional Board re “pollutants” in River of Words

CEQA: Without Project Alternative was defined as current baseline condition, not future condition of accumulation of up to 9 million cu. Yards of sediment behind the dam

Optimal Riparian improvements, Fish passage and restoration of natural processes

Dam Removal Alternatives considered:

“Blow and Go” one fell swoop removal: higher habitat benefits, turbidity impacts limited to shorter time frame

Notching the Dam

Multiple phases—taken off early

Two-phase

Cost Estimates

Assumed dual line

Assumed pumping water from lake for slurying

Data Gap:

Cost savings from single line instead of dual line

Data recommended: NOAA biological Opinion on Robles

Other assumptions:

Beach acreage estimates not incorporated into HEP analysis

Near-shore and offshore impacts not included (no USGS funding)

Additional comments:

Take into account new data on dam removal technology

Focus on agreeing on scope of work for additional study

New data on wetland loss mitigation: allow sediments to flow downstream

Recommend re-look at notching: cost/benefit analysis

Flip charts 4 & 5: BRDA: Assumptions and Constraints

In design phase:

Focus on constructability

Cost increased from \$18 million to \$ more than \$50 million

Risk: Greater than one storm season

Data Needed : Which assumptions drove up the costs

Data needed: ? more drying reduces cost, versus cost of longer conveyance

Assumption/Constraint: Nothing less than 10 year storm event to transport fine sediment

Assumption/constraint: The more sediment sequestered the better (Regional Board)

Data needed: What percentage of fine sediment goes to ocean in BRDA? MODA?

Data gap: No HEP analysis of fine sediment as an environmental benefit

Data gap: No detailed analysis of ongoing downstream site erosion

Comment: Divergence of HEP analysis and sediment storage behavior

Flip Chart 6: MODA

\$ Data Gap: Permanent impact analysis of MODA versus temporary impact analysis of BRDA

\$ Data Gap: Upstream O&M cost with permanent sequestration

Data gap: Overall ecological benefit analysis

Data gap: What changes to design would trigger re-authorization?

Flip Chart 7: Problem Definition Brainstorm

USFWS:

How will USA affect natural processes/affect USFWS consultation

Effects of permanent net loss of some habitat (e.g. success of Arundo removal has provided improved habitat for least bell's vireo which has reappeared)

Effects of USA on habitat baseline and on designated red-legged frog critical habitat

NMFS:

Note that BO was issued for 4b

✓ ✓ ✓ What are the fine sediment problems for diverters, compare existing conditions and dam removal and incremental notching: effects on water quality

What are benefits of the fine sediment in the watershed and on the downstream floodplain?

Is cost creep a problem?

Casitas:

Can't have impact of nutrients in sediments on our water treatment system

✓ What are fine sediment problems for diverters?

What is "dose effect" of legacy sediments?

Matilija Coalition

Can BRDA be phased? What can we learn from analyzing the constructability of a phased BRDA alternative?

Do we have an unfundable project? Are there cheaper alternatives we should be looking at?

MOWD:

Same as Casitas

Steve Bennett

Is there any data at Casitas that has changed?

How much chronic impact is there on the storage sites while we are waiting for the big flows?

What triggers re-authorization and risks the project?

What is cost of revising BOs?

SCC

How do we quantify risks to the public's water supply?

Is there relevant data from other pre= post dam removals that would benefit thinking on Matilija

USBR

What options are there to Casitas for making up their water supply? (Supply alternatives, conservation, e.g.)

DFG

How would fine sediments affect fish passage at Robles?

WPD

We need to develop a contingency plan. We need to run 4b to ground

USACE

We need to understand what data we have to address these questions

Define ecosystem restoration and O&M

Flip Chart: Next Meeting

Define Problem
“Primer” on Corps reauthorizations trigger(s)

Flip Chart: Meeting Evaluation Plus/Delta

Plus:

Lunch...
Open Minds

Delta:

Room configuration
More breaks
More fleshed out agenda