

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Project Fine Sediment Study Group
February 2, 2011
(CCP, 2/7/11)

Flip Charts: Constraints/Regulatory Triggers Discussion

USACE

Re-authorization triggers:

If costs are greater than 20% above authorized project

Data gap: *Has BRDA triggered that threshold? Can there be enough cost reductions to keep below this threshold?*

If changes in anticipated benefits (up or down) are more than 20% of authorized project

Data gap: *How would benefits/impacts change if the “without project alternative” is re-defined to refer to date in the future?*

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Issues affecting permitting:

Duration of sediment pulses

Timing. If during natural events, less of an issue

Nutrient levels in sediments behind the dam: how and when they come down

Defining “chronic” sediment: critically important

Data Gaps:

% sediment threshold in the Basin Plan

Determination of beneficial use for salmon/steelhead

[Suggestion from Group: “Workshop” at next Study Group meeting on Regional Board permitting for instream sediment levels]

DFG (CEQA, 1600 Stream Alteration, CESA incidental take)

Would need to see much more detailed descriptions of actions, e.g. at the 65% design level, to determine if mitigation will be required

Outstanding Question: Will DFG accept programmatic EIR for the entire removal project, or require mitigation for specific elements?

Constraint/possible mitigation trigger: loss of habitat at slurry sites

Data Gap: *need more specific level of design*

USFWS

Trigger: More detailed design (of any kind) will re-open the Biological Opinion and Section 7 consultation, likely for red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, willow flycatcher

NOAA/NMFS

Trigger: Similar to FWS

4b. Biological Opinion may need to be re-opened, but not necessarily a negative

[Data Request: NMFS provide any firm data or guidance to the USACE design team on sediment thresholds for anadromous fish]

CASITAS

Constraint/requirement: Secure water quality and reliable water supply

If natural transport to be considered, has to look at: hydrology, nutrient impacts, chronic impacts

MOWD

Ditto.

Potential on-site impacts

Data gap: On-site impacts of deposited sediment on MOWD wells

Data gap: Impacts of instream sediment on wells

Data gap: relationship between storms and well shutdowns required

VRCWD

Data gap: Sediment disposal impacts on wells

Data gap: Solubility of sediments

Flooding potential at BRDA sites

[Response from Design Team: if OVLC will provide us additional acreage, we can move the site, reduce flooding potential]