

MIDDLE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED
SANTA ANA SUCKER CONSERVATION TEAM
MEETING NOTES

May 19, 2011

PARTICIPANTS

David Garcia
Dan Bott
Dick Zembal
Sam Fuller
Bonnie Johnson
Lisa Cibellis
Max Rasouli
Dave Woelfel
Rachel Hamilton
Ed Filadelfia
Heather Dyer
Mark Horne
Kim Anthony
Carey Galst
Jonathan N. Baskin
Jim Van Haun
Jeff Beehler

REPRESENTATIVE

Riverside Public Utilities
Orange County Water District
OCWD/SAWA
San Bernardino Valley Water District
Orange County Water District
Orange County Public Works
Riverside Public Utilities
RWQCB
Inland Empire Water Keeper
City of Riverside
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cardno Entrix (by phone)
S. Cal. Edison
US FWS (by phone)
San Marino Environmental Associates
Cons. Team Consultant (by phone)
SAWPA

1. Introductions and Announcements: The Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Jeff Beehler at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.

- a. Critical Habitat: Possible Litigation
A number of upper wash agencies have given the US Fish and Wildlife Service a 60 day notice of litigation concerning the recent listing of critical habitat for the Santa Ana sucker. There were no updates provided.
- b. Raul Rodriguez, a long-time participant in the Sucker Team, is retiring from California Fish and Game. An announcement from the DFG was circulated among the participants.
- c. Meeting notes were approved by participants. They will be posted on the SAWPA website after approval. Rachel Hamilton noted that the notes were helpful and we should continue to provide them.

2. Agreements

- a. Conservation Team Agreement
 - i. Participants
The Conservation Team agreement was approved by the SAWPA Commission on April 19. Thus far, only the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has approved entering into the Conservation Team Agreement. The final Agreement is posted on the SAWPA website. The City of Riverside and Orange County Water District will be considering formally joining the Team.

ii. Participants and Budget/ Scope of Work

Participants of the Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team discussed a preliminary budget and scope of work for next year. Items included in next year's budgeted scope of work for the Team included:

- 1) Continued research and technical support by Dr. Baskin, included yearly population sampling;
- 2) UC Davis postdoctoral fellow to assess restoring gravel beds on the mainstem
- 3) Habitat maintenance to offset vegetation management activities undertaken under the 404 permit (when permit is issued)
- 4) Technical support for issuance of the 404 permit
- 5) A restoration plan, similar to Sunnyslope, for a tributary to the Santa Ana River

Jeff Beehler will bring a budget to the next meeting for discussion.

b. Corps 404 Maintenance Permit

i. Selection of Dates and Schedule for FWS Discussion

Heather Dyer has reviewed the Biological Opinion for the draft 404 permit developed several years ago. She would like to review updated assessments of potential impacts based on Conservation Team annual reports. A spreadsheet will be provided for summarizing potential impacts and meetings will be set with the FWS to clarify, if necessary. It should be noted that these discussions are informational and are used to properly cover as many activities as possible.

3. Biology/Ecology Updates

a. Seven Oaks Dam Test/Habitat Survey

The City of Riverside and FWS is preparing a report and will provide it to the group at the next meeting.

b. Sunnyslope Creek Restoration

Sunnyslope is directly connected to the river. Removal of non-native fish is being scheduled. Largemouth bass have been noted in the channel. There is also interest in removing some of the palm trees that are obstructing flow and providing pools that support invasive predators.

c. Sucker Breeding Activity

Jonathan Baskin provided a memo summarizing recent sampling efforts. He noted larval suckers in the Rialto Drain and in the River between Rialto and RIX.

4. Adjournment Next Meeting June 16, 2011

- a. Meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.