

SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED
SANTA ANA SUCKER CONSERVATION TEAM
MEETING NOTES

July 21, 2011

PARTICIPANTS

David Garcia
Dick Zembal
Roy Leidy
Bonnie Johnson
Lisa Haney
Jeff Ernst
Karly Gaynor
Rachel Hamilton
Max Rasouli
Sam Fuller
Danielle Maurizio
Jennifer Shepardson
Val Housel
LeAnne Hamilton
Robert Kent
Carey Galst
Jeff Beehler
Jonathan Baskin
Mark Horne
DFG

REPRESENTATIVE

Riverside Public Utilities
OCWD/SAWA
AECOM/SBVMWD (by phone)
Orange County Water District
Orange County Sanitation District
Orange County Public Works
WMWD
Inland Empire Water Keeper
City of Riverside
San Bernardino Valley MWD
Chino Basin Water Master
City of San Bernardino MWD
City of San Bernardino MWD
IEUA
US GS (by phone)
US FWS (by phone)
SAWPA
San Marino Environmental
Cardno Entrix

1. Introductions and Announcements: The Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team meeting was called to order 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. The text of a recent NPR story was distributed.
- b. Meeting notes for May, 2011 were approved by participants. They will be posted on the SAWPA website after approval. San Marino Environmental will work with City of San Bernardino MWD to clarify sample locations used in the larval sucker survey. They will provide their revised memo to the group.
- c. Off Road Vehicle Use- Colton Area. A list of You tube videos showing recreational use by the off-road community was distributed to the participants. There will be a multiagency meeting at the San Bernardino Department of Public Works on Jul 27 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss issues related to off-road use in the wash. DFG and FWS are sending representatives.
- d. Status of Agreements. Agencies are still moving the Task Force agreement through their internal process. Agencies planning on participating will be discussing a budget at the August meeting.

2. Scope of Work

a. Monitoring

i. Riverwalk

The Riverwalk Habitat survey was tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2011. This year an additional sampling team will provide QA/ QC to further ensure data consistency. The date will be finalized at the next meeting and a request will be made for volunteers. This activity requires much assistance from the stakeholders and is the only habitat survey undertaken on the river.

ii. Population Monitoring

Dr. Baskin will be conducted the Team's annual population sampling on August 25-28. Jeff Beehler will send out a request for volunteers. This year, the Met Crossing will also be sampled. FWS expressed an interest in the habitat data collected as part of the survey and will coordinate with Dr. Baskin. There was also discussion of hydrology studies characterizing sediment and gravel movement in the river.

b. Corps 404 Maintenance Permit

- i. 404 Permit EA. The participants discussed preparation of documents needed to support a US ACOE Regional Permit. Jim Van Haun was suggested as someone that could assist in preparing documentation. Much of the initial work done in the first application can be used as the basis of supporting documentation. Participants agreed. RGP 41 (Arundo Removal) was suggested as a model. Jeff Beehler will post the document on the SAWPA website for reference.

ii. Impacts Assessment

Heather Dyer has reviewed the Biological Opinion for the draft 404 permit developed several years ago. She is willing to meet with potential permit participants to make sure that their proposed activities are covered. It should be noted that these discussions are informational and are used to properly cover as many activities as possible. Participants agreed on August 31 at SAWPA to minimize travel time.

3. Biology/Ecology Updates

a. Sunnyslope Creek Restoration

Sunnyslope is still open to the River. Re-contouring of the substrate is being considered to minimize invasive predatory fish habitat.

b. Tequisquite- City of Riverside Project. No report given.

c. San Marino Update

Jonathan Baskin provided a memo summarizing age-size relationships shown by analysis of fin clips. A small sample of 13 dead suckers was collected during a recent population sampling exercise. Fin clips were taken and age-size relationships calculated. FWS has the fish and will use compare these data with otolith analysis, a method considered more accurate. If the two methods correlate well, the fin clip method may be useful in aging fish without sacrificing them. More data will need to be collected to support a positive correlation.

4. Adjournment Next Meeting August 18, 2011