

SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED
SANTA ANA SUCKER CONSERVATION TEAM
MEETING NOTES

October 26, 2011

PARTICIPANTS

Ana Ewing
Danielle Maurizio
Ed Filedalfia
Val Housel
Lisa Haney
Dick Zembal
Bonnie Johnson
David Garcia
Jonathan Baskin
Bret Mills
Angelica Mendoza
Sam Fuller
Jeff Crider
Carey Galst
Heather Dyer
Jim Van Haun
Jeff Beehler
Zyanya Blancas

REPRESENTATIVE

CA DFG
Chino Basin Water Master
City of Riverside
City of San Bernardino MWD
OCSD
OCWD/SAWA
Orange County Water District
Riverside Public Utilities
San Marino Environmental
SAWA
SBNF – USFS
SBVMWD
SBVMWD/Consultant
US FWS
US FWS
Consultant (by phone)
SAWPA
SAWPA

1. Introductions and Announcements: The Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team (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: Litigation and Congressional Field Hearing
A Congressional hearing was held in the City Hall of Highland on October 14, 2011. Articles in regards to the hearing were distributed in the Wall Street Journal, Riverside Press Enterprise, and The San Bernardino Sun. Congressmen Ken Calvert, Jerry Lewis and Chairman Tom McClintock presided at the hearing.
- b. Meeting Notes Approval
Meeting notes for August were distributed and will be considered approved unless someone contacts Jeff Beehler or Zyanya Blancas for corrections by the end of the week.
- c. Off Road Vehicle Use – Colton Area – Update
The Task Force formed by San Bernardino Flood Control to respond to off-road vehicle use in the Colton Wash continues to meet. Representatives from the Regional Board, Fish and Wildlife, and CA Fish and Game are participants. The Task Force has implemented a number of “stings” to cite off-roaders.
- d. Status of Agreements
The City of Riverside has signed an agreement and is now a member of the Conservation Team. Orange County Sanitation District will follow up on their agreement. Orange County Flood Control is in process of becoming a member. There are no additional updates on the agreements for Riverside and San Bernardino Flood Control.

2. Scope of Work

- a. Riverwalk Monitoring (September 15, 2011)
During the Riverwalk Monitoring, it was noticed that the Santa Ana River has gradually shifted position within the channel. There was discussion on whether the sample locations should be readjusted for a more accurate analysis. It was suggested that sample locations should be reconsidered every five years. A SAWPA engineering intern is inputting the Riverwalk Monitoring data and it will be available by Friday, October 10, 2011.
- b. Sunnyslope :
SAWA biologists have re-contoured locations in the creek to provide greater habitat values for the Santa Ana suckers and to make the area less suitable for predatory, non-native fish.
- c. Populating Monitoring (October 14-17, 2011)
Jonathan Baskin reported a large count of suckers in the Riverside area and lower counts at the Met crossing site. A more detailed report will be given in the month of November. Mr. Beehler presented photographs of the populating sampling process.
- d. Impacts Assessment
Heather Dyer is still meeting with those having maintenance activities on the river that require permit coverage. Those with impacts should schedule a time with Ms. Dyer or arrange to meet on another day. As the impacts are summarized, we will begin to formulate a tiered-permit around the end of November.
- e. Conservation Team Project Planning Subgroup
We will be developing a plan that states our goals and objectives relative to projects. This will allow our regulatory partners to pick mitigation projects that would be helpful to the sucker fish conservation. It will also benefit our planning process and would make us more competitive for outside funding. Mr. Beehler indicates that next month an outline will be completed for the group.

3. Adjournment Next Meeting November 17, 2011