



Aquatic, Water Quality, Geomorphology,
& Hydrology Resources

Technical Working Group Meeting

Date:

Time:

Location:

Directions

Parking:

Discussion Topic:

Agenda

Attendees

Draft Summary - Not Approved at Final Meeting (12/09/04)

Handouts, Attachments & Presentations

Directions to SMUD's Customer Service Center

SMUD has two four-story buildings located adjacent to Highway 50 on the north side, between 59th Street exit and 65th Street exit. The Customer Service Center (CSC) is the newer building of the two located at 6301 S Street, and houses the Rubicon Room, Forestview 1,2, & 3, Sequoia 1,2,& 3, Timberline 1,2, & 3, and the HRL Conference Room located on the third floor (Northwest wing). The Headquarters building is located at 6201 S Street, directly west of the CSC. It houses the Headquarters' Customer Center (HCC), the Auditorium and several other conference rooms.

The Field Reporting Facility (aka FRF) is located behind the SMUD Headquarters building: go under the Light Rail overpass, then to the left about 150 yards.

Directions:

Heading East: From downtown Sacramento, head east on Highway 50, exit at **59th Street**. This exit will take you up-and-over Highway 50. Go straight at the first intersection, travel about a half mile. On your left (north) is the SMUD Headquarters building, the next building is the Customer Service Center.

Heading West: From Placerville, take Highway 50 to Sacramento and exit at **65th Street**. Go straight about one block after the first intersection. The Customer Service Center is the four-story building on your right (north).

You should be able to find parking spaces for visitors located in the area between the two buildings. There is also parking available in a parking lot on Folsom Blvd. behind the SMUD complex.

If you need assistance to find the Rubicon Room, Timberline 1,2,& 3, Sequoia 1,2,& 3, Forestview 1,2, & 3, and the Hydro Relicensing's Conference Room located on the third floor of the Northwest wing, see the guard at the lobby desk. The Headquarters Customer Center (HCC) room is located in the Headquarters building opposite the board of directors Auditorium in the first floor. Drive Safely.

Note: *Downloadable maps can be found at hydrorelicensing.smud.org/meetings/meet_loc.htm*

SMUD HEADQUARTERS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Relicensing Parking Lot Locations



**Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
Upper American River Project (UARP) Hydro Relicensing Project**

**Aquatic Resources, Water Quality, Geomorphology and Hydrology
Technical Work Group (TWG) Meeting**

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Customer Service Center (CSC) 6301 "S" Street – Sequoia 2/3**




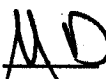
**June 14, 2004
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**


Proposed Agenda

Time	Topic
9:00 a.m.	Introductions
9:05	Review meeting agenda
9:10	Key and timely issues
9:25	Approve meeting summaries (06/03/04 and 06/10/04)
9:30	Water Temperature - discussion of "conclusions"
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own or see Karen Smith for lunch order)
1:00	Water Quality - discussion of "conclusions"
3:45	Next meeting agenda
4:00	Adjourn

UARP Hydro Relicensing**Aquatic/Water Quality/Hydrology/Geomorphology Technical Working Group**

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**Upper American River Project (UARP)
Aquatic/Water Quality/Geomorphology/Hydrology Resources
Technical
Working Group Meeting Summary**

June 314, 2004 99:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
Customer Service Center, Sequoia 2 & 3
6301 "S" Street, Sacramento, California**

Summary

The Aquatic/Water Quality/Geomorphology/Hydrology ("Aquatic") Resources Technical Working Group (TWG) met on June 14, 2004 at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Customer Service Center (CSC). Participants included:

- Beth Paulson, US Forest Service (USFS)
- Bill Foster, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Dave Hanson, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- Jann Williams, USFS
- Jim Lynch, Devine Tarbell and Associates (DTA)
- Lon Maier, SMUD
- Marie Davis, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)
- Sharon Stohrer, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Stafford Lehr, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
- Tom Studley, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) (by phone)

The Aquatic TWG met to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Review agenda
2. Discuss key and timely issues
3. Approve meeting summaries (June 3, and June 10, 2004)
4. Discuss conclusions for Water Temperature
5. Discuss conclusions for Water Quality
- 7.6. Next meeting agenda

Item 3 was partially completed; items 4 and 5 were not completely discussed, but deferred until a subsequent meeting (June 16, 2004)

Review agenda. As is custom for each meeting, DTA reviewed handouts and described wall-posted material (operations schematics, water year types, GIS maps for all survey points (water quality and temperature, PHABSIM, geomorphology, amphibian, etc.) Sharon Stohrer requested that water temperature and water quality discussions be reversed on the agenda, since she was available only until 2:00 p.m.

Key and timely issues. None.

Approval of meeting summaries. The June 3, 2004 meeting summary was approved. The June 10, 2004 summary will be considered for approval at the June 16th meeting.

Discuss conclusions for Water Quality. DTA noted that the revised GIS maps of all survey points for all reaches were posted on the wall. Stillwater Science still needs to review and provide input, which will be within a few days. DTA also stated that the water quality report would eventually be reissued with changes as noted to date, including those in the Agency letter dated May 13, 2004. A request has been made by SWRCB to have the QA/QC data sheets from ToxScan made available. DTA is coordinating that request. A request was also made to see what information might be available from El Dorado County Parks and Recreation department. Other discussion included the following items:

- **Agreement:** The Sources of Sediment and Water Temperature technical report data will be referenced in the revised Water Quality Technical report within the context of the basin plan objectives.
- **Agreement:** Data from water quality surveys conducted in 2004 will be made available to the TWG as it becomes available.
- SWRCB requested total depth measurements for Secchi disk measurements, however that data was not always available (e.g., reservoir depth is greater than probe cable) nor may it necessarily be accurate (due to drift)
- Dissolved data for metals (2004) would need to be reviewed before any conclusions can be reached.
- Algal/diatomaceous blooms below Junction Reservoir are of concern to CDFG. **Action item:** SMUD will attempt to locate someone who can identify/assess the growth masses. **Action item:** DTA will include assessment in the revised technical report.
- A brief description of the Central Valley Regional Board Water Quality Objectives (bacteria, chemical constituents, dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature, turbidity, biostimulatory substances, color, floating material, oil and grease, pesticides, radioactivity, sediment, settleable material, suspended material, tastes and odors, toxicity)
- Some data tables in the Technical Report (A-32, A-25 A-24) need to be revised in the electronic version. **Action item:** This will be done by DTA.
- Coliform - Counts are elevated at Union Valley Reservoir and downstream of Chili Bar Dam; other sites are generally within basin plan objectives. Specifically, exceedances at Union Valley and in the reach downstream of Chili Bar Dam occur primarily in the summer; at Slab Creek Reservoir and in the reach downstream of Chili Bar exceedances occur primarily during the First Major Rain sampling period.
- Chemical constituents - Summary shows some elevations of aluminum and iron, but none above the established Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Less than two percent of the 195 iron samples were elevated above the Secondary MCLs; less than two percent of the aluminum samples were greater than the Secondary MCLs. SWRCB expressed concern that the most stringent basin plan objectives (e.g., for aquatic life) be used as the comparison, not drinking water standards, or

other less stringent comparisons. Noted was that some iron levels exceeded the maximum levels (300 µg/l) for inflow to Folsom Reservoir.

- SWRCB requested that results from the Water Temperature Technical Report be drafted into the Water Quality Technical Report, including dissolved oxygen and pH results. **Action item:** DTA will provide this inclusion.
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) - Ions (e.g., calcium, magnesium, potassium) and total alkalinity showed generally acceptable levels, except that in the reach downstream of Chili Bar had an exceedance of total alkalinity.
- Water temperature - Results for Project reaches were compared to 20° C (literature-supported value). Comparisons were made between inflowing unimpaired streams and flows below the dams. Temperature of released water below dams is generally less than 3.1° warmer than unimpaired stream temperatures, however this trend occurs during non-summer times of the year. Cold and warm stream segments can be characterized, according to temperature histories. For example all of the Loon Lake, Gerle Creek and reach downstream of Chili Bar are “cold” sections, while All of the Rubicon Dam and South Fork American River sections are “warm” sections based on the 20° C criteria. The SWRCB expressed concern that regulatory standards need to be the criteria of streams that are either cold or warm reaches. CDFG also noted that the “delta 5°” has not been applied in any known relicensings, and may not be needed in the analysis. The SWRCB also stated that the recreational and aquatic life criteria need to be applied to the stream temperature results. CDFG noted that the analyses needs to 1) establish what the existing temperature regime; 2) develop what new flow regime may be needed for temperature adjustments, given the best practices that are considered for protection of the extant species composition. **Action item:** DTA will revise analyses accordingly.
- Turbidity analysis – There does not appear to be a turbidity problem in any Project reach during normal flows (e.g., non-spring runoff flows). SWRCB suggested that a description in the report be included to describe the elevation ranges that reservoirs will not be drawn down to avoid increased turbidity levels, especially Slab Creek Reservoir. **Action item:** Data from the Whitewater Boating Test Flow Study for the Slab Creek, Ice House and Camino reaches will be included in the Water Quality Technical Report.
- Biostimulatory substances – Concentration of biostimulatory substances are low, with nitrate concentrations well below the regional board’s established 1.0 mg/l nitrate standard. There are no significant amounts of phosphorous, phosphorous oxides, nitrogen, nitrate-nitrite, ammonium or total organic carbon in any stream reach. Secchi disk readings are also indicative of good water clarity throughout the system. As with most Sierran streams, the Project reaches originate from oligotrophic reservoirs, and have low presence of biostimulatory substances.
- Organics – Oil and grease and methyl tert-butyl ether is below the reporting limit for all samples taken.
- Pesticide/radioactive materials – Not sampled during the surveys. CDFG recommended that the technical report reference silviculture operations within the Project area, as well as a mention of the use of herbicides Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and USFS uses. **Action item:** DTA will reference in revised report.

- Total suspended solids (TSS) – All samples were below the reporting limit except one reach in the middle elevation; it was noted that greater than 25 mg/l is a high value. **Action item:** DTA will identify this site and report to the TWG. **Agreement:** It was agreed that the data analysis would be deferred until when the Geomorphology Technical Report is reviewed.
- Settleable solids/taste and odor – not sampled for during surveys
- Toxicity – select metals appear to be found throughout the watershed: aluminum, lead, copper and silver. Given the low hardness of water in the system, a number of exceedances were found. **Action item:** SWRCB wants a record of cloud seeding operations and a discussion of locations of stations used. SMUD will secure this information.
- Fish tissue – Results from work done last year indicate that there is a potential for additional work; it is unknown if levels of some metals constitute a health hazard. Mercury, copper, selenium and arsenic have been found in fish tissue.

Adequacy of Technical Report:

The Water Quality Technical Report will be deemed adequate after the comments in the agencies' May 13, 2004 letter and those made by the Aquatic TWG at the June 14, 2004 meeting are addressed in the report. The report should be revised and reissued including any 2004 data (spring runoff sampling) that is available. When additional 2004 data are available, those data should be provided to the Aquatic TWG. When all 2004 data are available, they should be included in the Water Quality Report and a final report issued.

Aquatic TWG Findings:

The Aquatic TWG findings from the Water Quality Technical Report are as follows by Basin Plan Water Quality Objective.

- Bacteria: Some *E. coli* bacteria data might not be included in the report. DTA will check data sheets to ensure all data is included in the next version of the report. If the data were not collected, the TWG will consider whether additional *E. coli* bacteria sampling should occur in summer 2004. Fecal coliform bacteria levels were greater than Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives at Union Valley Reservoir and the Reach Downstream of Chili Bar. The SWRCB said total coliform bacteria (for which the Basin Plan does not include an Objective) appeared elevated in Slab Creek and Chili Bar reservoirs, and the Slab Creek Dam Reach and Reach Downstream of Chili Bar. DTA should re-contact the El Dorado County Health Department to determine if it has any additional coliform bacteria data and, if so, include the data in the report.
- Chemical Constituents: Secondary MCLs for aluminum and iron were greater than Basin Plan Objectives. Exceedances of Secondary MCLs could indicate a taste or odor problem. The SWRCB said that iron concentrations were greater than the Basin Plan Objective for Folsom Reservoir and, therefore, should be considered at an "alert" level. DTA was asked to include a discussion of these limits in the report.
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO): DO concentrations in stream reaches appears within Basin Plan Objectives, but lower than Basin Plan Objectives in some reservoirs, especially in deep water.
- pH: pH for the most of the system appeared to be within Basin Plan Objectives.

- Salinity: Salinity concentrations were within Basin Plan Objectives.
- Temperature: The SWRCB and CDFG said that they do not normally apply the Basin Plan Temperature Objective to hydro projects, but DTA could leave it in the report, noting this. An analysis of temperature suggests that both Cold and Warm Freshwater Habitat occur throughout the system. This parameter will be discussed with the Aquatic TWG when the Water Temperature Technical Report is discussed and pertinent information from the Water Temperature Technical Report will be summarized in the Water Quality Technical Report.
- Turbidity: As with the Temperature Objective, the SWRCB and CDFG do not normally apply the Basin Plan Objective to hydro projects. For the most part, turbidity seems to be low in the system. DTA should include information from the Slab Creek monitoring in the report.
- Biostimulatory Substances: Biostimulatory substances seem to be within Basin Plan Objectives, with a possible a few exceptions.
- Color: Except for some coloration due to an apparent diatomaceous growth in Silver Creek in the Junction Reach, there are no coloration problems in the Project area. DTA will try to determine what the diatomaceous growth is.
- Floating Material: There are no known elevated levels of floating material in the Project area.
- Oil and Grease: Oil and Grease, as well as MTBE concentrations appear to be within Basin Plan Objectives: all below reportable levels.
- Pesticides: Although sampling was not conducted for pesticides, there are no known elevated levels of pesticides in the Project area.
- Radioactivity: Although sampling was not conducted for radioactivity, there are no known elevated levels of radioactive materials in the Project area.
- Sediment: This parameter will be discussed with the Aquatic TWG when the Sources of Sediment and Geomorphology technical reports are discussed. Information from those reports will be summarized in the Water Quality Technical Report.
- Settleable Material: There are no known elevated levels of settleable materials in the Project area.
- Suspended Materials: Suspended solids are within Basin Plan Objectives.
- Tastes and Odors: There are no known or detectable levels of objectionable tastes or odors in the waterways within in the Project area. However, Secondary MCLs for aluminum and iron are above Basin Plan Objectives.
- Toxicity: Based on 2002/03 data, aluminum, copper, lead and silver appear to be at concentrations greater than USEPA's Freshwater Aquatic Life guidelines. The 2004 sampling is focusing on this issue specifically, and these will be included in the final report, as described above. Mercury concentrations in fish from Union Valley and Slab Creek reservoirs were greater than the USEPA SV guideline for mercury. However, the samples did not exceed the SWRCB's MTRL guideline. The SWRCB will discuss the results with OEHHA.

Conclusions of the TWG: More data will be needed to develop conclusions.

Discuss conclusions for Water Temperature. Dave Hanson provided a handout of air temperatures as developed by Margaret Hannaford for inclusion in the last three years of water temperature data. Other discussion included the following items:

- The final technical report for water temperature will include a discussion of mean monthly temperatures. **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- 2004 data is needed for analysis before decisions can be made.
- QA/QC editing is needed in several places in the technical report (DO and pH values switched in some places—p. 25 and 29); p. 59 plot is labeled wrong. **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- Locations of sensors needs to be more fully described, as well as noting that time drift is minimized with laptop downloads (section 3.2). **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- Secchi disk data needs to be included with water temperature data; profile time of sampling needs to be included as well. **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- Some *in situ* depth measurements are lengthy – 78 readings at one location. Needs to be explained (*Note:* One measurement is taken per second; if cables tangle it interrupts dropping or retrieving the sonde.)
- pH plots are “too expansive” – need to be explained/corrected. **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- Plots need to be in color (electronically). **Action item:** this will be corrected in final report.
- Discharge temperature limits need to be identified in this report and the fish technical report. **Action item:** this will be corrected in final reports
- DO ranges appear to be too wide. Need to ensure data is correct. **Action item:** this will be addressed.

Adequacy of report: Report is not adequate at this time. Will be re-issued as interim report and reviewed by the TWG to determine adequacy. Interim data will be shared with the TWG.

Additional Needs for Final Report:

1. Need quality control editing. Some of the numbers in the tables are switched around (Tables 4.1-7, 4.1-9, 4.1-11).
2. Ensure the thermographs checked for time drift.
3. Better description of placement of thermographs needed.
4. Import the Secchi disk depth data with profile data.
5. Time of day of sampling is missing from profile data.
6. Union Valley May 2003: Not clear why the probe took 78 readings at one depth. Explain what happened to depth readings.
7. Provide explanations for anomalies.
8. Tables summarizing conditions needed for different species should be included (fish from Peter Moyle; frogs from Sara Kupferberg and PG&E data).
9. Check on low DO levels on various reservoirs; compare percent saturation to raw data.
10. Add 2004 data.

11. Attempt to install another thermograph downstream of dam in Junction Reach.
12. Check with Kent Doty to see how difficult it would be to model Junction Reach.
13. TWG may want to run model for Camino reach with additional year of data.
14. Check with Kent Doughty on validation run with 2003 data for Camino reach.

Future meeting dates and agenda items

Date	Agenda items
June 16	Conclude Deep Water Entrainment, Fish habitat (PHABSIM and Reservoir fish habitat), Hydrology
June 24	Amphibians and Amphibian Test Flows
July 1	Geomorphology, continue discussion of Rubicon and Loon Lake Reservoir reaches
July 8	Matrix for Chili Bar and reach downstream of Chili Bar Reservoir, Slab Creek reach
July 9	
July 22	Continue matrix for Gerle/Robbs reach
July 29	Ice House Junction, Camino reach

Meeting dates and locations may also be found on SMUD's web page at <http://www.smud.org/relicensing/index.html>

Ongoing commitments:

- Field schedules will be provided to the TWG on a monthly basis. The schedules are tentative. Contact Lonni Maier if attendance is desired for any of the fieldwork underway.
- SMUD will advise participants of any particular focus that an upcoming meeting may have, and develop an agenda for the meeting.
- SMUD commits to sending out draft study plans at least five working days before meeting to discuss the plans.

Attachments available with this summary:

None.

If you would like copies of any past document, please e-mail hmaier@smud.org with your request or visit the SMUD relicensing web page at <http://www.smud.org/relicensing/index.html>.

These summaries are not intended to be a transcript of the meeting, but only to serve as a brief synopsis. Please provide any comments you may have regarding these summaries to hmaier@smud.org