

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES: 01/28/2008**

- **(Item 1) Call to Order:** 1:05 pm

- **(Item 2) List of Attendees present on 01/28/08:**

John Beresford	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Bethany Brock	Mission Resource Conservation District
Heidi Brow	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Anne Burdick	Mission Resource Conservation District
Henry Contreras	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
Wayne Cooley	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Paul Dorey	Vista Irrigation District
Jack Griffiths	Rainbow Municipal Water District
Ruth Harber	Riverwatch
Joe Jewell	Vista Irrigation District
Dave Kajtaniak	California Department of Fish & Game <a href="mailto:dkajtaniak@dfg.ca.gov">dkajtaniak@dfg.ca.gov</a>
Frank Kawasaki	Trout Unlimited ~ San Diego Chapter
Michael Pottorff	San Diego Trout
Rob Roy	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Holly Sheridan	California Department of Fish & Game
Don Smith	Vista Irrigation District
Gary Strawn	San Diego Stream Team; San Diego Fly Fishers
George Wilkins	Pacific REMS

- **(Item 3) Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from 12/17/07 were approved with a correction to the spelling of: Bruce Posthumus. [John Beresford motioned; Ruth Harber seconded; 3 abstentions from the vote from those not at the meeting last month; motion was passed.]

- **(Item 4) PRESENTATION by Dave Kajtaniak/DFG– PRELIMINARY FINDINGS for: California Dept. of Fish & Game Steelhead SLR Watershed Assessment Report**  
**The power-point of this presentation will be made available to the whole Watershed Council.**  
**The final findings/report will be available by summer 2008.**

The goal of this report is to produce a Watershed Assessment Report, which can then be used by individual landowners and watershed groups/agencies alike to help guide restoration projects, land use and management decisions. This report will allow us to seek funding from the DFG later on, for restoration projects related to Steelhead. The SLR Watershed was broken down into 5 sub-basins in the report (see presentation map); the SLR River (31 miles) & some upper tributaries were assessed for this report; flow, water quality, instream habitat and potential barriers to steelhead spawning/movement were also examined.

**Historically:** There are historic accounts of regular Southern California Steelhead runs along the SLR River, prior to the completion of the Henshaw Dam & the Escondido Canal diversion in the 1930's. Currently, there have been a few recent Steelhead sitings along the SLR River (2007, Coastal Subbasin by Douglas Avenue; 2005 in Gomez Creek). Additionally, there are areas within the Upper Watershed & Pauma Creek that have (native) populations of Rainbow Trout, which were most likely descended from Steelhead populations that were cut off from the Ocean generations ago.

**General Findings:**

- **Flow:** The Basin is not hydrologically connected due to items such as: Henshaw Dam, Escondido Canal, and groundwater extraction for human use (can lead to reduced flow in tributaries). The lack of hydrologic connectivity to the estuary/Ocean may hinder the recovery of Steelhead in SLR Watershed.
- **Water Quality:** Water Quality Data and Stream Bioassessments were looked at (note: these water quality assessments were not done with Steelhead specifically in mind). Data shows that upper tributaries were rated very good/clean. Studies show that the estuary at the mouth of the river was rated for toxicology (good), biology (fair) and chemistry (good); additionally in the coastal subbasin, TDS & fecal coliform were found to be constituents of concern.
- **Instream Habitat, Spawning Gravels & Pools:** Steelhead require appropriate-sized gravels to spawn in, which were limited in parts of the mainstem. There were suitable spawning gravels found in pockets along the mainstem, and in many of the northern subbasin tributaries (ie: Pauma/Gomez/Agua Tibia/Pala Creeks). While 70% of the mainstem & tributaries had appropriate canopy cover, there was very little quality pool structure found throughout the mainstem. Higher quality refugia was found in the upper, northern & middle subbasins, however many of these areas are inaccessible due to the Henshaw Dam, Escondido Canal diversion & road crossings. While the southern & coastal subbasins had a lower quality refugia, this habitat could be greatly improved with some habitat restoration projects.

**Barriers to Fish Movement/Spawning:**

- **Barriers:** There were many barriers found along the mainstem of the River and in the tributaries. Some of these barriers include: road crossings, dams, natural (ie: waterfall or bedrock shutes), box culverts, rip-rap, steel grates, etc. (see the presentation for specific sites).
- **Additional factors that limit the Steelhead recovery include:** displacement of native riparian vegetation with exotics; loss of estuarine habitat; high levels of sediment in streams; competition with gamefish/crayfish/bullfrogs; lack of hydrologic connectivity and adequate stream flow in the mainstem & tributaries; and limited suitable spawning gravels.

**Future Funding Opportunities:**

The Final Report (out by 06/2008) will outline areas that need improvement (which we can use to develop phased projects), in order to aide the Steelhead recovery along the SLR Watershed. Local Shareholders will need to drive these projects, starting in the lower watershed and ultimately working our way eastward.

**DFG QUESTIONS TO THE SLR WATERSHED COUNCIL (please email Dave Kajtaniak):**

- What is the status of Rosemary's Quarry?
- What is the status of the SLR River Park?
- What is the status of Gregory Canyon?
- Are there any Wetland Restoration Projects going on (or planned) in the Watershed?
- Are there any existing Wetland Education Programs currently in place within the Watershed?

**UPCOMING DATES FOR THE STEELHEAD SLR WATERSHED ASSESSMENT REPORT:**

**\*\*\*ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE**

- **(April 2008)** DFG will complete the Subbasin/Analysis section
- **(May 2008)** DFG will have a Draft Copy of the Steelhead SLR Watershed Assmt. Report available for Public Review. Hard copies will be made available to the SLR Watershed Council & to local Libraries.
- **(April/May 2008)** DFG will return to the SLR Watershed Council to present the final report & answer any questions.
- **(June 2008)** the Final Draft of the Report will come out

- **(Item 5) SLRWC Nonprofit Formation:**
  - All Items related to the Nonprofit Formation have been tabled until the February 25, 2008 Meeting. There are additional changes to be made, in order to ensure compliance with the Nonprofit Laws, as defined by the Nonprofit Corporation Kit. George Wilkins motioned to table these items to the 2/25/08 meeting; John Beresford seconded; vote passed unanimously.
  
- **(Item 6) Attendee Reports & News:**
  - George Wilkins filled the Council in on the latest storm/precipitation amounts. There was some discussion regarding the Henshaw Rain Gage, which is working even though the transmissions are not making it the on-line website. Precipitation from Henshaw had measured 2.69” between 1/25/08 and noon 1/28/08. The Lake is currently 18% full (total capacity is 50,000 gal), standing at 9080 acre feet.
  
- **(Item 7) Upcoming Meeting Dates/Facilitators:**  
February 25, 2008—SLR Watershed Council Meeting: Facilitator Needed  
March 24, 2008—SLR Watershed Council Meeting: Facilitator Needed  
April 28, 2008---SLR Watershed Council Meeting: Facilitator Needed