



Tehama County Resource Conservation District

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April 30, 2009

Paul Kubicek
Aquatic Biology Consulting Scientist
Environmental Services
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
3401 Crow Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583

RE: Support for Habitat Expansion Agreement Criteria and Initiatives

Paul:

At the present time, the Tehama County Resource Conservation District is involved in an array of efforts at improving and protecting Spring Run Chinook Salmon and steelhead in Tehama County. Presently, our staff is preparing a watershed assessment and management plan for eastern Tehama County. The focus of these efforts is on those streams that are not represented by a watershed group. Significant among these eastside streams is Antelope Creek which is considered to have significant restoration potential as habitat for Spring-run Chinook Salmon. Several design and engineering projects are currently being completed within the Antelope Creek watershed that addresses negative impacts to fish passage. Among these is a collaborative effort between the Tehama County RCD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a local environmental consulting firm to develop and engineer fish passage improvements at an irrigation diversion facility near Red Bluff. At the same time, improvements to the Paynes Crossing located within the Antelope Creek's upper watershed are being designed and final engineering is expected in the very near future.

Once these design and engineering projects have been completed, it will be important to maintain the momentum of restoration efforts by completing the construction of redesigned infrastructure. Through our District's participation in the design phase of the diversion improvement project as well as through discussions with members of the public and agency personnel, it appears that the lowest nine mile segment of Antelope Creek between the diversion and the stream's mouth at the Sacramento River has an array of habitat problems that negatively impact fish passage. Among those currently identified are braided channels, low water flows and invasive species. Consequently, the Tehama County RCD supports a directed stream channel conditions analysis for this portion of Antelope Creek. With detailed information about stream channel conditions, informed decision making regarding future restoration and improvement efforts would occur and the District could certainly assist in its completion

The Tehama County RCD applauds and heartily supports those efforts that promote the Habitat Expansion Agreement criteria related to Spring Run Chinook Salmon and steelhead and we offer our assistance in executing the design implementation and analysis efforts mentioned above. Please give me a call if you have questions or comments regarding the Tehama County Resource Conservation District's position on the restoration of Antelope Creek and other eastside tributaries. I can be reached at 530-527-3013. My cell phone number is 530-200-1231. I can also be reached via email at tom@tehamacountyrcd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McCubbins', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Thomas F. McCubbins
Watershed Coordinator/Projects Manager
Tehama County Resource Conservation District