



MEETING NOTES

Project Name:	<u>LSJ/DS RFMP</u>	Date:	<u>5/8/14</u>
Meeting Subject:	<u>Mormon Channel Bypass</u>	Project No.:	<u></u>
Location:	<u>Conference Call</u>	Page:	<u>1</u>
Notes by:	<u>Charles Hilliard</u>		

Attendees:	<u>Dave Peterson</u>	<u>Jim Giottonini</u>	<u>John Cain</u>	<u></u>
	<u>Jesse Patchett</u>	<u>Roger Churchwell</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	<u>Charles Hilliard</u>	<u>Gemma Bischocho</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
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Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Mormon Channel Bypass project, in particular the findings of American Rivers on the restoration element of the project.

Discussion: Introductions were made by attendees, followed by a discussion on what American Rivers had found while looking into the ecosystem restoration potential of the project.

John Cain indicated more information on the project is needed to fully determine ecosystem benefit potential. This detailed work is not within the scope of the RFMP, but will be included as a recommendation for future study in the RFMP. However, even with the basic project information available, he didn't think NOAA fisheries would agree that this project is a good, or even prudent, project from a Steelhead restoration perspective. From an ecological perspective, using the bypass for flood flows (i.e. >10yr flows) doesn't seem to pose a concern.

Using the bypass as a dry system, with planting on the banks for habitat benefits but still taking flood flows when necessary could be another option to achieving multi-benefits from this project. However, this would not have any benefit for threatened and endangered species so it may not be viewed as a good use of limited funds available for ecosystem restoration projects. Concerns with adjacent land uses and homeless population in the area also could threaten the success of the project.

Although claiming Steelhead benefits may not be feasible, the project could have urban amenity and flood control elements that are good. Focusing the project toward urban stream restoration and urban corridor funding sources may help with the ultimate implementation of the project. Since USACE has removed the Mormon Channel Bypass from the feasibility study, this project would ultimately need to be locally led with State support.

It was also mentioned that edge habitat on the Calaveras River is not bad, but could be improved. Adding vegetation along the banks of the Calaveras could impact its capacity. A Mormon Channel Bypass could alleviate this, while also providing system resiliency. This could be an opportunity to pair ecosystem restoration work on the Calaveras River to the Mormon Channel Bypass.

SJAFCA would like the RFMP to explore what the benefits of the bypass project could be, and what the costs associated with the next steps are. From here, a future study could evaluate multi-benefit potential and support from the local community can be gauged.

Action Items

- SJAFCA to send specific plan to PBI / American Rivers
- PBI to provide American Rivers with GIS property lines exhibit along Mormon Channel
- American Rivers to provide write up on what additional information / studies are needed to fully determine ecosystem restoration benefits
- PBI to discuss multi-benefit project elements and corresponding funding opportunities with stakeholders at the next round of small group meetings
- PBI to include next steps (i.e. study, plan, etc.) and costs for Mormon Channel Bypass