



## **Joint Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors**

**and the**

## **Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017  
5:30 PM**

**Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors' Chambers  
County Government Center  
70 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95118**

**District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.**

### **DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

John L. Varela, Chair - District 1  
Richard Santos, Vice Chair - District 3  
Barbara Keegan - District 2  
Linda J. LeZotte - District 4  
Nai Hsueh - District 5  
Tony Estremera - District 6  
Gary Kremen - District 7

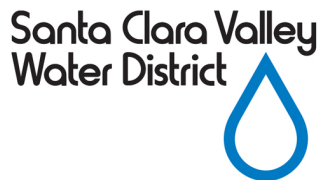
All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118, at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend Board of Directors' meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600.

NORMA CAMACHO  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

MICHELE L. KING, CMC  
Clerk of the Board  
(408) 265-2600  
Fax (408) 266-0271  
[www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org)

**Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.**

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**Joint Meeting of the  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
and the  
Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District**



Thursday, June 15, 2017

5:30 PM

County Government Center  
Board of Supervisors' Chambers  
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment.

*Notice to the public: This item is reserved for persons desiring to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda. Members of the public who wish to address the Board on any item not listed on the agenda should complete a Speaker Card and present it to the Clerk of the Board. The Board Chair will call individuals to the podium in turn. Speakers comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.*

4. Presentation and Discussion on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District's Missions, Goals, and Primary Functions.

[17-0397](#)

Recommendation: That the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) Boards receive and discuss information on SCVWD's and GCRCD's respective missions, goals, and primary functions.

Manager: Representing SCVWD: Norma Camacho, 408-630-2084  
Representing GCRCD: Stephanie Moreno, 408-288-5888

Attachments: [Attachment 1: SCVWD Report](#)  
[Attachment 2: GCRCD Report](#)

Est. Staff Time: 10 Minutes

5. Presentation and Discussion on SCVWD's and GCRCD's Interests to Improve and Maintain Natural Resources/Conservation. [17-0399](#)

Recommendation: Receive information and discuss what each organization's interests are, with a goal to find a common nexus with which both organizations can work collaboratively.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: SCVWD Report

Attachment 2: GCRCD Report

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Manager: Representing SCVWD: Afshin Rouhani, 408-630-2616  
Representing GCRCD: Dr. Rick Lanman, 408-288-5888  
Maya Esparza, 408-288-5888

Attachments: [Attachment 1: SCVWD Report](#)  
[Attachment 2: GCRCD Vision](#)

Est. Staff Time: 20 Minutes

6. Presentation and Discussion on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). [17-0400](#)

Recommendation: Receive and discuss information on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

Manager: Representing SCVWD: Vincent Gin, 408-630-2633  
Representing GCRCD: Richard Roos-Collins, 408-288-5888  
Julie Gantenbein, 408-288-5888  
Dr. Joe Merz, 408-288-5888

Attachments: [Attachment 1: SCVWD Report](#)  
[Attachment 2: GCRCD Report](#)

Est. Staff Time: 50 Minutes

7. Adjourn to next regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. June 27, 2017, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.



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**File No.:** 17-0397

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 4.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District's Missions, Goals, and Primary Functions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) Boards receive and discuss information on SCVWD's and GCRCD's respective missions, goals, and primary functions.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: SCVWD Report

Attachment 2: GCRCD Report

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Representing SCVWD: Norma Camacho, 408-630-2084

Representing GCRCD: Stephanie Moreno, 408-288-5888

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**File No.:** 17-0364

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 4.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District's Missions, Goals, and Primary Functions.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) Boards receive and discuss information on SCVWD's and GCRCD's respective missions, goals, and primary functions.

### **SUMMARY:**

As this is the first joint meeting between SCVWD and GCRCD, this item outlines both agencies' missions, goals, and primary functions.

### **District's Mission, Roles, and Functions**

The mission of SCVWD is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. Founded in 1929, SCVWD manages an integrated water resources system that includes the provision of flood protection and clean, safe water countywide, and environmental stewardship on behalf of Santa Clara County's nearly 2 million residents. Each of these three prongs is discussed in detail below.

#### Clean, Safe Water

As the county's water wholesaler, SCVWD is responsible for providing clean, safe water for homes, businesses, and the environment across Santa Clara County. The county's water supplies, on average, come from a variety of sources:

- 55% is imported from outside the county
  - 40% from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
  - 15% from San Francisco's Regional Water System
- 30% is local water from runoff and natural groundwater recharge
- 5% from recycled water supplies
- 10% from ongoing water conservation

SCVWD is the only water agency in the entire state to hold both federal and state imported water

contracts. This, combined with the overall diversity in our water portfolio, helps ensure the reliability of water supplies, especially during times of drought, which has impacted this county for the last five years.

SCVWD manages 10 local dams and surface water reservoirs, four water treatment plants-including one advanced water purification center-a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory, nearly 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds, and 275 miles of creeks, streams, and rivers. Additionally, SCVWD provides wholesale water and groundwater management services to almost 5,000 well owners, and to 13 water retailers who deliver drinking water directly to homes, schools and businesses in Santa Clara County.

As the groundwater manager for Santa Clara County, SCVWD vigilantly protects the county's largest "reservoir" beneath our feet-the groundwater aquifers-in order to prevent subsidence, a phenomenon where the land elevation sinks in response to water being pumped out of the ground faster than it is replaced. Subsidence occurred early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the northern part of Santa Clara County, threatening both farms and infrastructure, and the effort to stop it was what spurred the formation of SCVWD. Today, SCVWD aggressively protects the groundwater basins and ensures that they are replenished via the network of groundwater recharge ponds and streams across the county, together with in-lieu recharge, so that the basins can continue to supply Santa Clara County's residents, businesses, farms, and the environment.

In addition to safeguarding existing water supplies such as groundwater, SCVWD also actively works toward ensuring the reliability and sustainability of water supplies, by advancing initiatives such as the expansion of purified recycled water countywide. A true drought-proof, locally-controlled water source, purified recycled water represents the future of reliable, sustainable water supplies for Santa Clara County. SCVWD's existing Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center currently generates eight million gallons per day of highly purified water that soon SCVWD hopes to use to augment water supplies through potable reuse.

#### Flood Protection

As the agency responsible for local flood protection, SCVWD works diligently to protect Santa Clara County's residents, businesses, and infrastructure from the devastating effects of flooding. To date, SCVWD has invested close to \$1 billion in flood protection efforts, and protected nearly 100,000 parcels. Over the next five years, SCVWD plans to protect an additional 25,000 parcels through construction of 18 additional flood protection projects and efforts. These flood protection efforts save property owners 10% on flood insurance premiums in participating communities, and remove the need for flood insurance for those parcels removed from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain. SCVWD also plans long-term flood protection efforts with an eye toward future threats, such as from sea level rise and climate change.

#### Environmental Stewardship

SCVWD's stream stewardship responsibilities include creek and shoreline restoration and wildlife habitat projects, pollution prevention efforts, and a commitment to natural flood protection. This environmental work protects and restores habitats and encourages the return of endangered

species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead trout and salt marsh harvest mouse.

SCVWD also routinely partners with other agencies to help address other stream health issues such as homeless encampments, which can cause extensive environmental damage. SCVWD works together with these partner agencies to keep our waterways free of encampments and to remediate the environmental impacts of previous encampments.

SCVWD has an active stream maintenance program that allows us to clear debris, manage vegetation and preserve streams' natural flood protection characteristics, while assuring that we protect water quality, fish and other wildlife.

SCVWD partners with both creekside property owners and other agencies on many of these efforts, in order to enhance the natural beauty of riverine and shoreline environments, and to provide public access and recreation opportunities where appropriate.

#### SCVWD Board of Directors

SCVWD Board of Directors is comprised of seven members, each elected from equally-divided, geographic districts. The Directors serve overlapping four-year terms, and are limited to serving three full consecutive terms. The Board generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

#### SCVWD FY2017-18 Budget

SCVWD annual operating and capital budget for FY2017-18 is \$501.2 million with 807 authorized positions. SCVWD is funded by a combination of groundwater production charges, treated water charges, ad valorem property taxes, the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program special parcel tax, benefit assessments, grants, cost sharing agreements, and interest earnings.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

#### **CEQA:**

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

#### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Rick Callender, 408-630-2017



# Joint Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District and Santa Clara Valley Water District Special Board of Directors Meeting

June 15, 2017



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource  
Conservation District

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



Attachment 1  
Page 5 of 15

# Joint GCRCDD and SCVWD Board Meeting



Board Members and  
Organizational Introductions



Interests to Improve and  
Maintain Natural  
Resources/Conservation



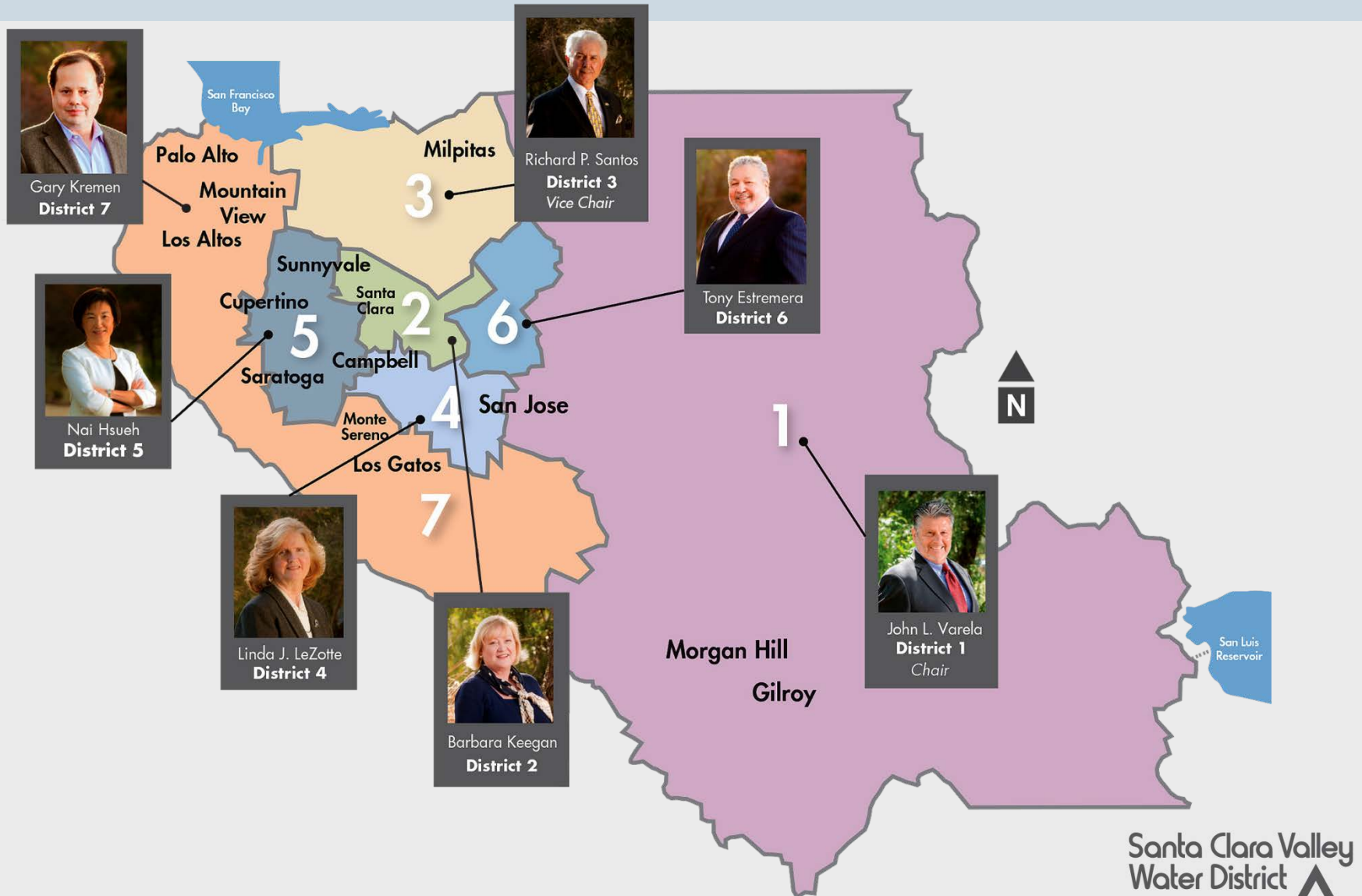
Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat  
Collaborative Effort (FAHCE)

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District





# District Governance: Board of Directors



# What SCVWD Does

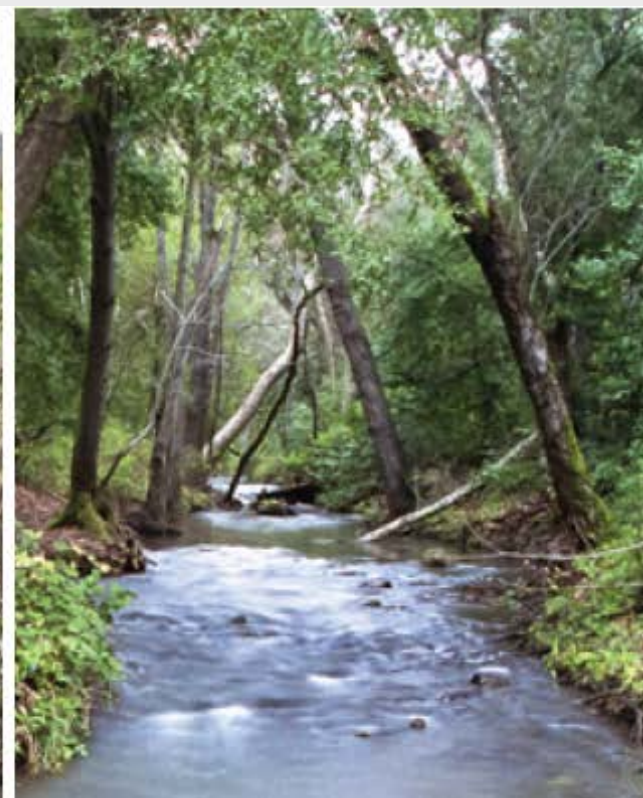
**Mission:** Providing Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy



CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER



FLOOD PROTECTION



HEALTHY CREEKS &  
ECOSYSTEMS

# Who SCVWD Serves

**2 million** people

**15** cities

**4,700** well owners

**13** water retailers

**5** watersheds





# A comprehensive water system



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



Attachment 1  
Page 10 of 15





**Maintaining  
streams helps  
prevent  
flooding**

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



Attachment 1  
Page 11 of 15





Protecting lives, homes and businesses from floods







Keeping creeks and ecosystems **healthy**







# Caring for streams and habitat





[volunteer@valleywater.org](mailto:volunteer@valleywater.org)



**Guadalupe-Coyote  
Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)**  
*An independent special district of the State of California*

888 N. 1st Street, Suite 204, San Jose, CA 95112  
Phone: 408-288-5888    Email: [gcrd@gcrd.org](mailto:gcrd@gcrd.org)    Website: [www.gcrd.org](http://www.gcrd.org)

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**Staff Report**

**Special Joint GCRCD/SCVWD Board Meeting  
June 15, 2017**

**DATE:** June 12, 2017

**TO:** GCRCD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk

**AGENDA TITLE:** Item 4: Presentation and Discussion on the Santa Clara Valley Water District's and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District's Missions, Goals, and Primary Functions

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) Boards receive and discuss information on SCVWD's and GCRCD's respective missions, goals, and primary functions.

**PRESENTERS:**

Stephanie Moreno, GCRCD Executive Director/District Clerk  
Norma Camacho, SCVWD Chief Executive Officer

**DISCUSSION:**

Purpose and Function of Resource Conservation Districts: Resource conservation districts were originally known as soil conservation districts, and were first authorized by federal legislation in 1937 under the Standards Act. They were initially formed in the Midwest to deal with the unparalleled ecological disaster known as the "Dust Bowl", and were created to serve as the local liaisons between the U.S. Soil Conservation Service – now known as the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – and local landowners. California adopted state provisions authorizing the formation of soil conservation districts in 1938, which are expressed in Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. Section 9001 currently reads as follows:

(a) The Legislature hereby declares that resource conservation is of fundamental importance to the prosperity and welfare of the people of this state. The Legislature believes that the state must assume leadership in formulating and putting into effect a statewide program of soil and water conservation and related natural resource conservation and hereby declares that this division is enacted to accomplish the following purposes:

(1) To provide the means by which the state may cooperate with the United States and with resource conservation districts organized pursuant to this division in securing the adoption in this

state of conservation practices, including, but not limited to, farm, range, open space, urban development, wildlife, recreation, watershed, water quality, and woodland, best adapted to save the basic resources, soil, water, and air of the state from unreasonable and economically preventable waste and destruction.

(2) To provide for the organization and operation of resource conservation districts for the purposes of soil and water conservation, the control of runoff, the prevention and control of soil erosion, and erosion stabilization, including, but not limited to, these purposes in open areas, agricultural areas, urban development, wildlife areas, recreational developments, watershed management, the protection of water quality and water reclamation, the development of storage and distribution of water, and the treatment of each acre of land according to its needs.

(b) The districts, in addition to any other authority provided by law, may do all of the following:

(1) Ensure consistency with the authorities and policies of the United States, this state, counties, cities, public districts, other resource conservation districts, persons, associations, and corporations.

(2) With the consent of the owner, construct on privately or publicly owned lands any necessary works for the prevention and control of soil erosion and erosion stabilization.

(3) Facilitate coordinated resource management efforts for watershed restoration and enhancement.

(c) The districts shall not conserve water for power purposes or produce or distribute power for their own use or for the use of others.

History of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD): GCRCD is an outgrowth of the Black Mountain and Evergreen Soils Conservation Districts. It is one of two RCDs located in Santa Clara County and covers the northern portion of the county. The Black Mountain Soil Conservation District was organized in 1943 to cover some 5,500 acres of land in the Calabazas Watershed on the west side of Santa Clara Valley, and later was expanded to cover most of the hilly land on the west side of the valley from the San Mateo County line to Loma Prieta Mountain and the boundary of the Loma Prieta Soil Conservation District. The Evergreen Soils Conservation District was formed in 1944 and originally covered about 10,000 acres on the east side of the Santa Clara Valley, largely the Silver Creek Watershed. It later expanded to include most of the land on the east side of the Santa Clara Valley, largely the Coyote Creek Watershed from Morgan Hill to the Alameda County line, excluding the then urban city lands. In 1972, the Evergreen Soil Conservation District changed its name to the Evergreen Resource Conservation District, and in 1977 merged with the Black Mountain Soils Conservation District. The combined districts carried the name of the Evergreen Resource Conservation District until 1995 when the name was changed to the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District to better reflect the district's boundary and scope of interests.

#### **REFERENCES:**

[California Public Resources Code, Division 9](#)  
[Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District](#)  
[California Department of Conservation](#)  
[California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#)  
[National Association of Conservation Districts](#)

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (PowerPoint Presentation)



# Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

*An independent special district of the State of California*

Attachment 2  
Page 3 of 11





**Soil and water conservation became a national concern during the Great Depression.**



**Over 80 years later,  
soil and water conservation issues remain.**

**Bakersfield, California, 2015**

Attachment 2  
Page 5 of 11



# **Purpose of California's Resource Conservation Districts**

California law provides for the “organization and operation of resource conservation for the purposes of:

- soil and water conservation;
- the control of runoff;
- the prevention and control of soil erosion, and erosion stabilization, including, but not limited to, these purposes in open areas, agricultural areas, urban development, wildlife areas, recreational developments;
- watershed management;
- the protection of water quality and water reclamation;
- the development of storage and distribution of water; and
- the treatment of each acre of land according to its needs.”

**Public Resources Code, Division 9, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 9001**



# What is a RCD?

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Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are special districts of the state of California, set up under California law to be locally governed agencies with their own locally appointed or elected, independent boards of directors. California RCDs implement projects on public and private lands and educate landowners and the public about resource conservation. RCDs, authorized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code, work together to conduct:

- Watershed planning and management
- Water conservation
- Water quality protection and enhancement
- Agricultural land conservation
- Soil and water management on non-agricultural lands
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Wetland conservation
- Recreational land restoration
- Irrigation management
- Conservation education
- Forest stewardship
- Fuels management
- Urban resource conservation



**Division of Land Resource Protection**

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# History and Geography

Evergreen Soil Conservation Service District was formed in 1944 and Black Mountain Soil Conservation District was formed in 1943. The districts consolidated in 1977, and the new district was known as the Evergreen Resource Conservation District until 1995, when the name was changed to Guadalupe-Coyote.

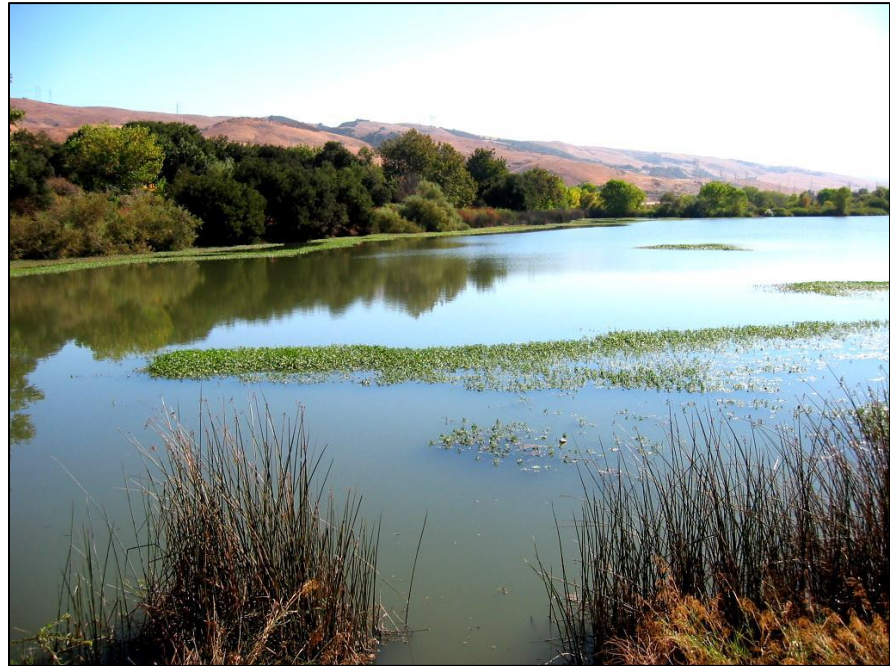


GCRCD covers over 362,000 acres in northern Santa Clara County, and extends to San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Alameda and Stanislaus Counties. It represents a wide diversity of climate, vegetation, topography, geology, soils, population density and land use.

# Watersheds and Wildlife

GCRCD encompasses at least a portion of ten distinct watersheds that drain to the lower portion of San Francisco Bay. Many of these watersheds once supported large runs of salmon and steelhead trout, and still continue to support a wide variety of other wildlife as well, including Tule elk, beaver, bobcat, mountain lion

(puma), coyote, gray fox, badger, burrowing owls, osprey, California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, and red-legged frog.



# Mission & Resource Priorities

Guadalupe-Coyote RCD is dedicated to conserving and enhancing Santa Clara's natural resources, including its soil, water, vegetation and wildlife. In collaboration with agricultural and resource conservation partners, the District identified the following priority issues of concern for the purposes of resource conservation planning (listed alphabetically):

- Agricultural Resources
- Grazing Resources
- Habitat Resources: Conservation and Restoration
- Invasive Plant Control
- Soil Resources: Conservation and Erosion Control
- Urban and Rural Interface
- Water Resources: Conservation and Quality
- Wildfire Hazards: Fuel Loading

# Goals

GCRCD works hard on its mission to build a sustainable and resilient organization focused on natural resource conservation and agricultural land protection. To guide this effort, GCRCD has set the following goals:

- Enhance the transparency and accountability of district operations.
- Increase the district's collaborative relationships with governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the agricultural community.
- Expand the district's education and outreach program for natural resource and wildlife conservation issues.
- Secure additional funding sources to expand district programs that provide technical assistance to the environmental and agricultural communities.
- Work with project proponents and local jurisdictions to ensure that projects and activities are protective of the district's natural resources.

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**File No.:** 17-0399

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 5.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on SCVWD's and GCRCD's Interests to Improve and Maintain Natural Resources/Conservation.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive information and discuss what each organization's interests are, with a goal to find a common nexus with which both organizations can work collaboratively.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: SCVWD Report

Attachment 2: GCRCD Report

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Representing SCVWD: Afshin Rouhani, 408-630-2616

Representing GCRCD: Dr. Rick Lanman, 408-288-5888  
Maya Esparza, 408-288-5888

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**File No.:** 17-0366

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 5.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on SCVWD's and GCRCD's Interests to Improve and Maintain Natural Resources/Conservation.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive information and discuss what each organization's interests are, with a goal to find a common nexus with which both organizations can work collaboratively.

### **SUMMARY:**

The District has several programs which are intended to preserve and improve the natural resources within our county. The five Safe Clean Water priorities established to preserve and improve the natural sources are:

- Priority A: Ensure a safe, reliable water supply
- Priority B: Reduce toxins, hazards and containments in waterways
- Priority C: Protect water supply from earthquakes and natural disasters
- Priority D: Restore wildlife habitat and provide open space
- Priority E: Provide flood protection to human, business, schools and highways

Several examples of those programs include: Safe Clean Water Program, Water Resources Protection Ordinance, Climate Change Adaptation & Planning, South Bay Salt Pond and Shoreline Projects, Natural Flood Protection Programs, and the One Water Plan. These programs and others show the District's commitment to stewardship and improving and preserving the natural resources in our county.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

### **CEQA:**

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

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**File No.:** 17-0366

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017  
**Item No.:** 5.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Afshin Rouhani, 408-630-2616



## Programs to Improve and Preserve Natural Resources

- ▶ Safe Clean Water Program
- ▶ Water Resources Protection Ordinance
- ▶ Climate Change Adaptation & Planning
- ▶ South Bay Salt Pond & Shoreline Projects
- ▶ Natural Flood Protection Programs
- ▶ One Water Plan



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



## Safe, Clean Water Program



**Priority A:**  
Ensure a safe, reliable  
water supply

Safe, Clean Water  
and Natural Flood Protection



**Priority B:**  
Reduce toxins, hazards and  
contaminants in our waterways

Safe, Clean Water  
and Natural Flood Protection



**Priority C:**  
Protect our water supply from  
earthquakes and natural disasters

Safe, Clean Water  
and Natural Flood Protection



**Priority D:**  
Restore wildlife habitat  
and provide open space

Safe, Clean Water  
and Natural Flood Protection



**Priority E:**  
Provide flood protection to homes,  
businesses, schools and highways

Safe, Clean Water  
and Natural Flood Protection

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



# Water Quality

SCW – B1, B2, and B5 – Impaired Water Bodies, Urban runoff, and Hazardous Materials Response

- ▶ Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program and South County programs
  - ▶ Trash capture and pollution prevention activities
  - ▶ Support with pathogen and nutrient studies
  - ▶ Stormwater Resource Plan-green infrastructure
- ▶ Impaired Water Bodies Program
  - ▶ Mercury reduction
  - ▶ Trash removal
- ▶ Hazardous Materials Response



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



# Good Neighbor Programs

SCW B4 and B6

- ▶ Illegal Encampments
- ▶ Graffiti and Trash



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



## Partnerships and Grants

SCW B3, B7 and D3 – Pollution Prevention, Clean-up and Education, and Restore Habitat and Provide Trail Access



- ▶ B3- Pollution prevention partnerships and grants;
- ▶ B7- Support volunteer cleanup efforts and education
- ▶ D3- Grants and partnerships to restore wildlife habitat and provide access to trails



## Restore Habitat and Provide Open Space

SCW D1, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7 and D8

- ▶ Revegetation site establishment
- ▶ Revitalization of habitats
- ▶ Fisheries habitat improvements
- ▶ Watershed assessments and analysis
- ▶ Creek restoration
- ▶ Conservation of lands
- ▶ Habitat rehabilitation and sediment reuse



# Water Resources Protection Ordinance

- ▶ Enforce the Water Resources Protection Ordinance using the Water Resources Protection Manual
  - ▶ Evaluate projects and activities on District right of way
  - ▶ Technical assistance to land use agencies for applying Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams



# Climate Adaptation Strategies



CLEAN, RELIABLE  
WATER



FLOOD  
PROTECTION



HEALTHY CREEKS  
& ECOSYSTEMS



& IMPROVE THE  
QUALITY OF LIFE IN  
SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY.

**manage** water use  
**demands**

**drought-proof**  
supplies

increase system  
**flexibility**

**downscale**  
GCMs

incorporate sea level rise into  
**planning and design**

Flood **warning**  
systems

coastal flood  
**mapping**

**prepare** for rising tides  
& coastal flooding

**ecosystem**  
**resiliency**

native vegetation to  
**reduce wave damage.**

improved ecotones and  
**habitat connectivity**

**stream and watershed**  
**preservation**

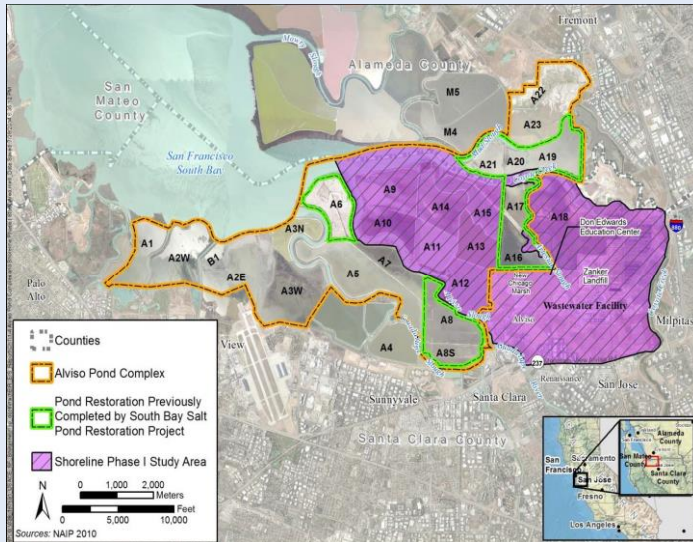
**renewables**  
**offsets**

carbon  
**neutrality**

carbon  
**divestment**  
policy



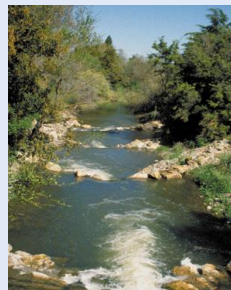
## South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Shoreline Study



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District

## Natural Flood Protection

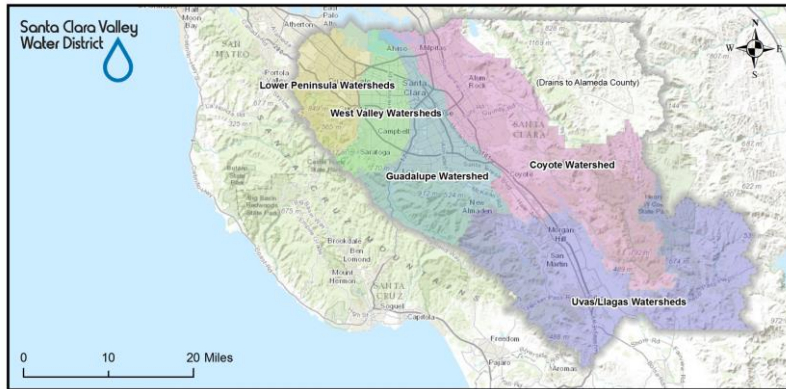
- ▶ Green designs and features (detention basins, Large Woody Debris, etc.)
- ▶ Working Group's - early agency consultation
- ▶ Adaptive management teams



Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



# One Water Plan: Flood Risk Reduction + Water Supply + Stewardship



- Identify multi-benefit projects to improve watershed health
- Prepare for grants and funding
- Establish priorities for future funding
- Improve community and agencies partnerships





**Guadalupe-Coyote**  
**Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)**  
*An independent special district of the State of California*

888 N. 1st Street, Suite 204, San Jose, CA 95112  
Phone: 408-288-5888 Email: [gcrd@gcrd.org](mailto:gcrd@gcrd.org) Website: [www.gcrd.org](http://www.gcrd.org)

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**Staff Report**

**Special Joint GCRCD/SCVWD Board Meeting**  
**June 15, 2017**

**DATE:** June 12, 2017

**TO:** GCRCD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk

**AGENDA TITLE:** Item 5: Presentation and Discussion SCVWD's and GCRCD's Interests to Improve and Maintain Natural Resources/Conservation.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive information and discuss what each organization's interests are, with a goal to find a common nexus with which both organizations can work collaboratively.

**PRESENTERS:**

Dr. Rick Lanman, GCRCD Vice-President/Director  
Maya Esparza, GCRCD Director  
Afshin Rouhani, SCVWD Water Policy and Planning Manager

**DISCUSSION:**

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District requested this item be placed on the agenda for this first joint meeting of the two District Boards with the intention of:

1. creating a process towards building a more collaborative relationship between our Boards; and
2. identifying areas of common vision for which the districts can work jointly to improve and maintain natural resources within our watersheds.

Director Esparza will make a presentation on the first topic, and Director Lanman will present GCRCD's "common vision wish list" as a starting point for discussion on the second topic.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

GCRCD PowerPoint Presentation

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# How to Work Together

With the intention of prioritizing the interagency working relationship between our two Districts, we encourage our Boards to:

- Be resolved that our intention is to have a positive working relationship.
- Initiate regular Board-to-Board communication.
- Promote open and transparent dialogue among all parties.
- Commit to timely and comprehensive responses to requests for information or when making decisions.
- Integrate joint policy and project decisions across division lines to ensure achievement of shared goals and objectives.
- Employ interest-based negotiation to resolve interagency disputes.

# Finding a Common Vision

## **GCRCD's Common Vision Wish List:**

1. Restoration of reproducing steelhead and salmon populations in Santa Clara County is of high value to our constituents. This goal can be managed along with the critical mission to provide flood control, water quality, and adequate groundwater to prevent subsidence.
2. Best available science should be the overriding principle for project planning and execution.
3. Riparian habitat is critical to stream function and ecology.
4. Stream restoration and fish passage barrier removal should be achieved on a watershed scale, not a county area scale. One stream that is passable from top to bottom has higher ecological value than a patchwork of projects on different streams that all remain impassable.
5. Streams and their riparian corridors are critical to wildlife migration and connectivity.

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**File No.:** 17-0400

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 6.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss information on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: SCVWD Report

Attachment 2: GCRCD Report

### **UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Representing SCVWD: Vincent Gin, (408) 630-2633

Representing GCRCD: Richard Roos-Collins, 408-288-5888

Julie Gantenbein, 408-288-5888

Dr. Joe Merz, 408-288-5888

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**File No.:** 17-0362

**Agenda Date:** 6/15/2017

**Item No.:** 6.

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## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and Discussion on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss information on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

### **SUMMARY:**

This item provides a status update on the resolution of the water rights complaint pending with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as specified by the Settlement Agreement, in a process known as the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

The Settlement Agreement was initialed in 2003 by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), Trout Unlimited, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to address a water rights complaint filed by the GCRCD.

District staff and consultants have been working with the Settlement Agreement Initialing Parties and a Technical Work Group (TWG) composed of members of the Initialing Parties representatives to develop a biological evaluation methodology and a Fish Habitat Restoration Plan (FHRP). The work products will be used to support the development of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for FAHCE.

The biological evaluation methodology is largely complete, with the consultant finalizing the biological model validation. The FHRP has been drafted and an administrative draft is expected to be released in July, 2017. As part of the EIR process, a public scoping meeting has been scheduled for June 19, 2017.

Staff presentation will provide an overview and status on the FAHCE process.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

**CEQA:**

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: SCVWD PowerPoint

**UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:**

Vincent Gin, (408) 630-2633

Santa Clara Valley Water District

# FAHCE

Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat  
Collaborative Effort

1 |

## FAHCE

- ▶ Water rights
- ▶ Settlement Agreement
- ▶ Initialing Parties

2 |

## Goals

- Resolve water right complaints
- Provide habitat enhancements
- Balance beneficial uses
- Ensure regulatory compliance

3 |

## FAHCE Elements

- ▶ Flow Measures (Article VI)
  - ▶ Reservoir Re-operation
- ▶ Non-Flow Measures (Article VI)
  - ▶ Barrier removal
  - ▶ Habitat enhancement
- ▶ Adaptive Management & Monitoring (Article (VII))

4 |



## FAHCE By the Numbers

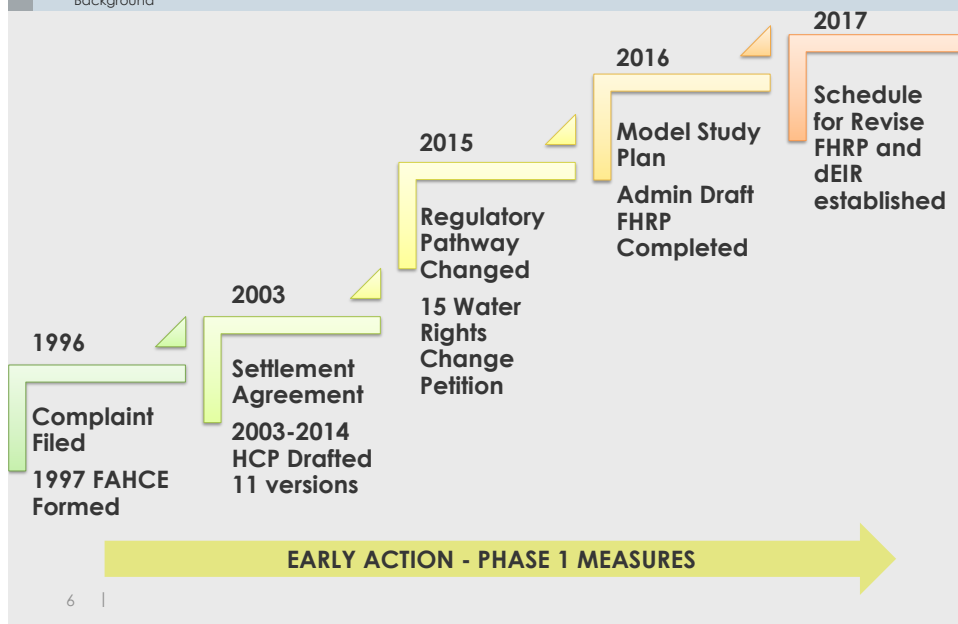
Background

- ▶ Three Watersheds
- ▶ Two Fish Species
- ▶ Four Phases for Implementation
- ▶ 15 Water Rights Change Petitions
  - ▶ 80% of Local Water Supply

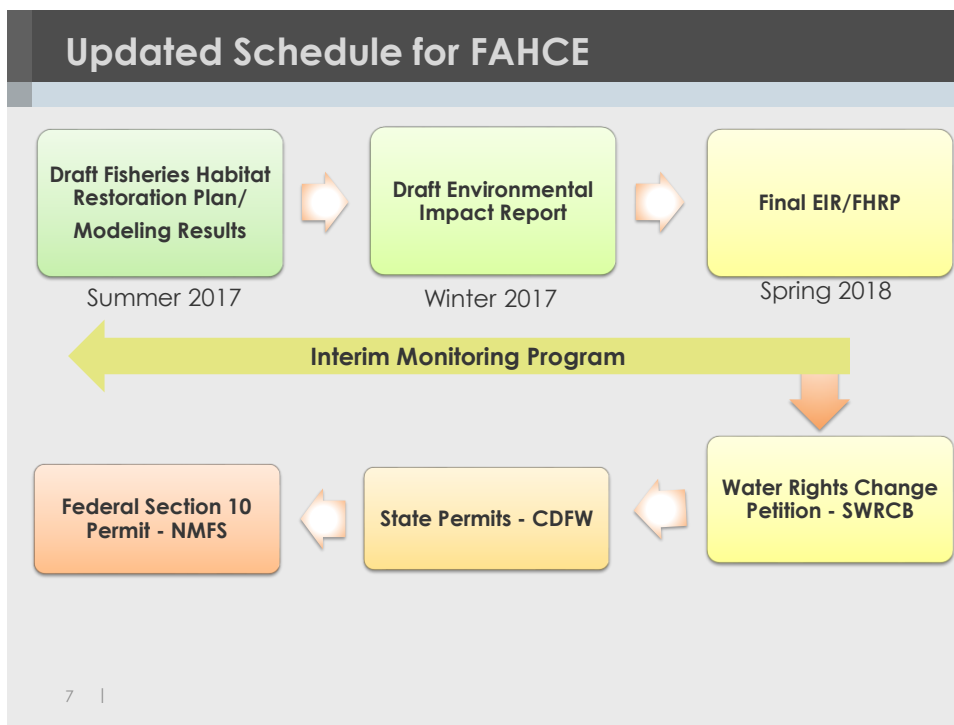
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## FAHCE at a Glance

Background



6 |





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**Staff Report**

**Special Joint GCRCD/SCVWD Board Meeting  
June 15, 2017**

**DATE:** June 12, 2017

**TO:** GCRCD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk

**AGENDA TITLE:** Item 6: Presentation and Discussion on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and discuss information on Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

**PRESENTERS:**

Richard Roos-Collins, GCRCD District Counsel, Water & Power Law Group  
Julie Gantenbein, GCRCD District Counsel, Water & Power Law Group  
Dr. Joe Merz, GCRCD/NGO Consultant, Cramer Fish Sciences  
Vincent Gin, SCVWD Deputy Operating Officer, Watersheds Stewardship and Planning Division

**DISCUSSION:**

The FAHCE settlement agreement was negotiated to resolve disputes regarding the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) use of its water rights on Coyote, Guadalupe, and Stevens Creeks in Santa Clara County. The parties to the agreement are Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), SCVWD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, California Trout, Inc., San Francisco Bay Urban Creeks Council and Northern California Council of Federation of Fly Fishers. Although the agreement was initialed by all parties in 2003, it is not scheduled to be signed until after SCVWD obtains approval of the required water rights change petition, which it filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2015 and for which it still is completing the required planning and environmental documents necessary to advance to a hearing.

In 2014, the parties agreed to change the regulatory pathway set forth in the original agreement in order to secure a more timely adoption of the SWRCB order needed to implement the programs and projects outlined in the settlement agreement. Since 2015, GCRCD and the NGOs have been working to develop a scientific record necessary to support the SWRCB decision on the water rights change petition. One of our consultants, Dr. Joe Merz, will present an overview of the science-based contributions GCRCD and the NGOs have made to FAHCE and TWG.

**REFERENCES:**

[Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District](#)  
[Santa Clara Valley Water District](#)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Technical Work Group (PowerPoint Presentation)



# Technical Work Group

collaboration, progress, success, future

SCVWD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Trout Unlimited, CalTrout, and GCRCD.

# Progress

- Habitat restoration... relatively young, evolving science but numerous examples of successful implementation
- Completion of FAHCE Settlement and restoring populations to good condition are a reality
- TWG still has technical issues to work out but these can be resolved in timely manner

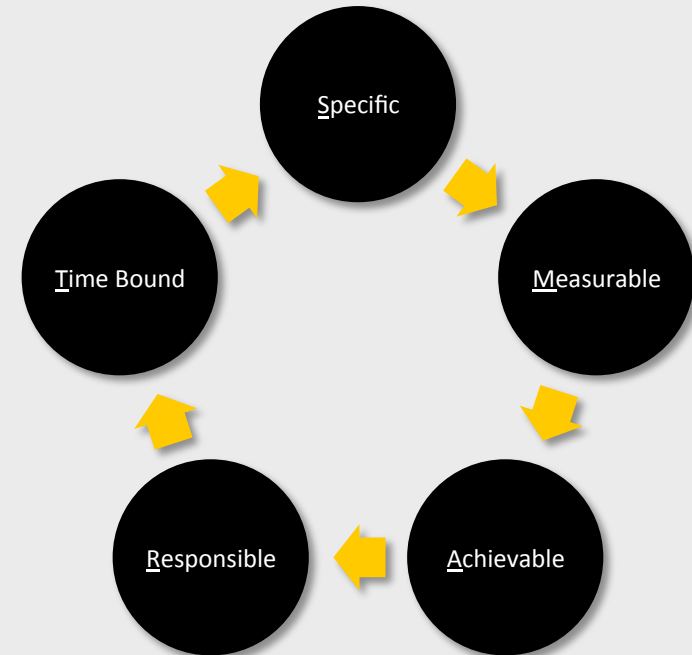


# Quantifying goals

SETTING TARGETS AND MEASURING  
PROGRESS AND SUCCESS (SCVWD 2016)

- *Attribute: important characteristic that helps describe an objective. A useful attribute can be measured in a scientifically defensible way.*
- *Metric: parameter that can be measured to track the status of attributes. Each attribute will be measured and tracked via one or more metrics.*
- *Target- optimistic but achievable endpoint, quantified where possible to indicate success.*
- *Assess progress in meeting objectives by tracking attributes through specific metrics and targets.*

## SMART Goals



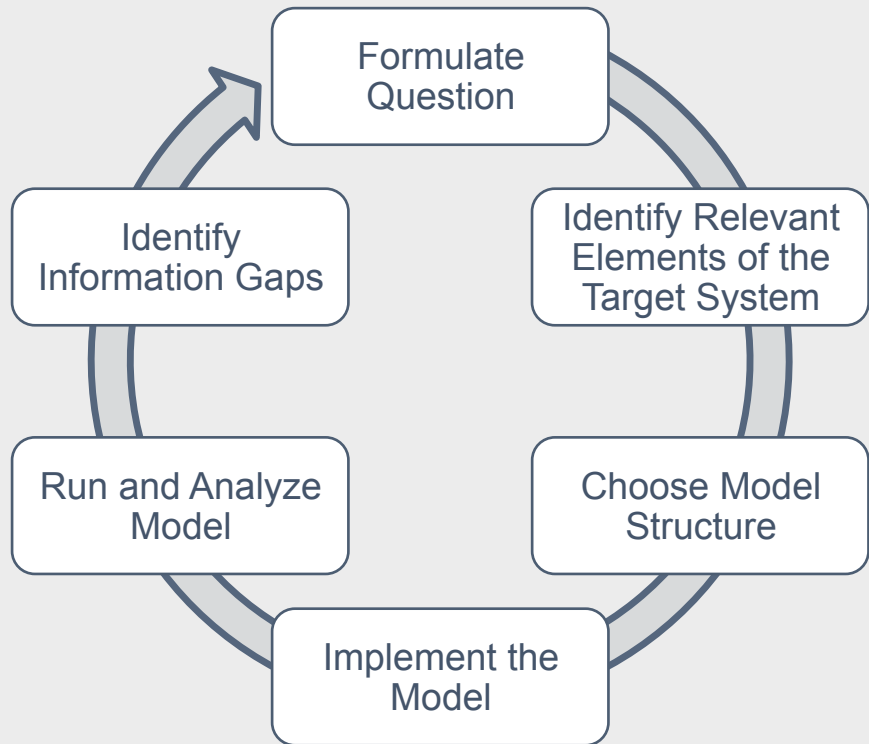
Measureable targets help us confidently determine what it takes to be successful.

## Salmonid populations in good condition

- We have not determined overall population goals but we can use genetics to determine a minimum viable population (Frankham 2005; Frankham et al. 2015)
- We do not have exact population behaviors nor their response to Three Creeks environment but we do have general information from surrogate watersheds as a starting point
- In short, sustained populations require enough young from adults to support enough returning fish so that population will not go extinct in the foreseeable future



# Value of Modeling Exercise

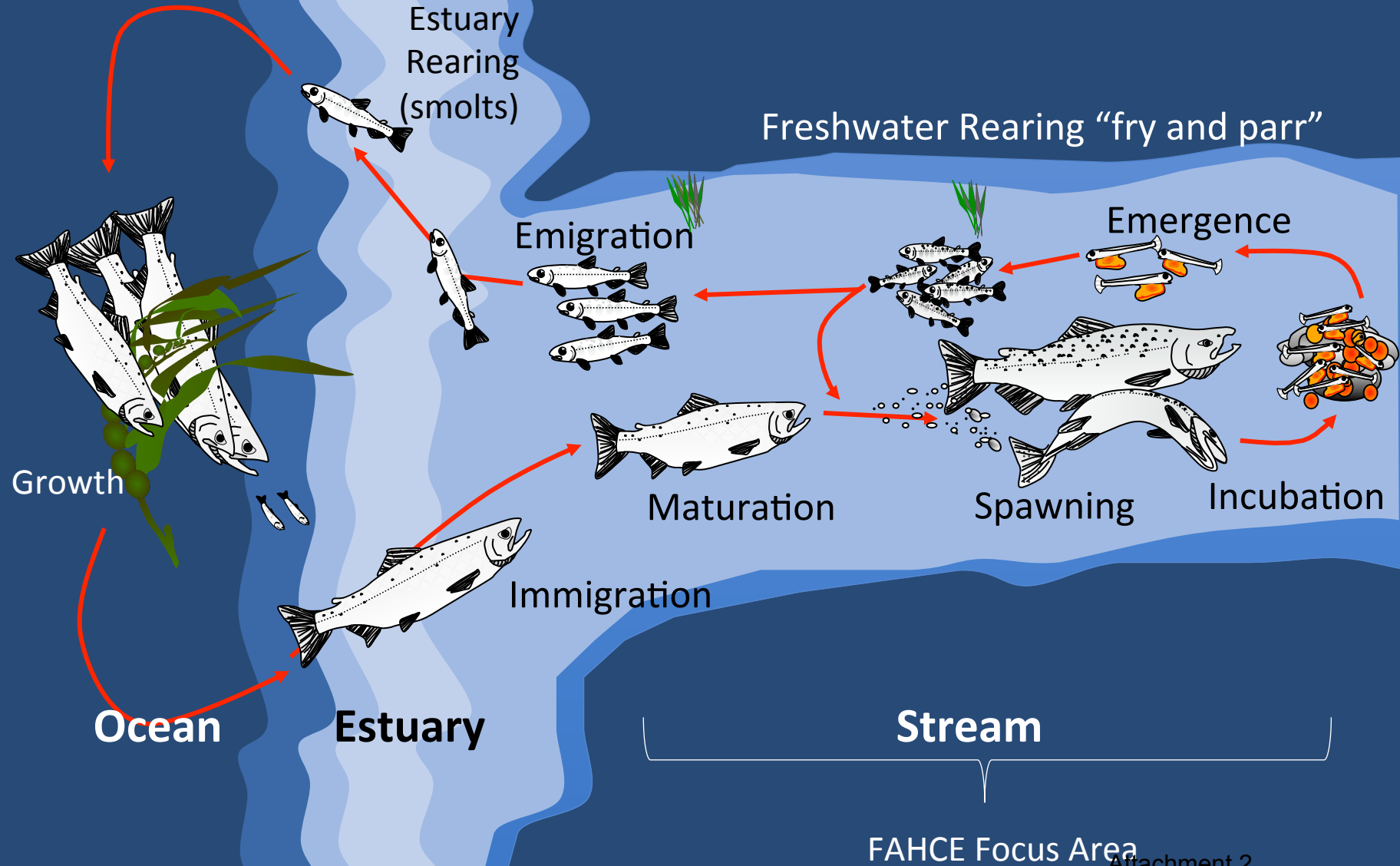


- Models help **quantify and visualize potential benefits of flow and non-flow actions** on target organisms
- **Quantify** lifestage-specific and **cumulative impacts of restoration actions** on each salmonid population
- Allows **comparison of benefits** identified **under different flow/management alternatives**
- Helps **determine** when “**enough is enough**”
- Model **identifies gaps** in understanding
- **Iterative process** whereby new information will fill knowledge gaps
- Allows District and stakeholders to “game” habitat quality and available water to **wisely manage** flow and non-flow actions
- Provides **transparent process** to determine management actions
- Facilitates **adaptive management**

# Model basis: Steelhead and Chinook must access and use a range of habitats to be successful...

What is successful?  
Population target must be met for each life stage to maintain the quantity and quality of fish that is acceptable as... “in good condition”

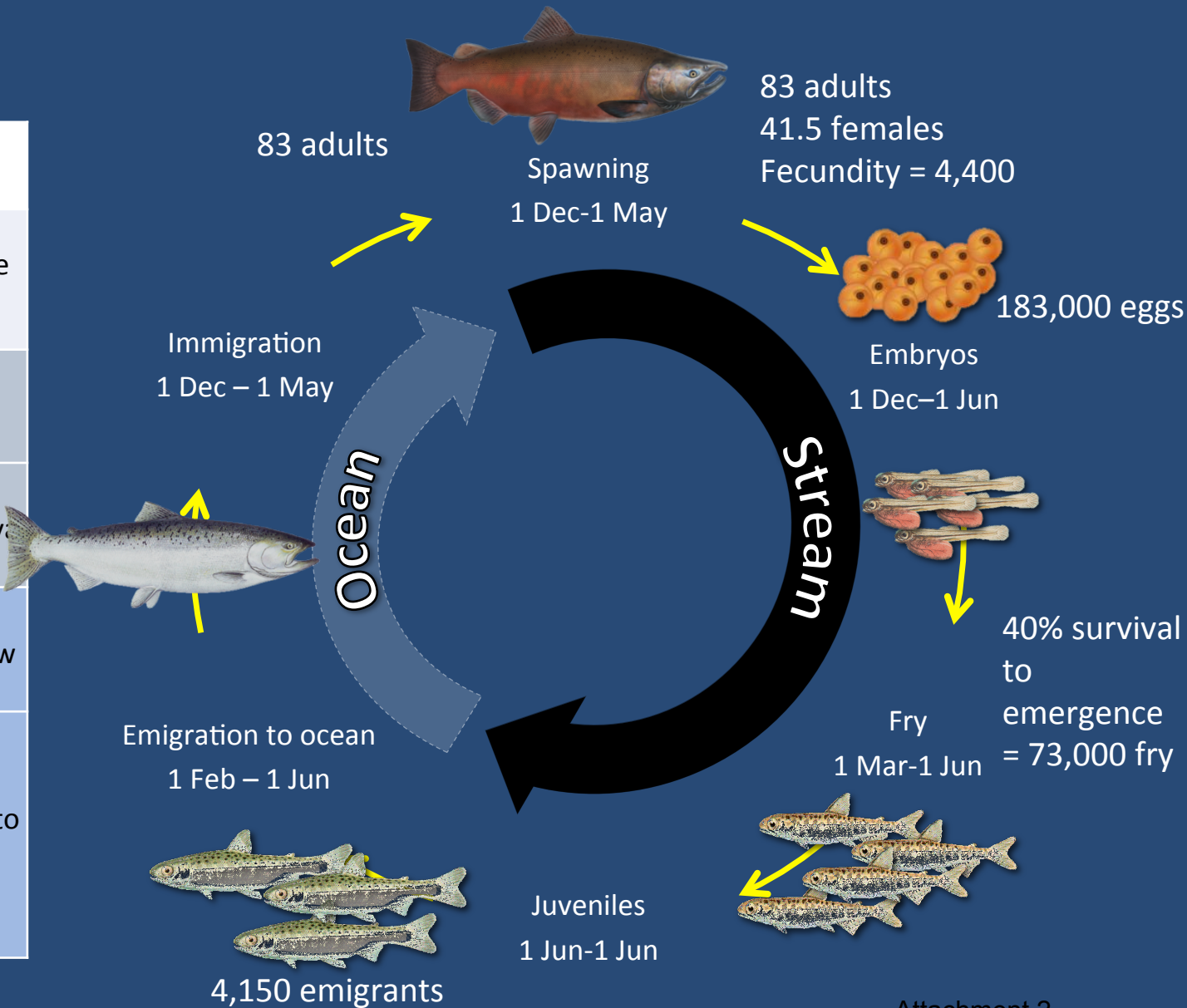
To do this, not only enough habitat is needed to support each life stage but habitat must be accessible and functioning when each life stage needs it.



# Model basis is minimum population

## Steelhead example

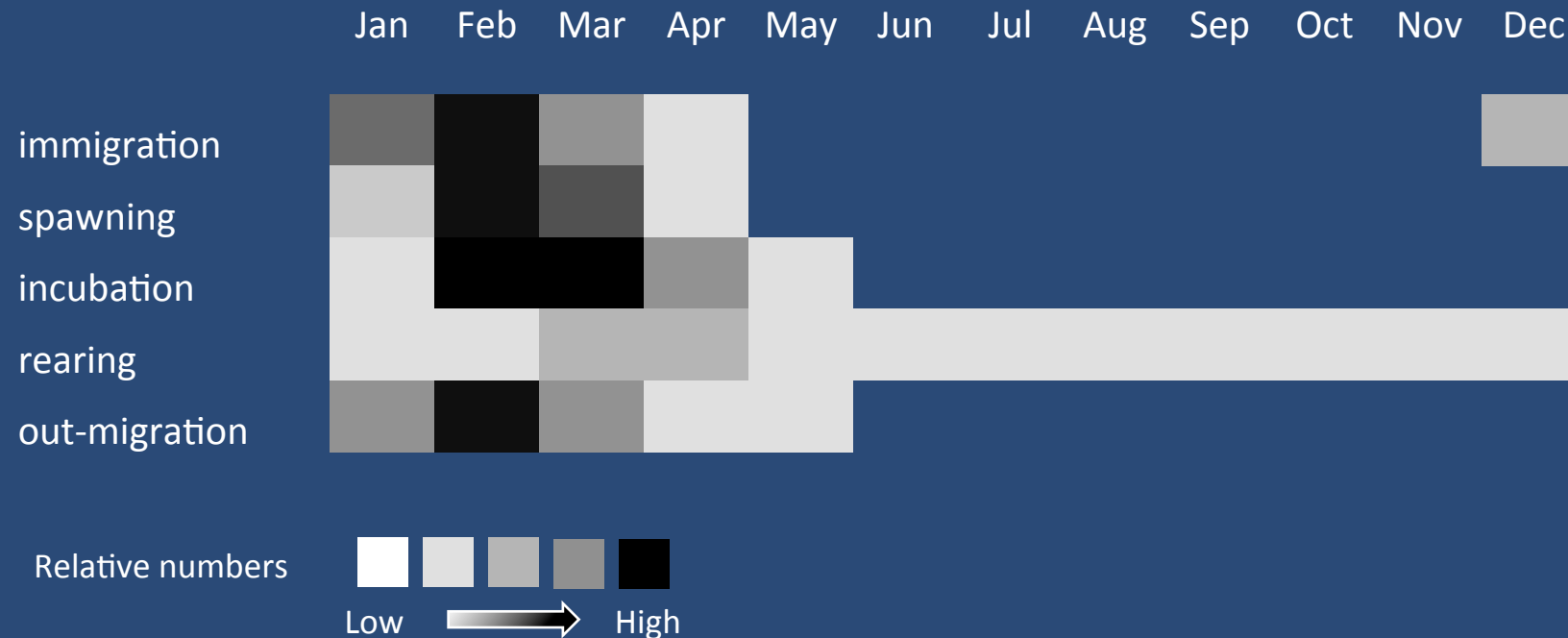
Function	Parameter	Data Source	Function of...
Initial Abundance	83 adults	NOAA (2008); Frankham et al 2015	Minimum viable population
Fecundity	4,400 eggs	Hodge et al 2014	Length to fecundity ratio
Fry abundance	73,000 fry	Coble 1961; Hobbs 1940; Dahlberg 1979	Incubation survival
Emigration Rate	Migration Speed	Lagunitas Creek MCWD Rotary Screw Trap	Fish Length, Flow
Survival	4,150 emigrants	Hallock et al 1961; Thedinga 1998; Welch et al. 2000	Minimum population reaching ocean to facilitate adult escapement numbers



# Population and WEAP models support efficient water management

If we only use a general concept of when steelhead migrate, how much water is needed for immigration?

## *Generalized California steelhead timing*



Guadalupe Creek passage =  
~150 days of passage

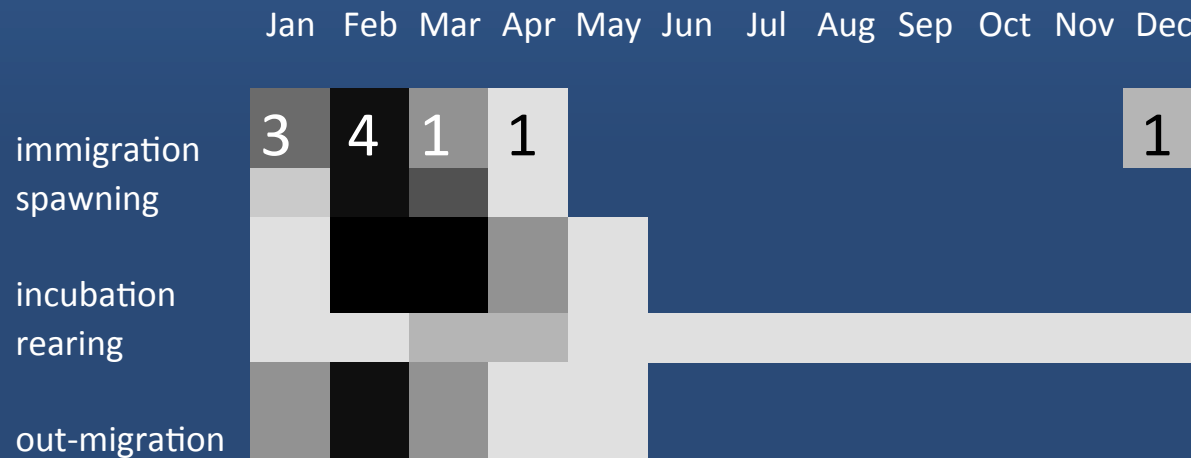
Under FAHCE agreement  
0.8 ft of water needed in  
channel to pass steelhead.

Requires ~41 cfs = 81.3 ac  
ft/d = 12,198 ac ft



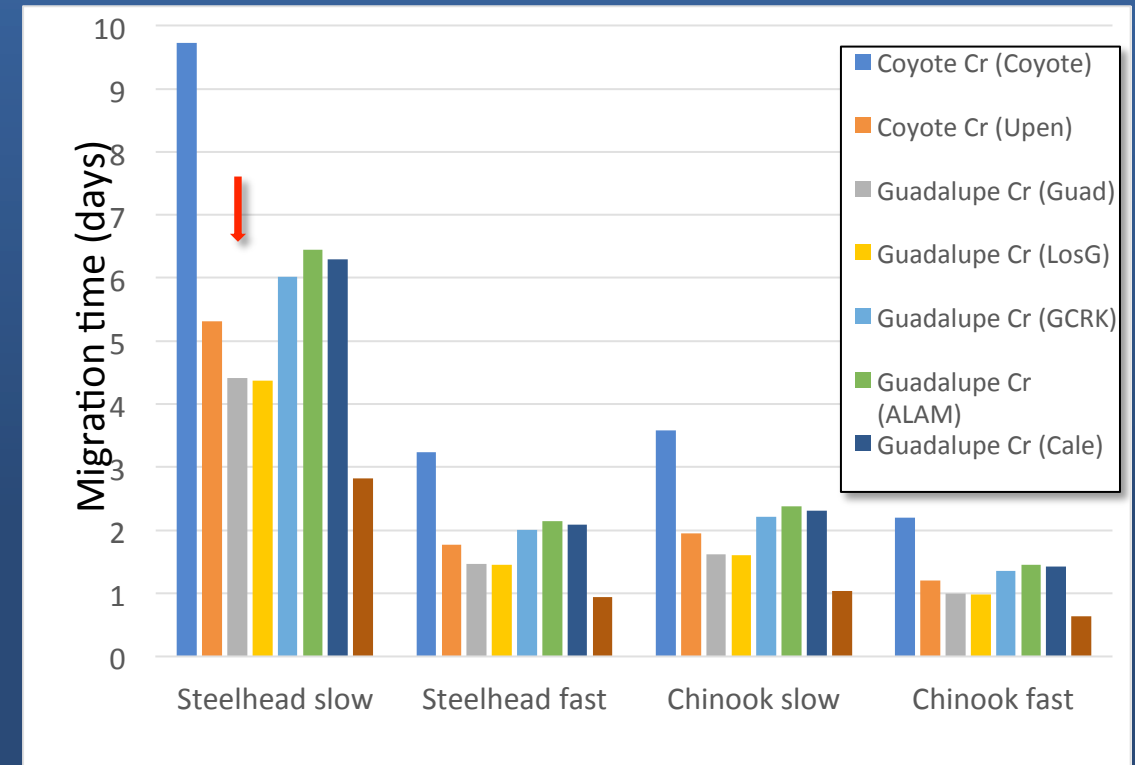
# Conceptual model example supports 70% less water used

*Generalized California steelhead timing. Number of steelhead passage events under unimpaired flows for below normal water year.*



*Numbers are estimated average monthly passage events under unimpaired flow*

Under unimpaired flow, a total of 10 passage events occur during steelhead immigration period (below normal WY). Using steelhead migration speeds assume 4.5 days for average fish to reach spawning grounds = 45 days of passage  
45 days of 41 cfs = 3659 ac ft.



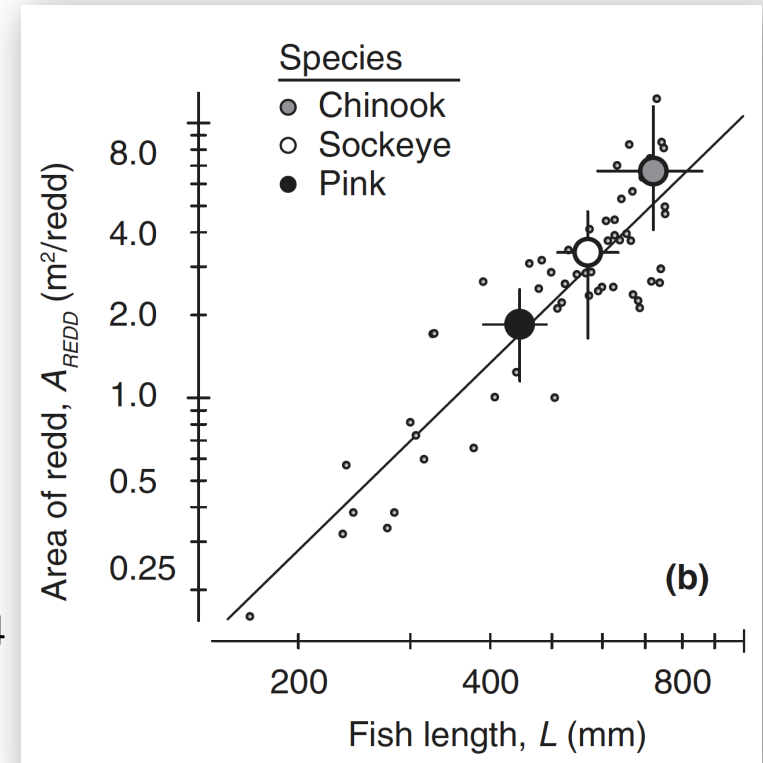
*Estimated number of days for steelhead and Chinook to immigrate from bay to spawning grounds for reach creek using migration speeds of Keefer et al. (2004).*

# Fundamental concept relating salmonid production to stream habitat

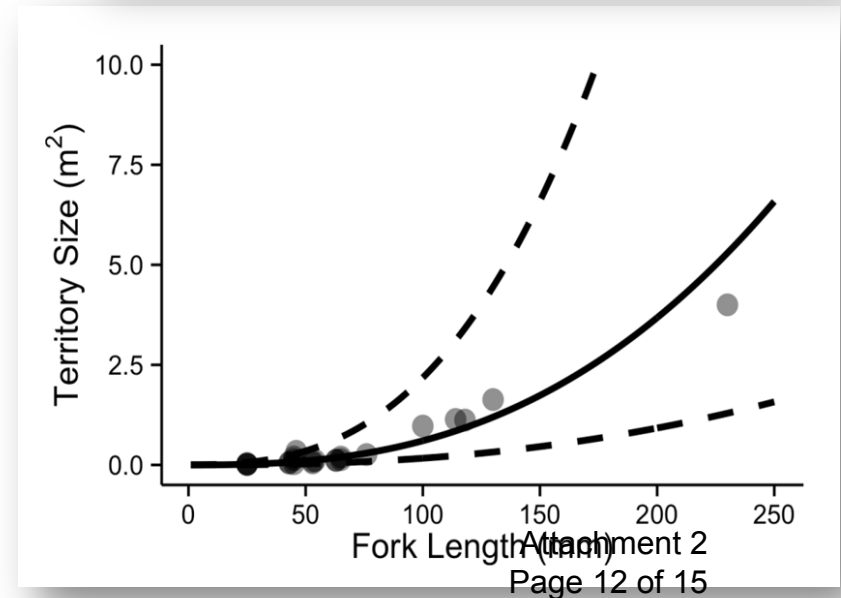
- Stream-dwelling salmonids either defend or rely on food from a characteristic area of territory.
- We assume maximum number of individuals a habitat area can support is limited by territory size of fish and amount of available suitable habitat (ASH):

$$\text{Capacity} = \text{ASH} / \text{Territory Size}$$

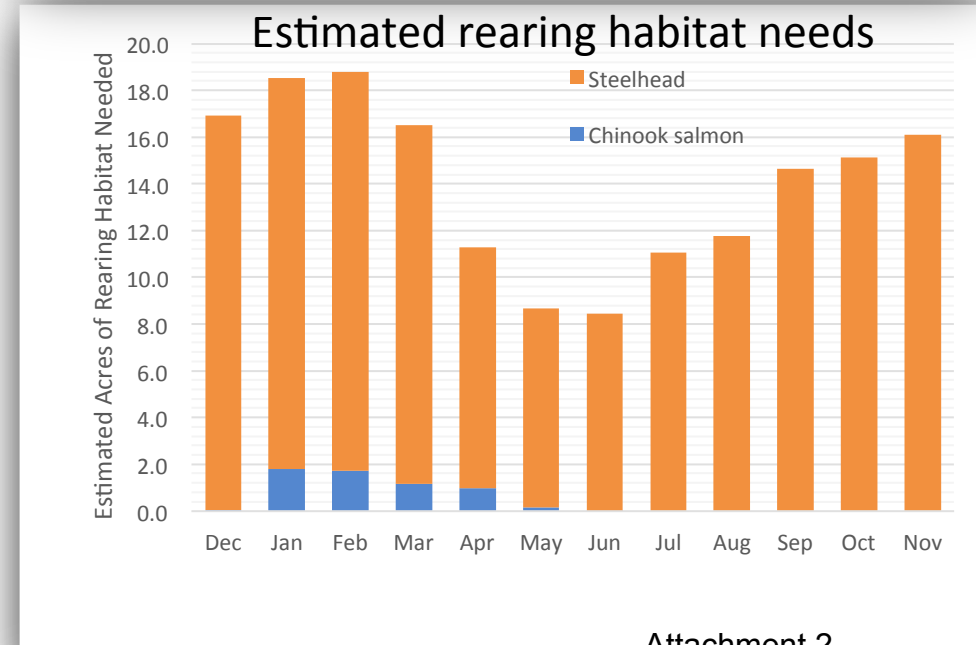
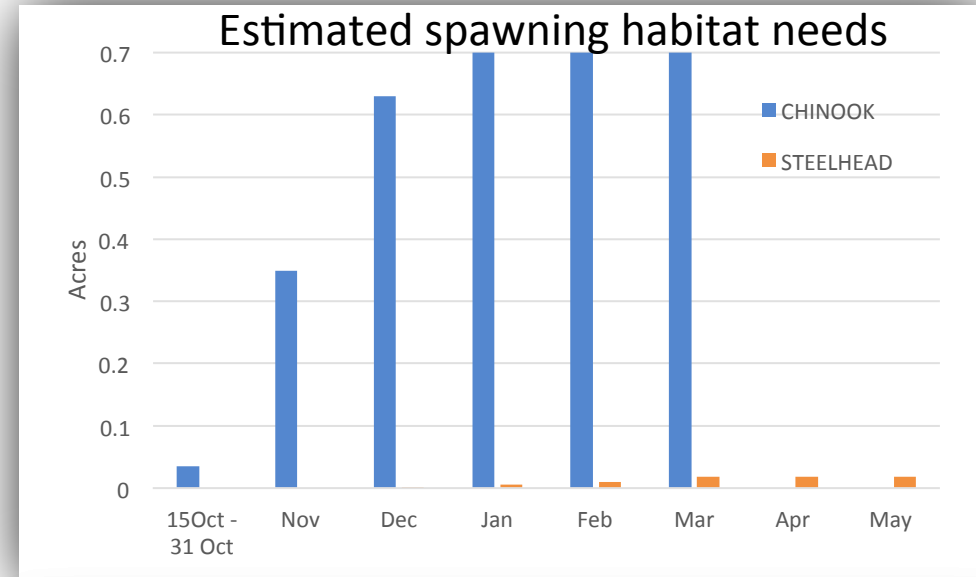
Riebe et al. 2014



Grant and Kramer 1990



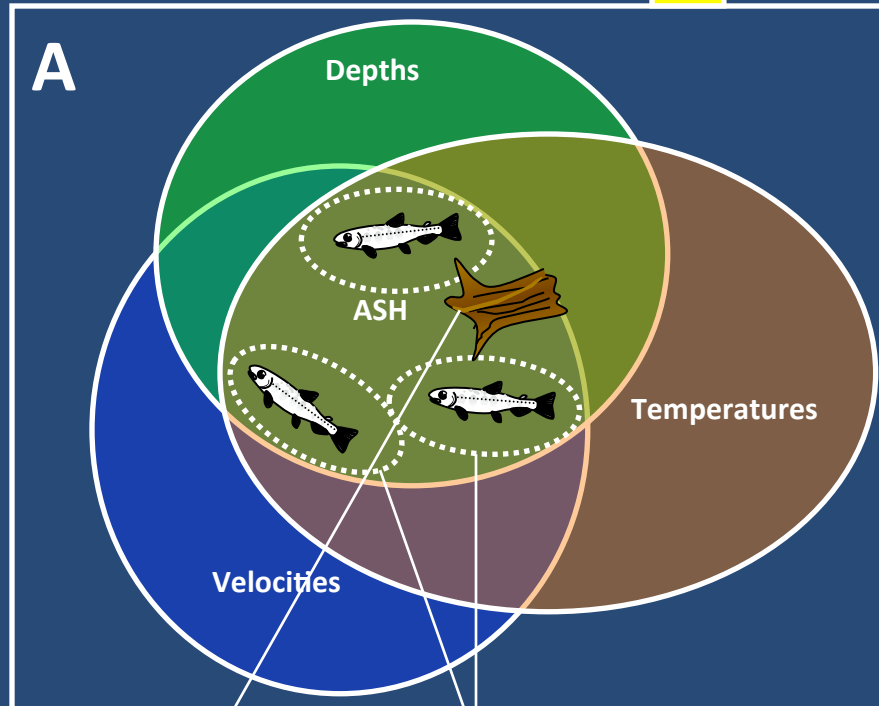
# Territory and Habitat needed



**Increase Habitat Quality**

↓ **Territory Size**

↑ **Maximum Number of Fish**

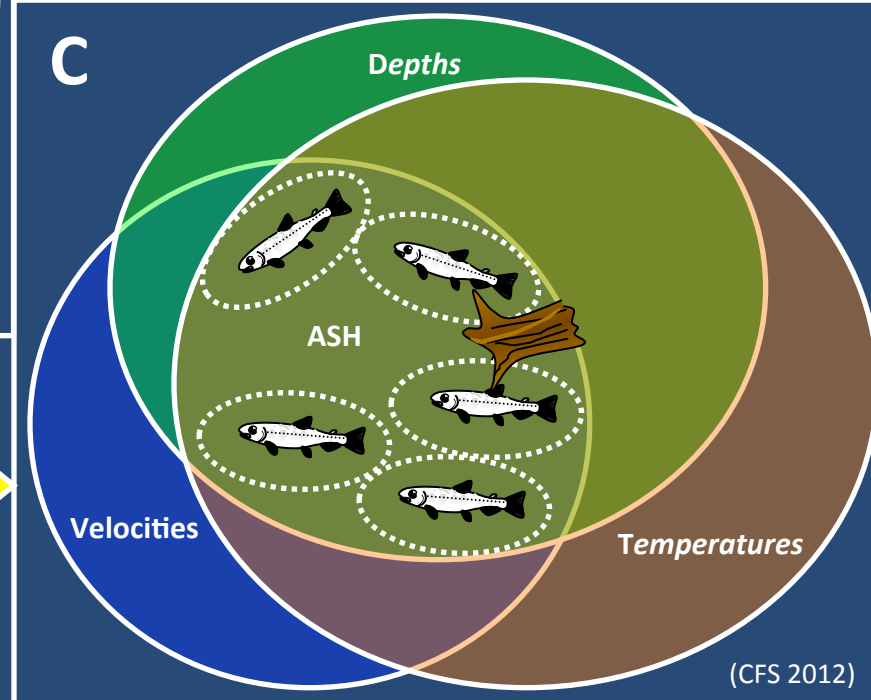
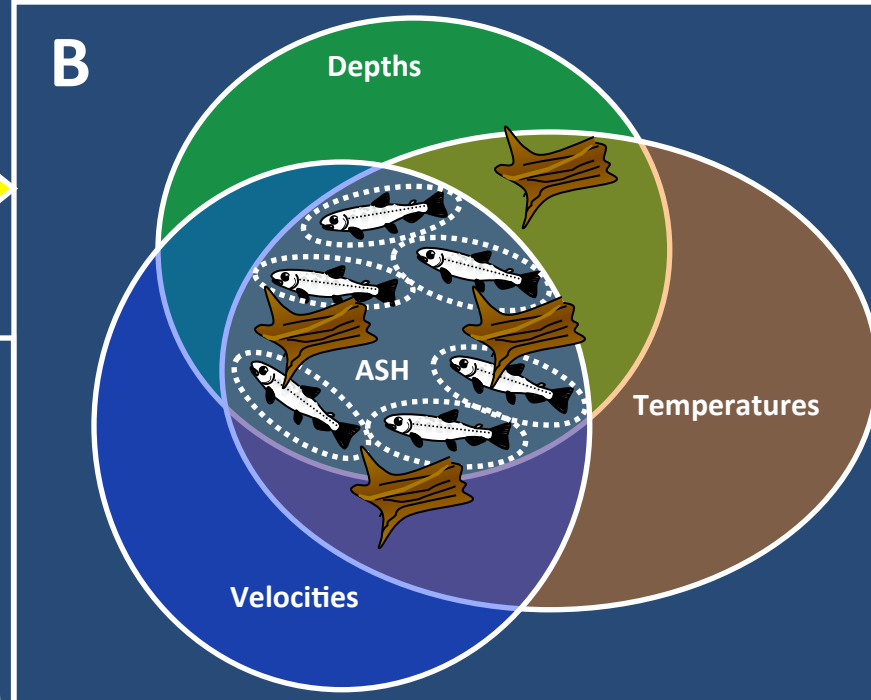


Habitat Complexity

Territory

**Increase Area of Suitable Habitat**

↑ **Maximum Number of fish**



# Recommended Next Steps

- Study Plan backbone is the Water Evaluation And Planning (WEAP) Model
- WEAP model produces time series simulating reservoir storage, streamflow, temperature, diversions, and operational variables, and is used as a comparative model.
- When synced with habitat suitability and 1-D (HEC-RAS) modeling, the tool could potentially predict the quantity of habitat available for target life stages of steelhead and Chinook.
- Modeling exercises require validation- Part of validation exercise is comparison of model results against a time period in which operations are known.
- Team agreed that work plan will have a validation component and a decision point regarding model uncertainty. Flows, in particular, will be validated. These data will be used to predict habitat availability and ability to pass fish under alternative flow schedules.
- This modeling, once validated, could be an invaluable tool for future assessment of operation performance including support of adaptive management and biological monitoring.