

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The river is the central focus, with its surface reflecting the sky and surrounding trees. The forest is dense with various shades of green, indicating a healthy ecosystem. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Calaveras River Habitat Conservation Plan

Stockton East Water District
Calaveras County Water District
In consultation with:
National Marine Fisheries Service

Endangered Species Protection

- ◆ Central Valley steelhead were listed as a threatened species in 1998 under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- ◆ Afforded special protections under the 4(d) rule under ESA in 2000– prohibits anyone from taking a listed salmon or steelhead, *except* in cases where the take is associated with an approved program.

Oncorhynchus mykiss

- ◆ Complex life history involving resident (freshwater), migratory (freshwater-estuary), and anadromous (freshwater – saltwater) fish
- ◆ ESA protections were redefined in 2006 to focus on the Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of only the anadromous life history

Steelhead in the Calaveras River 2000

- ◆ 3 Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) mortalities on Bellota Weir apron
- ◆ Genetics indicate one had been to the ocean, one to the estuary, and one from ocean-going parents
- ◆ Juvenile steelhead stranded below New Hogan after flood control releases


Steelhead Protection – Calaveras River

- ◆ Section 7 (Federal actions/projects) ESA consultation with the Army Corps – New Hogan Reservoir flood control operations.
- ◆ Section 10 (Incidental take – Research Permits, Habitat Conservation Plans) Stockton East Water District over acquiring “take” coverage.

Habitat Conservation Plan

- ◆ Impacts from actions
- ◆ Monitor, minimize, and mitigate such impacts
- ◆ Secure funding
- ◆ Alternative actions considered
- ◆ Additional measures NMFS may require

Conservation Measures

1. Advisory Support to USACE
 2. Flow Management Strategies
 3. Instream Flow Commitment
 4. Fish Passage Improvement
 5. Stakeholder Education
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide, consisting of a silhouette of a mountain range in various shades of teal, extending from the bottom edge towards the right edge.

National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- ◆ NMFS (NEPA) required to analyze the effects of issuing an Incidental Take Permit
- ◆ SEWD/CCWD (CEQA) required to analyze the effects of their project
- ◆ SEWD contracted with LSA Associates, Inc. in October 2006
- ◆ Combined NEPA/CEQA document

2007 – Where we are, Where are we going?

- ◆ Draft HCP to NMFS regional office and general counsel for review
- ***Coordinate with SEWD/CCWD on outstanding HCP issues***
- ◆ Environmental Consequences section of NEPA/CEQA in preparation
Determination of Significance

FINISH LINE

- ◆ Final Draft HCP and NEPA/CEQA documents – March 2007
- ◆ Submit Complete Package to NMFS – April 2007
- ◆ Public Review – May 2007
- ◆ Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Permit – October 2007