

CA Statewide Environmental Flows Workgroup
A Workgroup of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council

MEETING NOTES – May 8, 2018

Meeting Participants

Name	Agency	Email	5/8/18
Belize Lane	USU	Belize.lane@usu.edu	In person
Robert Holmes	CDFW	Robert.holmes@wildlife.ca.gov	In person
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Recap of Action Items from Last Meeting

Nick provided contact information for tribal membership, Dan Schultz will follow up on potential tribal representation on the workgroup.

Eric spoke to Mary Small at the SCC. They declined to participate at this time, as the SCC does not currently have to deal with environmental flows as part of their program.

Nick inquired about the Basin Planning round table. Their next meeting is in July. An Environmental Flows Workgroup member is welcome to provide a presentation. Dan will follow up to coordinate a presentation to the Basin Planning round table.

Eric prepared content for a draft web page. Dan is reviewing and it will share it with the workgroup in the near future.

Nick set up a Lyris list serv . Future communications will be through the list serve.

Updates from Workgroup Members

Robert Holmes attended the Flow 2018 meeting in Fort Collins. The focus of the workshop was on Environmental Flow planning under drought conditions. Presentation from the workshop will be available on Instream Flow Council's web site in 3-6 months. Robert is the CA representative on the Instream Flow Council. People should let Robert know if there are ideas for topics for next Instream Flow Council workshop – their next workshop will be in 2-3 years.

The N. Coast Regional Board is continuing their environmental flows planning process in the Navarro watershed.

The State Water Board has initiated an environmental flows study on the LA River associated with a recent 1211 petition for reduction in wastewater discharge to support increased water recycling. This will be used as a Tier 2 case study. Questions or interest in learning more about the project should be directed to Lori Webber.

Review of the Draft Charter

Most of the suggested edits from the last meeting are acceptable to the group.

We should add an attachment to the charter summarizing products that have been developed. This attachment can be updated over time as new products are produced.

NOAA fisheries should be added as a workgroup member

There was extensive discussion of how to differentiate environmental flows vs. ecological flows. Dan will work on refining the language in the charter to clarify that the workgroup will focus on technical approaches to developing ecological flows and to help inform the decision makers in making environmental flows decisions, that involve other tradeoffs.

Glossary of Terms and Terminology Diagram

The following changes will be made to the terminology diagram:

- Add distinction or arrows, or vertical lines to differentiate Tier 1 vs. Tier 2
- Change environmental outcomes to habitat conditions and biological outcomes to species (or biological) conditions– add metrics below
- Developing a new term for “endpoints” that is more range based vs. finite
 - Suggested replacement terms for “endpoints”: conditions, outcomes, goals

The following changes/additions will be made to the glossary of terms, which will be a living document

- Flow Criteria
- Flow Recommendations
- Flow Objectives
- Flow Regime
- Biological metrics
- Environmental metrics
- Habitat outcome
- Tier 1
- Tier 2

We will also add terms from CDFW flow needs documents, e.g. habitat flows, subsistence flows, channel maintenance flows

Add literature citations for specific terms where appropriate.

Agencies to provide specific terms they use (or recommend)

Define new terms and work on clarifying existing terms; consistent language

Environmental flows: ecological flows adjusted for other human needs and consumptive uses.

Stream Classification Presentation

Good support for the classification and DRH work that Belle presented. Specific recommendations:

- Parse data by water year
- Select different range of reference years

- Import specific time series into the tool
- Show exceedance values
- Ability to adjust the range of the boxes on the DRHs (e.g 10% - 90% vs. 25% - 75%)
- Ability to show extremes
- Showing level of uncertainty associated with specific stream class predictions

Once we have the tool worked out, it would be good to have the e-flows workgroup vet this work and the functional flows calculator by reviewing against streams that you are familiar with

Geomorphic classification can be the subject of future technical presentations to the workgroup.

Next Meeting - Geomorphic classification will be the focus of next meetings technical discussion

Action Items

- ✓ Follow up on tribal communication
- ✓ Follow up for basin planning presentation
- ✓ Final edits to charter document
- ✓ Web site review
- ✓ Update on CEFF technical team progress
- ✓ Distribute CEFF workplan for review by the workgroup
- ✓ Input on the glossary of terms and the associated diagram; provide agency specific terms
- ✓ Additional priorities
- ✓ Review and vetting functional flows at specific locations
- ✓ Presentation on geomorphology
- ✓ Presentation of natural flows database
- ✓ Rate of depletion from SGMA plans – how to relate to environmental flows – NOV meeting
 - Communicate with key groups on the products of this group
 - Identify potential case studies