Salinas River Watershed Coordination Final Report



Prepared for Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Devin Best May 31, 2020

Prepared by Central Coast Salmon Enhancement d/b/a Creek Lands Conservation

A message to Biodiversity First!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Biodiversity First for funding this work. It has been an honor and a privilege to leverage your funds in a way I think will have immediate and long-lasting beneficial impact to the Salinas River watershed, its biodiversity, and its communities. There are two stand-out next recommended steps I'd like to highlight at the very beginning of this final report, one that will take a policy and influence route, the other a biological assessment route. It is my hope that Biodiversity First engages with both next steps as soon as possible in partnership so your original investment has a long life with many wins for biodiversity through time. With your passion and further engagement, the Salinas River restoration story can be further accelerated.

Initiation of the Salinas River Conservancy

John Laird expressed interest in initiating a state-level conservancy for the Salinas River watershed. He indicated his interest when the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) invited him to meet last year. He was involved in creating other state-level conservancies and has the experience and influence as a past Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency from 2011-2019 to engage at the state level politically and from an environmental perspective. If he is elected to the State Senate, his influence will be at a policy formation capacity and the Salinas River Conservancy could be a key piece of legislation. BDF should to prioritize this policy strategy.

Restoration Project Identification through eDNA Assessment

The prospect of creating a two-county watershed plan for the Salinas River needs to be kept in our collective sites. However, given the pressures the watershed is facing, it may not be the best and highest use of limited available funds. Here is why:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) completed its Salinas River Long Term Management Plan (Plan) in late 2018. It was funded by the California Coastal Conservancy. The purpose of the Plan was to tee-up the Agency to conduct a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in order to provide it with "take coverage" so the Agency would be able to continue operating its projects without liability for Endangered Species Act listed species, and with conditions stipulated by federal agencies detailing what the Agency must do to keep endangered species from be negatively impacted. While the Plan covers primarily Monterey County, and its focus is to leverage the Plan to queue the HCP, it is likely to be seen by agencies, public funders and landowners as being a watershed management plan. And thus, any subsequent watershed management planning effort could be seen as duplicative.

A possible alternative best next step to protect biodiversity in the watershed is to gain a better understanding of the status of listed species (where they are in the best remaining habitat and how many of them remain) so future projects and programs can target more precisely where best to direct restoration resources. Listed species represent a paradigm that cross jurisdictional boundaries and by nature demand a comprehensive coordinated approach to conservation of habitat and preservation of the species.

One of the deliverables for this project is a grant proposal to California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) to conduct an eDNA assessment. This is an assessment tool that provides insight into where in the watershed, suitable habitat, and specific wildlife resides. Having results from eDNA means specific types of projects can be planned and carried out with more precision. The assessment does not substitute for a two-county watershed management plan but it gives information on distribution of specific animals, like steelhead trout (*Oncorynchus mykiss*), and, to some extent, information about abundance. This idea of distribution and abundance is a critical tool to help the restoration community be the most effective it can be with limited funds to fix fish passage barriers, for example, or to decide where best to improve instream habitat by enhancing streamflow. The earliest we will know whether the FRGP grant will be funded is April 2021. Please consider funding the assessment now to get a jump start on this key tool for restoration. If funded now we could have results before a decision on FRGP is known. A summary of the proposal is provided here:

- Funding request--\$139,013 from CDFW with a match of \$14,882 from project partners
- Tasks
 - Establish and convene academic, agency and consultant technical advisory team (TAT) to design the assessment sampling plan
 - RCDs and MCWRA to provide landowner access based on agreed upon locations
 - Conduct assessment effort by collecting eDNA samples emphasizing sites where 0. mykiss presence is less certain, and deemphasize sites with high probability of 0. mykiss presence; analyze samples at academic partner lab at CSUMB; draft the assessment report
 - Using previously generated plans, reports, BOs, conditions, etc., cross reference these documents with eDNA results using Watershed Resources Inventory (WRI) and GIS mapping tools completed in 2020
 - Using eDNA results, rank priority reaches and overlay recommendations from past planning documents
 - Distribute eDNA assessment and master recommendations document to the coordinating TAT for review/comment
 - Convene the TAT for a facilitated workshop to identify and prioritize restoration reaches including passage barrier modification and to elucidate flow management priorities; output from workshop to become the basis of subsequent site specific design planning FRGP proposals
- Partners
 - John Olson, CSUMB Associate Ecology Professor would participate in designing the eDNA assessment, conduct field work, process samples, analyze results and draft analysis report.
 - Ken Jarrett, Fisheries Biologist, and Ethan Bell, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Stillwater Sciences to oversee eDNA assessment, conduct QA/QC on samples, receive analysis and overlay results on Conceptual Model to determine priority reaches. Produce an assessment technical memo.
 - TAT would consist of the following
 - Aaron Floyd and Mychal--City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Division (receives water from Santa Margarita Lake/Salinas Dam impoundment)
 - Bill Stevens and Joel Casagrande—National Marine Fisheries Service (ESA interest)
 - Keith Miller—SLO County Department of Public Works (Salinas Dam operator)
 - Tom Gandesbery--Coastal Conservancy Program Manager oversight on Salinas River LTMP (funded LTMP and potential future project funder)
 - Mark Cassidy--Central Coast RWQCB (permitting agency)
 - Don Baldwin and Matt Michie—California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Matt Michie is the Coastal Monitoring Program lead for Monterey County
 - Howard Franklin, Jason Demers and Elizabeth Kraft—Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) (water supply operator)
 - Devin Best—Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) (conservation interests in the watershed)
 - Tim Frahm—Trout Unlimited (conservation interests in the watershed and conducting FRGP project in the Arroyo Seco watershed)
 - Emily Zefferman and Paul Robins—Monterey County Resource Conservation District (conservation interest in the watershed)
 - Damon Goodman--US Fish and Wildlife Service (Pacific lamprey interest)

This final report is being provided as specified in the Scope of Services Exhibit A of contract dated April 9, 2018. The goals of the Salinas River Watershed Coordination effort were to integrate existing information on the Salinas River, lay the groundwork needed to develop a comprehensive two-county watershed plan and build community support. The purpose of the report is to provide the US-LT RCD (RCD) with an accounting on deliverables, financial expenditures, milestones made, and next steps to complete a Salinas River Watershed Management Plan. This final report is being provided as specified in the Scope of Services Exhibit A of the contract dates April 9, 2018.

According to the contracted Exhibit A Scope of Services, Creek Lands Conservation was tasked to complete the following services. Each service item is listed along with the final progress for each.

- (1) Develop a work plan to execute coordination of a Salinas River Watershed Management Plan. The work plan was reviewed by the RCD and stakeholders in June, 2018.
- (2) Coordinate outreach with stakeholders, steering committees, resource and regulatory agencies and landowners. An outreach summary is incorporated into this report.
- (3) Collect and synthesize data on existing watershed conditions. There are three main elements of this service item.
 - a. The annotated bibliography consists of approximately 50 document annotations of pertinent watershed documents providing the reader a ready snapshot of watershed processes, functions, listed species, and regulatory constraints.
 - b. The Watershed Resources Inventory (WRI) is provided as an appendix. The WRI consists of over 450 references, reports and resources related to the Salinas River watershed. Many entries are linked to the actual documents to facilitate readers' access to the documents.
 - c. A watershed map is also provided as a geographic information system (GIS) product that provides users an interactive interface to give context to the WRI entries with administrative, physical, and biological boundaries in the watershed.
- (4) Develop outline of Salinas River Watershed Management Plan with sufficient detail on resource concerns, regulatory processes, community involvement and recommendations. There are two main elements of this service item.
 - a. The Salinas River Watershed Management Plan Outline (Outline) is incorporated into this report, and includes resource concerns, regulatory and jurisdictional framework, suggested community involvement and recommendations going forward.
 - b. Draft Table of Contents for a future two-county Salinas River Watershed Management Plan is incorporated into this report to facilitate and jump start the effort once it is funded.
- (5) Submit grant proposals to fund Salinas River Watershed Management Plan. There are two main elements of this service item.
 - a. *Salinas River Watershed Assessment and Planning* was submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program on May 1, 2020. The proposal submitted is included as an appendix to this report. The proposal request emerged from the work accomplished on the Steelhead Conceptual Model (see below for

description). A decision on funding is to be made in Spring 2021. The project type (PL) includes conducting assessments that define critical issues in the watershed, primarily that will lead to restoration of anadromous fish habitat. The Steelhead Conceptual Model was further developed in advance of the proposal deadline to gain support from agencies and restoration NGOs to effect the pathway to a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should the proposal be funded (see notes in this report identifying participants who would be asked to serve on the Salinas River Watershed TAC).

- b. A fund development plan is provided to guide interested parties in pursuing funds to support the further development of a two-county watershed management plan.
- (6) Provide quarterly reports and invoicing, along with a final report document all financial expenditures, milestones made, and next steps to complete a Salinas River Watershed Management Plan. This final report represents this work effort.

The above work is a result of the review of already existing available datasets and literature from many sources (see Annotated Bibliography and WRI). One new analysis was conducted as part of the project; <u>Steelhead in the Salinas – Conceptual Model Outline</u> is attached as an appendix. <u>The model is the first look at Steelhead in the **two-county watershed**</u>. The report details the status, distribution, and abundance of *O. mykiss* in the watershed, critical environmental factors affecting steelhead in the Salinas, and recommendations to improve conditions for the Salinas River Steelhead population.

An outreach meeting was conducted with agencies in March 2020 that provided a technical review of the conceptual model. Final notes are provided as an appendix to the conceptual model. A compiled comments spreadsheet has been produced and has been provided to the US-LT RCD.

Financial Summary

The total of \$147,000 was allocated to achieve the project deliverables. Of that \$77,000 was used to develop and finalize the Steelhead Conceptual Model by a subcontractor, Stillwater Sciences. The remainder was utilized by Creek Lands Conservation to develop the deliverables.

Milestones

The project sets the stage for pursuing funding for a two-county watershed management plan. The following look back is provided to describe how next steps fit into the picture.

To generate The Watershed Map deliverable, a <u>GIS map</u> originally constructed by Cal Poly professor David Yun in concert with previously conducted Dreaming the Salinas and Salinas River Symposia has been updated and posted on the RCD website. The map is linked to the WRI, both of which can be used by agencies and the public to increase understanding of watershed resources and processes, and participation in current and future planning and implementation projects.

The <u>outreach summary</u> may be used to follow up with agency representatives and landowners to further develop relationships and potentially generate project concepts for fish and wildlife conservation. Coupled r with the annotated bibliography, the outreach summary will assist future interested parties to readily enter into the Salinas River watershed management discussion.

The <u>Steelhead Conceptual Model</u> has the potential to accelerate and focus restoration and recovery of *O. mykiss* in the Salinas River watershed. During the grant period, the recommendations in the model have

been shared with agency representatives having jurisdiction for steelhead recovery and restoration. A robust set of comments on the model was received and incorporated into the final version of the model.

Many of the documents in the annotated bibliography and the Steelhead Conceptual Model were subsequently utilized to develop the application for funding to CDFW FRGP for <u>Salinas River Watershed</u> <u>Assessment and Planning.</u>

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Recommendations and Next Steps

Concurrent Planning Efforts

As of this writing (Spring 2020), the following are currently occurring processes/projects that relate to fish and wildlife in the watershed. Participation in their review and commenting is recommended. Each is likely to have profound effects on land and water management decisions. Each is discussed in further detail in the Existing Conditions Jurisdictional Framework.

 Reinitiating the Salinas Valley Water Project National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency <u>https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/home/reinitiation-of-nmfs-biological-opinion</u>

This will set the stage for the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Agency's section 10 take coverage and permit it to operate its water supply and saltwater intrusion prevention projects in the watershed.

 Development of Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) through the Monterey County Transportation Agency <u>https://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/regional-conservation-investment-strategy/</u>

The outcome of the RCIS will be avoidance planning and conservation and restoration mitigation credits. When a county transportation project is in the planning process and goes through environmental review, its impacts will be evaluated and pre-mitigated through the RCIS once approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

 Interlake Tunnel being undertaken by the MCWRA to increase flexibility of storage and use of water between Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs <u>https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/projects-facilities/interlake-tunnel</u>

https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/science/salinas-valley-operational-model-interlaketunnel-and-san-antonio-spillway?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

The tunnel would effectively connect the two drainages and allow storm flows from the much wetter Nacimiento watershed to be stored in the drier San Antonio reservoir. The major implications of this project would be a greater capacity to hold water in winter and release more in summer. Conceivably, water could be more efficiently delivered for both environmental releases and agricultural supply. An initial study is available in <u>Document 017</u>.

• Ag Order 4.0

It is the opinion of Creek Lands Conservation that this regulatory program has the potential to address riparian restoration that were deficiencies in pre-existing Agricultural Orders. Creek Lands Conservation provided comments on the draft order.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_ren_ewal.html

• All Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) work occurring in the watershed. See Existing Conditions Jurisdictional Framework for the watershed's GSAs.

Immediate Funding Concepts

When the CDFW FRGP grant is funded, both the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD and the Monterey County RCD could subsequently lead a proposal for Watershed and Regional Organization (OR project type through CDFW FRGP) in order to build upon the submitted PL grant to widen public support for projects that address recovery tasks and demonstrate immediate benefit to anadromous salmonids in local watersheds.

The two RCDs could also jointly apply for:

- New California Department of Conservation funding that supports watershed coordination specifically for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Conservation Innovation Grant Program funding through the USDA NRCS
- Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator program
- Coastal Conservancy's funding for Regional Forest and Fire Protection Program

Next Potential Planning Steps

- Convene Salinas River Symposium with Ecologistics to present the Steelhead Conceptual Model, WRI and mapping products.
- Utilizing the Monterey County IWRP for the Salinas River watershed, initiate a SLO County Integrated Watershed Restoration element.
- Pursue Pierce Dam passage improvement as this is a privately owned dam and compared to county owned and operated dams is relatively straightforward to address for fish passage by:
 - Contacting the Hind family to determine if there is still interest in remediation to move preliminary concept design forward
 - Contacting Waterways Consulting, Inc. (lead engineers previously with Swanson Hydrology and Geomorphology who conducted 30% design phase) to provide a budget summary for 100% design program
- There may be a need to study or conduct a comprehensive literature review concerning gravel and sand mining impacts on channel morphology and any resulting impediments to steelhead habitat and migration into or out of the Salinas River. Several publications regarding steelhead, sediment supply, and stream channel maintenance have pointed out that mines currently operating or now abandoned could be having a measurable impact on the health of the river.
- Improve hydrological monitoring of ecologically relevant flows by applying for grants and working with groups actively moving towards expanding hydrologic monitoring networks that include groundwater dependent ecosystem such as the Salinas River and its tributaries (e.g. Paso Robles GSA).
- Tracking and participating in the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) Salinas River Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) process is key.

Throughout development of the LTMP, stakeholders emphasized successful implementation of the LTMP would depend on multiple agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders coming together to manage the resources of the Salinas River. Because no entity has been identified to coordinate such collaboration, many stakeholders advocate the formation of **a regional entity—possibly a**

special district, joint powers authority, state conservancy, nonprofit organization, or a coalition—that could not only manage the LTMP, but also support other planning efforts in the region. This entity would also serve as a conduit for funding and hold responsibilities for coordinating and/or executing LTMP actions, tracking progress of LTMP implementation, reviewing and revising the LTMP through adaptive management, and retaining and managing all data associated with implementation (MCWRA LTMP Executive Summary, 2019).

The LTMP included the outcomes of this effort in its Other Applicable Planning Efforts section, Chapter 2.

Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE), in cooperation with the Upper Salinas–Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, is preparing several components of a future watershed management plan for the Salinas River that is intended to create a path to resilience in the watershed's communities and for its natural resources. These components will illuminate critical issues for watershed protection and management and identify knowledge gaps. One of these components is the Watershed Resources Inventory—an encyclopedic list of documents from projects, plans, guidance documents, and regulatory products paired with an annotated bibliography to act as a quick reference for individuals to learn about the current or historical status of the Salinas River watershed's most important features. The current status of the Salinas River watershed will also be reported in an existing conditions document, which will rely on many of the documents in the Watershed Resources Inventory, as well as information exchanged with CCSE partners (e.g., MCWRA) on current developments. The consolidation of this information will aid in future determinations of resource management priorities and actions, such as those involving steelhead trout in the Salinas River watershed.

CCSE is collaborating with Stillwater Sciences to create a conceptual model for steelhead in the Salinas River watershed based on historical information, data and observations of fish counts, river hydrology, fish passage barriers, and other physical parameters relevant to the survival and life cycle of steelhead trout. The aim of these works is to bridge the jurisdictional divide between the upper and lower Salinas two-county decision-making paradigm and better coordinate upstream and downstream plans and actions for the watershed's protection and management. CCSE believes that this is an important step toward making the Salinas River and the communities that depend on it more resilient to change and improving the accuracy and speed of responses to change.

Salinas River Watershed Management Plan Outline

The purpose of this section is to inform a future two-county watershed management plan for the Salinas River. A Draft Table of Contents for a Salinas River Watershed Management Plan is included in this section. A next step is to use the contents of this Outline and the Draft Table of Contents in the pursuit of the future watershed management plan.

Background

The Salinas River Watershed spans two counties and includes several cities and townships. There is currently no single entity or plan that guides natural resource management over the two counties. This Existing Watershed Conditions identifies the planning and project efforts in each county and provides background for each in the Jurisdictional Framework section of this document.

The closest approximation of a comprehensive watershed management plan exists in the form of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan but which covers geography beyond the watershed boundary and speaks primarily to harmful water constituents rather than conservation and management of biodiversity.

A possible proxy for a two-county watershed management plan could be seen in the form of a merging of the Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan produced by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD (2004) and the Salinas River Long Term Management Plan produced by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (2019). Both are listed in the Annotated Bibliography as being formative planning documents for the watershed but neither uses biodiversity as its overarching management schema nor does each consider the other county in its purview. Recommendations that emerged for each is included in this outline.

Examples of Planning Efforts

With the exception of the Nacimiento Reservoir and Dam, there have been few projects or plans that require regular coordination and collaboration between San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties in conserving and managing the natural resources and biodiversity of the Salinas River watershed.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County 2014 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) is a single county plan and provides for overlapping cooperative water management plans.

"The IRWM Program's success relies on internal and regional coordination and collaboration, as well as inter-regional and statewide coordination. To the extent feasible, the Lead Agency coordinates with neighboring IRWM Regions and state and federal agencies. This is further discussed in Section O – Coordination. The SLO County IRWM Region is bordered by the Greater Monterey County IRWM Region to the north, the Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM Regions to the south, and the Kern County IRWM Region to the east. The Lead Agency participates in Roundtable of Regions conference calls and meetings throughout the year in order to keep apprised of current activities in other regions. As needed, water resources issues that overlap neighboring region's boundaries are either covered by existing cooperative water management plans, adjudication, and/or operational agreements, or have no defining water resources management issue. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues and possible integrated water management strategies in our respective IRWM Plans"

Nacitone Watershed Management Plan

The Nacimiento and San Antonio watersheds are often treated as a single management unit because they are both dammed and managed by MCWRA for releases to the Salinas River mainstem for downstream agricultural users and to prevent seawater intrusion. A Watershed Management Plan was completed in 2007 by the MCWRA and the stakeholders comprised of community members in the watersheds and prepared by the Monterey County Farm Bureau and Central Coast Salmon Enhancement. A large portion of the Nacimiento watershed is within SLO County, but its headwaters and outflow are within Monterey County. A small fragment of the San Antonio watershed is also in SLO County. The county of SLO has a small portion of the water rights in the Nacitone, and although the Nacimiento dam itself is located in SLO County, MCWRA is responsible for its operation.

Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program

The Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) is directed and run by the MCWRA since its creation in 2010. The Program Area, where SMP activities occur, is loosely defined as the Salinas River (river mile 2 to 94) and the tributaries of Gonzales Slough, Bryant Canyon Channel, and San Lorenzo Creek. The Program Area was broken down into River Management Units to better address the different and localized resource needs of multiple stream sections. The work of the program largely focuses on flood prevention and vegetation maintenance in the stream channels. The plan and its activities were not designed to restore floodplains or restore historical habitat, only to improve the existing flood and habitat conditions within the confines of the modern infrastructure and land uses that surround the Program Area.

Interlake Tunnel Project

The Interlake Tunnel Project effectively combines the watersheds of the San Antonio and Nacimiento rivers. Because Lake Nacimiento tends to fill at a much greater rate than San Antonio, some flow can be diverted into Lake San Antonio to keep water more efficiently. Currently, when rain fills Lake Nacimiento, excessive flows into the lake must be spilled over the dam and sent downstream. With the tunnel modification, Nacimiento's overflows could be stored in Lake San Antonio and be released over a longer period, throughout the year. The project would have flood mitigation and baseflow enhancement benefits.

The Interlake Project is owned by MCWRA. The tunnel would be nearly two miles long and bored through the mountains separating the two watersheds. The project is estimated to create an additional 8,000 to 20,000 acre-feet of conservation releases per year.

Current Land Use and Potential Changes

The Salinas River flows to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from the southeast to the northwest over 283 kilometers (109 miles) through the fertile Salinas valley. The river drains approximately 11,700 km2 (4,034 mi²) of land consisting of many different landscapes. In general, grazing, and natural lands exist in the surrounding foothills and mountainous areas, while agricultural and urban developments are found throughout the Salinas Valley floor. A full land use statement and history is located in the Watershed Resources Inventory (Land Use History and Mapping in California's Central Coast Region, CSUMB). A map of the watershed and its major features is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Map of Salinas watershed and major features

The anticipated future land uses in the Salinas Valley and primary tributaries of the Arroyo Seco, San Antonio and Nacimiento Rivers is likely to remain agricultural and urban with recreational and second home in the Nacimiento River watershed, recreation in the San Antonio watershed, military activity at Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts, vineyards in the Upper Salinas and intense row cropping in the Salinas Valley. However, there are several potential changes in the next ten years that may impact land use and the restoration landscape:

A primary potential change is through the development and implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the watershed. SGMA plans, called Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), are to be developed by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) comprised of locally vetted boards and locally hired staff. GSPs are reviewed by the Department of Water Resources as being abiding to the law. How GSAs devise projects and programs to meet sustainability are largely locally devised and vetted using consulting engineers and hydrologists. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) are a critical component of GSPs and will, overtime, define how the Salinas Valley protects its surface water that is dependent on groundwater which in turn will affect fishery and riparian wildlife habitat. SGMA is the primary jurisdictional driver that affects both counties in the watershed. There are two priority basins in the watershed in the process of completing or have just completed their first GSPs. At this time, the GSAs are only required to coordinate on their GSPs according to SGMA. However, cooperation and collaboration may be key to conserving the GDEs. It is currently unclear how that will be achieved. The California Department of Conservation is just beginning to roll out a funding program for SGMA watershed coordination and we have reached out to the RCDs and GSAs to review draft solicitation in advance of a possible application to further link the counties to manage the basin and surface water GDEs.

A second potential change is the planning and implementation of the Interlake Tunnel by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA). Once built, water conveyance from the cooperatively managed Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs would provide additional flexibility for downstream water supply for agriculture. Depending on federal agency biological opinions for the project, steelhead conservation protections may be conditioned into the project.

A third change is the re-initiation of the Salinas Valley Water Project Biological Opinion by the MCWRA which could additionally condition the operations of its water supply projects and ostensibly additionally protect fish and wildlife. This is expected to lead to the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to provide broader, longer range Section 10 coverage for steelhead trout and possibly additional listed species.

Finally, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Irrigated Lands Agricultural Regulatory Program update (Draft Ag Order 4.0) contains riparian restoration components and incentives that could beneficially impact habitat in the watershed. How the order will impact farming and acreage farmed is likely to emerge in the next ten years.

A primary driver for restoration and recovery of biodiversity in the Salinas River has been as a response to water development for agriculture. There are three dams and reservoirs that supply water to agricultural users and/or urban users. As agriculture developed in the watershed, water quality, instream flow, fish passage and habitat became degraded. Guidance for biodiversity protection comes from several key agencies and recovery plans discussed in the Jurisdictional Framework of this document. For example, the South-Central California Steelhead Recovery Plan (Document 010) and the Threats and Assessment Studies therein outlines the threats to steelhead and actions to remediate those threats. The recovery plan is not regulatory but as a guidance document specifies recommendations and potentially responsible parties to

remediate the threats. A memo from Mark Capelli (National Marine Fisheries Service Steelhead Recovery Coordinator) to Bill Stevens (NMFS Office of Law Enforcement) (1/2/2020) discussed the role of the Nacimiento and San Antonio Tributaries (Salinas River) in meeting NMFS' South-Central California Coast Steelhead Viability/Recovery Criteria. Capelli states, "the Salinas River watershed contains approximately two-thirds of the total amount of stream mileage within the South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Planning Area," establishing its importance in recovery of the species.

In the last two decades watershed conservation programs have been developed to reduce limiting factors including the ongoing *Arundo donax* eradication program by both RCDs (Monterey County and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas) and the Stream Maintenance Program by the Monterey County Resource Conservation District and the MCWRA (Figure 2). The water supply projects managed by the MCWRA on behalf of the agricultural community promulgates agency conditions and plans for continuing operations to protect listed species including Steelhead trout.



Figure 2: Example of Arundo donax presence and areas treated under the Stream Maintenance Program

Recent Assessments

The following recent assessments include both counties. Groundwater Sustainability Plan assessments are not included in this section as they do not have implications for a two-county treatment.

Salinas and Carmel River Basins Study (started 2015) http://totalwatermanagement.org/reports-documents/

The Basin Study utilized IRWMPs as stakeholder bodies and addresses the Salinas and Carmel River watersheds in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. The Basin Study was estimated to take 3 years to complete and has four major elements in the study framework (<u>Document 030</u>):

- 1. Projections of water supply and demand will consider all potential water sources, including both groundwater and surface water, including an assessment of risks to the water supply relating to climate change. Projections of water demands may include demands for agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water uses.
- 2. Analysis of how existing water and power infrastructure and operations will perform in the face of changing water realities, such as population growth and climate variability.
- 3. Development of options to improve operations, supply and demand imbalances and infrastructure needed to supply adequate water in the future.

All proposed alternatives will include analysis associated with their relative cost, environmental impact, risk, stakeholder response, or other attributes common to the identified alternatives.

Steelhead in the Salinas – Conceptual Model Outline (2020)

The Salinas River Steelhead Model utilized agency staff as stakeholders and addresses both Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. The model summarizes the status, distribution and abundance of *O. mykiss* based on previously existing datasets and describes critical factors affecting this federally threatened species (Document 060). The model drives a two-county watershed planning premise as the counties have the Salinas River as a wildlife corridor. The model summarizes how the watershed's hydrology affects habitat conditions and examines conditions at the sub-watershed level. The model makes use of local biologist/retired teacher Harold Franklin's steelhead work (1999) and concomitant NMFS initial mapping effort to synthesize information on steelhead habitat and use watershed wide. The model also captures how Aquatic Invasive Species impacts native trout. The model's synthesis indicates that

Several characteristics of the Salinas Basin, including disparate rainfall patterns between the western and eastern portions of the watershed, a relatively long mainstem channel with intermittent flows, a bar-built lagoon and small estuary, fish passage barriers on key tributaries, and a highly altered hydrograph, are key factors influencing the local steelhead population.

Resource Concerns

The following topics are provided as summaries to be further detailed in a two-county planning process. Because both the Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan and the Salinas River Long Term Management Plan depict resource concerns in detail, they are not duplicated here. The resource concerns listed below were chosen as they are likely to be common to both counties resource management programs and be relevant to a two-county watershed management planning process.

Mining and Sediment Regimes

The riverbed has been used for its natural rock and cobble constituents for decades. Upslope and instream mines are managed through the county development process and are subject to CEQA. The County of SLO formed a planning overlay for mining and has permitted a number of projects. The emphasis on permitting was extraction management as the river is oversubscribed with the existing vested mines. The vested mines withdraw 50% of their vested levels. CDFW and the RWQCB have jurisdiction and can oppose or significantly condition projects. NMFS recommends a 50% bypass of sediment.

Mining is permitted at the county level without consideration of the two-county need to coordinate extraction of the resource. The counties respond to the state's Mining and Reclamation Act by implementing development standards on land that is designated as a regionally significant mineral resource. The individual mines operate pursuant to their underlying land use permit and conditions of approval in the absence of requirements to coordinate across the county line. New proposals are still subject to analysis of potential environmental impacts, inclusion of mitigation measures and a public hearing before the county planning commission.

Water Quality

The Salinas River has several water quality impairments pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Regulatory programs referred to as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have been initiated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to address the impairments. Each TMDL's specific reach location and approvals by EPA and the Water Board are located on the Water Board website: <u>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/docs/salinas/</u>

TMDLs for the Lower Salinas River Watershed include: chlorpyrifos and diazinon, fecal coliform, nutrients including nitrate, unionized ammonia, excessive orthophosphate, dissolved oxygen imbalances, toxicity and excess algal biomass, salts, sediment toxicity including pyrethroid pesticides in sediment and turbidity. TMDLs set out the maximum limits of a particular constituent in order to bring about resolution of the water quality impairment and for the water body to meet beneficial uses.

Beneficial uses along the river corridor differ depending on adjacent land use. A future two-county plan would use the WRI entries and scope beneficial uses of river reaches to construct a comprehensive beneficial use framework upon which to generate recommendations for achieving beneficial uses that are not currently being met.

Reservoir Release Management and Dam Operations

The existence of the dams on the river modify the hydrology of the river. Essentially, current dam releases are seasonally oppositional to natural processes. Releases occur in the summer and water is stored in the winter. Pre-dam conditions allowed for fish to migrate upstream in the winter when rivers flowed free and for fish to persist in the upper watersheds throughout the summer. See Steelhead in the Salinas Conceptual

Model for in depth discussion of the impacts dam operations is having on fish migration and habitat constrictions. Also see <u>Document 001</u> for the official policy.

Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams

The MCWRA's 2017 Dam Operations Policy specifies how decisions are arrived at in managing the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams. NMFS issued a may adversely affect Biological Opinion (BO)



determination on June 21, 2007 (Document 025). NMFS based this determination on best available science and impacts to species and their critical habitat. Information included in the analysis came from the Salinas Valley Water Project Flow Prescription for Steelhead Trout in the Salinas River. Activities permitted under the BO are the construction of the Salinas River Diversion Facility, modification the Nacimiento spillway, implementation of the Salinas Valley Water Project Flow Prescription for Steelhead Trout, and water quality improvements and other changes to the Blanco Drain. In the Incidental Take Statement section of the BO, there are no provisions for the incidental take of individual migrating adult steelhead, only coverage for number of passage days in relation to the Salinas Valley Water Project Flow Prescription for Steelhead Trout. This does not account for any adverse effects resulting in modification of flow and passage days due to the construction of the two dams, only the modification of flows post-dam. Therefore, any incidental take not associated with operation of the dam which limits passage days is not covered under the biological opinion. The 2007 BO was rescinded by NMFS in 2019. Therefore, the MCWRA still faces liability for incidental take.

The MCWRA has subsequently (2019) reinitiated the 2007 NMFS Biological Opinion (BO) that conditions dam operations which is anticipated to trigger the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to provide incidental take coverage for listed species, including Steelhead trout. It is unknown if all three dams and the additional MCWRA water supply operations will be considered as part of the HCP. Due to jurisdiction and current Endangered Species Act regulations, NMFS may consider only the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams as that was the subject of the previous BO. However, the political process can influence how far reaching the HCP can extend and it is not out of the question that an HCP could cover all water supply infrastructure in the watershed. It would be a huge undertaking, be costly and complex but it would condition all water supply projects in one plan using hydrological information for the entire watershed.

Salinas Dam

The Salinas Dam was built in 1941 to supply water to Camp San Luis Obispo and to meet the water needs of the City of San Luis Obispo. In 1947, the Salinas Dam and delivery system was transferred from the regular Army to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since the late 40s or early 50s, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has operated this water supply for the City under a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The City of SLO is jointly listed with the Army Corps of Engineers on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) water diversion permit 5882, which allows the City to store water in the reservoir.

Water from the reservoir is pumped through the Cuesta Tunnel (a one-mile long tunnel through the mountains of the Cuesta Ridge) after which it flows by gravity to the City's Water Treatment Plant on Stenner Creek Road (City of SLO General Plan, Water and Wastewater Element, Draft 4/2018).

From the 1972 order by SWRCB regarding permit 5882, diversion from the Salinas River for storage behind the Salinas Dam specifies that:

"Permittee shall release water into the Salinas River channel from Salinas Reservoir in such amounts and at such times and rates as will be sufficient, together with inflow from downstream tributary sources, to supply down-stream diversions of any surface flow and groundwater extractions under prior vested rights. Until further order of this Board it will be conclusively presumed that prior vested downstream rights will be met if at all times either a visible surface flow exists in the Salinas River between the Salinas Reservoir and the confluence of the Nacimiento River or the total inflow to the Salinas Reservoir is released therefrom into the channel of the Salinas River below the Salinas Dam. The foregoing is not intended to preclude other operational criteria that will fully satisfy prior." This defines what the City and County call the "live stream" and is used to determine how releases are to be made. The live stream can be initiated by a sufficiently large storm, in which case the city is entitled to store as much of its permitted diversion behind the dam (up to 45,000 AF/year), given that the channel between the Salinas dam and Nacimiento confluence is simultaneously connected by a surface flow. When these natural live stream flows cease, the City must either maintain that connectivity with releases or at least continue to release any additional water that continues to fill the reservoir. This means that if the reservoir storage is not increasing, the City does not have a duty to release water downstream (it is unclear at this time, 10/25/2018, how the City must factor evaporation rates in the releases).

Here is the 1972 order excerpt with added context and reinterpretation:

The City of SLO will release water into the Salinas River channel from Salinas Reservoir so that people holding water rights for diversions from the stream and people holding rights for groundwater extraction recharged by the stream are able to fulfill those rights. [This is the concept of *prior appropriation* – water rights that are more senior must be fulfilled before more junior water rights are.] This permit (5882) grants a water right that is more junior than some downstream water rights. However, the Salinas Dam diversion lies above most of those senior water rights, so the City must release water until those senior rights are fulfilled. Until the Board (SWRCB) modifies the terms of this agreement, the senior water rights will be considered satisfied as long as some visible surface flow connects the Salinas Reservoir with the Nacimiento confluence *or* as long as the City releases water at the same rate that the reservoir fills.

The terms of the live stream are not designed to take fish habitat or survival into consideration; other environmental uses are not considered, either. The definition of "visible surface flow" is not developed further in the order, so it seems a degree of interpretation is used in practice. The Salinas River – from the Salinas Dam to the Nacimiento confluence – is considered fully appropriated from May 15 to December 31 of any calendar year under <u>WR Order 89-08</u>, also specified in Decision No. 1585 from SWRCB. This declaration precludes new applications for water rights that would divert water during this time in that reach.

Additional Legal Background for Salinas Dam

In 1999 representatives from the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance, City of San Luis Obispo, City of El Paso de Robles, and other stakeholders in the Salinas watershed participated in a hearing held by the State Water Resources Control Board to address the City of SLO's petition to extend the time granted to complete construction and water use under permit 5882. The history of permit 5882 (and predecessor 5881) is detailed many times as an introduction to most public documents dealing with issues related to the reservoir. By the time of this hearing, the city had requested three consecutive 10-year extensions to complete construction and beneficial use of water under permit 5882. These extensions had been filed because the operating capacity of the dam, as it remains in 2019, is well below the originally permitted 42,000 AF and the dam expansion works must be completed before the SWRCB time-extension expires. Without the dam expansion, the city cannot develop the full 42,000 AF potential of permit 5882. CSPA recognized this in 1991 and protested the city's 1991 petition for extension on the grounds of potential harm to fish and wildlife. This protest resulted in the 1999 hearing.

Broadly, three issues were presented to SWRCB at the hearing: (1) would the time to complete work under permit 5882 to be extended?; (2) is SWRCB's role as a responsible agency under CEQA consequential in the review of this petition?; (3) what additional measures, if any, should the SWRCB require from the City of

SLO to protect the public interest and public trust resources?. Each of these broad issues had matters of degree and specificity that were also decided.

The results with regard to the above were: (1) the time extension was granted for an additional 10 years to December 31, 2010; (2) the city would have to have dam designs approved by the Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams; (3) the public interest would be served as long as the city was compliant with CEQA and dam safety requirements, and steelhead could not be determined to be affected without further study and consultation with NMFS.

In 2013, the conclusion of a dam safety study was released in a memo from Wade Horton, then the county's Water Division Manager. The study concluded that the dam was not at risk in its current condition, but in order to install a spillway gate more stringent seismic requirements would be needed due to a transfer of ownership from federal to state jurisdiction. It is not clear whether the ultimate barrier to the seismic improvements and transfer was financial or at the preference of one or more of the involved parties at that time. In 2017, County officials visited Washington D.C. to lobby for water project funds, including the installation of floodgates on Salinas Dam to expand the reservoir.



Any attempt to generate protective flows for steelhead will require a thorough habitat and population survey on the Salinas River from the dam down to the Highway 58 bridge. Other small private dams along that reach also pose barriers to fish migration. It is possible that the flows required for adult steelhead passage over these dams would be large enough to motivate the city to fight efforts to impose a protective flow regime. If the city pursues Salinas Dam expansion, this biological survey will have to be completed along with the conditions detailed in WR 2000-13 and in consultation with NMFS. Before setting instream flow requirements for fish, SWRCB must provide notice to the dam owner and hold a hearing on the matter for the dam owner to respond. This could only happen, according to SWRCB, after the presence of steelhead is confirmed and a geomorphological survey reveals what discharges would be necessary and appropriate. These studies will be triggered if the city again seeks dam expansion and updates the project's EIR.

Outside of a renewed attempt to expand the Salinas Dam, some party would need to complete the steelhead survey and geomorphological survey and petition SWRCB to review them. Unclear issues related to this route include: difficulty of access to private lands down the reach such that surveyed reaches are contiguous, the level of cooperation needed from the City of SLO, sources of funding for such an effort, and the willingness or obligation of SWRCB or other agencies to engage with the orchestration and results of the surveys.

Attempts at using the California Fish and Game code § 5937 have not been applied to the Salinas River's dams. The code specifies that "The owner of any dam shall at all times release sufficient water to keep in "good condition" any **fish** that may be planted or exist below the dam." It has been utilized locally on the Santa Ynez River and on a handful of northern California rivers and streams including Mono Lake tributaries, the San Joaquin River, Putah Creek, and the Napa River. A 2012 publication, the Rebirth of

California Fish and Game Code Section 5937 provides a comprehensive review of the code section and its potential use today concluding that:

The story of 5937 is a story of California's failure to protect the public trust. The California Legislature has consistently made protection of fish a priority, passing increasingly protective laws, using exceptionally clear language, and reiterating the State's interest in the safekeeping of its natural resources. Even as the Legislature sought to protect the people's riches, however, the State neglected to enforce these laws. CDFG has been unable or unwilling to enforce 5937 directly, the Attorney General disavowed the law's primary purpose, the Water Board pretended 5937 did not exist, and the judiciary prevented private litigants from asserting 5937 violations. By the late 1950s, 5937 was law in name only, and California's fish paid the price of non-enforcement. The resurgence of the public trust doctrine in California, and recognition of the private litigant's role in its enforcement, saved 5937 and so brought new hope to California's native fish and fisheries, although they are still in peril. Strict 5937 enforcement in the future, either by private litigants or by state agencies, is a prerequisite for recovery of California's native fish. Section 5937 is a straightforward law with broad power to rehabilitate aquatic ecosystems and the habitat they depend on. Maintaining diverse and abundant fish populations in streams below dams stands as a public trust duty and a legislative mandate; under California law, these fisheries must be restored, and robust 5937 enforcement will play a central role in their restoration.

In summary, as the re-initiation of the MCWRA BO unfolds, it might be advisable to track dam reoperational conditions in order to lobby NMFS to consider how releases from the Salinas Dam could become part of the overall reoperation schema and not remain a separate and distinct operational regime as all of the rivers dams ultimately impact the watershed's hydrology and concomitant biodiversity. However, since the Salinas Dam is jurisdictionally separate from the Salinas Valley Water Project, there is not yet a driver to legally compel NMFS to include all three dams in a single Habitat Conservation Plan.

Channel complexity

According to the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and the Aquatic Science Center, the Salinas River was a dynamic and complex system with a broad array of habitat types. Multiple abandoned floodplains at different elevations likely had different plant communities, some thousands of feet wide. Levees have disconnected floodplains from the mainstem and channel maintenance activities clear vegetation in the mainstem for flood control (Document 016).

Community Involvement

This section incorporates outreach that occurred during the contract period as well as a suggested approach for future phases.

The following groups and people were reached during the contract period. The outcome and suggested follow up is based upon understanding of planning processes in each county in the near term that could affect the development of a two-county watershed management plan

Who	Topic(s)	Outcome and
		Follow Up
Paul Robins— Monterey County RCD	Arundo removal projects; Future States discussions; two-county coordination/collaboration/cooperation; on-going discussions on RCDs leadership for 2 county Watershed Management Plan; Salinas River Institute discussions	<i>Arundo</i> removal is mitigation for Stream Management Plan
Donna Meyers—was lead on county stream maintenance program is now deputy general manager for Salinas Valley Basin GSA	SGMA, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE's)	Donna was instrumental in introducing concept of "Future State" discussion.
Harold Franklin	private citizen who compiled decades of information about the Salinas River Steelhead population	Worked with NMFS to use Mr. Franklin's materials to add to the GIS map layers; informed a large basis of north county field effort with Stillwater for development of steelhead conceptual model
Bill StevensNMFS	Future HCP; J. Nelson's visit to Pierce Dam and natural falls d/s of Pierce Dam; Salinas Dam; requested Dam Ops Doc draft; interim section 7 BO for 3 years to MCWRA	We requested NMFS review of conceptual model; Water Agency lacks adult steelhead take coverage; take was analyzed during construction but not provided
County of SLO	Cloud seeding by Zone 3 which at 9% rainfall increase would translate to 3100AF into Salinas Reservoir and 2334AF into creeks/tribs; also about Salinas Basin Study by USBR	
Aaron Floyd—City of SLO	Salinas Dam operations	There is the potential to pursue dam reoperations

CC RWQCB	Ag Order 4.0 presentation during board workshops (provided as part of final report package)	pursuant to downstream GSA actions and/or NMFS guidance Regional Board members now aware of historical steelbead presence
Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.; Ag Water Quality Alliance; Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Sustainable Conservation; Central Coast Wetlands Group	To discuss how Region 3 Water Board Ag Order 4.0 is shaping up and how it will impact the Salinas River Watershed; follow up meeting included CEQA discussion, and many ideas/details on tier reduction and cooperative monitoring approaches; p/c with Water Board CEQA lead for Ag Order	watershed wide Led to participation in CCRWQCB workshop presentations and developing incentives for Ag Order; were invited to and participated in a one-on-one with Water Board staff to review Ag Order elements
Sarah Lopez—Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.	Regulatory compliance discussion including past legal actions	Continue to stay in touch about how Ag Order evolves to include habitat value and biological relevance; and site- specific landowner solutions/incentives ; CLC sent comments to RWQCB on Ag Order 4.0.
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	CLC attended all Salinas River Long Term Management Plan meetings in 2018 and participated in Planning Group meetings, reviewed all output, and commented where/when appropriate to coordinator role http://www.salinasrivermanagementprogram.org/	Participated in implementation working group; continued contact with Agency on HCP and implementation working group; Agency participated in review of Steelhead Conceptual Model
Sarah Crable and Courtney Howard	SLO County Public Works, Water Resources Division engineer and Water Resources Division Manager	Discussed grant from the RCD to move toward a two- county watershed management plan.

Various on Water	To understand potential opportunity to reportiate water	Both supportive in concept and offered to use their authority to support such an approach. The jurisdictional driver for SLO County Water Division rests primarily in SGMA/GSPs in north county
Agency Interlake Tunnel project	allotments to SLO County and as driver for two-county watershed management plan	
Visited CDFW files at SLO offices several times	fisheries	Compiled many stream inventory surveys that are not publicly available
Monterey Transportation Agency	Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)	Consider how advanced mitigation would benefit listed species in context of a two-county watershed management plan
Sarah Diringer— Pacific Institute	On-going discussions on how to position the Salinas River watershed as a case study for Institute's new multiple benefits framework	Apply to Rose Foundation for funding next steps and to fund Salinas River Symposium
While not attending, we are reviewing SGMA GSPs arising within two counties	How GSP management actions will align (or not) within watershed	Summarizing all GSP level one management actions across both counties
Ron Unger—CDFW RCIS Director	What does RCIS not do that could be seen as a recommendation for two-county watershed management plan? https://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/region_al-conservation-investment-strategy/	Possible set of recommendations arising out of RCIS process within Monterey County
Misc. communications with students, academics	Interest in TMDLs, Gabilan Creek turbidity, history of beaver in the watershed	
Misc. communications with Upper Salinas landowners	Trout Creek, Santa Margarita Ranch water withdrawals	
John Laird	Salinas River watershed two-county effort; suggested the	Is in agreement

	need for a Salinas River Conservancy	about the future of a state-supported Salinas River Conservancy
Paul McFadden	President CA Ag Irrigation Association; works for RDO Water	Proponent of ag
Lori Peelen	Historian and writer	Children's book on steelhead trout; CLC has visited her Paso Robles Creek property
Attended WRAC meeting/s during grant timeframe	Water conservation and agriculture focus including the upper Salinas River; discussions on cooperation between Salinas Valley GSAs to find recharge areas for the basin	There is now an effort underway through WRAC to partner with ALAB (agricultural liaison advisory board); CLC serving on that ad hoc committee
Robin Lee landgaze@hotmail.co m	Santa Rita and Bolsa Knolls Watershed Group efforts to work on Hwy. 101 Watershed Signage Project; Caltrans coordination occurring on the Monterey side of the watershed	Robin would like SLO County group/s to coordinate signage in SLO County.
Stacey Hunt and Alyssa Adams— Ecologistics and Salinas River Symposium	Met over the course of several months to generate an agenda for the Salinas River Symposium including the unveiling of work products related to Salinas River Watershed Coordination	An agreement was reached to take up scheduling again in late 2020.

The following people and agencies provided comments on the *Steelhead in the Salinas—Conceptual Model*. It is anticipated that as the MCWRA re-initiation of the Biological Opinion process ensues, several, if not all, of the reviewers and agencies will have an interest in the emergent conditions of the BO which in turn are likely to inform a future watershed management plan.

Who	Agency
Matt Michie	CDFW Monterey County Coastal Monitoring
	Program Lead
Don Baldwin	CDFW San Luis Obispo County Coastal
	Monitoring Program Lead
Tim Frahm	Trout Unlimited
Aaron Floyd	City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Director
Mychal Boerman	City of San Luis Obispo Deputy Director of
	Water
Elizabeth Kraft	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
	Senior Hydrologist
Bill Stevens and Joel	NMFS Southwest Regional Office
Casagrande	
Keith Miller	County of San Luis Obispo Environmental

	Division Manager Public Works
Greg McMillan	Biodiversity First Board of Directors
Tom Gandesbery	California Coastal Conservancy Program
	Manager
Mark Cassidy	Central Coast Regional Water Quality
-	Control Board

Going forward, it is recommended that a working group be convened similar to the structure set up for the Salinas LTMP and to increase San Luis Obispo County participation beyond what was achieved for the LTMP. The working group invitees would need to include a broad range of stakeholders including representatives from all existing land uses in the watershed.

The following participated in the LTMP:

- Braga Farms
- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- Central Coast Wetlands Group
- Costa Farms
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Farm Bureau of Monterey County
- Greenfield/Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
- Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Merrill Farms
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Monterey County Resource Management Agency
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Ocean Mist Farms
- Rava Ranches
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
- Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program River Management Unit Association
- Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- San Bernardo Rancho
- State Coastal Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Otter Project
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

In addition, the following could be invited to round out a two-county approach:

• The Farm Bureau of San Luis Obispo County

- Santa Margarita Ranch
- Biodiversity First!
- North County Watch
- Adelaide Farm Center
- Salinas River Symposium/Dreaming the Salinas Work Group
- Paso Basin GSA (four subgroups)
- Creek Lands Conservation
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Property owners, business owners and residents
- The Cattleman's Association
- NRCS
- Central Coast Vineyard Team
- Paso Robles Vintners Association
- UC Cooperative Extension
- Cal Poly Natural Resources Management
- City of Paso Robles, City of Atascadero
- Audubon Society
- California Conservation Corps
- California Native Plant Society
- SLO Agriculture Commissioner's Office
- Caltrans
- Salinan Tribal Members
- Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter Liggett
- Heritage Ranch Community Services District
- US Forest Service

Recommendations

The following recommendations section is a compilation of recommendations from the Upper Salinas Action Plan (2004), the Salinas River Long Term Management Plan (2019), the Steelhead in the Salinas Conceptual Model (2020), discussions related to stakeholder outreach, and suggestions from the Salinas River Watershed Coordinator. These were selected based on their potential for use in a future comprehensive watershed management plan.

Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan

Completed in 2004 and funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, the recommendations are listed as strategies in Chapter 7 based on issues the participants were intending to address. In a future planning effort, strategy updates could be generated that consider actions that have transpired since 2004, have been addressed or are still outstanding with additional strategies to resolve the issues. (Document 051)

Salinas River Long Term Management Plan (LTMP)

Completed in 2018, the LTMP will form the basis for the MCWRA's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Salinas Valley Water Project (Project). As such, the LTMP represents the initial phase of a regulatory approach that will set conditions under which the Agency must operate the Project to permit a legal "take" of listed species that are ultimately included in the HCP. (Document 059)

Steelhead in the Salinas Conceptual Model Outline (Model)

Complete in 2020, the Model's recommendations are intended to protect and enhance the Salinas River Steelhead population. Note that recommendation to conduct the Environmental DNA survey has been applied for in May 2020 through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. (Document 060)

- Increase spatial distribution of steelhead and habitat access in the watershed
 - ➤ Explore feasibility and appropriateness of providing fish passage at dams
 - > Address other barriers (e.g., Arroyo Seco, Jack Creek) in Coast Range tributaries
- Assess current spatial distribution of steelhead in the watershed
 - > Environmental DNA survey of Coast Range tributaries
- Improve quality of rearing conditions in Coast Range tributaries
 - > Habitat enhancement projects in Nacimiento River
 - > Increased instream flows and habitat enhancement in San Antonio River downstream of the dam
- Improve migration conditions in the mainstem Salinas River
 - ➤ Participate in ongoing MCWRA HCP efforts to achieve flow management that supports steelhead migration in the Salinas River downstream of Nacimiento River confluence

➤ Assess appropriate release from Salinas River Dam to support suitable (e.g. depth and temperature) steelhead migration and rearing in the upper mainstem Salinas River with connectivity

to San Luis Obispo Coast Range tributaries (e.g. Jack Creek) that provide suitable steelhead rearing habitat

- > Assess barriers in mainstem Salinas River downstream of Salinas Dam
- Improve functionality of the estuary and lagoon

➤ Improve passage at OSR slide gate

➤ Lease or purchase adjacent land to allow localized flooding

- ➤ Increase flows to estuary
- ➤ Manage sandbar breaching
- Reduce predation mortality
 - ➤ Angling, seining, and addressing reservoirs in Arroyo Seco River
 - ≻ Fyke traps in Nacimiento River
 - ➤ Angling and boat electrofishing in lower Salinas River and estuary



Suggestions from Watershed Coordinator

The watershed coordinator recommendations are based upon the experience collected during the Salinas River Watershed Coordinator grant period.

- Convene the next Salinas Symposium with the Theme of Salinas River Future States—request that Donna Meyers, General Manager of the Salinas Valley GSA, serve on the steering committee along with the Executive Directors of the RCDs. Consider revitalizing the working group Stacey Hunt of Ecologistics was working with at the time of the last Symposium.
- Promote implementation of the Salinas LTMP by combining efforts in both Counties to identify beneficial uses watershed wide.
- Promote refinement of existing hydrological modeling and flow prescriptions to a watershed wide scale beyond what is currently done in Monterey County pursuant to the MCWRA Salinas Valley Water Project operations.
- Continue to refine efforts that drive jurisdictional coordination, cooperation, and collaboration across county lines
- Identify efforts occurring in one county that have the potential to occur in the other county to enhance coordination. For example, Arundo eradication is occurring in both counties in a coordinated manner by the RCDs.
- Consider the potential for Fish and Game Code 5937 focused legal work. If the Salinas Dam raise
 project continues to gain steam by the Paso GSA, it may be a timely to tie in 5937 legal opposition to
 the dam raising proposal and/or work with the agencies to ensure fish passage is integrated into a
 dam raise.
- The current list of fish passage barriers is in dire need of updating and ground-truthing. Known barriers are listed in the Steelhead Conceptual Model in figure 2. Possible grant sources to fund a watershed wide fish passage barrier assessment include CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and State Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Program. The California Fish Passage Forum may also be a source.

The following data gaps represent data sets that would be useful in informing resolution of water resource concerns and for a two-county watershed management plan.

- Develop comprehensive water budget for the watershed over two counties
- For each reservoir, diversion, and water supply project, develop a comprehensive accounting of specifications for release, holding capacity and permits for:
 - 1. Salinas Dam
 - 2. Monterey County Water Recycling Project consisting of
 - a. Salinas Valley Reclamation Project—
 - b. Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (distribution and supplemental well system)
 - 3. Blanco Drain and Reclamation Ditch Water Rights Diversion
 - 4. Granite Ridge Regional Water Supply
 - 5. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams/Reservoirs and proposed Interlake Tunnel
 - 6. Reclamation Ditch
 - 7. Salinas River Diversion Facility
 - 8. Salinas Valley Water Project Phase I and II
 - 9. Greenfield Diversion
- Groundwater:
 - SGMA-related gaps to be addressed by GSAs in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans
 - 1. Seven subbasins, seven plans
 - Seven lists of data gaps? Or will they be combined?
 - 2. Recharge areas
 - 3. Historical and future water demands
 - 4. Groundwater-surface water interactions
 - 5. Land subsidence
 - 6. Monitoring well networks, well logs
- Groundwater systems that are outside of the SGMA basin definition
- 1. Groundwater-surface water interactions in tributary streams
- 2. Wells in these areas
- Dams:
- 1. Discharge-stage relationship in mainstem a deeper and more precise investigation compared to NMFS 2007
 - Tie dam releases in with fish passage barriers challenge for modeling
 - Related to SGMA gaps relationship between environmental water demand, beneficial uses, and climatic conditions year-to-year

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Funding Options

The following funding option section is provided to guide future proposal applications to federal, state, and other funding sources to develop restoration projects.

Public Funds Use Assumption

Public funds can ONLY be used for projects that promote public benefits and are voluntary and cannot be used for projects that primarily benefit private users or are required mitigation. For example, if the project is to reinforce or repair of elements of the Salinas Valley Water Project, regulatory agencies may require mitigation depending on the project description. Mitigation activities are not eligible for public funds. If the project is to improve fish passage for all life stages for all native fishes, then public funds may be used for this voluntary action only. There may be strategic objectives and funding sources, such as loans, that might best fit a project as it emerges.

Funding Sources

State Grant Programs

California state agency programs have recurring cycles that typically include planning and implementation phases. Many require projects have multiple benefits which guides eligibility for best fitting funding sources.

Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1

Proposal tasks must target actions identified in OPC Strategic Plan and California Ocean Protection Act, below.

OPC Strategic Plan <u>http://www.opc.ca.gov/strategic-plan/</u> COPA <u>http://www.opc.ca.gov/california-ocean-protection-act/</u>

In addition to consistency with COPA and the OPC strategic plan, projects that will be considered for funding by the OPC must:

- Directly relate to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, or coastal-draining watersheds
- Have demonstrable support from the public
- Be of greater-than-local interest

The OPC will give additional consideration to proposed projects that:

- Employ an innovative approach to solving a problem
- Improve the manner in which the state manages coastal and ocean resources
- Help resolve more than one issue
- Include a contribution of funds or services by other entities
- Are ready to implement (grantee or contractor will start and finish the project in a timely manner)
- Involve a combination of local, state, or federal agencies or that are public/private partnerships. The OPC also works directly with state agencies on funding opportunities and pursues directed projects.

Key issues include **Sea-level Rise**: risk reduction and improvement in resiliency of the built environment and natural environment in the face of sea-level rise. List of projects that meet the requirements and priorities set forth in these guidelines. (This is **not** a comprehensive list).

• Projects that develop stormwater capture systems that reduce marine debris, reduce non-point source pollution, and allow for the storage of freshwater. Bonus if the discharge from stormwater has historically and measurably negatively impacted designated MMAs.

• Wetland restoration and protection projects at impaired watersheds that promote healthy nursery habitat for aquatic species and provide water quality improvements.

• Projects that remove barriers to diadromous fish passage in addition reduce water quality impacts to coastal waterways.

• Projects that prevent or reduce water pollution or contamination.

• Projects that protect and restore coastal watersheds (bays, estuaries, nearshore ecosystems) including those that restore ecological health and natural system connectivity, which will benefit local water systems and help defend against sea-level rise.

California Fish Passage Forum (Forum) <u>http://www.cafishpassageforum.org/funding</u>

One of 19 nationally recognized fish habitat partnerships, the Forum funds exclusively fish passage projects in California that advance the Forum's mission to protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by restoring connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout their historic range.

Preference is given to a barrier that can be fully remediated within 24 months, is listed in the Passage Assessment Database, is a priority identified by state and federal agencies, is listed in a key restoration plan for the region, has alignment with the Forum's nine overall objectives, has alignment with national priorities, and has alignment with USFWS Climate Change strategies.



The Forum's nine objectives are:

- 1. Remediate barriers to effective fish migration.
- 2. Facilitate coordination and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may propose, review, or promulgate fish passage projects within California.
- 3. Identify, assess, and prioritize the removal of fish passage barriers.
- 4. Disseminate guidelines and design criteria for replacement of barriers.
- 5. Coordinate funding mechanisms to remove fish passage barriers.
- 6. Support state and federal permit coordination and streamlining.
- 7. Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability.
- 8. Encourage state and national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California.
- 9. Implement education and outreach activities, targeting both the general public and fish passage practitioners.

The National Priorities are:

- 1. Protect intact and healthy waters.
- 2. Restore hydrologic conditions for fish.
- 3. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.
- 4. Restore water quality.

The USFWS Climate Change Strategies are:

- Take conservation action for climate-vulnerable species.
- Promote habitat connectivity and integrity.
- Reduce non-climate change ecosystem stressors.
- Identify and fill priority freshwater needs.
- Conserve coastal and marine resources.
- Manage genetic resources.
- Reduce susceptibility to diseases, pathogens, and pests.
- Address fish and wildlife needs in renewable energy development.
- Foster international collaboration for landscape conservation.

San Luis Obispo Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) administers and manages the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). IRWM is a county-wide collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region. The region is defined by acceptance by the DWR. The boundary of the Salinas watershed is the county boundary line. Further, the IRWM:

- Crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries
- Involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups
- Addresses regional issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions.
- Develops multi-benefit solutions

The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) governs the IRWM process through an MOU of signatories representing county-wide water interests.

Monterey County IRWM

See San Luis Obispo IRWM as the same agency relationship and mandates apply. (Document 015)

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) <u>www.wcb.ca.gov</u>

The WCB is administered and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The WCB accepts funding applications for habitat restoration projects on an ongoing basis.

- Riparian Habitat Conservation
- Habitat Enhancement and Restoration

For projects to restore and enhance wildlife habitats, the WCB is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations [501(c)(3)], local governmental agencies, State departments and federal agencies. The WCB meets four times a year, typically in February, May, August, and November. Processing time for applications can vary depending on completeness of the application, project benefits, and funding availability. Allow a minimum of six months from submittal of application to project approval.

WCB accepts proposals on a continuous basis and will notify applicants about whether the proposal is acceptable or complete. All proposals will be evaluated with assistance from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If a proposed project is accepted, and funding is available, a grant agreement or contract will be prepared for the applicant, and the proposal will be scheduled for consideration at a future WCB meeting.

The WCB's Proposition 1 Streamflow Enhancement Program (<u>https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement</u>) awards grant funding on a competitive basis to projects representing the mission of the
WCB and address the three goals of the California Water Action Plan: reliability, restoration, and resilience. Funding is directed to projects predicted to result in significant enhancement to the amount, timing and/or quality of water available for anadromous fish, special status, threatened, endangered or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change.

Specifically, the goals of the Program are to:

- Support projects that lead to meaningful increases in the availability and quality of water in streams, particularly by protecting and restoring functional ecological flows for streams and wetlands identified as priority for fish and wildlife.
- Support projects that work to remove key barriers to securing enhanced flows for nature (e.g., by making it easier to change the timing of flows as needed, crafting long-term programs that allow for short-term leases/transfers for nature, or streamlining processes for long-term transfers of water for stream flow)
- Support projects that allocate resources for infrastructure (e.g., gauges) for evaluating streamflow conditions in California's streams that help better understand how streamflow conditions respond to efforts to improve flows.

CLC has been awarded five Prop 1 Streamflow Enhancement Program grants and would be interested in developing projects related to enhancing stream flow for the Salinas River watershed.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/FRGP/Grant-Process The Fisheries Restoration Grant Program was established in 1981 in response to rapidly declining populations of wild salmon and steelhead trout and deteriorating fish habitat in California. This competitive grant program has invested millions of dollars to support projects from sediment reduction to watershed education throughout coastal California. Contributing partners include federal and local governments, tribes, water districts, fisheries organizations, watershed restoration groups, the California Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, and private landowners. The FRGP is administered within the Watershed Restoration Grants Branch of CDFW.

The objective of the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) is to restore anadromous salmonid habitat with the goal of ensuring the survival and protection of the species in coastal areas of California. Each year the FRGP solicits proposals for projects which address the goals of the program through its Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN). The annual open competitive selection process has evolved over the past 30 years and FRGP receives more proposals than it can fund. For FRGP to accomplish its goals applicants must submit proposals that address a task in one of the State or Federal recovery plans listed on the web page.

CLC has been the recipient of dozens of FRGP grants over the years. While it is well suited for the organization's mission, the program is restrictive due to its enabling legislation. Only focus watersheds and specific project types are eligible which are modified annually based upon project progress/completion of priorities within focus watersheds that were identified in management and recovery plans. As of the 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice, the Salinas River is a focus watershed for the mainstem and upper Westside tributaries including Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers and the following project types were eligible: FP—Fish Passage at Stream Crossings

OR—Watershed and Regional Organization

PD—Project Design

PL-Watershed Planning

- PI—Public Involvement and Capacity Building
- TE—Private Sector Technical Training and Education

WC—Water Conservation Measures

The advantage of utilizing FRGP includes receiving CEQA, 401 RWQCB certification and ACOE 404 permit coverage, including Steelhead trout and Red-legged frog Section 7 consultations. This represents a substantial cost savings to the project environmental review and permitting phases.

State Wildlife Grant (SWG) https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/State-Wildlife-Grants

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program provides federal grant funds to states for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) uses SWG grant funds to develop and implement its' State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). California's SWAP identifies wildlife "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" and prescribes actions to conserve these species and their habitats before they become rarer and costly to conserve. These species include threatened and endangered species, Species of Special Concern, and other species of terrestrial, aquatic, marine, and invertebrate wildlife species as determined by CDFW. The 2015 update of the California SWAP includes species that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The State Wildlife Grant Fund provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions. These funds are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for fish and wildlife species. Congress appropriates funds for the State Wildlife Grant Program on an annual basis. Funds are apportioned to States, commonwealths, and U.S. territories based on a formula. Final approval of proposals for funding is made by USFWS staff in conjunction with the Department. Matching funds of at least 35% of the project costs are required for SWG grants. Match funds in excess of the minimum requirement are desirable. Funding used to match these projects must be from a non-federal fund source. In-kind services may be counted as match as long as support funding is not from a federal source.

The SWG program has provided between \$2 to almost \$3 million per year to California in the past several years. A portion of that amount is allotted for this publicly solicited grant program. The amount available is determined each year and announced in the Public Solicitation Notice.

To accomplish the SWAP's objectives, while maximizing available public funds, the Department awards grants and contracts to nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, colleges and universities, and state departments. The above organizations must have the specific capacity to deliver the objectives as demonstrated by past performance or expertise through a statement of qualifications and experience. Proposed projects involving the handling of animals or potential take of listed species will require the appropriate individuals or entities to demonstrate take authorization (possession of appropriate state and federal take permits).

Priorities are published in the proposal solicitation notice.

Endangered Species Conservation and Recovery Program (ESCRP) Traditional Section 6 Grant <u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/Endangered-Species</u>

Eligible projects are those that target species which are currently federally listed as threatened or endangered, proposed for listing, candidates for listing, or recently recovered; and focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Species status surveys
- Captive propagation and reintroduction
- Nesting surveys
- Genetic studies
- Development of management plans

- Habitat restoration (on non-federal lands)
- Public education and outreach

Watershed Restoration Grant Program Proposition 1 (WRGP) <u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants</u>

The WRGP focuses on water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Proposition 1 funding is intended to meeting California Water Action Plan objectives of more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades. In addition, CDFW seeks projects that contribute to implementation of State Wildlife Action Plan, Safeguarding California Climate Adaptation Plan, Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Conservation Strategy, State and federal recovery plans, or other relevant State and federal plans.

The 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice contained the following eligible project types:

- Restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat;
- Improving forest health;
- Modernizing stream crossings, culverts, and bridges;
- Reconnecting historical flood plains;
- Installing or improving fish screens;
- Providing fish passage;
- Improving ecological functions;
- Acquisitions from willing sellers;
- Restoring cross-border creeks and watersheds
- Improving local watershed management; and
- Removing sediment or trash.

Priorities include:

- Large-Scale Wildfire Recovery Response and Prevention
- Manage Headwaters for Multiple Benefits
- Protect and Restore Mountain Meadow Ecosystems
- Protect and Restore Anadromous and other Non-Game Native Fish Habitat
- Protect and Restore Coastal Wetland Ecosystems

Protect and Restore Anadromous Fish Habitat

The objective of this priority is to protect, restore, or enhance anadromous fish habitat in watersheds of California, in order to aid in the recovery and conservation of these species. CDFW is seeking projects that address limiting factors and priority actions specified in State or federal recovery plans, State Wildlife Action Plan (Chapter 6), California Water Action Plan, and/or other relevant conservation plans, including:

- Removal of high priority fish passage barriers (refer to CDFW's 2016 List of Anadromous Fish Passage Statewide Priority Barriers)
- Installation of screens on priority unscreened diversions and repair/replacement of existing substandard screens (refer to CDFW's 2016 Priority Unscreened Diversion List).
- Restoration or enhancement of riparian, instream, floodplain, side channel, or estuarine habitat
- Improving instream flow quality and quantity
- Restoration actions to reduce erosion and instream/downstream sedimentation
- Protection (acquisition/easements) of important watershed lands

CDFW will fund water conservation projects (e.g., off-channel water storage, changes in the timing or source of water supply, moving points of diversion, irrigation ditch lining, piping, stock-water systems, and agricultural tail water recovery/management systems) that permanently dedicate 100 percent of the water saved due to project implementation for instream purposes to support anadromous fish during water limited seasons. Water conserved by such projects shall be dedicated to the stream for anadromous fish benefits through a mechanism such as a Forbearance Agreement, an Instream Flow Lease, a transfer of water rights pursuant to CWC Section 1735, or an instream dedication pursuant to CWC Section 1707 (1707 petition). Projects for which the main purpose is to enhance stream flow should submit proposals to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB's) California Stream Flow Enhancement Program and WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement Program and WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement (s) of the project in the scope of work (task description) and budget.

Prioritization of projects to protect and restore anadromous fish habitat will take into account the listing status of the species for which the project is designed to benefit and whether the proposal: focuses on populations and geographies that play an important role in recovery, implements a high priority recovery action identified in a final or public draft recovery plan, and addresses restoration activities specified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (Chapter 6) and/or California Water Action Plan. Prioritization of projects that eliminate barriers to migration also will be informed by CDFW's Priority Unscreened Diversion List (2016) and Updated List of Anadromous Fish Passage Statewide Priority Barriers (2016). Prioritization of projects designed to enhance stream flows will take into account coordination with WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement Program.

Protect and Restore Coastal Wetland Ecosystems

The objective of this priority is to implement multi-benefit projects designed to protect, restore, or enhance coastal wetland ecosystems. These projects will seek to protect and restore diversity, quality, and connectivity across the range of wetland types extending from subtidal areas to upland transition areas, including non-tidal wetlands. Restoring ecological condition and function within coastal wetlands will provide a variety of important benefits, such as improved habitat for fish and wildlife, enhanced flood protection, increased resiliency to sea-level rise and storm events, and improved water quality.

The California Water Action Plan calls upon CDFW to implement large-scale habitat projects along the California coast in strategic estuaries to restore ecological health and natural system connectivity and help defend against sea-level rise. As such, project scale, regional importance, and significance and diversity of the benefits will be taken into account during prioritization of these projects.

Planning and Implementation categories are included:

Planning

Planning grants provide funding for necessary activities that will lead to a specific future on-the-ground implementation project(s). Planning grants are intended to support the development of projects that are likely to qualify for future implementation funding. If the proposal seeks funding for permitting, a complete description of the permits needed and a timeline for obtaining them must be included in the proposal. Eligible activities and expenses for Planning projects include, but are not limited to:

- Project administration
- Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans (e.g., watershed and habitat assessments) that will result in a specific project or set of projects
- Developing monitoring, adaptive management, climate change adaptation, and long-term management plans for a specific project

- Coordination with partners to develop standardized monitoring procedures for a specific project or set of projects
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, collecting baseline data, and developing project designs related to a specific site or physical project
- Acquiring permits for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental documentation for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Conducting stakeholder and public meetings to discuss and receive input on project objectives and designs

Implementation

Implementation grants fund construction of restoration and enhancement projects and new or enhanced facilities. They are intended to support "shovel ready" projects that have advanced to the stage where planning, land tenure, and engineering design plans have been completed. CEQA/NEPA compliance must be completed prior to grant execution (anticipated to occur within 6 months of award). Applicants must, at a minimum, submit intermediate plans (i.e., design plans at ~65% level of development). Implementation projects may include final engineering design and permitting as project activities. Engineering design will be subject to review and acceptance by CDFW Engineering staff.

Proposed Implementation projects must provide proof of CEQA/NEPA compliance, such as a Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption, upon request. Implementation projects that include an action that is likely to be deemed a covered action pursuant to CWC Section 85057.5, must provide documentation of consistency with the Delta Plan. If permits are to be obtained for a proposed project, a complete description of the permits needed and a timeline for obtaining them must be included in the proposal. Eligible activities and expenses for Implementation projects include, but are not limited to:

- Project management/administration
- Preparation of bid packages and subcontractor documents (when subcontractors have not been identified at the time of grant award)
- Development of the final engineering design
- Acquiring necessary permits
- Construction activities (e.g., dredging, earthmoving, construction of facilities)
- Habitat restoration and enhancement (e.g., revegetation, invasive vegetation removal, placement of refugia, removal of fish passage barriers)
- Pre- and post-project monitoring, and adaptive management activities including rectifying problems that impact project performance (within grant term)
- Developing a long-term management plan
- Communicating project results to project stakeholders and the public via written
- materials, presentations, or websites

California Coastal Conservancy

Conservancy Proposition 1 (<u>http://scc.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-grants/</u>) grants fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. Priority project types include water sustainability improvements, anadromous fish habitat enhancement, wetland restoration and urban greening. The program offers three solicitations annually and strongly encourages applicants to contact a Regional Manager to consult during the solicitation period to discuss projects and proposal related questions. The contact for our area is Trish Chapman, <u>trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov</u>. 510-286-4093.

Water Sustainability

Advance the sustainable use and management of water in coastal watersheds to achieve conservation benefits, improve ecosystem health, and increase climate resiliency. Many coastal areas rely heavily on local water supplies, including groundwater and local storage. The Conservancy will seek to implement projects that improve water use and management to achieve multiple objectives: increasing water supply reliability while decreasing impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats, improving both ecosystem and water supply resiliency to impacts of climate change, protecting summer flows for salmonids and other aquatic species, increasing groundwater recharge, decreasing flood flows, and reducing polluted runoff. Multibenefit water sustainability projects could include floodplain restoration, implementation of agricultural best management practices to improve water quality, rainwater capture, groundwater recharge, off stream storage, irrigation improvement, and watershed land conservation.

Water sustainability projects are consistent with the purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1. They will implement watershed adaptation projects to reduce the impacts of climate change, protect and restore coastal watersheds, assist in the recovery of listed species, and improve water related agricultural sustainability projects. These projects implement Actions #1, 2 and 6 of the California Water Action Plan and several actions in the Safeguarding California Plan. By protecting habitat, supporting coastal agriculture, and preparing for climate change impacts; these projects advance the Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goals 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13.

Protect and Enhance Anadromous Fish Habitat

Restore habitat, including flow needed for achieving the health of anadromous fish populations. Coastal salmon and steelhead are important to coastal ecosystem health. These fish provide an important food source, are culturally important to tribes, and an important part of the local economy in some coastal areas. The Conservancy will support projects that protect important watershed lands, remove high priority fish passage barriers, restore riparian, off channel or estuarine habitat, and secure instream flows with appropriate volume and temperature to support anadromous fish populations. These projects will increase available habitat and increase resilience of these populations to the potential impacts of climate change.

The Conservancy has supported many efforts to identify priority projects and to implement restoration projects to restore anadromous fish habitat. Removing barriers to spawning grounds is one of the simpler steps that can be taken to increase available habitat. Prioritization of barrier removal projects will be informed by the California Fish Passage Forum. The Conservancy has coordinated and will continue to coordinate with National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on identifying priorities.

Removal of fish barriers and restoration of fish habitat are specific purposes identified in Chapter 6 of Proposition 1. These projects will implement Action #4 in the California Water Action Plan - protect and restore important ecosystems. Consistent with the Safeguarding Plan, these projects will protect and restore water resources for important ecosystems. These projects advance the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goals #5 and #11 by enhancing habitats, natural resources, and watersheds.

Coastal Conservancy Non-prop 1 (<u>http://scc.ca.gov/grants/</u>)

The Conservancy may award grants to public agencies and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations whose purposes are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation – Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code. Projects must also be consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria. The Conservancy accepts grant applications on an ongoing basis. Grants are available to government agencies and nonprofit organizations and funding availability is subject to legislative appropriation. The grant application and instructions are posted on the website provided above. The Conservancy funds projects that help it achieve the goals and objectives of its Strategic Plan (2013-2018), available at the website

provided above. The goals are listed below; refer to the plan for additional detail on specific objectives. Projects that help achieve multiple objectives will receive higher priority for funding. The Conservancy will fund most stages of a project including pre-project feasibility studies, property acquisition, planning (for large areas or specific sites) and design, environmental review, construction, monitoring, and, in limited circumstances, maintenance.

Before applying for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy, it is strongly recommended that project proponents contact the Regional Manager for the project area, Trish Chapman, <u>trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov</u>. 510-286-4093. If the project concept meets Conservancy criteria and would be a priority under their Strategic Plan, then Conservancy staff will help the project team develop a proposal for Conservancy funding.

Department of Conservation

At the end of the grant period (April 3, 2020), a draft solicitation notice was posted for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Program Grants through the California Department of Conservation.

https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed

Both RCDs were apprised of the draft solicitation and forwarded it to IRWM and SGMA groups. A dialogue has been initiated by CLC with the RCDs about a joint application that would address Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems accounting across both counties. At this time, SGMA does not require entities in adjoining Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to cooperate or collaborate, only to coordinate. The DOC funding may facilitate more effective working relationship across county lines.

Jurisdictional and Existing Regulatory Framework

The Salinas River watershed falls under the jurisdiction of many local, state, and federal government agencies. In addition, there are numerous non-regulatory entities that have various missions and functions. A step toward cooperative management of the watershed across regulatory and non-regulatory entities is to understand the jurisdictions, roles, and responsibilities of these entities. The following section provides a brief overview of regulatory agencies and non-regulatory entities that have jurisdiction in the watershed. This section also includes several examples of restoration projects that have occurred in the watershed. Finally, several plans are described that have cross jurisdictional impact in the watershed.

Regulatory Agencies

Regulatory refers to policies that are forms of legal restrictions that are carried out by federal, state, and local government agencies.

Federal Agencies

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Mission: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates and oversees energy industries in the economic, environmental, and safety interests of the American public.

Authority: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, as well as natural gas and hydropower projects. FERC is responsible for licensing and inspecting private, municipal, and state hydroelectric projects. FERC also oversees environmental matters related to natural gas and hydroelectricity projects and major electricity policy initiatives. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave FERC additional responsibilities as outlined in FERC's Top Priorities and updated Strategic Plan.

Guiding Document: FERC Strategic Plan

FERC is responsible for all regulations related to dam/spillway safety requirements at Nacimiento Reservoir. The FERC is headquartered in Washington, DC and also has a regional office in San Francisco.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.ferc.gov/about/about.asp</u> and <u>http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety.asp</u>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA Fisheries is a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Mission: Stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems. Steelhead trout, which live in both marine and freshwater ecosystems, fall under this jurisdiction.

Authority: Several major statutes or laws form the legal basis for the programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; <u>Coastal Zone Management Act</u>, <u>Endangered Species Act</u>, <u>Magnuson-Stevens</u> <u>Fishery and Management Act</u>, <u>Marine Mammal Protection Act</u>, <u>National Marine Sanctuaries Act</u>. Enforcement activities are carried out in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies in the Southwest Region to ensure compliance with various federal regulations relating to stewardship of fishery and protected species resources. For example, NOAA Fisheries works locally with the Army Corps permitting process by providing "Biological Opinions" on proposed projects. These opinions describe potential impacts to protected species and contain restrictions and appropriate mitigations that assure protection of these species during project implementation. Private land owners can work with NOAA Fisheries to develop Habitat Conservation Plans in order to obtain incidental take permits under the Endangered Species Act.

Guiding Document: The NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan contains three goals: rebuilding and maintaining sustainable fisheries, promoting the recovery of protected species, and protecting and maintaining the health of coastal marine habitats.

The Salinas River Watershed is located in the NOAA Fisheries' Southwest Region which includes California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Trust Territories; the headquarters are located in Long Beach, California. The region is responsible for managing fisheries off the coast of California for salmon, ground fish, and anchovies; and/or conducting enforcement, marine mammal and habitat programs to protect fishes, marine mammals and endangered species within the region. The Southwest Region Field Office is located in Santa Rosa, California. The field office's primary purpose is the administration of the Endangered Species Act, particularly the protection of listed salmonids including Coho, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Trout. NOAA Fisheries is also responsible for administering the Clean Water Act, Federal Power Act, Fish and Wildlife coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Relevant websites: <u>http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/</u> and <u>http://www.lib.noaa.gov/noaainfo/heritage/heritage.html</u>

United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Mission: The Army Corps of Engineers' missions include five broad areas of <u>water resources</u>, <u>environment</u>, <u>infrastructure</u>, <u>homeland security</u> and <u>warfighting</u>. The water resource mission is 'in support of Nation's interests, build broad-based relationships and alliances to collaboratively provide comprehensive, systems-based, sustainable and integrated solutions to water resources national and international challenges'. The Corps environmental mission has two major focus areas: restoration and stewardship. Efforts in both areas are guided by the Corps environmental operating principles, which to balance economic and environmental concerns.

Authority: The legislative origins of the program are in the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1890 (superseded) and 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401, et seq.). The Congress of the United States has assigned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the responsibility for regulation and construction and other works in the waters of the United States. The Corps is charged with protecting our nation's harbors and navigation channels from destruction and encroachment, and with restoring and maintaining environmental quality. The principal regulatory mechanisms of the Army Corps that relate to watershed enhancement are the Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) Guideline; Marine Protection; Research and Sanctuaries Act; Endangered Species Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; National Environmental Protection Act; and others as they relate to the regulatory actions of the District. Army Corps of Engineers permits are needed for any work done below the ordinary high water mark of a freshwater entity, discussion with an Army Corps of Engineers website, responsibilities are accomplished by regulating activities in three areas (1) discharge of fill or dredged materials in coastal and inland waters and wetlands; (2) construction and dredging in navigable waters of the United States; and (3) transport of dredged materials for dumping into

ocean waters. The Army Corps of Engineers defines Navigable Waters on their website as the following "those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the waterbody, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity".

Guiding Document: Civil Works Strategic Plan

The NACITONE Watersheds lies within the San Francisco District of the South Pacific Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. The local Army Corps of Engineers office is located in San Francisco, California.

Relevant websites: http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/ and http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/

United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Mission: The mission of BLM is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations"

Authority: The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing all federal lands in the public domain. (http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/About BLM.html). BLM was given the charge of multipleuse management by Congress, which is defined as management of public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. There are numerous legislative acts and regulations which apply to BLM lands and can be found at <u>http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations.html</u>.

Guiding Document: BLM Manual

BLM operates at both the federal and state levels. The following are BLM lands within the Nacimiento and San Antonio River watersheds: Redonda Mountain Sensitive Resource Area, Rocky Butte Botanical Area, Tierra Redonda, and Waterdog Creek. Any action affecting the above stated lands must be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team to determine if they are in conformance with the existing planning base, this includes all current BLM law, executive order, regulation, policy and land use plans. The Salinas River Watershed falls under the jurisdiction of the Bakersfield Field Office.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfi</u>eld.html

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mission: The EPA gives the following mission statement on its website, "research, standard setting, monitoring and enforcement with regard to five environmental hazards: air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, radiation, and pesticides". Founded in 1970 as an independent agency, the Environmental Protection Agency is generally responsible for protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment in the United States. While presiding over the entire country, the EPA also coordinates and supports research and pollution mitigation activities by state and local governments as well as private and public groups, individuals and educational institutions.

Authority: The California Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for implementing Federal Acts, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, that align with corresponding State Laws in an effort to streamline the agency's tasks.

Guiding Document: The Pacific Southwest's Strategic Plan (Plan) sets out the Region's goals for the next five years and describes how the EPA intends to achieve a cleaner, healthier environment.

The Salinas River Watershed lies in the US EPA's Southwest Region (Region 9). This region contains Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands and the headquarters are in San Francisco.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.epa.gov/region09/</u> and <u>http://www.epa.gov/cfo/plan/plan.htm</u>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Mission: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the public.

Authority: The Service enforces federal wildlife protection laws such as the Endangered Species Act, and works in consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that permitted projects protect fish and wildlife. The Service evaluates impacts and appropriate mitigations for endangered species that may be impacted by proposed projects. When protected species are involved, the Service prepares "Biological Opinions" on the project to assess the potential impacts and restrict potentially harmful activities and also is responsible for issuing any incidental take permits under the Federal Endangered Species Act. In order for an incidental take permit to be issued a habitat conservation plan is required. The issuance of these permits is contingent on the applicant obtaining a State permit.

Fish and Wildlife Service receives authority to engage applicants early in the project planning process and to make any necessary changes to the project, from the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Endangered Species Act. In regards to Military Lands, the Service reviews the specific entity's management of natural resources and provides guidance on endangered species and the management of their critical habitat.

The Salinas River Watershed lies in the Service's Pacific Region (Region #1). This region headquarters is located in Portland, OR and the region contains the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. The Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, under jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, encompasses 367 acres located 11 miles north of Monterey, California, where the Salinas River empties into Monterey Bay.

Relevant websites: http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ and http://www.fws.gov/policy/.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is a Federal agency that manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The agency was established by Congress in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the Nation.

Mission: The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service strives to manage resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment.

The agency accomplishes its mission through five main activities:

- Protection and management of natural resources on National Forest System lands.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization.
- Community assistance and cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands to improve conditions in rural areas.
- Achieving and supporting an effective workforce that reflects the full range of diversity of the American people.
- International assistance in formulating policy and coordinating U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources.

Authority: The Forest Service is responsible for managing national forests for multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. Guiding Document: The Forest Service Directive System consists of the Forest Service Manual and Handbooks, which codify the agency's policy, practice, and procedure. The system serves as the primary basis for the internal management and control of all programs and the primary source of administrative direction to Forest Service employees.

The Forest Service is organized into National Forests in ten different regions. The Salinas River Watershed is located within Region 5, Pacific Southwest Region, Los Padres National Forest.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/</u> and <u>http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/</u>

United States Department of Defense (DoD)

Mission: U.S. Pacific Command, in concert with other U.S. government agencies and regional military partners, promotes security and peaceful development in the Asia-Pacific region by deterring aggression, advancing regional security cooperation, responding to crises, and fighting to win.

The Salinas River watershed is in the Pacific Command of the DoD.

Relevant websites: http://www.pacom.mil/about/mvp-statements.shtml

State Agencies

State Resources Agency

Mission: To restore, protect and manage the state's natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future generations using creative approaches and solutions based on science, collaboration and respect for all the communities and interests involved.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Boating and Waterways all fall under the direction of the State Resources Agency.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Mission: The Department of Fish and Game mission is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

Authority: To meet this responsibility, the law requires any person, state or local government agency, or public utility proposing a project that may impact a river, stream, or lake to notify the CDFW before beginning the project. If the CDFW determines that the project may adversely affect fish and wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602 Agreement) is required. The principal enforcement mechanism for the CDFW is the California Fish and Game Code, Section 1602. Exclusions include projects conducted by a governmental agency and permit requirements from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The CDFW is responsible for reviewing the management of natural resources on military lands and provides guidance on federally listed species and the management of their critical habitat. The CDFW currently owns two land allotments adjacent to Camp Roberts which comprise the Big Sandy Wildlife Area which totals 865 acres. The CDFW is responsible for riparian habitats located within the watershed and with support of USFWS adopted a no-net-loss policy for California riparian habitats.

Guiding Documents: The Fish and Game Strategic Plan emphasizes the directions CDFW needs to establish and follow to meet future challenges. It does not describe all of the things the Department currently does. The Fish and Game code identifies the agency's enforcement and regulation purview.

The Salinas River Watershed is located within CDFW's Central Region, a region that includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties. The region's main office is located in Fresno, California and there is a local office in San Luis Obispo.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/4/</u>, <u>http://www.dfg.ca.gov/about/resource-mgmt.html</u> and <u>http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/</u>

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Mission: The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection "protects the people of California from fires, responds to emergencies, and protects and enhances forest, range, and watershed values providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to rural and urban citizens" (<u>http://www.fire.ca.gov/</u>). A majority of the CAL FIRE workforce responds to all types of emergencies.

Authority: CAL FIRE crews and equipment are responsible for the protection of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. In addition, they provide emergency services of all kinds within 36 of California's 58 counties through local government contracts (<u>http://www.fire.ca.gov/</u>).

CAL FIRE's Resource Management Program strives to protect California's natural resources including 85 million acres that are classified as wildlands. These wildlands provide the state with timber, watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation resources. The goal of the CAL FIRE Resource Management Program is to maintain the sustainability of all these natural resources. The Department achieves this goal by "administering state and federal forestry assistance programs for landowners, demonstrating sound management practices on eight demonstration state forests, enforcing the California Forest Practice Act on all non-federal timberlands, providing research and educational outreach to the public on forest pests, and coordinating efforts for fuel reduction to reduce the risk of fire and improve the quality of California ecosystems" (http://www.fire.ca.gov/).

Guiding Documents: The California Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Fire Plan looks to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health.

Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Mission: The Department of Water Resources provides dam safety and flood control services, assists local water districts in water management and conservation activities, promotes recreational opportunities, and plans for future statewide water needs. The DWR also operates and maintains the State Water Project, including the California Aqueduct. The mission of the Division of Flood Management is to prevent loss of life and reduce property damage caused by floods, and to assist in recovery efforts following any natural disaster.

Authority: California Water Code, Sections 10004-10013 and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Guiding Document: California Water Plan provides a framework for water managers, legislators, and the public to consider options and make decisions regarding California's water future. The Plan, which is updated every five years, presents basic data and information on California's water resources including

water supply evaluations and assessments of agricultural, urban, and environmental water uses to quantify the gap between water supplies and uses. The Plan also identifies and evaluates existing and proposed statewide demand management and water supply augmentation programs and projects to address the State's water needs.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA): Signed into law in September 2014, SGMA is the first groundwater management framework in California's history. Specific Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) have been formed for high and medium priority basins to half overdraft and bring the basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. While DWR regulates the program overall, locally formed GSA's are responsible for producing and adopting Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). See local agencies for specific GSAs in the watershed.

https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management

The Salinas River Watershed falls within two districts of the DWR: the Upper Salinas Groundwater Basin is under the San Joaquin District's jurisdiction and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is within the Southern Coast Jurisdiction.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.sjd.water.ca.gov/</u> and <u>http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sd/index.html</u>

Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD)

The Division of Safety of Dams was created by the State Legislature in 1929 under the California Department of Water Resources. The mission of the Division of Safety of Dams is to protect people against loss of life and property from dam failure. The California Water Code entrusts this regulatory power to the Department of Water Resources which delegates the program to the Division of Safety of Dams. Division engineers and engineering geologists review and approve plans and specifications for the design of dams and oversee their construction to insure compliance with the approved plans and specifications. The dams at both the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs are inspected yearly by the DSOD. The Division of Safety of Dams main office is located in Sacramento, California and the dams at the Nacimiento, San Antonio and Salinas (Santa Margarita) Reservoirs fall into the Central Region for Field Engineering.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.water.ca.gov/damsafety/</u> and <u>http://www.water.ca.gov/damsafety/FAQuestions/index.cfm</u>

Department of Boating and Waterways

Mission: To provide safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting the public's right to safe, enjoyable, and environmentally sound recreational boating.

Authority: In 1959, the State Legislature, under authority of the Federal Boating Act of 1958, added Chapter 5 to Division 3 of the Harbors and Navigation Code. This act provided for the registration of most undocumented vessels by the State. It also established a comprehensive set of State laws and regulations governing the equipment and operation of vessels on all waters of the State. Since then the Departments responsibilities have grown.

Guiding document:

Relevant website: <u>http://www.dbw.ca.gov/</u> and http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Environmental/

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CC RWQCB)

The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the local administrative unit of the State Water Resource Control Board.

Mission: The mission of the RWQCB is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters. Each RWQCB has nine part-time Board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. RWQCB's are responsible for developing "basin plans" for their hydrologic areas, governing requirements, issuance of waste discharge permits, enforcement actions against violators, and monitoring water quality.

Authority: The focus of the RWQCB is water quality; the Clean Water Act is the primary enforcement tool. The RWQCB also maintains the State's 303 d. list of impaired water bodies (section 303 d. of the Clean Water Act). When a water body is listed on the 303 d. list, regional offices prepare studies and remediation plans to bring water quality within the State's standards and to reduce the Total Maximum Daily Loads to acceptable levels.

The RWQCB becomes involved in watershed enhancement projects as part of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Board works in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers to issue compliance documents for this section of the CWA. The RWQCB has a bulk of the regulatory responsibility for the cleanup of releases from military facilities.

The RWQCB modified discharge permits associated with irrigated agriculture requiring landowners and farm operators to enroll in the Conditional Ag Waiver program which requires the development and implementation of a farm water quality management plan for the reduction of water quality impacts. The RWQCB enrolls landowners and farm operators in the program. At this writing, the next iteration of the Ag Waiver program is being publicly reviewed. If this version goes into effect, there will be a new riparian setback monitoring and reporting element of the order.

Relevant web site:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.ht ml

State Defined Designated Beneficial Uses for Water Quality

RWQCB Basin Plans identify the designated beneficial uses for water bodies within each hydrologic basin and the water quality objectives (stated as physical and/or chemical parameters) to be achieved or

maintained to protect each beneficial use. Beneficial uses for a particular water-body include municipal, agricultural and industrial supply, power generation, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, navigation and preservation, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and other aquatic resources.

The Central Coast Region Water Quality Plan (Basin Plan), adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in 1989 and approved by the state board in 1990, defines beneficial uses for water bodies in the Central Coast, defines water quality objectives to protect these uses, and outlines implementation and monitoring plans. Amendments to the Basin Plan were approved by the RWQCB on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994.



The state defines pollution as impairment to beneficial uses in terms of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of water. There is also an "anti-degradation" directive in both state and federal law. EPA requires a biennial water quality assessment that describes the level to which a water body can support its designated beneficial uses: fully supporting, fully supporting but threatened, partially supporting and not supporting (Range Water Quality Management Plan 1995).

When activities occur that adversely impact water quality and a beneficial use is no longer being supported, remediation actions may occur to restore beneficial uses. One way to approach goals and strategy development is to consider what actions could be planned to preserve or restore impacted beneficial uses. Those actions could be configured into a strategy to preserve/restore beneficial uses. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has also removed designated beneficial uses for particular water bodies. This happens in rare instances when it is determined that the beneficial use is no longer appropriate for that water body.

The Central Coast Basin Plan provides a list of designated beneficial uses for many of the water bodies in these two watersheds. Relevant websites: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/index.htm and

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/index.htm</u> an <u>http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/WMI/Index.htm</u>

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Cal/EPA)

Mission: To protect and enhance public health and the environment by scientific evaluation of risks posed by hazardous substances.

Authority: The Department is responsible for developing and providing risk managers in state and local government agencies with toxicological and medical information relevant to decisions involving public health.

Guiding Document: OEHHA's Strategic Plan Relevant websites: <u>http://oehha.ca.gov/about/description.html</u> and http://oehha.ca.gov/fish.html

Caltrans

The California Department of Transportation is an executive department of the U.S. state of California. The department is part of the cabinet-level California State Transportation Agency. Caltrans is headquartered in Sacramento. A 2019 report and concomitant Salinas projects spreadsheet (see WRI) on their Statewide Advanced Mitigation Needs Assessment (SAMNA) outlines their workflow and procedures for their Advanced Mitigation Program.

The goal of this program is to more efficiently accomplish mitigation measures that are necessary to many transportation projects. Rather than waiting until a later stage of planning to consider and implement mitigation measures, AMP takes a proactive approach which helps deliver transportation projects more quickly while meeting or exceeding environmental requirements and conservation goals in an efficient and effective manner. The first step of the AMP is SAMNA, which uses geospatial tools and data from various sources to build map layers for the state of California describing habitats and potential ranges for species of concern of terrestrial vertebrates, plants, invertebrates, and fish. Future planned transportation projects are overlain onto this map to identify the off-pavement footprint and potential impacts to natural and aquatic resources. The next step is GAI Selection (Geographic Area of Interest) where specific natural resources and ecoregions or watershed-based regions are identified based on project locations that could be used for an advance mitigation project. RAMNA (Regional Advance Mitigation Needs Assessment) uses the SAMNA and GAI with additional information to develop stronger ideas and plans to be scoped and

submitted for approval. After Districts identify and scope potential advance mitigation projects, including how they might accelerate project delivery, the AMP makes recommendations to the Director. The final step in the AMP is the Director's Approval; the Director reviews the project scoping and nomination documents and requests funds accordingly.

Relevant web site: <u>https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/caltrans-biology/strategic-biological-planning-advance-mitigation-innovation/advancemitigation</u>

Local Agencies

The primary local resource agencies related to watershed jurisdiction are included. In addition, the following local agencies may be involved in the protection of water quality and watershed health but are not further described in this section: county agriculture commissioner offices, county health departments, cooperative extensions and law enforcement agencies and departments.

Monterey County Parks Department

Mission: The Monterey County Parks Department maintains stewardship over a system of county parks. These outdoor recreation resources are managed to preserve, promote, and interpret the natural, historical, and cultural values of Monterey County. They are operated to provide opportunities for the public's enjoyment, inspiration, education, personal development and cultural enrichment.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/parks/nacimiento.html</u> and <u>http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/parks/sanantonio.html</u>

Monterey County Resource Management Agency - Planning and Building Services Departments

Mission: The Mission of the Resource Management Agency – Planning and Building Services Department is to efficiently process planning permits, provide quality long-range planning and consistently develop and administer land use policies.

Authority: California state law requires each city and county to adopt "a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and any land outside its boundaries which bears relation to its planning" (Government Code section 65300).

Guiding Document: Monterey County's General Plan identifies standards and programs for the development of unincorporated areas.

A majority of the Salinas River watershed falls within the Monterey South County Planning Area which has its own set of development standards and regulations with the South County Area Plan. Lands surrounding the San Antonio Reservoir are designated within the Monterey County General Plan as Public/Quasi-public and Rural Grazing, with smaller surrounding areas designated as Farmlands and Permanent Grazing. A small area north of the San Antonio Reservoir is designated for Rural Residential use with a minimum of 5 acres per unit.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/rma/services.htm</u> and <u>http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/planning/gpu/draftNov2007/default.htm</u>

County of San Luis Obispo, Planning and Building Department

Mission: The Planning and Building Departments mission is 'promoting the wise use of land helping to build great communities.'

Authority: California state law requires each city and county to adopt "a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and any land outside its boundaries which bears relation to its planning" (Government Code section 65300).

Guiding Document: The San Luis Obispo County General Plan expresses the county's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future land uses. It identifies county's land use, circulation, environmental, economic, and social goals and policies as they relate to land use and development.

Part of the Salinas River Watershed is located within unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, and falls within the area covered by the Nacimiento Area Plan. The County's General Plan identifies standards and programs for the development of unincorporated areas and the Nacimiento Area Plan provides specific development regulations for the area. Lands surrounding Nacimiento Reservoir are for the most part designated as Agricultural and Open Space within the SLO County General Plan. Land uses adjacent to the reservoir primarily include Rural Residential, Recreation, Agriculture, and Open Space, with some Residential Suburban.

Conservation Element

This element was last updated May 2010. Relevant websites: <u>https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Plans/Elements/Conservation-and-Open-Space-Element.aspx</u>

County of San Luis Obispo, Public Works and Transportation Department

Provides public services related to the safe and efficient movement of traffic on the 1,310 miles of County maintained roadways; engineering and surveying review of proposed land development; administration and operation of various water and waste water wholesale and retail facilities; long term master water planning; franchise administration for the unincorporated areas. The Public Works Department is also responsible for managing the County's Storm Water Management Program. The San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory is part of the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department.

Relevant websites: Website for SLO Co. PWD: <u>http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm</u> Website for Nacimiento Water Project: <u>http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/NacWP.htm</u>

City of San Luis Obispo, Utilities and Water Divisions

The Salinas Reservoir serves as a primary water supply source for the City of San Luis Obispo under the provisions of the 1973 "Live Stream" ruling by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). See detailed description of 1973 ruling in Reservoir Release Management and Dam Operations of this report.

Legal Regulatory Framework

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the foundation of environmental law in California; it strives to protect all aspects of the environment through thorough analysis. CEQA requires state and local agencies to prepare Environmental Impact Reports for most projects. These reports are then analyzed and used to make decisions about the severity of the impacts on the environment. CEQA also requires that mitigation measures are identified for all impacts. If an action is identified as a project an Initial Study is required, after analysis of the initial study occurs the decision is made to either make a Negative Declaration of environmental impacts or to prepare an Environmental Impact Report. If impacts are found mitigation measures and project alternatives must be discussed. The responsible agency can decide to go

forward with a project despite environmental impacts with a Statement of Overriding Consideration, which explains why the benefits of a project outweigh the environmental impacts.

National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is the federal law that requires all federal agencies to prepare Environmental Impact Statements for actions that have a significant impact on the environment. NEPA is also a model for several policies at the state level, including CEQA. Environmental Impact Statements are very similar to EIRs and require that any environmental impacts be identified as well as creating mitigation measures to address the impacts.

Clean Water Act (CWA) is the cornerstone of surface water quality protection in the United States. (The Act does not deal directly with ground water or with water quantity issues.) The statute employs a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory tools to sharply reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff. These tools are employed to achieve the broader goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters so that they can support the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act establishes the State Water Resources Control Board and each Regional Water Quality Control Board as the principal State agencies for having primary responsibility in coordinating and controlling water quality in California.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) were formed pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The following GSAs are within the Salinas River watershed;

- Salinas Valley Basin GSA <u>https://svbgsa.org</u>
- 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin GSA <u>https://svbgsa.org/groundwater-sustainability-plan/180-400-ft-aquifer/</u>
- Paso Robles Groundwater Basins and Area GSA is comprised of four (4) sub-areas which are bound by a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a committee to develop a single GSP that would be considered for adoption by each coverage area and submitted to DWR for approval.
 - City of Paso Robles GSA Coverage Area
 - Paso Basin-County of SLO GSA Coverage Area
 - San Miguel Community Services District GSA Service Area
 - o Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA Coverage Area

Resources Agencies - Non-Regulatory Entities

Non-regulatory entities can operate on the Federal, State and Local levels and are designed to perform necessary functions that do not involve direct policy. These entities do not enforce laws. Their focus is generally on education, voluntary landowner participation, and landowner assistance.

Federal Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration perform many non-regulatory tasks through its Restoration Center which plans, implements, and funds coastal restoration projects throughout the United States.

Mission: The NOAA's website identifies that the Restoration Center's mission is to "enhance living marine resources to benefit the nation's fisheries by restoring their habitats". The NOAA Restoration Center

accomplishes its mission by restoring degraded habitats, advancing the science of coastal habitat restoration, transferring restoration technology to the private sector, the public and other government agencies and by fostering habitat stewardship and conservation ethics.

Three primary <u>programs</u> allow the Restoration Center to restore fisheries habitat. The first is the Community-based Restoration Program which takes a grass-roots approach to restoration and engages communities to participate in hands-on local habitat restoration projects. The second program is the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program, which brings in scientists and managers after oil spills, toxic releases, or ship groundings to restore injured marine resources. The third program, the Restoration Research Program works to advance new science and technology within the restoration field.

Relevant websites: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Originally called the Soil Conservation Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service was established in 1935 and has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

Mission: The NRCS has six mission goals: high quality and productive soils, clean and abundant water, healthy plant and animal communities, clean air, adequate energy supply, and working farms and



ranchlands. In order to achieve these goals, the NRCS implements the following strategies:

• Cooperative conservation: seeking and promoting cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals.

• Watershed approach: providing information and assistance to encourage and enable locally-led, watershed-scale conservation.

• Market-based approach: facilitating the growth of market-based opportunities that encourage the private sector to invest in conservation on private lands.

Service offices serving the Salinas River watershed are located in Templeton and Salinas.

Relevant website: http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service participates in a cooperative conservation program called Partners in Wildlife.

Mission: The Program's mission is to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species. The USFWS's website lists the program's four main objectives: Promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal Trust Species, Provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships, Encourage public understanding and participation, Work with U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement conservation programs. The Partners program has locally based field biologists who work directly with private landowners and other partners to plan implement and monitor their projects in an environmentally friendly manner.

Relevant websites: http://www.fws.gov/partners/

Local Agencies and organizations

Cal-Shasta Club

Cal-Shasta Club is a private recreation club consisting of 120 members, located on 340 acres, situated along the southern shoreline of Nacimiento Reservoir. Amenities consist of approximately 6 miles of private roads, launch ramp, helicopter pad (day and night), ice machines, clubhouse, a park and BBQ facility.

Relevant websites: http://lakenacimientosouthshorearea.com/Cal-Shasta.htm

Heritage Ranch Community Service District

Mission: The purpose and mission of Heritage Ranch CSD is to provide municipal services to the Village of Heritage Ranch in a manner that is efficient, safe and in accordance with applicable law. These services include the supply of drinking water, the disposal of wastewater, removal of solid waste, parks and recreation and retail gasoline.

The Heritage Ranch CSD is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Heritage Ranch sewer and for allocating the 1100 acre feet per year allotment from the Nacimiento Reservoir for the Community of Heritage Ranch. The District's service area includes 5,361 acres; the Heritage Ranch CSD is bounded on the west by Nacimiento Reservoir, on the north by Nacimiento River, on the east by Camp Roberts, and on the south by certificated parcels. The Heritage Ranch CSD is located in Paso Robles, within the Community of Heritage Ranch.

Relevant websites: http://www.heritageranchcsd.com/

Home Owner's Associations

Heritage Ranch Owner's Association

The Heritage Ranch Owner's Association is responsible for managing 9,150 acres of land including 2,104 single-family residential lots and 5,100 acres of open space. Heritage Ranch is located along the southern shoreline of the Nacimiento Reservoir.

Relevant websites: http://hroa.us/main.htm

Oak Shores Community Association

The Oak Shores Community Association is responsible for the management of the Oak Shores Community and its facilities, which include a marina, clubhouse, boat slips and campground. The Association consists of five committees, Finance, Recreation, Architectural Review, Oak Leaves and Private Docks. The Finance Committee creates an annual operating budget for the community. The Oak Shores Community Association is managed by a Board of Directors, but also employs staff to carry out general management, business operations, code enforcement and maintenance.

Relevant websites: http://oakshores.us/

Santa Lucia Cabinowners Association

The Santa Lucia Cabinowners are a tract of recreational residences within the Los Padres National Forest and the upper San Antonio and Arroyo Seco River watersheds. They are sanctioned by the National Forest Homeowners Association.

Laguna Vista Boat Club

Laguna Vista Boat Club is located on the north shore of Nacimiento Reservoir at the end of Bee Rock Road. The club was established in 1964 and has 21 members on 10 acres. The members share a common area referred to as "The Point".

Lake Recreation and Public Safety Roundtable

The Lake Recreation and Public Safety Roundtable is an informal group of representatives from communities around Nacimiento Reservoir that meets with Monterey County Park Rangers to discuss issues of common concern to the Rangers and communities around the reservoir. The group works together to provide communication and support to goals and initiatives of Monterey County and the various private organizations.

Monterey County Farm Bureau

Monterey County Farm Bureau is a private, nonprofit association of farmers and ranchers throughout Monterey County. The Farm Bureau serves as a collective voice for farmers and ranchers and provides information, benefits and services. Farm Bureau cooperates with other agricultural organizations to fulfill its purpose of working for the solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community.

Relevant website: http://www.montereycountyfarmbureau.org/

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau is a private, nonprofit association of farmers and ranchers throughout Monterey County. The Farm Bureau serves as a collective voice for farmers and ranchers and provides information, benefits and services. Farm Bureau cooperates with other agricultural organizations to fulfill its purpose of working for the solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community.

Relevant website: http://www.slofarmbureau.org/

Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)

Mission: The Monterey County Water Resources Agency manages, protects and enhances the quantity and quality of water and provides specified flood control for present and future generations of Monterey County.

Specific information regarding reservoirs, precipitation, stream flow and groundwater are provided on the MCWRA website, or can be found at the office located in Salinas. The MCWRA carries out all County of Monterey Flood Control and Water Conservation District actions.

Relevant website: http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us/

Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC)

NRWMAC represents visitors, property owners and enthusiasts of all sorts that enjoy Nacimiento Reservoir. NRWMAC acts as the collective voice of reservoir area property owners at the Monterey County Reservoir Operations Committee meetings held monthly in Salinas. This is where decisions are made which control the outflow of water from the reservoir. NRWMAC's goal is to maximize the water level in Nacimiento Reservoir from May 1st through October 1st.

Ranchos Del Lago

Ranchos Del Lago is an area of 21 privately owned parcels ranging in size from 7 to 268 acres. The parcels are located on the south side of Nacimiento Reservoir. Amenities include a community launch ramp.

Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC)

Resource Conservation Districts are organized under the California Public Resources Code. The Monterey Resource Conservation District is located within the Central Coast Region and is responsible for carrying out natural resource conservation programs within its boundaries, which cover 2,141,430 acres.

Mission: The mission of the RCDMC is to conserve and improve natural resources, integrating the demand for environmental quality with the needs of agricultural and urban users. The Monterey Resource Conservation District provides direct assistance to Monterey County farmers and landowners to protect soil, water, and natural habitats. The RCDMC mainly does public education work but also provides technical assistance to land users, schools, groups, organizations and the general public in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The RCDMC also partners with agricultural and natural resource protection organizations and agencies throughout the Central Coast.

Relevant websites: <u>http://www.rcdmonterey.org/</u>

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD)

The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District is also located within the Central Coast Region and is responsible for carrying out natural resource conservation programs within its boundaries which cover approximately 1,659,700 acres.

The mission of the US-LT RCD is to provide services and education to landowners supporting *their* management and stewardship of soil, water and natural resources.

People depend on soil, water, air, plants, and animals to survive. These natural resources provide our communities with food, shelter, clothing, economies, and recreation. US-LT RCD provides technical assistance, education and resources to help agricultural, rural and urban communities preserve these natural elements while supporting robust land productivity. Serving North San Luis Obispo County including portions of Monterey and Kern Counties since 1951, the US-LT RCD is a non-regulatory organization. The RCD has established an assortment of services and programs to serve the need of every kind of land manager in our region. Farmers, ranchers, and residents rely upon the RCD for entire project navigation – from planning to design, permitting to installation – they provide the continuum of assistance to complete it.

Relevant website: https://www.us-ltrcd.org/

Running Deer Ranch

Running Deer Ranch is an area on the south side of Nacimiento Reservoir in the area of Franklin and Las Tablas creeks. The Ranch consists of 138 property owners. Parcels range in size from 3 to 40 acres. The owners have a common area called "The Point" where they have a picnic area and boat launch ramp.

San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee

Mission: The San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee's purpose is to advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all water resources policy decisions of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

The Committee is also responsible for making recommendations for specific water resource programs and methods of financing these programs to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee includes members from the County at Large, every City in San Luis Obispo County, every local Community Service District, Resource

Conservation Districts, Agriculture and the County Farm Bureau, Environmental representatives, and Water Agencies and Institutions. The committee meets once a month in San Luis Obispo.

Relevant websites:

http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee/index.htm

South Nacimiento Road Association (SNRA)

The South Nacimiento Road Association represents more than 500 property owners who maintain approximately 11 miles of private roads that come from Chimney Rock road along the shore of Nacimiento Reservoir. This area covers approximately 8000 acres.

Relevant websites:

http://lakenacimientosouthshorearea.com/SNRA%20ROAD%20REPAIR%20PRIORITY%20LIST%202008 %20REV2.13.08.pdf

South Shore Village Vacation Club

South Shore Village Vacation Club is located on the south shore of Nacimiento Reservoir at the west end of the reservoir in an area often referred to as "The Narrows". The club owns approximately 560 acres, and has 40 members. Amenities include consist of launch ramps, bathroom facilities, ice machines, and a daytime heliport.

Tri-Counties Boat Club

Tri-Counties Boat Club is located on the south side of Nacimiento Reservoir in the Las Tablas bay area. The Club owns 40 acres and has 86 members. Facilities include a BBQ area and boat launch ramp.

Central Coast Wetlands Group

The Central Coast Wetlands Group (CCWG) is an affiliate research group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories focused on the study, preservation and restoration of Central Coast Wetlands. CCWG has a vibrant voluntary based habitat restoration program with many projects focused in the Salinas River watershed.

Relevant web site: https://www.mlml.calstate.edu/ccwg/habitat-restoration/

Creek Lands Conservation

Creek Lands Conservation, formerly Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, is based in San Luis Obispo County. The nonprofit organization's mission is to inspire conservation of coastal watersheds through science, restoration, education and stewardship. The organization has been involved in producing several stakeholder driven coastal watershed management plans, was the main contractor for the project within this entry is being included, and enjoys partnerships with public and private agencies, landowners and funders to make the Central Coast a thriving and resilient place.

Relevant web site: https://creeklands.org/

Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County works cooperatively with both landowners and government agencies to find positive, mutually beneficial solutions. Their goal is to help prevent poorly

planned development, protect drinking water sources, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches. Since 1984, they have permanently conserved over 24,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County.

Relevant web site: https://lcslo.org/

North County Watch

North County Watch is an all-volunteer, 501 3c public benefit corporation, formed by a coalition of concerned citizens in 2001 to participate in land use decisions that affect the natural and human communities of Northern San Luis Obispo County. They engage in legislative, administrative, and judicial advocacy to promote environmental sustainability and natural resource protection. The mission statement: North County Watch is a local non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to balanced and responsible development in and around northern San Luis Obispo County. Its purpose is to promote economic and environmental policies that maintain and enhance the uniqueness of our community.

Relevant web site: https://www.northcountywatch.org/index.html

Salinas River Restoration Projects—A Sample

Mustard Creek/Adelaida Creek Restoration

The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD removed non-native plants on 0.64 acres of private property and replaced them with native species.

Centennial Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration

The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD restored the channel and floodplain by re-contouring the 0.3-acre site,



installing grade control structures, and planting native riparian trees and shrubs. Centennial Creek is a highly visible waterway flowing alongside a community greenbelt trail in Centennial Park located in Paso Robles, California. The Centennial Creek watershed provides tributary waters to the Upper Salinas River, which flows northward into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an impaired water body, containing excess chloride and sodium from urban runoff and storm sewers (EPA, Clean Water Act 303d List).

Salinas River Parkway Project

The City of Paso Robles and the Upper Salinas Las Tablas acquired 260 acres within the river corridor in 2007 including 1.5 miles of river frontage to protect water quality, flood control, habitat and groundwater recharge values at the site. Concurrent with the acquisition and protection of the site, the City of Paso Robles implemented restoration and bioremediation activities at four urban storm water channel locations that discharge directly to the Salinas River channel. Restoration involved the removal of invasive species, stabilization of slope banks, and revegetation with native species within the riparian corridor. The restoration portion of the Project served as a "Demonstration Project" for implementation strategies of the

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City's Storm Water Management Plan and was to be the subject of a public outreach and education program.

Salinas River Parkway Trail

In early 2010, The Land Conservancy partnered with the City of Paso Robles to successfully purchase 154 acres of land along the Salinas River as part of the city's Salinas River Parkway project which spans 4 miles of riverfront. The Land Conservancy wrote a land management plan for the 154-acre property which calls for the city to identify sensitive species, degraded areas and issues that affect water quality and to consider these sensitive areas before planning new trails. The plan also suggests engaging volunteers and educating the community about protecting the river's natural resources.

Clark Colony Fish Passage Design

The Clark Colony Mutual Water Company has a diversion structure that was constructed in 1905, to provide irrigation water to approximately 3000 of farmland acres in the lower Arroyo Seco River basin. The basis for this diversion is a pre-1914 water right. This diversion included is a 6-foot-wide concrete sill which spans the river (approx. 160 feet). This concrete structure (effectively a low concrete dam) provides hydraulic head to deliver irrigation water via a canal on the right bank. The sill is a migration barrier in most flows. Associated with the diversion canal are concrete head-gates and a poorly functioning fish screen. Initial concept designs for modification of this structure were funded by Clark Colony Water Company.

In 2019, Trout Unlimited, with the approval of Clark Colony submitted a CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Plan/Design proposal which was funded. Project goals include improved fish passage and compliant fish screening. The project description includes:

- Conduct a Plan/Design Alternative Analysis which identifies/selects a preferred alternative
- Develop a 100% design package of that alternative (civil, structural, geotechnical) which modifies an existing concrete grade control sill which spans the Arroyo Seco (barrier) and modifies associated pre-1914 diversion structure and screen on Clark Colony property to improve conditions for federally threatened South Central Coast Steelhead trout on the Arroyo Seco River.



Santa Rita Creek Ranch Acquisition and Stream Flow Enhancement Project (2020)

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (The Land Conservancy) is partnering with The Conservation Fund (TCF) in order to secure this conservation opportunity. The Land Conservancy will be the long-term owner and steward of the ranch. Once the acquisition is complete, The Land Conservancy will petition SWRCB under CWC Section 1707 for a permissive instream dedication on the entirety of the water rights (234 AF) and sign a forbearance agreement with a local conservation partner to enhance stream flow in Santa Rita Creek. The Ranch will also be opened to the public for passive, non-motorized recreational uses.

TCF is under contract to purchase the Ranch and will subsequently sell it to The Land Conservancy. The Land Conservancy is a committed conservation buyer for the property and will serve as the long-term

owner and steward of the protected Ranch. The Hartzell Dam is the fourth largest privately-owned reservoir in the Upper Salinas River watershed. Acquiring fee title to the Ranch is the only pathway to acquire the associated water rights, which is a primary driver of this conservation transaction. Following the acquisition of the Ranch from TCF, The Land Conservancy will file a CWC Section 1707 petition with SWRCB for a permissive instream dedication on the entirety of the water rights (234 AF) for the benefit of fish and wildlife, wetland habitat, and riparian habitat restoration. The 1707 petition will add fish and wildlife instream uses to the allowable uses under the appropriative water rights and eliminate future risk of forfeiture of those rights. The Land Conservancy will also enter into a 20-year forbearance agreement, which will define the terms and conditions of the instream dedication, with a local public interest partner, such as the Upper Salinas - Las Tablas RCD, to enhance stream flow downstream of the reservoir and maximize the conservation value during the dry season. While the specific timing and quantity of water to be dedicated below the Hartzell Dam for instream benefits will be quantified through development of the forbearance agreement, even 25 percent of the total stored water would result in 0.2 cfs on average over the dry season. Stream flow enhancement will be monitored using a bypass flow monitor located at the dam alongside a long-term monitoring plan to verify and observe changes in stream flow and related conservation benefits over time.

Toad Creek Watershed Stewards

The Toad Creek Watershed Stewardship Program is designed to promote awareness about the Toad Creek watershed (Templeton area) and provide landowners and businesses with the necessary information to reduce their footprints. This program asks businesses and individuals to participate in self-assessments to evaluate the water conservation and stormwater mitigation improvements on their property, and the conservation behaviors they practice. <u>https://www.us-ltrcd.org/toad-creek-watershed-stewards</u>

Salinas River Watershed Arundo Eradication Program

The goal of the Salinas River Watershed Arundo Eradication Program is to identify and map populations of invasive Arundo and improve overall ecosystem health of the Salinas River through partnerships with landowners, farmers and local agencies, improving habitat for at-risk species, easing water quantity issues, and improving flood control. The Monterey County and Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCDs are project leads for the program.

Relationship to Other Existing Plans and Programs

This section reviews regulatory and non-regulatory plans and programs that focus on or include the Salinas River watershed.

Integrated Watershed Management Program

The Monterey County RCD facilitates and coordinates projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat using a voluntary, non-regulatory approach. A primary objective is to provide technical and financial assistance to local project leads to design and implement high priority projects selected by the IWMP agency Technical Advisory Committee.

Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program

To minimize risk of flooding to landowners along the Salinas River and improve riparian habitat for wildlife, the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) was developed as a collaboration between Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Salinas River Channel Coalition (growers and landowners), the Grower Shipper Association of Central California, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Collaborative, the RCDMC, and other local entities and contractors. The SMP employs a multi-benefit approach for stream maintenance that enhances conveyance capacity of the river corridor by mimicking the sandy-bottomed river's natural, braided form in a manner that protects fish and wildlife habitat.

The SMP involves clearing vegetation (often invasive weeds like *Arundo donax*) through mowing and disking and smoothing or removing sediment to open and maintain secondary channels on the river floodplain. These channels are designed to convey high flows during and after large storm events, reducing the risk of flooding onto adjacent farmlands and decreasing pressure on levees. Secondary channels connect with the main stem of the river at their upstream and downstream ends, but are at higher elevation than the low flow river channel.

The RCDMC helps the Monterey County Water Resources Agency administer the SMP. The RCDMC holds the Routine Maintenance Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and oversees the required biological surveys and monitoring for the program.

Relevant web site:

https://www.rcdmonterey.org/salinas-river-stream-maintenanceprogram

Salinas River Riparian Enhancement and Invasive Non-Native Plant Control and Restoration Program

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Monterey County is the lead partner for the Salinas River Riparian Enhancement RCPP and, since 2014, has overseen Arundo removal on over 250 acres of floodplain, including mastication and multiple strategic re-treatments with herbicide to target *Arundo* and tamarisk while facilitating native revegetation recovery. The goal is to eradicate *Arundo* along 90 infested river miles and prevent further spread of invasive tamarisk. Collaborating partners include:

- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD
- Monterey County Ag Commissioner
- San Luis Obispo County Ag Commissioner
- Camp Roberts
- Salinas River Channel Coalition



- The Nature Conservancy
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- California Polytechnical University, San Luis Obispo

Relevant web site: <u>https://www.rcdmonterey.org/salinas-river-arundo-and-tamarisk-control</u>

Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) (2002)

This was the first integrated plan to guide the management of the refuges resources and uses. The purposes of the CCP were:

- To provide a clear statement of direction for the management of the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) over the next 15 years (until 2017);
- To provide long-term continuity in Refuge management;
- To communicate the US Fish and Wildlife Service's management priorities for the Salinas River NWR to its neighbors and visitors and to the public;
- To provide an opportunity for the public to help shape the future management of the Salinas River NWR;
- To ensure that management programs on the Salinas River NWR are consistent with the mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) and the purpose of the Refuge as stated in establishing legislation;
- To ensure that the management of the Salinas River NWR is consistent with Federal, State, and local plans; and
- To provide a basis for budget requests to support the Salinas River NWR's needs for staffing, operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

San Antonio and Nacimiento Rivers Watershed Management Plan (2008) The Nacitone Watersheds Steering Committee and Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, Inc.

The purpose of the Nacitone Watersheds Management Plan was to identify the existing conditions of and stresses in the watersheds as they relate to water quality, and recommend methods for reducing or eliminating those stressors such as alternative land use practices.

Relevant web site: <u>https://www.rcdmonterey.org/nacitone</u>

Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan (2004)

The primary objectives of the plan were to improve water quality and to ensure adequate water resources to meet the various needs within the watershed, to foster the future well-being of agriculture, to reduce the loss of soil, to enhance habitat conditions and to improve land use policies.

Relevant web site: https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck.cgb1/15/

Salinas River Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) (2019) Monterey County Water Resources Agency

The purpose of the LTMP was to describe a multi-benefit management program that addressed needs related to MCWRA facilities and operations, as well as related issues such as flood risk reduction, water supply, water quality, natural resource conservation, threatened and endangered species management, and federal and state Endangered Species Act compliance. The primary goals of the LTMP included all of the following:

- Identify long-term solutions for management of the Salinas River that include flood reduction, water resource management, stream maintenance, and habitat management for threatened and endangered species.
- Investigate the Salinas River Lagoon for the potential of reducing flooding and improving habitat conditions.
- Identify potential improvements to steelhead migration issues in the Salinas River utilizing management efforts and anticipated future projects.
- Develop the framework for implementing the LTMP that meets a variety of multi-benefit management goals, including implementation of the forthcoming Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Salinas River Basin.
- Build upon and incorporate public/private partnerships, compatible with existing land and water rights and uses.
- Document the historical conditions in the lower Salinas River watershed.
- Describe the existing conditions in the lower Salinas River watershed--including the physical, biological, and chemical changes in the system over time--and to the extent possible, the sources driving those changes.
- Inform development of future documents.

Salinas River Lagoon Management and Enhancement Plan (1997)

The plan was prepared to address issues and concerns relating to the lagoon. The Salinas River Lagoon project area includes the lower end of the Salinas River. The plan was developed through consultation with the Salinas River Lagoon Task Force. The Task Force was composed of federal, state, and local agencies, along with local agricultural representatives. The management and enhancement plan includes



recommendations for hydrology/breaching, vegetation and wildlife, fish and aquatic resources, and water quality.

The plan was adopted, along with a Negative Declaration, by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. It laid out the groundwork for future projects, such as the Old Salinas River Slide gate, and programs that are still in effect today, such as the Salinas River Mouth Breaching now known as Salinas River Lagoon Sandbar Management. A Salinas River Lagoon Monitoring Report was finalized in 2015.

Relevant web sites:

https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resourcesagency/programs/salinas-river-lagoon-management-and-enhancement-plan/overview

https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resourcesagency/programs/salinas-river-lagoon-management-and-enhancement-plan/documents

Camp Roberts South-Central California Coast Steelhead Endangered Species Management Component (ESMC) (Stillwater Sciences, 2018)

Army regulations guide Army compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The regulation requires that an Endangered Species Management Component (ESMC) be prepared for each listed and proposed species and their critical habitat. As the manager of Camp Roberts, the CA Army National Guard is required to develop an ESMC, the purpose of which is to 1) provide information on the South-Central California Coast (SCCC) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) Distinct Population Segment (DPS), which is a federally listed threatened species that occurs on Camp Roberts, 2) describe the status of SCCC steelhead on Camp Roberts including, habitat conditions and critical environmental factors that may affect SCCC steelhead, 3) identify Camp Roberts operations potentially affecting SCCC steelhead, and 4) define conservation measures for the management of SCCC steelhead and its habitat within Camp Roberts that are consistent with the recovery actions in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recovery Plan (2013).

Central Coast Region Basin Plan (1994) California Regional Water Quality Control Board

The goal of the Central Coast Region Basin Plan is to show how the quality of the surface and ground waters in the Central Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible. The plan lists the various water uses and describes the water quality level that must be maintained to allow those uses. The Regional Board implements the Basin Plan by issuing and enforcing waste discharge requirements to individuals, communities, or businesses whose waste discharges can affect water quality. The Basin Plan is implemented by encouraging water users to improve the quality of their water supplies. Public works or other projects that affect water quality are reviewed and their impacts identified. The Central Coast Regional Board has jurisdiction over a 300-mile long by 40-mile wide section of California's central coast. Its geographic area encompasses all of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Vision (2008)

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is moving in a fundamentally new strategic direction, based upon a Vision of Healthy Functioning Watersheds. This new Vision represents a refocusing of their approach providing a new framework for how they conduct business and achieve measurable results. The Vision structures their work towards their highest water quality priorities and more strategically aligns them with the anticipated challenges and opportunities in water quality and positions the agency to respond more nimbly to unexpected ones.

Relevant web site:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications forms/publications/vision/index.shtml

Nacimiento Area Plan, San Luis Obispo County (2003)

The Nacimiento Area Plan is a supplemental plan to the County's General Plan. The plan deals specifically with 97,665 acres that comprise the planning area which is adjacent to the Monterey County line to the North, the Adelaida planning area to the South, Camp Roberts to the East and the Santa Lucia Range to the West. Nacimiento Reservoir is the center of the planning area. This plan describes County land use policies for the Nacimiento Planning Area, including regulations which are also adopted as part of the Land Use Ordinance.

Water Supply Programs (WSP-14, 15, 16, 17)

The Plan identifies issues related to water supply, the first refers to reservoir water use and the need to identify properties illegally taking water directly from the reservoir and removing all equipment used for this purpose. The second addresses the possibility of using reclaimed water and returning it to the

reservoir to allow "equivalent amounts of water to be taken from reservoir supplies" (p.3-10). The last issue deals specifically with Oak Shores and Heritage Ranch, "if total water use reaches 1,100 acre feet per year, a moratorium should be placed on further development within the affected project" (p.3-10).

San Luis Obispo Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2005) San Luis Obispo County

The San Luis Obispo Integrated Regional Water Management Plan identifies five water management planning objectives which include water supply, water quality protection and improvement, ecosystem preservation and restoration, groundwater monitoring and management and flood management. The Nacitone watersheds fall in the Salinas and Nacimiento Water Planning Areas.

Salinas Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2006) Monterey County Water Resource Agency

The Salinas Valley IRWMP provides goals and objectives that address water supply, water quality, and other environmental issues at a regional scale. The planning area is defined by the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and describes a Long Term Regional Priority (Section 6.3.4) to implement integrated watershed management in the Nacimiento and San Antonio River watersheds in order to improve the water quality in the reservoirs as well as the riparian habitat and aquatic ecosystems of the Salinas River and the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. The Nacitone Plan will provide the essential local level of knowledge, planning and project prioritization to assist MCWRA in meeting this long term priority.

Monterey South County Area Plan, Monterey County (2007)

The South County Area Plan supersedes the General Plan for the South County Area. The plan consists of 1,281 square miles of the southernmost section of Monterey County. The area is bordered by the Central Salinas Valley Planning Area to the North, the San Benito, Fresno and Kings County lines to the East, the Coast Planning Area makes up the western border and the San Luis Obispo County line is the Southern boundary.

Land Use (SC-1.2, 1.3)

The Plan encourages clustered development in order to preserve agricultural land and open space and to make the most efficient use of land; and any policy or program (including large lot zoning and agricultural land trusts) that enhance the competitive capabilities of farms and ranches.

Safety (SC-4.1)

The Plan requires that any channelization or realignment work on the Salinas River may not be permitted unless an assessment by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency is done to ensure that the work will not increase flood hazards downstream.

Public Services (SC-5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6)

The South County Area Plan will strive to protect and preserve natural and artificial groundwater recharge areas, water quality, natural resources, soils and watersheds. All New Development shall not occur on or in close proximity to the main channels and associated floodways of the Nacimiento, San Antonio, and Salinas Rivers. The Plan states that all commercial recreation facilities for camping and boating shall be compatible with surrounding uses, of moderate size, and consistent with all resource protection and hazard avoidance policies. The County also hopes to establish a park site along the Salinas River at Camp Roberts.

Stormwater Management Program - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) San Luis Obispo County

The County Stormwater Management Program encompasses the designated unincorporated urbanized areas of San Luis Obispo County. The program complies with all of the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Final Rule and State Water Resources Control Board "Waste Discharge Requirements for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems". This program was developed to reduce stormwater pollutants to receiving waters to the maximum extent practicable through the use of Best Management Practices.

Relevant website: <u>http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/Stormwater/SWMP.htm</u>

Stormwater Resource Plan (SRP) for the Greater Salinas Area 2019

The Salinas SRP was created for compliance with the state's Storm Water Grant Program's (SWGP) requirement for eligibility for SWGP funds. The SRP provides an overview of priority projects for stormwater management, implementation strategies, relevant regulations and water quality compliance requirements, and an overview of major land uses and issues as they relate to stormwater. The plan considers storm water and dry weather runoff as a potential resource that can results in multiple benefits including

- creation and restoration of wetlands
- creation and restoration of riverside [riparian] habitats
- maintenance of instream flows
- increases in park and recreation lands
- increases in urban green space
- augmentation of recreation opportunities for communities
- increased tree canopy
- reduced heat island effect
- improved air quality
- improved water quality
- increased water supply
- improved flood management
- increased environmental benefits

Relevant website: http://www.greatermontereyirwmp.org/documents/planning/

Stormwater Resource Plan (SRP) for San Luis Obispo County (2020)

The SLO SRP is the created for compliance with the state's Storm Water Grant Program's (SWGP) requirement for eligibility for SWGP funds. The SRP provides an overview of priority projects for stormwater management, implementation strategies, relevant regulations and water quality compliance requirements, and an overview of major land uses and issues as they relate to stormwater. The goals of the San Luis Obispo County Stormwater Resource Plan (SRP) are to identify and prioritize stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects in the County through detailed analyses of watershed conditions and processes, surface and groundwater resources, and the multiple benefits that can be achieved through stormwater-related capital projects and other programmatic actions.

Relevant website: <u>https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Committees-Programs/Stormwater-Resource-Plan/Documents.aspx</u>

Camp Roberts Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM) goals and objectives and Environmental Awareness program

Riparian Ecosystem Management and River, Pond and Reservoir Ecosystem Management in the Camp Roberts INRMP, 2000.

GOAL Protect and enhance riparian habitats to ensure healthy, functioning systems.

GOAL Protect and maintain aquatic ecosystems in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and adhering to the principles of ecosystem management for the purposes of a training resource and each river's designated beneficial uses.

Annotated Bibliography for the Salinas River Watershed Resources Inventory (WRI)

The documents within this annotated bibliography represents a relatively small cross section of the larger Watershed Resources Inventory (WRI) created for the Salinas River watershed. The majority of the documents summarized here were selected for their utility in understanding the relationships between the most fundamental or influential projects and natural processes in the watershed. The WRI contains further citations that will be useful to those who wish to explore particular topics more deeply. This document may serve as a companion to the WRI or as its own introduction to water resource issues for the Salinas River and its associated systems.

Title: Nacimiento Dam Operation Policy (001)

Published: 2017 Author(s): MCWRA

Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Incorporates changes in dam operation policy stemming from the Salinas Valley Water Project, Biological Opinion, and water rights license requirements.

Summary: Contains the release schedule, triggers for releases, flow criteria for adult upstream migration, and multiple technical appendices for flows, permits, and water rights.

Title: <u>Stormwater Resource Plan for the Greater Monterey County IRWM Region (002)</u>

Published: 2019

Author(s): Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc.

Agency: Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Purpose: Created in compliance with Storm Water Grant Program's (SWGP) requirement for a Storm Water Resource Plan to be eligible for SWGP funds.

Summary: Provides an overview of priority projects for stormwater management, capture, implementation strategies, relevant regulations and water quality compliance requirements, and an overview of major land uses and issues as they relate to stormwater.

Title: Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program Land Owner Agreement (003)

Published: 2016

Author(s): MCWRA

Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Part of requirements for compliance with Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, State Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 certification, and program guidelines written in the SMP.

Summary: A legal acknowledgement between the MCWRA and landowners whose property is influenced by SMP activities in River Management Units (RMU) described in the SMP Plan. Details obligations each party has to the other and to the permitting agencies.

Title: <u>Salinas River Stream Maintenance Project Final Revised EIR (004)</u> Published: 2014 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Compliance document for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the SMP regarding potential negative impacts of the project on the environment and community. Summary: Generally, describes existing conditions for multiple resource dimensions in the watershed, including water resources and hydrology. Includes discussion of the regulatory setting and mitigations for changes to hydrology caused by the project.

Title: Biological Assessment for the Stream Maintenance Program (005) Published: 2016 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Study supporting the new Stream Maintenance Program. Summary: Analyzes biological resources in the Salina corridor and identifies potential issues and changes to the biological composition of the riparian areas that will be managed under the SMP.

Title: Biological Opinion for the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program (006)

Published: 2016 Author(s): USFWS Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Imposes restrictions on SMP operations based on the analysis and findings of the USFWS as they relate to endangered and threatened species and their habitats. Part of consultation process to issue Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit.

Summary: Provides species and habitat-specific conclusions about how the project could impact various organisms in the project area, as well as conservation recommendations and reporting requirements.

Title: <u>Technically Conditioned Water Quality Certification Number 32716WQ02 for 2016-2025 Salinas</u> <u>River Stream Maintenance Program (007)</u>

Published: 2016

Author(s): CCRWQCB

Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Sets requirements and grants permission for discharges of sediment pursuant to Sec 401 of CWA that result from activities of the SMP.

Summary: Includes detailed instructions for the manner in which SMP activities can be conducted and the limitations of the certification.

Title: <u>Status and understanding of groundwater quality in the Monterey-Salinas Shallow Aquifer Study Unit</u> (008)

Published: 2018 Author(s): Carmen Burton, Michael Wright Agency: USGS Purpose: From the abstract - "The MS-SA study was designed to provide a statistically robust assessment of untreated-groundwater quality in the shallow aquifer systems"
Summary: Provides the spatial and temporal distributions and concentrations of several water quality constituents in Salinas shallow aquifers. Relates to public health and the relationship between surface and groundwater systems.

Title: Fish Species Distribution and Habitat Quality for Selected Streams of the Salinas Watershed (009)

Published: 2003

Author(s): J. Casagrande, J. Hager, F. Watson, M. Angelo; Central Coast Watershed Studies Agency: None

Purpose: Evaluates the habitat quality for many fish species found in the Salinas Watershed.

Summary: Contains the results of a three-phase assessment that included reconnaissance surveys, habitat assessment, and population assessment. Very detailed results and discussion.

Title: South Central California Steelhead Recovery Plan (010)

Published: 2013 Author(s): NMFS

Agency: NMFS

Purpose: Sets recovery goals for steelhead populations in the South-Central California region and reviews existing conditions.

Summary: Recovery strategies for steelhead supported by NMFS investigations in critical habitat, populations. Includes evaluation of potential climate change impacts and describes a path to delisting the species.

Title: <u>South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Planning Area Conservation Action Planning (CAP)</u> <u>Workbooks Threats Assessment Summary (011)</u>

Published: 2008

Author(s): Hunt & Associates Biological Consulting Services

Agency: NMFS

Purpose: Describes sources of threats to steelhead recovery and ranks those threats.

Summary: Quantitative review of the loss of steelhead in the SCCC region over time and how those losses can be attributed to various impacts such as water extraction and land use.

Title: Protective Elevations to Control Sea Water Intrusion in the Salinas Valley (012)

Published: 2013 Author(s): Geoscience Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Provides analysis-supported minimum water table elevation recommendations for Salinas aquifers to prevent seawater intrusion into the aquifers. Summary: Contains geologic descriptions of water-bearing formations, contours of the minimum water levels in the aquifer, and maps of recent and historical seawater intrusion.

Title: <u>Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas River Groundwater</u> <u>Basin (013)</u> Published: 2017 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Recommends actions for preventing further seawater intrusion into the deep and shallow aquifers.

Summary: Inventory and accounting of data taken from a system of monitoring wells, analysis of this data to estimate seawater intrusion and role of groundwater pumping and geology in the spread of seawater in the aquifers through 2015.

Title: State of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin (014)

Published: 2015 Author(s): Brown and Caldwell Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Provides a budget of groundwater resources in the Salinas Valley. Summary: Estimates of groundwater storage, storage change, outflow, and inflow. Broken down by aquifer units and discussed in the context of important issues such as climate change and seawater intrusion.

Title: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Greater Monterey County Region (015) Published: 2018

Author(s): Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) Agency: RWMG

Purpose: A planning document that sets goals and objectives for improving the water supply, quality, flood protection, and associated issues of the Greater Monterey County area.

Summary: Provides a comprehensive look the water resources of Monterey County and the communities that rely on them. Establishes priority issues and describes the collaborative management of water resources.

Title: <u>Historical Ecology Reconnaissance for the Lower Salinas River (016)</u>

Published: 2009

Author(s): San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)

Agency: None

Purpose: Gives a historical perspective on the Salinas River ecology starting from 1769.

Summary: Descriptions of land use, prominent species, channel morphology, and climate in the Lower Salinas from writings and maps generated over a 240-year history.

Title: Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (017)

Published: 2016 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Public disclosure step of the Interlake Tunnel project that is part of the CEQA process. Summary: Generally, describes the project that will connect the San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoirs and how multiple natural resources will be considered in the future Environmental Impact Report.

Title: Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project EIR (018)

Published: 2016
Author(s): Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc.
Agency: MRWPCA
Purpose: CEQA disclosure document for potential impacts to the environment caused by the Pure Water project.
Summary: Large report on environmental impacts from the Pure Water project with multiple conclusions supported by studies and written for a wide audience.

Title: <u>Revised Biological Assessment of the Effects of the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater</u> <u>Replenishment Project on South-Central California Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (019)</u> Published: 2016

Author(s): Denise Duffy and Associates, Inc.; William Snyder, HDR, Inc. Agency: USEPA

Purpose: "To address the effects of Federal actions proposed to fund and permit the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project on species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or their designated critical habitat."

Summary: Describes how the project would impact endangered species and their present habitats and suggests measures for maintaining or increasing the habitat and populations.

Title: <u>Environmental Assessment and FONSI filed for Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment</u> <u>Project (020)</u>

Published: 2017 Author(s): MRWPCA

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Purpose: Compliance document for Federal environmental regulations for the Pure Water project. Summary: Summary of Pure Water project impacts to the environment with the attachment of several important appendices containing technical information about the project and its surrounding environment.

Title: <u>Salinas Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program Initial Study and</u> <u>Mitigated Negative Declaration (021)</u>

Published: 2011

Author(s): Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC)

Agency: RCDMC

Purpose: Environmental compliance document that explains how *Arundo donax* and other invasive species pose a threat to flood protection and ecological health along the Salinas River.

Summary: Describes how invasive and non-native vegetation, mostly *Arundo donax* will be removed from the Salinas River.

Title: <u>Final MCWRA Reclamation Ditch Watershed Assessment and Management Strategy (022)</u> Published: 2006 Author(s): Central Coast Watershed Studies (CCoWS) Agency: None Purpose: Creates a scientifically supported basis for the development of a management plan that involves the community and gathers information required for existing studies and planning projects. Summary: Overview of reclamation ditch historical conditions, socioeconomics, hydrology, vegetation, water quality, and biological issues.

Title: <u>Memorandum Regarding Fisheries Impact Assessment - Reclamation Ditch/Tembladero Slough</u> <u>Diversion (023)</u>

Published: 2015

Author(s): Hagar Environmental Science

Agency: Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA)

Purpose: Supports the Pure Water project EIR determinations of environmental impact to fish populations in the Reclamation Ditch and Tembladero Slough.

Summary: Documents locations and flow thresholds for fish passage barriers in the Reclamation Ditch.

Title: <u>Salinas Valley Water Project Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement</u> (024)

Published: 2002 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: CEQA compliance document for Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP). Summary: Details potential environmental impacts caused by the SVWP and contains multiple supporting studies.

Title: <u>NMFS Biological Opinion for South Central California Coast Steelhead affected by the Salinas Valley</u> <u>Water Project (025)</u>

Published: 2007

Author(s): NMFS

Agency: MCWRA, NMFS

Purpose: Sets thresholds and rules for dam operations with respect to environmental flows for steelhead that are affected by the Salinas Valley Water Project.

Summary: Contains prescriptions for flows that can support steelhead and uses historical, baseline, and expected future habitat conditions to support conclusions.

Title: Central Coast Watershed Wiki (CSUMB) (026)

Published: NA Author(s): CSUMB Agency: None Purpose: Accessible encyclopedic record of Central Coast watershed information for public access. Summary: Large collection of summary pages for projects, events, and issues concerning Central Coast watersheds. Title: Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Concurrence Letter and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project (027)

Published: 2016 Author(s): NMFS Agency: NMFS Purpose: Part of NEPA process for Pure Water project. Summary: Great source for the project description and mentions reclamation ditch facilities as well as Blanco Drain. Conclusion for project: "May affect, but not likely to adversely affect"

Title: <u>Biological Assessment for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Pure Water Monterey Groundwater</u> <u>Replenishment Project (028)</u> Published: 2015 Author(s): Denise Duffy & Associates Agency: MRWPCA Purpose: Biological Assessment submitted in compliance with Endangered Species Act consultation with USFWS. Summary: Discusses the potential influence that the Pure Water groundwater replenishment project could have on sensitive plants and wildlife in the project area. Contains discussion of technical project details and mitigation measures for reducing impacts to the environment.

Title: <u>Biological Opinion for the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project, Monterey</u> County, CA (029)

Published: 2016 Author(s): USFWS Agency: USFWS Purpose: Regulatory compliance document making USFWS biological opinion an official matter of record. Summary: Responds to MRWPCA proposed project and EPA's funding for the project. Sets reporting requirements for the project regarding the Endangered Species Act.

Title: <u>Plan of Study: Salinas and Carmel Basins Study (030)</u>

Published: 2017 Author(s): USBR Agency: USBR Purpose: Lays out plan for more extensive study of two groundwater basins. Summary: Reviews the current state of knowledge in the Salinas and Carmel groundwater basins and describes how the study will address the water needs of these basins.

Title: Steelhead and Salmon Migrations in the Salinas River (031) Published: 2005 Author(s): Harold Franklin Agency: NMFS Purpose: Provides an oral history of salmon and trout in the Salinas watershed and the uses or memories of those fish among the watershed's residents.

Summary: Contains general and specific fish sighting and catch information with geographic and temporal descriptions, as well as cultural observations and community perspectives regarding salmon and trout. Paired with a map and data table to reference orally reported observations geospatially.

Title: <u>Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Concurrence Letter and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery</u> <u>Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Monterey County Water</u> <u>Resources Agency Stream Maintenance Program (032)</u>

Published: 2016 Author(s): NMFS Agency: NMFS

Purpose: Part of regulatory process regarding the Salinas Stream Management Plan (SMP) approval. Summary: States the agency's determination of whether the SMP will adversely affect species or habitats that fall under their jurisdiction in ESA section 7(a)(2) or the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS concludes that there will not be adverse effects on steelhead populations or habitat.

Title: Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project Status Report (033)

Published: 2018 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Used to illustrate the essential elements of the interlake tunnel project. Summary: Presentation with graphics that model the pre- and post-project reservoir management and a general overview of the project's timeline, structure, and desired effects.

Title: Salinas River Lagoon Monitoring Report 2014 (034)

Published: 2014

Author(s): Hagar Environmental Science

Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Reports and summarizes the results of the Lagoon Monitoring Program in 2014 to determine water quality and fish population statuses in the lagoon.

Summary: No *O. mykiss* specimens were captured in the monitoring effort, but three other species were caught and identified. The introduction has a good summary on the characteristics of the lagoon and its role as aquatic habitat.

Title: Salinas Valley Water Project Engineer's Report (035)

Published: 2003

Author(s): Raines, Melton & Carella, Inc.

Agency: MCWRA

Purpose: Technical and financial review of the Salinas Valley Water Project as it was understood in January 2003.

Summary: Provides the technical background for multiple large water projects proposed before its 2003 publication. As a historical document, it gives context for the presence of currently existing water resources infrastructure projects and the decision-making that led to their creation.

Title: Integrated Plan to Address Drinking Water and Wastewater Needs of Disadvantaged Communities in the Salinas Valley and Greater Monterey County IRWM Region (036)

Published: 2017

Author(s): Multiple

Agency: Greater Monterey County IRWMP

Purpose: Integrated plan for addressing disadvantaged community drinking water and wastewater needs developed with SWRCB funds.

Summary: The plan identifies disadvantaged communities, what their waste and drinking water problems are, solutions for those problems, and, finally recommendations for continued work and funding on the issues.

Title: CA Dept. of Water Resources Natural Communities mapping tool based on groundwater basins (037)

Published: Multiple data sets

Author(s): California DWR

Agency: California DWR

Purpose: Provides a mapping service for identifying California's groundwater-dependent vegetation and hydrologic features in a web browser.

Summary: Web GIS application that combines multiple vegetation and wetland datasets that can be viewed and downloaded.

Title: SLO Watershed Project watershed snapshots (038)

Published: 2013-2014 Author(s): USLTRCD Agency: USLTRCD Purpose: Summarizes characteristics of multiple watersheds in San Luis Obispo county. Summary: Each watershed snapshot gives an overview of rainfall, geology, biology, land use, demographics, hydrology, and other important resources.

Title: Monterey County Floodplain Management Plan. 2014 Update (039)

Published: 2014 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Accounts for vulnerable private and public lands in the Monterey County flood zones. Summary: The Floodplain Management Plan goes through the history, risk assessment and prevention, natural resource and private property protection, a flood hazard mitigation and action plan, and other elements of flood management for public disclosure and future planning.

Title: <u>Upper Salinas Headwaters Conservation Plan (040)</u> Published: 2011 Author(s): Justin Saydell Agency: NA Purpose: Thesis for master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly Summary: Planning-level review of natural resources inventory of upper reaches of Salinas River watershed in San Luis Obispo County. It also documents the relationships between multiple stakeholders in the upper Salinas watershed.

Title: Salinas River Causal Assessment Case Study (041)

Published: 2013

Author(s): National Center for Environmental Assessment

Agency: USEPA

Purpose: Draft case study of causal relationships for known contaminants and impairments of the Salinas River.

Summary: This report shows where detected levels of multiple pollutants and water constituents are measured. It provides probable causes for the increases in impairments in the Salinas.

Title: <u>Steelhead of the South-Central/Southern California Coast: Population Characterization for Recovery</u> <u>Planning (042)</u>

Published: 2006 Author(s): NMFS Agency: NMFS

Purpose: Technical guidance for improving future study and restoration of steelhead populations. Summary: Provides methods for delineating steelhead habitat in the SCCC region with an emphasis on methods most relevant to recovery planning. Extensively describes steelhead population and habitat definitions.

Title: <u>Evaluation of agricultural management practices and water quality in the lower Salinas and Pajaro</u> <u>Valleys (043)</u>

Published: 2017

Author(s): The Watershed Institute: Conlen A, Eichorn E, Greenway S, Hutton T, Inglis N, Morris M, Robinson M, and Olson J.

Agency: NA

Purpose: Supports goals of the Water Quality Protection Program and CCRWQCB Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Summary: Watershed Institute report that sampled and statistically analyzed nutrients in the lower Salinas (and Pajaro) to determine which agricultural practices are most likely causing elevated nutrient levels in the two watersheds.

Title: <u>Salinas River LTMP Draft Memorandum: Salinas River Lagoon Management (044)</u> Published: 2018 Author(s): Salinas River LTMP Consultant Team Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Provides guidance for writing Long Term Management Plan. Summary: Describes the current state of lagoon management, identifies goals and objectives, and recommends measures for fixing lagoon issues such as sand bar breaching and degraded fish habitat quality. This is a good summary of lagoon issues as they were understood at the end of 2018.

Title: <u>Salinas Valley GSPs: Background and Context for Potential Salinas River Long-Term Management Plan</u> <u>Integration [Draft Memo] (045)</u>

Published: 2018 Author(s): Salinas River LTMP Consultant Team Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Reports LTMP planning group findings on a topic that will be included in the LTMP. Summary: Provides background information and definitions for groundwater management efforts in Salinas valley aquifers. Explains status of Groundwater Sustainability Plans in the Salinas basin and how they may be integrated with the LTMP and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Title: Fort Hunter Liggett Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (046)

Published: 2013 Author(s): US Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett Agency: US Army Purpose: Federal environmental compliance document (Environmental Assessment) Summary: Contains information on the natural and cultural resources within the boundaries of Fort Hunter Liggett, as well as the future and extant land uses and projects on the military base.

Title: An Overview of the Upper Salinas River Coordinated Resource Management & Planning Process, Accomplishments & Resource Summary, 1992-1995 (047) Published: 1995 Author(s): Biskner, A. and T. Gallagher, San Luis Obispo County Parks & Open Space Division Agency: SLO County Parks & Open Space Purpose: Summarizes a series of planning efforts in the mid-1990s. Summary: This document is an example of a two-county effort and serves as an example of future planning efforts needed for a fully integrated Salinas Watershed Management Plan

Title: <u>Steelhead Trout Management Tasks for the Central Coast-Santa Lucia (048)</u>

Published: 2013 Author(s): CDFG Agency: CDFW Purpose: Task list that accompanies Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California Summary: In addition to other watersheds in California, the task list includes specific tasks for Salinas tributaries related to steelhead habitat restoration, such as priority passage barriers and flows.

Title: <u>Agricultural Management Handbook: Central Coast Watershed Beneficial Agricultural Management</u> <u>Practices (049)</u> Published: 2005 Author(s): USLTRCD Agency: NA

Purpose: Management practices guide for public consumption.

Summary: This is an easy to follow guide for agricultural management practices that includes crop types, rangeland management, erosion, streambank restoration, wildlife habitat management, controlled burns, and weed control. Tailored to the environmental issues of the central coast.

Title: <u>Rapid Biological Resource Assessment for the Salinas River (050)</u>

Published: 2008

Author(s): McGraw, J. & Boldero, C.

Agency: NA

Purpose: An assessment prepared for The Nature Conservancy to evaluate habitat.

Summary: This assessment coarsely identifies the natural communities that occur along the Salinas River and assigns conservation priorities to some communities. It also identifies wildlife corridors and specific threats to habitats.

Title: <u>Upper Salinas River watershed Action Plan. Final Report to the State Water Resources Control Board</u> (051)

Published: 2004 Author(s): USLTRCD Agency: SWRCB Purpose: Informative planning resource for multiple stakeholder types. Summary: "The primary objectives of the WAP are to improve water quality and to ensure adequate water resources to meet the various needs within the watershed, to foster the future well-being of agriculture, to

resources to meet the various needs within the watershed, to foster the future well-being of agriculture, to reduce the loss of soil, to enhance habitat conditions and to improve land use policies."

Title: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Final Management Plan (052)

Published: 2008 Author(s): NOAA Agency: NOAA Purpose: Federal management plan created in compliance with National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). Summary: Lists regulatory definitions and compliance requirements for NMSA and contains an extensive public comments and response section.

Title: <u>Nacimiento Water Project Initial Watershed Sanitary Survey (053)</u>

Published: 2014

Author(s): County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department

Agency: San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works

Purpose: Compliance document for the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Summary: Assessment of sanitary conditions in Nacimiento watershed for the purpose of drinking water quality. Extensive account of pollutant sources in the Nacimiento watershed.

Title: <u>California Groundwater, Bulletin 118: Interim Update 2016 (054)</u> Published: 2016 Author(s): DWR

Agency: DWR

Purpose: Updated hydrologic descriptions prepared in response to the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in California.

Summary: "Bulletin 118 is California's official publication on the occurrence and nature of groundwater statewide. Bulletin 118 defines the boundaries and describes the hydrologic characteristics of California's groundwater basins and provides information on groundwater management and recommendations for the future."

Title: South-Central California Coast Steelhead Endangered Species Management Component for Camp Roberts (055) Published: 2018 Author(s): Stillwater Sciences Agency: US Army; Camp Roberts Purpose: Environmental regulation compliance document. Summary: Information about steelhead habitat quality and potential improvements actions for the section of Nacimiento River that traverses Camp Roberts.

Title: <u>RMC Water and Environment. Salt/Nutrient Management Plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater</u> <u>Basin Final Report (056)</u>

Published: 2015

Author(s): RMC Water and Environment

Agency: City of El Paso de Robles

Purpose: Regulatory compliance document for groundwater quality.

Summary: Details the status of groundwater-bearing units in Paso Robles regarding salt and nutrient concentrations, as well as a breakdown of the land uses that contribute most to salt and nutrient inputs to the groundwater.

Title: <u>GeoTracker Database (057)</u>

Published: 2019 Author(s): California State Agency: California SWRCB Purpose: Public disclosure database

Summary: From the website: "GeoTracker is the Water Boards' data management system for sites that impact, or have the potential to impact, water quality in California, with emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. GeoTracker also contains records for various unregulated projects as well as permitted facilities including: Irrigated Lands, Oil and Gas production, operating Permitted USTs, and Land Disposal Sites."

Title: <u>Ventana Wild Rivers Proposal (058)</u>

Published: 2006 Author(s): Friends of the River, Ventana Wilderness Alliance Agency: NA

Purpose: Conservation advocacy

Summary: The authors propose the further protection of streams that flow from the Santa Lucia range and give approximations of the lengths of scenic, wild, and recreational streams in the area. The proposal also highlights significant cultural and historical aspects of several tributaries to the Salinas River.

Title: Monterey County Water Resource Agency. Salinas River Long Term Management Plan Project

Summary (059) Published: 2018 Author(s): MCWRA Agency: MCWRA Purpose: Public disclosure and information document Summary: This 2-page document summarizes the goals of Monterey County's Long Term Management Plan and how the plan is related to an ongoing effort to create a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for agency take coverage for agency operations in the Salinas River watershed.

Title: Steelhead in the Salinas - Conceptual Model Outline (060)

Published: 2020 Author(s): Stillwater Sciences

Agency: USLTRCD

Purpose: Informs decision-makers and scientists about the life history and status of *O. mykiss* migration and populations in the watershed.

Summary: Synthesizes available information about steelhead distribution on the Salinas river and its tributaries; fish passage barriers, seasonal and inter-annual flow variations, predation, previous studies, and many other issues concerning steelhead conservation are analyzed. Recommendations for future projects and studies are given.