Overview of 2011 River Corridor Management Plan Recommendations

AMT Science Panel Recommendations, 2011

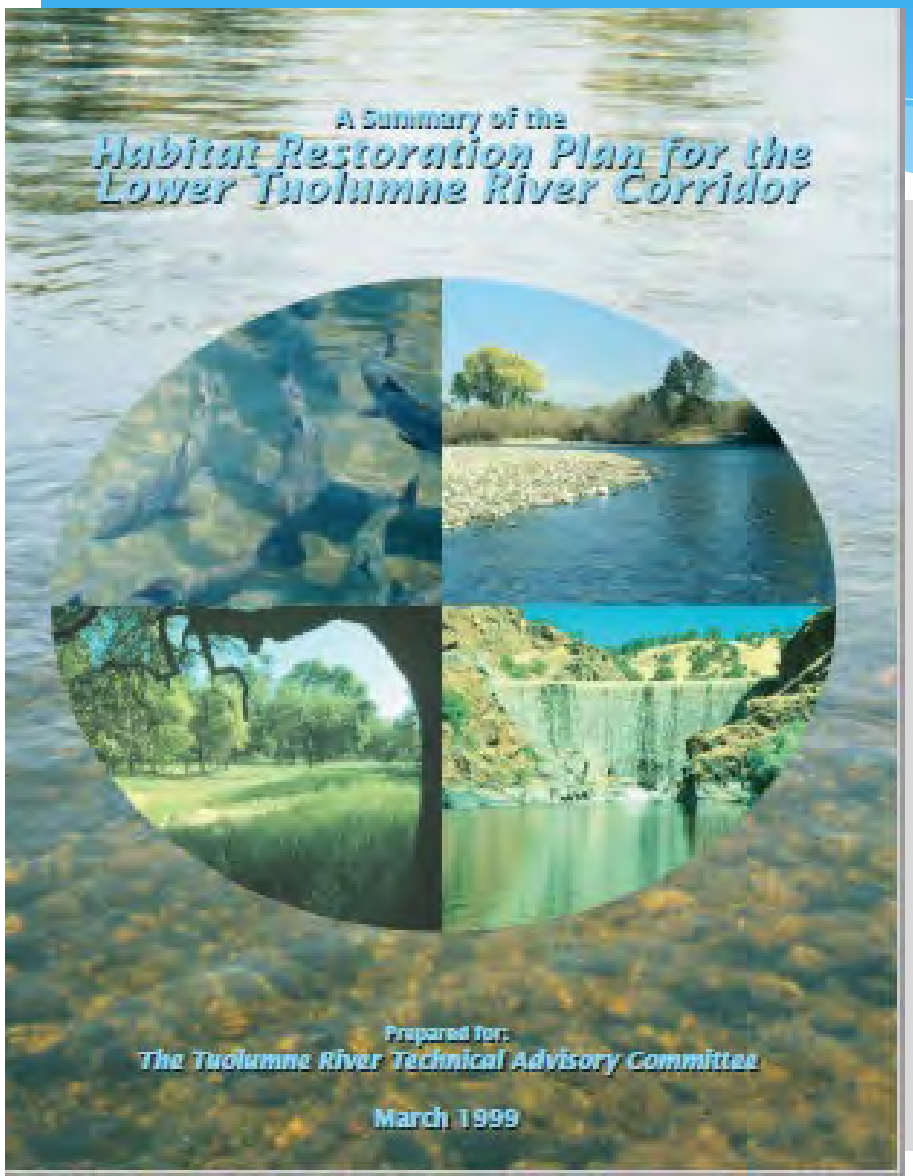
Overview

* What is a River Corridor Management Plan (RCMP)?
* Why recommend a RCMP?
* Overview of RCMP recommendation by Science Panel
* Potential Scope considerations for RCMP

What is a River Corridor Management Plan?

* 20,000 ft perspective of the whole river
* Evaluates historical➔contemporary changes to river, and impacts
* Considers and addresses a wide range of management issues (ecological, flood management, development, restoration)
  * Identifies and articulates management objectives of these different issues,
  * Tries to resolve conflicts,
  * Identifies "win-win" solutions, integrative
  * Identifies specific projects to solve problems
* Develops achievable goals and objectives for the future
* Develops a "future vision" for participants to rally behind and work together to achieve
* Fosters an enthusiastic, collaborative problem-solving atmosphere

Example: Lower Tuolumne River Corridor Restoration Plan



- Started with a historical➔contemporary context to explain how the river "worked" and how it has been impacted
- Linkages to river changes to focal species
- Clear articulation of management uses (water supply, flood control, gravel extraction, agriculture, ecological services)
- Identification of opportunities and constraints by reach
- Development of a future vision, a strategy to achieve that vision, and objectives and tasks that implement the strategy
- Brochure and public relations effort
- Identification of potential restoration projects, prioritization of top 14, develop funding proposals

Results!

- Of the 14 priority projects identified in 2000, 5 have been implemented, 3 are being designed now, and others are under consideration as part of new FERC license
- Land purchases and other restoration projects by NGO's is done under vision of the plan
- Biggest shortcomings
  - was unable to implement expanded floodway and more flexible reservoir flood ops via Corps of Engineers
  - Needs periodic updates based on new information and conditions
- Continues to be used to guide river management approach 20 years later
- Has helped stakeholders, river managers, and agencies move forward in a more consistent trajectory over the years

Why a River Corridor Management Plan on the Guadalupe River?

Why? ➔River Fragmentation

* Downtown project versus Upper Guadalupe project versus Mitigation Reach
* Reach boundaries, regulatory boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, and municipal boundaries can fragment the river
* Less ability to address river's problems in a holistic way
* Gravel Augmentation Plan (GAP) example

Why? ➔Topical Compartmentalization

* Projects designed and often implemented in a bubble
  * Flood control projects
  * Capital projects
  * Mitigation projects
  * Stream Maintenance Program (SMP)
  * Restoration projects

Why? ➔Lack of a "Future Vision"

Net Result

* Conflicts about:
  * Project objectives
  * Project design
  * Project performance metrics
  * Monitoring results and interpretation
* Lost cost-share and partnering opportunities
* Very little collaborative problem solving on some serious river management issues

Genesis of RCMP recommendation (2011)

2011 AMT Science Team

* Technical specialists gathered to address disputes on Measurable Objectives of Guadalupe Flood Control Project Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
* Facilitated by Concur
* Multidisciplinary:
  * Fishery Biologists
  * Riparian Ecologists
  * Fluvial Geomorphologist
  * Environmental Planners
  * Engineers
* Worked together as a collaborative team, striving for consensus, provided working space to develop solutions

Science Team Recommendation

Develop and implement a Guadalupe River Corridor Management Plan. The plan would integrate flood management and ecological improvement objectives to develop a long-term vision for future conditions on the Guadalupe River Corridor. The draft framework to follow identifies actions intended to improve management of the Guadalupe River and selected tributaries. Management objectives would focus on natural resources, anthropogenic uses, and flood protection.

Rationale

…The lack of a common future vision fosters disagreements, misunderstandings, and wasted monitoring effort, thereby increasing cost and reducing our ability to achieve joint goals of improving flood management and ecological conditions along the Guadalupe River corridor.

Goal

To integrate flood management and ecological improvement objectives to develop a long-term vision for future conditions on the Guadalupe River Corridor

AMT Transmittal

MEMORANDUM
FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project's Adaptive Management Team

FROM Water and Power Law Group PC
Counsel to Guadalupe-Coyote Resources Conservation District
Santa Clara Valley Water District Staff

SUBJECT: Notice of Dispute Resolution – Science Panel Recommendations

DATE: June 1, 2011

In addition, the Science Panel recommended the preparation of a River Corridor Management Plan. See Attachment 4, pp. 25-27. While this recommendation did not specifically relate to any of the disputed issues, the Management Team generally supported this recommendation in our September 1, 2010 meeting (see Attachment 5). However, we did not reach a joint recommendation regarding this in our May 9 and 16, 2011 meeting. Each member of the Management Team may address this recommendation as it wishes at the AMT's June 7-8, 2011 meeting.

Richard Roos-Collins
Julie Gantenbein
Water and Power Law Group PC

Marc Klemencic
Chief Operating Officer, Watersheds
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Potential Scope of RCMP

* Topical Scope
* Spatial Scope
* Management Application Scope

Potential Scope of RCMP-Topical

* Outline currently has the following topics:
  * Fisheries and other focal species (HCP's)
  * Water Quality (temperature, mercury, urban runoff)
  * Channel Morphology and Physical Habitat
  * Sediment Management (fine and coarse)
  * Riparian Vegetation and Large Wood Management
  * Flood Management
  * Trash Management
  * Recreation
  * Opportunities and Constraints (hard/soft constraints, synergies)
  * Adaptive Management

Potential Scope of RCMP-Spatial

* Longitudinal: Base of dams to SF Bay
* Lateral:
  * Existing Q100 floodway?
  * Potential Q100 floodway?
  * Potential >Q100 breakout extents?

Potential Scope of RCMP-Management

* Recommend that it not be tied to a regulatory requirement
* Should be a guidance document for most/all river related work
* Accessible to a range of governments, resource agencies, and NGO's

Thank you!