

Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation Project

Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2008

A 1/10 page ad was printed in the Chico News & Review for the 2 weeks preceding the meeting. Press releases and public service announcements were sent to local newspapers and radio and TV stations. Email notices were sent to the Chico City Council members, Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioners, City of Chico staff, BCCWA's email list (200+) and to several other large local email lists. Sixteen people attended the meeting.

I. Introductions

- a. **Project partners:** Partners include the City of Chico, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (Alliance) and California State University, Chico Research Foundation

II. Background and Current Status

- a. **Fish passage problem:** The current ladder has fallen into disrepair and in low water years, spring-run salmon are unable to reach the higher, cooler waters that are needed for holding over the summer and spawning.
- b. **Preliminary work:** Preliminary Engineering Report (alternative 4 was recommended) followed by Geologic Evaluation and Final Design. Both documents are posted on the Alliance's web site. No blasting will be required.
- c. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant:** \$222,000 in current grant for environmental review and permitting and to develop construction funding; hope to have some funds left to apply towards construction.
- d. **City-Foundation agreement:** The City of Chico and the Research Foundation recently signed a Cooperative Agreement. This document is posted on the Alliance's web site.

III. Upcoming Work

- a. **California Environmental Quality Act:** Will need California Environmental Quality Act compliance, National Environmental Policy Act compliance, National Historic Preservation Act (section 106) compliance.
- b. **Cultural resources:** Peak and Associates will be responsible for the archeological survey and report.
- c. **Permits:** Permitting may take a year or more, earliest possible construction date is July 2009
- d. **Construction funding:** Preliminary cost estimate of \$1.8M, possible funding sources are Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Resources Legacy Fund, Packard Foundation, Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Land & Water Fund

IV. Next Steps

- a. **Environmental document public comment:** Documents will be available for review and comments in early August
- b. **Tour:** A site visit to the staging area and the fish ladder will be held on August 23rd from 8 am to 11 am, starting at Parking Area P in Upper Bidwell Park.

V. Questions and Comments:

- *Were there any salmon this year? One at Ken Grossman's, two between Rose Ave and One Mile*
- *A fish ladder is being constructed on Battle Creek at the Colman National Fish Hatchery near Anderson. It will be completed by September and is built to the new standards*
- *How will the dewatering of the creek be handled? It is up to the contractor to select the specific technique; will be required to meet agency performance standards.*
- *Construction window? Maximum of 90 days*
- *Could use PVC pipe instead, much cheaper* There are many factors to consider; need to consider aesthetics.