



CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
(PARTICIPATION DETAILS BELOW)

City of Santa Barbara

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

September 2, 2021
2: 00 PM

MODIFIED BROWN ACT COMPLIANCE IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

Pursuant to State of California Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, members of the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) Board of Directors (Board) and members of the public will participate in this meeting electronically by video- and/or teleconference, as described below. The access information for the Board and members of the public for this board meeting is as follows:

Join videoconference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84601380933?pwd=SFBDRWVLVmxnek1qQINieVpYMmZTZz09>

Join teleconference:

Call-in Number: 1.669.900.6833

Meeting ID: 846 0138 0933#

Passcode: 100801#

The Board may utilize different call-in information for any Closed Session items.

Any member of the public on the telephone may speak during the **Public Comment Period** or may email public comments to pcantle@ccrb-board.org and all comments will be read aloud during the meeting. During this period of modified Brown Act compliance, CCRB will use best efforts to swiftly resolve requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will resolve any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board. The President of the Board will determine the total time for public comments. If you wish to address the Board, please email pcantle@ccrb-board.org, with subject line of "Request to Speak" and include a description of the subject you wish to address.

CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed here comprise a consent agenda that may be acted upon by a single roll call vote of the Board.

CA-1) Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes of the Board of Directors' August 5, 2021 meeting.

CA-2) Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the Period Ending July 31, 2021

Receive and file an unaudited interim financial report for the period ending July 31, 2021.

REGULAR AGENDA

RA-1) State Water Board Order and Federal Consultation Process Update

Consider and discuss the status and possible outreach regarding State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order 2019-0148 and the Consultation process underway with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service. (Est. time: 15 min.)

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

CS-1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4) (two potential cases)

Reconvene in open session and report on any actions taken in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1

REGULAR AGENDA (CONT.)

RA-3) Identify Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

RA-4) Set Next Meeting for 2 PM Thursday, October 7, 2021; and Adjourn

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Americans with Disabilities Act: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Conservation Release Board representative (pcantle@ccrb-board.org) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

[This Agenda was posted to the CCRB website and delivered in accordance with Sections 54954.1 and 54956 of the Government Code.]

MINUTES OF A MEETING
of the
CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD
held by Videoconference

August 5, 2021, 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The videoconference meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Board President Lauren Hanson. Those attending the meeting were:

Directors Present:

Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District
Kristen Sneddon	City of Santa Barbara
Tobe Plough	Montecito Water District

Also Present:

Ryan Drake	Ted Harris
Dakota Corey	Joel Mulder
Nick Turner	Ali Taghavi
Peter Cattle	Warren Greco
Sam Bivins	

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the general public was present; there was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Executive Director Cattle noted that constructive returns to CCRB Member Agencies from the fiscal year ending June 30 will be issued later in August. Director Plough moved and Director Sneddon seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed on a 3-0 roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

RA-1, FY2019-2020 Audit and Authorization of Audit Services for FY2020-2021. The Board received a presentation from Nasif, Hicks, Harris, LLP, regarding its audit of CCRB's finances for FY2019-2020. The audit resulted in an unmodified opinion and identified no issues of concern. Director Plough moved, and Director Sneddon seconded, receipt and filing of the audit report, and authorizing retention of Nasif, Hicks, Harris LLP for FY2020-2021 auditing services in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. The motion passed on a 3-0 roll call vote.

RA-2, State Water Board and Federal Consultation Process Update. Executive Director Cantle advised the Board that the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) continues to meet with National Marine Fisheries Service personnel to discuss Reclamation's revised Biological Assessment and proposed action prior to initiating formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The Board discussed how CCRB may be of assistance to Reclamation in the consultation process. Cantle also noted that Reclamation continues to have limited exchange with Water Board staff because of the board's current focus on addressing the statewide drought.

CLOSED SESSION

CS-1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. The Board went into closed session at 3:03 pm to discuss matters regarding potential litigation, pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4).

The Board came out of closed session at 3:29 pm with no reportable actions.

REGULAR AGENDA – CONT.

RA-3, Identify Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings. Executive Director Cantle noted that a pandemic-related Governor's Executive Order facilitating videoconferencing may expire at the end of September; staff will update the Board as information becomes available.

RA-4, Confirm Next Meeting(s) and Adjourn. The CCRB Board will next meet at 2:00 pm September 2, 2021 by videoconference. President Hanson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Cantle", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Secretary to the Board



Cachuma Conservation
Release Board
Board of Directors

City of Santa Barbara

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

For Agenda Of: September 2, 2021
Estimated Time: (Consent)
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board Members
FROM: Peter Cantle, Executive Director
SUBJECT: CA-2: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for Period Ending July 31, 2021

Legal Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions

Receive and file an Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2021.

Discussion

The Board of Directors approves the CCRB budget each fiscal year. Upon subsequent approval by each Member Agency's governing body, it becomes CCRB's operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. As the fiscal year progresses, the Board receives monthly unaudited financial reports to compare fiscal performance against the adopted budget. This report addresses the period ending July 31, 2021.

Fiscal Analysis

Total income shown through July 31, 2021 was \$286,250.00, reflecting partial receipt of first quarter billings to the three Member Agencies. Total expenses of \$35,673.32 through July 31, 2021 reflect costs incurred for legal, technical, regulatory advisory, management and administrative services. Cash remaining in CCRB's account from the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021 is being constructively returned to Member Agencies during August according to the pro rata cost-sharing agreement.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2021

Authored by

Peter Cantle, Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 1

**UNAUDITED INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE
PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2021**

Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Statement of Revenue and Expense- Budget vs. Actual
July 2021

	Jul 21	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4200 · Income	286,250.00	1,145,000.00	-858,750.00	25.0%
Total Income	286,250.00	1,145,000.00	-858,750.00	25.0%
Expense				
5050 · Office Lease	290.00	5,000.00	-4,710.00	5.8%
5100 · Audit	10,000.00	12,000.00	-2,000.00	83.3%
5200 · Liability Insurance	0.00	7,000.00	-7,000.00	0.0%
5301 · Managers Salary				
5301.01 · Managers Gross Wages	12,946.16			
5301.02 · Employer Tax Expense	990.39			
5301 · Managers Salary - Other	0.00	185,000.00	-185,000.00	0.0%
Total 5301 · Managers Salary	13,936.55	185,000.00	-171,063.45	7.5%
5304 · Administrative Support	580.46	16,000.00	-15,419.54	3.6%
5312 · Misc Admin Expense	184.70	4,000.00	-3,815.30	4.6%
5313 · Communications/Computer	219.81	8,000.00	-7,780.19	2.7%
5316 · Admin Fixed Assets	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
5330 · Admin Travel Expense	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
5331 · Travel Federal & State Meetings	0.00	14,000.00	-14,000.00	0.0%
5332 · Transportation	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
6500 · Contingency	0.00	95,000.00	-95,000.00	0.0%
7000 · Legal	10,173.80	151,000.00	-140,826.20	6.7%
7001 · BO Reconsultation Legal Support	288.00	416,000.00	-415,712.00	0.1%
7002 · SWRCB Water Rights	0.00	40,000.00	-40,000.00	0.0%
7100 · SWRCB Support				
7200 · SWRCB Proceedings Support	0.00	165,000.00	-165,000.00	0.0%
Total 7100 · SWRCB Support	0.00	165,000.00	-165,000.00	0.0%
7500 · Hydrologic Technical Support	0.00	18,000.00	-18,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	35,673.32	1,145,000.00	-1,109,326.68	3.1%
Net Ordinary Income	250,576.68	0.00	250,576.68	100.0%
Net Income	250,576.68	0.00	250,576.68	100.0%

Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Reconciliation Summary
1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 07/31/2021

	<u>Jul 31, 21</u>
Beginning Balance	271,666.50
Cleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 12 items	-33,843.96
Deposits and Credits - 1 item	37,470.00
Total Cleared Transactions	<u>3,626.04</u>
Cleared Balance	<u>275,292.54</u>
Uncleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 6 items	-27,038.97
Total Uncleared Transactions	<u>-27,038.97</u>
Register Balance as of 07/31/2021	<u>248,253.57</u>
Ending Balance	248,253.57



OK
Aug 4, 2021

Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Reconciliation Detail
1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 07/31/2021

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						271,666.50
Cleared Transactions						
Checks and Payments - 12 items						
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		California Strategies...	X	-8,000.00	-8,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		Downey Brand Attor...	X	-7,518.50	-15,518.50
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		SDRMA	X	-3,504.55	-19,023.05
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		AccountabilityPlus, Inc	X	-399.10	-19,422.15
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		Patterson Self-Stora...	X	-290.00	-19,712.15
Bill Pmt -Check	06/21/2021		CIO Solutions, LP	X	-63.26	-19,775.41
Check	07/14/2021		Payroll Tax	X	-3,977.79	-23,753.20
General Journal	07/14/2021		Peter Cante	X	-2,990.48	-26,743.68
Check	07/14/2021		Payroll Vault	X	-66.00	-26,809.68
Check	07/28/2021		Payroll Tax	X	-3,977.81	-30,787.49
General Journal	07/28/2021		Peter Cante	X	-2,990.47	-33,777.96
Check	07/28/2021		Payroll Vault	X	-66.00	-33,843.96
Total Checks and Payments					-33,843.96	-33,843.96
Deposits and Credits - 1 item						
Payment	07/28/2021		Montecito Water Dis...	X	37,470.00	37,470.00
Total Deposits and Credits					37,470.00	37,470.00
Total Cleared Transactions					3,626.04	3,626.04
Cleared Balance					3,626.04	275,292.54
Uncleared Transactions						
Checks and Payments - 6 items						
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		Downey Brand Attor...		-17,896.00	-17,896.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		California Strategies...		-8,000.00	-25,896.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		AccountabilityPlus, Inc		-580.46	-26,476.46
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		Patterson Self-Stora...		-290.00	-26,766.46
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		Peter Cante		-209.25	-26,975.71
Bill Pmt -Check	07/22/2021		CIO Solutions, LP		-63.26	-27,038.97
Total Checks and Payments					-27,038.97	-27,038.97
Total Uncleared Transactions					-27,038.97	-27,038.97
Register Balance as of 07/31/2021					-23,412.93	248,253.57
Ending Balance					-23,412.93	248,253.57



OK

Aug 4, 2021



Cachuma Conservation
Release Board

Board of Directors

City of Santa Barbara

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

For Agenda Of: September 2, 2021

Estimated Time : 15 minutes

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

TO: Board Members

FROM: Peter Cantle, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Item RA-1: State Water Board Order and Federal Consultation Process Update

Legal Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions

Consider a status and outreach update regarding the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) Water Rights Order and the federal Endangered Species Act Sec. 7 Consultation process underway with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Discussion

At this writing, no significant changes to the status of the two regulatory actions with which CCRB is involved have occurred since the Board's last briefing. The following contextual information previously provided has been slightly updated to remain accurate and current. Additionally, updated draft outreach materials are attached for Board discussion and input.

State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order. The Water Board approved Water Rights Order 2019-0148 (the Order) on September 17, 2019. The Order requires Reclamation, as permit holder, to: a) release additional water from Cachuma Reservoir during wetter-than-normal years; and, b) develop plans and conduct studies to assess, among other things, the feasibility of steelhead passage around Bradbury Dam, the benefits of the increased flows, other opportunities for habitat enhancement, and reduction of predatory invasive species in the watershed.

Assistance with Plans Required by the Order. At Reclamation's request, CCRB is providing technical assistance in developing multiple plans required by the Order. This assistance is generally in the field of fisheries biology, with hydrology and legal regulatory input, as needed. Assistance efforts were paused at the CCRB board's direction in July and resumed in mid-October 2020. CCRB staff continue to meet at regular intervals with Reclamation staff in furtherance of providing technical assistance.

To date, CCRB has worked with Reclamation primarily on plans required by Terms 20 and 24, which are closely linked within the Order. Term 20 requires Reclamation to develop a plan for conducting studies ident-

ified in Term 24 “and any other studies that may be necessary to determine the measures necessary to protect the public trust resources of the Santa Ynez River and keep the steelhead fishery in the Santa Ynez River in good condition at the individual, population and community level.” CCRB assisted Reclamation in drafting the Term 20 plan, which Reclamation submitted to the Water Board for review on March 17, 2020. Reclamation has yet to receive substantive input on its Term 20 plan submittal.

Term 24 of the Order requires of Reclamation, among other things, a study plan to evaluate water quality issues that may impact steelhead in the lower Santa Ynez River. Following CCRB board review, a draft water quality study plan for the lower river was transmitted in January 2021 to Reclamation for its consideration. (Additional plans with which CCRB staff provides assistance will be presented for CCRB board review before issuance to Reclamation.) Reclamation has not submitted the water quality study plan to date, as the agency is seeking to clarify the Water Board’s review and response process. Per Reclamation, Water Board staff continue to be focused on addressing the statewide drought, which, coupled with staffing changes within the agency for the Cachuma Project, has meant that exchange with the Water Board regarding Reclamation’s Order-related submittals and associated issues has been delayed.

Cachuma Project Section 7 Consultation Process. In November 2019, Reclamation submitted to NMFS a Biological Assessment (BA) of a proposed action that CCRB and the downstream interests helped develop. NMFS responded to this BA in February 2020 with a detailed insufficiency letter. When Reclamation didn’t respond timely with information requested by the letter, NMFS terminated consultation on the proposed action. On December 18, 2020, after working collaboratively with CCRB and the downstream interests, Reclamation submitted a revised BA to NMFS. This revised BA updates the November 2019 BA and uses the Water Rights Order 2019-0148 flow regime, with some key modifications, as its basis. The BA is also scoped to include other anticipated Reclamation actions, such as the long-term Master Service Contract and the COMB O&M contract. Reclamation tasked Stetson Engineering with producing hydrological modeling of specific scenarios in support of the revised BA. The modeling output was not ready by the submittal date; Reclamation thus submitted the BA to NMFS on December 18, 2020 without the hydrological modeling.

In early February, CCRB staff and the downstream interests met with Reclamation and Stetson for an initial review of the hydrological modeling results. Following the meeting, Reclamation committed to providing more information about the modeling output, analytical methods and assumptions prior to submittal of the modeling to NMFS. CCRB staff and the downstream interests then met with Reclamation and Stetson personnel to review and understand the inputs and assumptions used to produce the hydrological modeling supporting Reclamation’s revised BA.

On February 8, 2021, NMFS issued Reclamation an insufficiency letter identifying information NMFS needs to initiate formal consultation on the revised BA and its proposed action. NMFS required Reclamation to respond to the letter within 45 days. CCRB and the downstream interests assisted Reclamation in its March 18 response that addressed multiple issues identified in the letter. In addition to this March insufficiency letter response, Reclamation submitted to NMFS on April 30 an updated version of the BA addressing insufficiency issues and incorporating the hydrological modeling discussed above. CCRB staff assisted Reclamation with updating the BA prior to its submittal. Reclamation then met on June 30 with NMFS to initiate discussion of the revised BA and the proposed action prior to entering Section 7 formal consultation. CCRB has offered, and Reclamation has accepted, technical assistance in responding to the NMFS input. At this writing, Reclamation continues to evaluate the NMFS input and plan how to address the insufficiency issues NMFS has identified.

Staff will continue to update the board with new information as it becomes available on these consultation and Water Rights Order matters.

Fiscal Analysis

CCRB's approved FY21-22 budget provides for staff and consulting support related to both the Water Board Order and the federal Consultation process. Costs incurred to date in the fiscal year beginning July 1 are within budget.

Attachments

Att. 1: (Draft) Outreach Materials

Report authored by:

Peter Cantle, Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 1
(DRAFT) OUTREACH MATERIALS

CCRB Consultation “Elevator Pitch”

- CCRB and its member agencies are committed to protecting water supplies and steelhead populations and enhancing and improving steelhead habitat.
- CCRB’s member agencies have committed millions of our ratepayers’ dollars to striking this all-important balance.
- CCRB has provided valuable technical input and local understanding to support the consultation process and it’s important that we continue to have a seat at the table with BR and NOAA.
- Stay tuned as the process unfolds—we may need your help to build upon the success of fish management programs and continue to protect the steelhead population while supporting more than 200,000 South Coast residents and 12,000 acres of coastal agriculture in Santa Barbara County.

Outreach Elevation List

August 10, 2021

List of potential meetings, zooms, or calls regarding the Section 7 process with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)/U.S. Department of the Interior, and elected officials:

West Coast NOAA:

- Darren Brumback, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA Long Beach Office
- Anthony Spina, Branch Chief, NOAA Long Beach Office
- Lisa Van Atta, NOAA Assistant Regional Administrator, West Coast Region
- Barry Thom, NOAA Regional Administrator, West Coast Region

NOAA/Department of Commerce:

- Samuel D. Rauch, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
- Brittany Caplin, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Commerce Press Secretary
- Secretary Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Department of Commerce or designee

Bureau of Reclamation/Department of Interior:

- Ernest Conant, Regional Director, Interior Region 10
- Commissioner Camille Touton and/or designee
- Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior or designee

Elected Officials:

- Congressman Salud Carbajal
- Congressman Jim Costa
- Senator Dianne Feinstein or designee
- Senator Alex Padilla or designee

Local Officials:

- CCRB Alternates
- Other COMB Directors
- Eric Friedman, Chair CCWA
- Other CCWA Board Members
- Water Commission Members
- Janet Gingras, COMB GM
- Other local and regional officials

ESA Consultation Timeline

1973 – *Cachuma Conservation Release Board* (CCRB) joint powers agency is formed to represent its Member Agencies and their rate-paying customers in interactions with State and Federal agencies to protect vital water supplies and protect Southern California Steelhead and important habitat at the Cachuma Reservoir and Santa Ynez River. Current members include the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, and the Montecito Water District.

1948 – Secretary of the Interior approved the Cachuma Project in recognition of the need for an additional reliable supply of water for the Santa Barbara South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley.

1953 – The Cachuma Project construction was completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

1958 – The Reservoir spilled for the first time, and since that time the Project has provided significant and reliable water supplies to Santa Barbara County's South Coast and the Santa Ynez Valley.

1997 – The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed Southern California Steelhead as an Endangered Species.

2000 – Biological Opinion released by NMFS from a Consultation under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act on the Cachuma Project between NMFS and USBR that concluded the operation of the Cachuma Project would not jeopardize the continued existence of steelhead with the implementation of measures to minimize harm to the fish and its habitat.

2000-2009 – Since the listing of steelhead as an Endangered Species, USBR has worked with federal, state, and local Santa Ynez River stakeholders and the CCRB Member Agencies to develop and implement effective habitat restoration and fish management programs in the watershed. Collaborative fish management programs developed by Santa Ynez River stakeholders, including USBR, the CCRB Member Agencies, NMFS, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Cal Trout, the State Water Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, were implemented as part of an effort to ensure that Reclamation complies with its obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Substantial work has been completed.

2009 – USBR reinitiated Consultation with NMFS to review the effects of operations on steelhead and its habitat. Despite accomplishing a significant suite of projects listed in the Biological Opinion, not all were completed, due in part to geographical impediments and private landowner access issues.

2016 – NMFS produced a draft Biological Opinion (2016 draft BiOp) proposing modifications to Cachuma Project operations to further protect steelhead. Leading fisheries and hydromorphology

experts, along with USBR and others, reviewed the 2016 draft BiOp and identified significant concerns, among them that the proposed flow regime would release more water than Cachuma Reservoir actually stores while not benefiting (and possibly hindering) the steelhead population.

2018 – CCRB and two water agencies downstream of Bradbury Dam partnered to develop a new flow proposal for USBR's consideration based on steelhead biology and life cycle, as well as the Santa Ynez River's flashy, very wet and very dry, hydrology and non-native predatory bass and similar species surviving in the lower river because of the year-round releases from Cachuma.

2019 – USBR requested initiation of formal consultation under the ESA and submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) of the new proposed action with the Cachuma Project new proposed action.

2020 – NMFS requested additional information on the BA and cancelled formal consultation. Reclamation then reformulated and submitted the proposed action and supporting BA to reflect the Water Rights Order issued in 2019 by the State Water Board, in coordination with CCRB.

2021 – present. NMFS requested additional information before entering formal consultation. Reclamation provided more detailed information and additional revisions to the BA, and NMFS has provided additional input on the BA and proposed action. Reclamation and NMFS are meeting in advance of entering formal consultation, and CCRB continues to provide technical assistance.

CCRB Consultation Talking Points

Background:

The Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) is a joint powers agency, comprised of the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, and the Montecito Water District, formed in 1973 to jointly represent the agencies and customers with state and federal agencies to protect water supplies and protect Southern California Steelhead and habitat.

Talking Points:

- CCRB and member agencies are committed to protecting water supplies and steelhead populations and enhancing and expanding steelhead habitat.
- Progress has been made by CCRB and member agencies to protect, enhance, and expand steelhead habitat.
 - Cachuma project member units (City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, ID1, and LIST ALL) have invested more than \$2 million per year for habitat restoration and other fish management projects, including:
 - Removal and modification of numerous fish passage barriers and impediments in the Lower Santa Ynez River and its tributaries.
 - Habitat expansion and development of programs to increase habitat quality and quantity.
 - Extensive fishery monitoring, evaluation, and documenting of fish trends in the watershed.
- Endangered Species Consultation under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act is formally recommencing soon between Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agencies tasked with addressing these issues.
- Stay tuned as the process unfolds—we may call upon you to help build upon the success of fish management programs and continue to protect the steelhead population while supporting more than 200,000 South Coast residents and 12,000 acres of coastal agriculture in Santa Barbara County that rely on vital Cachuma Project water supplies.