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Advocacy Committee Meeting*

MPWMD Friday 18th March 18, 2010 Proposed Solicitation Notice

There is a lot wrong with the handling of the Cal-Am Settlement.

We should emphasize that this PSN for the Cal-Am/NOAA settlement funds only has two Focus, or is it Focii and only one Project Type, in apparent contradiction to the terms of the Settlement Agreement that states: "All payments CAW makes under this agreement shall be used to fund projects to improve habitat conditions for, and production of, SCCC Steelhead and/or otherwise aid in the recovery of SCCC Steelhead in the Carmel River Watershed" (emphasis added). Thus the PSN should be allowing an additional Focus for HI (Instream Habitat Restoration) if not other areas of Focus.

Carry this theme along a little further and one wonders why this effort to exclude in stream projects, already ready for grant review, such as the LWD between highway one bridge and the lagoon. Why ignore the Ecosystem Protection Barrier and the projected increase in water storage levels, which will benefit the habitat and provide an opportunity to manage natural breaches instead of these disastrous mass evacuations of the lagoon and loss of various threatened species. These and other projects have been on the drawing board for over two years.

Did the CDFG not know about these projects? That is always possible. But that is a poor excuse from ignoring the fact that experts from NMFS both inland water and ocean have been working with CRSA CRWC in the lagoon on various projects to enhance the water quality. Or is it more a case of Territorial Imperative.

Clive Sanders. CRWC.