

Date: Thu, 22 Oct 1998 17:00:56 -0400
From: Steve Hirsch <76544.2747@compuserve.com>
Subject: Speaking Points on Battle Creek
Sender: Steve Hirsch <76544.2747@compuserve.com>
To: Cindy Darling <cdarling@water.ca.gov>

Cindy,

Regarding the Battle Creek agenda item at the 10/28 ER mtg... Assuming that we are still negotiating, I wanted to give you my ideas regarding speaking points. Harry or myself could easily address the first two subitems (if we're not there it probably makes sense for you to do it), and I'm hoping David and Jason will address the third subitem. Cindy, as we discussed, I would welcome an opportunity to have Harry discuss the specific merits of the project if time permits.

Cindy, I tried to email this to Jason and David, but was unsuccessful. Feel free to pass it on. Thanks.

Report on Interim Water Project

Consistent with our conversation, I would describe the significant amount of work that has been funded to date. These include:

1995 - \$500,000 of stakeholder Category III monies set aside to show support for restoring Battle Creek. PG and E subsequently entered into an interim flow agreement with USBR using CVPIA funds that significantly increased flows in both the north and south forks.

Status: Agmt is being extended through 2001.

1996 - \$50,000 of stakeholder Category III monies and \$50,000 of CVPIA monies approved for Western Shasta Resource Conservation District to help establish a watershed conservancy.

Status: Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy has been convened and is actively participating in Battle Creek restoration planning discussions.

1996 - \$230,000 of stakeholder Category III monies approved for Kier Associates to develop a "Battle Creek Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Plan".

Status: Final Draft document is being circulated.

1997 - \$395,000 of stakeholder Category III and \$395,000 of federal Category III monies approved for the Department of Water Resources to conduct an "Engineering Investigation of Anadromous Fish Passage in Upper Battle Creek".

\$1.715 million

Status: Reconnaissance Report for screen and laddering all sites completed. Awaiting outcome of negotiations to determine which sites will continue to preliminary and final design.

1998 - \$145,000 of federal Category III monies approved for the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy to implement local watershed stewardship actions.

Status: Awaiting Contract.

Also, in 1998, USBR completed a reconnaissance report on "Battle Creek Dam Removals".

Status of Negotiations

Assuming we're not there... The negotiating parties are PG and E, USBR (Patterson), USFWS (White), NMFS (Bybee and Mobely), and CDFG (Stopher). They met on September 24 and 25, and made significant progress on developing a mutually agreeable proposal. They are meeting again today to attempt to reach closure.

Potential for Funding

This is where I hope that David Yardas and Jason Peltier will make the following points:

Battle Creek has been viewed as a potential directed program for a long time.

As demonstrated by Cindy (or whoever makes the points above), substantial effort has been made to bring the Battle Creek restoration project to the point where it could be negotiated successfully with PG and E.

Both David and Jason have been briefed on the merits of the project and believe it is a unique opportunity that pending the outcome of the negotiations will be ripe for funding.

Jointly propose that the Ecosystem Roundtable direct the Integration Panel to review the outcome of the negotiations and provide the Ecosystem Roundtable with a funding recommendation for their consideration in a timely manner.

Specifically, the IP should analyze whether the project is an appropriate candidate for FY 98 water acquisition monies and FY 99 monies.

Those are my thoughts. Let me know what you think.

Steve Hirsch