

MEETING SUMMARY

Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team

January 16, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Bonnie Johnson, OCWD

Brett Mills, SAWA

Dick Zembal, OCWD

David Garcia, RPU

Edward Filadelfia, Riverside Regional Water

Quality Control Plant

Greg Herzog, RPU

Jennifer Shepardson, SBMWD

Justin Nakano, CBWM

Kai Palenscar, USFWS

Sue Hoffman, SAWA

Maricela Paramo, SAWA

Mikael Rumich, ICF

Rebecca Franklin, SBMWD

Jennifer Shepardson, SBMWD

Stacy Aldstadt, SBMWD

Mark Norton, SAWPA

Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Zyanya Blancas, SAWPA

Introductions and Announcement:

The Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team (Conservation Team) meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Ian Achimore at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503. Brief introductions were made.

Meeting Summary Approval:

Upon motion by Dave Woelfel, seconded by David Garcia, the motion unanimously carried:

SAS 14/01-01

MOVED, Conservation Team approved the Minutes from meeting held on 11-21-2013.

Critical Habitat Litigation and Other meeting topics:

No updates were provided for the critical habitat litigation.

The Conservation Team discussed the research areas that were identified as key to the recovery of the Santa Ana sucker fish within the Santa Ana River Watershed in the memorandum sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Conservation Team on February 27, 2013. Discussion ensued on the original purpose of the Conservation Team, which was to create a voluntary association of regulated agency, NGO's, and resource agency staff, as well as, other interested parties that conducted activities beneficial to the conservation and recovery of the Santa Ana sucker fish.

Overview of the Draft Sucker Habitat Survey - SAWA

Maricela Paramo gave an overview of the Draft Sucker Habitat Survey. She asked the Conservation Team to provide comments by January 28, 2014.

SAWA's survey concluded the following:

- A total of 301 suckers were captured and processed
- Distribution of suckers is consistent with the findings in other surveys
- Substrates containing boulders have the strongest positive significance on the presence of sucker

The points sampled were the same points that were used in the 2013 Riverwalk. Point 74 of the river was skipped due to dryness. Although point 79 has plenty of gravel, it was found to have no sucker fish during the study period. It was suggested that flow and depth of the river be added to the study.

Restoration Project Updates

Sunnyslope Creek:

Brett Mills reported to have last been at Sunnyslope Creek two weeks ago. Concrete section in the river has been removed by the County. Trash boom meetings are taking place.

Tequesquite Creek:

Mr. Mills reports higher flows and heavy trash sightings. They are in the process of getting volunteers for trash booms. There is still no set place for the trash booms. It was said that the African toad had become an issue and that Chubs were doing well.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The scheduling of the next Conservation Team meeting will be determined at a later time.