

# **MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY (MCWRA) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING JAN 11, 2019**

## **Flip Chart Notes from Small Group Discussions**

### **ALL YEARS**

- Sandbar and lagoon management.
- Adaptive Management.
  - o Monitoring.
- Balance activity (Growers) and nature.
- Habitat Management for species.
  - o Rearing habitat is vital (especially if the lagoon's closed), not just passage.
  - o Provide Artificial shade structures (not just natural). Underwater habitat structures for shading.
  - o Habitat restoration (fish rearing, bird habitat, etc.).
- Coordinate Arroyo Seco with dam releases.
- Maximize river flows to decrease summer flows – better recharge and flows for fish.
- Pipeline.
- Reimagine operations for both reservoirs.
- Using Old Salinas River Channel.

### **DRY YEARS**

- Create a semi-permanent breach structure for the lagoon.
- Look at flows more than combined storage.
- Flows – have it as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year trigger rather than every three years but be flexible.
- Arundo removal.
- Modify Salinas River Channel to improve passage during low flows.
- Provide 220,000 AF storage at all times.
- Time release to Arroyo Seco.
- During dry years, bypass flows around storage to continue in the river (modifying the dams would be necessary).
- Refuge: Improve estuary conditions when closed lagoon.
  - o Improve instream habitat conditions: Wetlands and Channels.
- Open up fishing for striped bass all year.

### **FUNDING**

- Need to use multiple sources:
  - o MCWRA BOD and County BOS commitment – Letters of Resolution demonstrating commitment.

- *Small Group Discussion: MCWRA BOD sets aside funds (e.g., \$500,000 every year for three years) for HCP development. Note: Three years for HCP development is overly optimistic; many expect 10 years.*
  - Grants.
  - Engage trade associations and other NGOs to apply for grants.
  - Prop 218 may be necessary. Cover HCP as a whole package.
  - Special tax – cover MCWRA needs and HCP, reservoir management, and monitoring = whole program / package – specificity is important; include a sunset.
  - *Small Group Discussion: Strategy Timeline:*
    - *Immediately: Approach MCWRA BOD and County BOS for letters of resolution to commit funding and support to HCP development.*
    - *Near-Term: Utilize a “loan” from the County for near-term funding*
    - *Mid-Term: Pursue a Prop 218 or special tax for longer-term funding*
    - *Throughout: Pursue other funding sources to supplement (grants, partnerships, state/federal funding, etc.)*
- Need to demonstrate to NOAA and NMFS that MCWRA and the community are committed to funding and developing the HCP. Approach the County soon / now for short term support (e.g., funding HCP, biologist).
- Sell MCWRA Land parcels and assets to provide a funding source or collateral.
- Partner with growers.
- Partners – Engage San Luis Obispo for possible contributions.
- Analyze GSA regulatory fee as an example model.
- Coordinate partnerships to get Salinas River issues on next Water Bond. Direct State funding to Salinas River (seeing much of it go to Central Valley).
- Ensure broad support for projects with multiple benefits.
- Pursue State and Federal funding opportunities – Engage the new governor and local elected officials.

Self-sustain [*Not sure about the context for this one*]

## **OTHER**

- Fish hatchery and trap and haul – too expensive. Explore other options first.
- Need to increase water storage to address all of these concerns