



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ 0363

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

November 4, 2004

AGENDA DATE: November 16, 2004

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Progress Report On FishNet 4C Implementation Plan

Members of the Board',

On November 20, 2001, your Board accepted the *County of Santa Cruz FishNet 4C Implementation Plan*. This document included action items for implementation over a three-year period. The various action items have been incorporated into a schedule, which includes the name of the department responsible for implementation (see Attachment 1). The following is the third in the series of progress reports your Board has received on efforts to protect local fisheries resources through this FishNet 4C process.

Background

Steelhead and coho salmon are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). In addition, coho salmon are listed as endangered under the State ESA, and are proposed for endangered listing under the Federal ESA. In 1998, County staff, together with representatives from Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, and Monterey, commenced a multi-year effort to develop a comprehensive set of measures intended to protect and enhance these species. This effort culminated in the preparation of a report entitled *Effects of Land Use Policies and Management Practices on Anadromous Salmonids and Their Habitats*.

The *County of Santa Cruz FishNet 4C Implementation Plan* was subsequently prepared to ensure that appropriate actions from the original report were initiated locally. The Implementation Plan was developed with input and review by Environmental Health Services, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, Planning, and Public Works. The FishNet 4C Goals and the associated County of Santa Cruz Implementation Plan are not only meant to improve local fisheries habitat, but also to address compliance with regulatory requirements administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California State Department of Fish and Game.

Status of Implementation Actions

Over the past year, County departments completed or made significant progress on a number of major implementation actions. Numbered and lettered items in parentheses below are used to identify the implementation goals listed in Attachment 1.

The final report for the *County of Santa Cruz Stream Crossing Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation* was completed in March 2004 with funding from the California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grants Program. This report includes a final ranking of 65 county culverts based on fish passage, upstream habitat and other factors (item 9a). In addition, this grant funded retrofit designs for three road crossings to improve fish passage (item 15b). Of these, grant proposals were submitted to construct two of the retrofits located on Browns Creek Rd.

The Department of Public Works has received the final draft of the Roads Maintenance Manual (item 11a), completed through the FishNet 4C effort with review and input by Public Works staff. This manual has been submitted to your Board as a separate item in today's agenda. Fieldwork for the San Lorenzo Road-Related Erosion Assessment has been completed and the final report for all San Lorenzo roads should be completed by February 2005. Public Works has secured one spoils site (item 13a) on Freedom Boulevard at Cabrillo Sand and Gravel and continues to work on spoils site development throughout the County.

The County is receiving Coastal Conservancy funding from the Integrated Watershed Restoration Planning (IWRP) grant awarded to the Resource Conservation District. The design and permitting of several erosion control and fish passage projects is underway (items 5g and 15b). In addition, IWRP is funding a lagoon assessment that has been monitoring five local lagoons in 2004 (item 10a).

Planning Department staff continued to work with the Resource Conservation District (RCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Sustainable Conservation to complete the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program (item 7d). The final permit should be issued by late winter 2005, in place for the construction season of 2005.

While a number of implementation items have been completed, a few efforts identified in the plan are still in the beginning stages. The Planning Department is considering changes to the Riparian Corridor Protection Ordinance (item 3a), and the Erosion Control Ordinance in conjunction with the NPDES permit (items 8e and 8g). Discussions within the Planning Department have been initiated regarding Riparian Exceptions (item 3c) and the Coastal Conservancy has initiated a project to summarize fish enhancement projects into one document (item 1c).

Conclusion and Recommendation

The FishNet 4C Implementation Plan has been an extremely effective tool for working with multiple departments towards Federal and State Endangered Species Act compliance. However, staffing levels and other constraints have limited the ability to accomplish all the listed implementation actions. An extension of the FishNet 4C Implementation Plan will ensure that Environmental Health Services, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the Planning and Public Works Departments will continue to coordinate and place priority on the implementation of these goals. All affected departments are in agreement that a continuation of these efforts is both feasible and desirable.

FishNet 4C Implementation Plan Progress Report

Agenda Date:

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Page 3

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

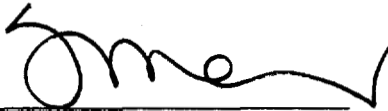
- (1) Accept and file this progress report on the *County of Santa Cruz Implementation Plan for FishNet 4C Goals for County Policies, Planning and Management*;
- (2) Extend the FishNet 4C Implementation Plan for an additional 3 years; and
- (3) Direct the Planning Department to report back on November 15, 2005, with a progress report on the Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,



Tom Burns
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Revised Implementation Plan Schedule

cc: Public Works
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services
Environmental Health Services

**Revised FishNet 4C Implementation Plan Schedule
November 16, 2004**

Key: X= completed or in-progress
(X)= not completed in phase I, I or III

No.	Goal	Completed	In-Progress	Applied for Grant	Responsible Department	Phase I 2001-02	Phase II 2002-03	Phase III 2003-04
1. Critical Fish Streams								
a.	Identify and map anadromous fish streams	X			Pln	X	X	
b.	Make this information available to County staff		X		Pln		X	
c.	Summarize fish enhancement projects into 1 document		X		Pln		(X)	(X)
d.	Develop countywide strategy for prioritizing				Pln		(X)	(X)
e.	Integrate elements into General Pln				Pln		(X)	(X)
2. Extend Coastal Zone Protection								
	<i>No implementation actions</i>	X						
3. Riparian Buffers								
a.	Revise Riparian Corridor Protection Ordinance		X		Pln		X	(X)
b.	Develop an inventory of riparian corridors		X		Pln	(X)	(X)	(X)
c.	Clarify guidelines for Riparian Exceptions				Pln		(X)	(X)
d.	Consider creation of conservation assessment program				Pln		(X)	(X)
4. Bank Stabilization								
a.	Implement Stream Habitat Outreach Program	X			Pln	X	X	(X)
b.	Develop and implement outreach or alternatives				Pln		(X)	(X)
c.	Participate in trainings	X			PW,POCS	X	X	X
d.	Consider alternatives to bank stabilization where feasible		X		PW,POCS	X	X	X
e.	Incorporate design goals in ordinance				Pln		(X)	(X)
f.	Evaluate riparian exceptions				Pln		(X)	(X)
5. Grading and Erosion Control								
a.	Provide adequate number of trained staff for review	X			Pln	(X)	X	X
b.	Provide adequate number of trained staff to enforce	X			Pln	X	X	X
c.	Revise requirement checklist	X			Pln	(X)	X	X
d.	Require identification of riparian areas prior to issuing to grading permit	X			Pln		(X)	(X)

Revised FishNet 4C Implementation Plan Schedule November 16, 2004

Key: X= completed or in-progress
(X)= not completed in Phase I, II or III

No.	Goal	Completed	In-Progress	Applied for Grant	Responsible Department	Phase I 2001-02	Phase II 2002-03	Phase III 2003-04
e.	Parks will address erosion control problems as necessary		X		POSCS		X	
f.	PW will identify staff responsible for erosion issues	X			PW	X	X	X
g.	PW will pursue funding to address old erosion problems		X		PW		X	
h.	Establish emergency response for violations				PIn, PW			(X)
i.	Refine specifications for mitigation measures	X			PW	X		
j.	Consult County Counsel regarding contractor criteria	X			Pw	X		
6. Wintertime Grading								
a.	Create plan sheet with erosion control details	X			PIn	X		
b.	Identify projects that need Winter Grading Approval	X			PIn, PW	X	X	X
c.	Send out erosion control reminders to applicants	X			PIn		X	X
d.	Train building inspectors to watch for problems		X		PIn		X	
e.	Develop informational flyer on erosion control				PIn		(X)	
7. Watershed Groups								
a.	Support and be active members		X		PIn, PW, EHS			
b.	Develop Swanton Road work program		X		PW	X		
c.	Work with watershed groups on high priority projects		X		PW		X	X
d.	Evaluate proposals for streamlined permit coordination		X		PIn	X		
8. Instream Flows								
a.	Continue to support regional water management planning		X		PW, EHS			
b.	Continue work w/ water districts on conservation issues		X		PW, EHS			
c.	Continue to protest water rights applications		X		PW			
d.	Develop 10 year strategic plan to evaluate baseflow				PW, EHS	(X)		(X)
e.	Develop design standards and guidelines to minimize impervious surfaces and promote surface water retention		X		PIn, PW		X	
f.	Remove PW drainage fee cap of \$3,000	X			PW	X		
g.	Include BMPs in NPDES phase II compliance		X		PW		X	X
h.	Strengthen & clarify drainage review for PW & PIn		X		PW, PIn			
9. Decommissioning								
a.	Continue to identify and mitigate barriers		X	X	PW	X	X	X

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**Revised FishNet 4C Implementation Plan Schedule
November 16, 2004**

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No.	Goal	Completed	In Progress	Applied for Grant	Responsible Department	Phase I 2001-02	Phase II 2002-03	Phase III 2003-04
b	Mitigate recreational use of San Lorenzo River		X	X	POSCS	X		
c	Prepare list of especially unsuitable infrastructure etc				PIn, PW		(X)	(X)
d	Consider options and opportunities for gradually them				PIn, PW			(X)
10. Lagoon Breaching								
a.	Support efforts to properly manage lagoons		X		PIn	X	X	X
11. Road Maintenance Standards								
a.	Complete development of written standards		X		PW			
b.	Participate in trainings		X		PW			
c.	Institute a system for annual trainings		X		PW		X	
d.	Provide adequate maintenance staff				PW		(X)	X
e.	Increase maintenance practices to reduce failures		X		PW			
f.	Continue to advocate for FEMA policy changes		X		PW			
12. Emergency Projects								
a.	Review how storm-damage related road, culvert, and bank stabilization projects were installed				PW, PIn		X	
13. Spoils Storage								
a.	Develop strategic plan for spoils sites		X		PW, PIn	X	X	X
b.	Evaluate sites for stockpiling spoils to reuse		X		PW		(X)	X
14. Channel and Riparian Corridor Clearing								
a.	Obtain necessary permits for channel and riparian clearing		X		PW	X	X	X
b.	Identify sites for storage of woody material		X		PW	(X)	X	
15. Fish Migration Barriers								
a.	Participate in trainings in Fall 2001	X			PW, PIn	X		
b.	Address migration barriers through grants or existing staff		X	X	PW, PIn		X	X
c.	Evaluate new permit requirements for Ben Lomond Dam		X	X	POSCS	X	X	

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0368

SCC Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean St, 5th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

11/23/04

RE: Item 32 today's agenda

FishNet4c is an international program, although this **has** never been disclosed to your board by those who are furthering the program.

When FishNet4C was originally brought to your board, members of the public were told that there would be plenty of time to comment on individual ordinances as they were adopted. This has not been the case.

Please see information submitted to your board previously regarding the **fact** that coho salmon are not native to local streams. This information can **be** accessed at the website for the Central Coast Forest Association. <http://www.ccfassociation.org/>

While 7 million dollars have been handed to the **SCC** Resource Conservation District within the last **year**, our local schools struggle **to** remain open. To quote one of your planning department employees at a public **meeting earlier** this year, "The focus of this county has become fish-centric. **This** is quite a coup."

Please slow down with this implementation **plan** which has never received public scrutiny, and **is** well on the **way** to removing the last vestiges of **private** property rights, and **is** all based on **junk** science which has never received peer review.

Furthermore, I object to the plan to revisit the grading and riparian ordinances, unless it **is** to make them more lenient, thereby enabling landowners to manage their own property **appropriately**, as they see fit.

Please recognize the "whole in the bucket" where all the local funds are flowing. This fish-centric approach is destroying more than private property rights.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rudnick
Ben Lomond, CA

32