

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Enhancement Committee Meeting

December 18, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Live Event

Link used was <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund>

Or Dial in [+1 916-535-0984](tel:+19165350984) United States, Sacramento (Toll)

Conference ID: 266 004 01#

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund>

Public comments were accepted via the chat function (Only one question was received: What is the source of EEF funds which was answered during the program update PowerPoint)

The meeting was called to order and began at 1:10 pm. In attendance were the three Environmental Enhancement Committee (EEC) members, Sam Schuchat, Stephanie Tom Coupe, and Tom Cullen. Julie Yamamoto, Dan Orr, Bruce Joab, Kathy Verrue-Slater, were in attendance from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR). The MS Teams system showed five other attendees.

Introductions were done for each of the Environmental Enhancement Committee members; Julie Yamamoto introduced herself and said she'd be proxy for Tom Cullen (though Tom joined via call, just was on mute due to technical difficulties, and he communicated to the meeting via text message to Bruce Joab who verbalized his points), Sam Schuchat introduced himself, and Stephanie Tom Coupe introduced herself.

Dan Orr next presented a program update using slides.

Dan Orr then proposed the concept of focus areas to be used during the selection process for non-perennial streams and associated habitats including alluvial fans, and projects in Kern and Fresno County. Specifically, this would just add a category during technical review where projects benefiting the focus area could obtain additional points.

Deliberation began by the committee. Stephanie asked about the tracking of funds that come from inland spills, and if that was possible, what portion of funds available were obtained from inland cases and actions. Dan answered that is possible to a limited extent for the largest cases but would require him to get back on that. In 2020 a relatively large settlement for an inland spill resulted in a deposits totally \$535,000. Other large income cases in 2020 were from coastal incidents (\$1,050,000). Dan stated that in general high dollar amounts come from the larger marine spills, but many more spills occur inland. Kathy Verrue-Slater

added that other smaller settlements occurred in 2020 any many were inland as well. Sam asked where most of the oil spills happen. Dan answered that while spills occur throughout the State related to transportation, more come from Kern county than anywhere else due to the oil volume produced in that County. Sam stated that he sought to clarify that this proposed scoring system would still allow the funding of marine projects, just adding in the inland funding options. Dan answered affirmatively that yes, while this system will add to the chances of funding inland projects it will still allow marine projects to be funded. Dan clarified that the EEC could still approve to fund projects based on scores without the focus area benefit in final selection or consider the modified scores only for a subset of funds and that the EEC would be provided with both scores to consider during final selection. Sam asked if Dan knew who the applicants were in the inland areas of the focus area. Dan said that they were mostly a small number of local government entities included some resource conservation districts (RCDs) but the Focus areas may motivate some entities with broader geographical interests to apply for projects in the area. Sam suggested that Dan add the San Joaquin River Conservancy to his outreach. Stephanie asked Dan what the rationale was in coming up with this recommendation. Dan explained that alluvial fans and non-perennial streams are where the known occurrence of sensitive species and oil production most frequently overlap. Kathy Verrue-Slater stated that an extra benefit here is that we don't have many restoration projects in this area and this could help with that. Sam suggested that Wildlife Conservation Board be consulted about restoration in these areas as they may have some there.

Voting by the EEC commenced, and Sam move that the focus areas in Kern and Fresno counties, as stated, be added to the process. Stephanie seconded the motion. Dan did a roll call vote, Sam voted "aye", Stephanie voted "aye", Tom Cullen texted "aye" as his vote and Bruce Joab, who verbalized his vote as "aye", spoke up for this. Julie Yamamoto also said "aye" as a proxy for Tom, just to be abundantly clear.

The wrap up and overview for the meeting was done by Dan Orr, who said that the request for proposals would likely be in January for about \$1 million. The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 1:35 pm.