# Fish Passage Design and Implementation Lessons Learned



A Concurrent Session at the 40th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference held in Fortuna, California from April 25–28, 2023

#### **Session Coordinators:**

• Jason Q. White, Environmental Science Associates P. Travis James, Michael Love & Associates Luke Walton, Prunuske Chatham, Inc.



Fish passage remains a significant issue for salmonids throughout California. Salmonids' life history strategy to move about and utilize various habitats within a watershed is critical to their survival as a species, particularly in the face of climate change. Barriers that prevent fish movement can break the salmonid life cycle with dire consequences to a population in a given watershed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife collects barrier data from various agencies and organizations in California and compiles them into the Passage Assessment Database (PAD). The PAD currently lists thousands of total, partial, and temporal barriers in the State in need of removal. The PAD also lists hundreds of barriers that have been remediated. Though there is much work to do when it comes to addressing fish passage in California, many barriers have already been successfully removed, with a wide range of successes and setbacks that can be learned from.

This session focuses on fish passage design and implementation lessons learned. It's been over 13 years since the release of the Part XII of California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual: Fish Passage Design and Implementation. The work that has been performed under the guidance of this manual and beyond has much to offer in the way of lessons learned. This session will cover recent innovations, practical experiences, and challenges encountered in designing and implementing fish passage projects throughout the State of California.

# **Presentations**



- Slide 4, Lesson Learned Constructing a Horizontal Fish Screen at Derby Dam, Dan Kaler, PE, Farmers Conservation Alliance
- Slide 21, Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal Project: Challenges in Design and Construction of a Step-pool Channel, Robert Mussetter, Program Manager, *Tetra Tech, Inc.*
- Slide 47, Mill Creek Fish Passage Project: Design, Construction & Lessons Learned, Justin Bodell RLA, Landscape Architect, PCI
- Slide 62, Embrace Change: Combining Engineering and Geomorphic Principles to Design Resilient Fish Passage on San Geronimo Creek, Jason Q. White, Hydrologist, Environmental Science Associates
- Slide 111, Implementation When Design Cannot Progress Past a Conceptual Level: North Fork Battle Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project, P. Travis James, P.E., Senior Project Engineer, *Michael Love & Associates, Inc.*
- Slide 178, **Beale Lake Dam Removal and Roughened Ramp**, Mark Gard, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, *California Department of Fish and Wildlife*
- Slide 229, Final Design, Material Sourcing, and Construction Methods of the Nelson Dam Roughened Channel Fishway, Michael C. Garello, PE, HDR Engineering, Inc.

#### **Derby Dam Horizontal Fish Screen** Farmers Conservation Alliance





#### Farmers Screen

- Horizontal Fish Screen
  - Bypass flow required
  - Uses energy of the river to operate
  - No continuous moving parts
  - Passive cleaning properties
  - Low operation and maintenance
  - NMFS Approved
- Derby Dam Largest Horizontal Screen in the World
- 52 Screens installed across 8 states
  - UT, CO, MT, OR, WA, NV, ID, WY





Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truckee River



# Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT)

- Extirpated from Truckee River in 1940's
- 1970s Out-of-Basin Population Found
- Rehabilitation Efforts
- 2014 First Observed Spawning



Source: Western Native Trout Association



• Upstream fish passage

#### • Down stream fish passage



# O Derby Dam Fish Screen

- Five screen array
- 40 600 cfs
- Stainless steel
- Fish return





### November 4, 2019





### March 10, 2020





# August 13, 2020





#### September 25, 2020

















- Team Collaboration
  - Team Building
    - Formal and Informal
  - CMAR Process
  - Pre-Construction Collaboration
  - What are the pieces you remember?





#### Lessons Learned

- Construction
  - Define success
  - Construction meetings
  - QA/QC representative
  - Clear line of communication
  - Construction camera







- Screen Design/Operation
  - Over 20 years of experience
  - Over 50 installations
  - Physical and theoretical models
  - Optimization study







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#### Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal: Challenges in Design and Construction of a Step-pool Channel

Robert Mussetter, Tetra Tech Shawn Chartrand, Simon Fraser University Brian Cluer, NOAA Fisheries Michael Burke, Interfluve Marcin Whitman, CDFW







#### San Clemente Dam



### **Site Conditions**



#### **Site Conditions**



# **Channel Reconstruction Objectives**

#### **1.** Fish Passage

- Short-term:
  - Provide immediate passage
  - Focused on low flows
- Long-term:
  - Resiliency for future storms



- 2. Restore and sustain high quality aquatic habitat
- **3.** Sustainable long-term river processes and function
- 4. Emulate natural variability in channel form

# **Design Concept**



# **Design Criteria – Combined Flow Reach**

# Variable design level by feature:

- In-channel: Q<sub>5</sub> Q<sub>50</sub>
- Overbanks:
  - Q<sub>10</sub> (no avulsion 1<sup>st</sup> 5 yrs)
  - Boulder and substrate recruitment (Q<sub>25</sub>, Q<sub>5</sub>)





# **Design Criteria**

#### In-channel hydraulic criteria

16 cfs to 1,260 cfs

(~5%-95% Mean daily FDC)

- Details highly prescribed
- Bankfull capacity Q<sub>1</sub>-Q<sub>2</sub>





### Design Criteria – Step Pools

#### **Step-pools**

- Max Drop Height: 1'
- Min 2' depth downstream from steps

#### **Resting Pools**

 LWD>=40% pool margin for cover habitat:



#### **Channel Profiles**



# Chartrand (2011)





- S: Mean bed slope
- $\lambda_{i}$ : Step wavelength
- H.: Step height
- Z : Step drop height
- S<sub>d</sub>: Scour depth or residual pool depth

#### After 1<sup>st</sup> Const. Season and Small Events



#### And Then the Floods Came!



### Then the Floods Came!



#### **Then the Floods Came!**



#### **Then the Floods Came!**


# **Then the Floods Came!**



# **Then the Floods Came!**



# **Then the Floods Came!**



# **Channel continues to evolve**



### November 2021 – Step-Pool/Plane Bed Reach



## **November 2021 – Upper Riffle-Pool Reach**



# **Fish Response**

MPWMD 2021 Mitigation Program Report



Source: CAW Files

Year

# **Fish Response**

MPWMD 2021 Mitigation Program Report



- Very difficult (maybe impossible) to design for all possibilities considering highly-variable hydrology and geology
- High cost and highly prescriptive design substantially tied to low <u>biological</u> risk tolerance
- Prescriptive design, compounded by project delivery complexities, led to significant construction challenges
- Current status looks like a real evolving river with only minor, if any, fish passage constraints
- Project meets objectives even though some design criteria not currently met
- <u>Perhaps the river knows best!</u> We gave the river the materials it needed to evolve to the smaller, steeper SCC valley. It seems be doing just that.

## Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal: Challenges in Design and Construction of a Step-pool Channel

# **Questions/Comments?**

Robert Mussetter, Tetra Tech Shawn Chartrand, Simon Fraser University Brian Cluer, NOAA Fisheries Michael Burke, Interfluve Marcin Whitman, CDFW







# Mill Creek Dam Fish Passage Project Design, Construction & Lessons Learned

Justin Bodell, RLA (PCI) Luke Walton, PE (PCI) SRF Conference – Fortuna 4/27/23















- Instream Dam:
  - Historic flashboard dam built around 1910 for recreation and irrigation uses;
  - ~7.5-foot tall concrete apron caused a significant passage barrier during all flows.
- Project Objectives:
  - Remediate the highest priority barrier for coho salmon within the Russian River (NMFS recovery plan, 2012);
  - Restore juvenile and adult coho salmon and steelhead access to approximately 11.2 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat.



1945 . Mill Creek Dam



2009. Mill Creek dam apron

#### **Design Constraints**









- Significant infrastructure adjacent to the creek:
  - Adjacent buildings and terraced landscape areas;
  - Water supply wells within the dam impoundment as well as upstream and downstream of the dam.
- Prevented removal of the dam and stream simulation design.
- Mature redwood trees armoring banks;
- Prevented laying back banks or side channels through adjacent forest.
- Very high energy/very flashy stream with headwaters in one of the highest intensity rainfall locations in California (Venado rain gauge);
- Significant engineering required to maintain flood capacity and very large rock to maintain channel stability.
- Landowner's desire to maintain aesthetics and beneficial use.
- Prevented significant modifications to dam that could change the upstream pool or "character" of site.

#### Final Design – Overall



After analyzing 5 alternative designs, a roughened ramp over the dam with a lower gradient side channel around the dam was selected as a balance between project constraints and drastically improved fish passage conditions.

Worked with Dave White (NOAA Fish Passage Engineer) for variance to fish passage guidelines based on very steep reference reach downstream of the site.

#### Key design components are:

- Roughened boulder channel fill in mainstem to dam crest (6% lower 50', 8% upper 50');
- Dam elevation lowered 6";
- Side channel excavated into hillside around dam into the middle of roughened ramp (3% channel slope for 100');
- Shotcrete used for bank scour protection and weir inlet control.
- Side channel entrance set 6" lower than dam. Designed to take low flows, but exclude higher flows to maintain lower velocities through side channel.

#### Final Design – Roughened Chute



#### **Construction Sequence:**

- Install large keystone boulders (D84 and larger from Engineered Streambed Material);
- 2. Install bed material in lifts with largest material first, making sure to hand chink all gaps. This will lock the keystone boulders in place;
- Install river run and use water jet to completely fill all voids until water pools on surface of lift;
- 4. Ensure the tops of the keystone boulders project above bed finish grade with enough relief to account for scour of bed material;
  - In high energy systems, the smaller surface material will mobilize and leave the finish grade profile lower than designed.

#### Construction – Roughened Chute



#### Construction Challenges





- Construction began in June, 2016.
- Very limited site access and staging areas.
- All trucking with 10-wheelers backing down narrow driveway.
- A single 4-6 ton boulder would fit into the truck.

#### Finished Project



#### Physical Monitoring



- Measured depth and velocities at multiple points along profiles that represent a reasonable path for fish to take through the roughened channels.
- Fish passage flows range from 1cfs (juvenile low) to 770 cfs (adult high). One mid-range flow of 63 cfs, near the end of wadeability, was measured. This flow corresponded to coho transiting from nearby PIT tag detections.
- Results show that the two channels create an array of velocity and depth conditions to accommodate passage for both adults and juveniles over a wide range of flows.
  - Depths are acceptable for adult passage;
  - Max velocities are within range of adult coho sustained swimming speed;
  - Channel has abundant resting pools (pocket water).

#### Coho Redd Observations



- 4 coho reds observed upstream of dam in four year period **before** project.
- 14 coho reds observed upstream of dam in four year period after project.





- **Pins vs. wood stakes.** Pins take a long time to decay. Wood stakes are more expensive.
- Lessons learned:
  - Rusty exposed pins can create a future safety hazard. Exposed pins should be removed during monitoring.
  - Don't let leashed dogs run wild!
  - Kevlar strips in shotcrete. Adds shear strength to concrete, but when exposed can become environmental microplastic.
- Lessons learned: Consider only adding strips to interior of shotcrete and omit on surface layer.





- Gravity dewater systems are challenging to implement, costly, and often need to run through the work area.
- Lessons learned:
  - Account for lots of extra time to install.
  - Use streamgage data to predict flows during construction window.
- Pumped dewater systems require an energy source and have a higher potential of failing.
- Lessons learned:
  - Landowners don't like diesel generators near their house.
  - Pumps require lots of monitoring.



- **High energy stream** caused scour around all the rock work.
  - Vegetation pockets on island between side channel and main channel was washed out.
  - Smaller material (1/4 ton minus) on surface was mobilized.

#### Lessons learned:

- Account for scour in design by projecting keystone boulders above finish grade and locking smaller material in place with larger rocks.
- Consider biotechnical methods to protect new vegetation in high energy areas.



**Excavations into hillsides** come with risk. Decision was made to reduce extent of wall during design phase in order to minimize concrete in project.

#### Lessons learned:

- Make sure geotechnical investigation analyzes potential for landslides.
- If possible and no infrastructure is threatened, allow time for nature to re-establish an equilibrium.

#### Thanks to all project partners!!!



#### Embrace Change: Combining Engineering and Geomorphic Principles to Design Resilient Fish Passage on San Geronimo Creek





Thursday, April 27, 2023

40th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference

#### **Embrace Change:**

Combining Engineering and Geomorphic Principles to Design Resilient Fish Passage on San Geronimo Creek

- Presentation Overview
  - Project Team
  - Design
  - Implementation
  - Geomorphic Change



# Project Team



#### **Project Team**

**Design Team** 



Project Manager/Designer/Hydrologist Jason White

Engineer of Record Marisa Landicho

**Chief Engineer** 

Ann Borgonovo

65

Permitting Support Jill Sunahara

**Project Leader** 

TUR TION NETWORK

**S**almonid

And

Protection

Watershed

Network



Past ESA Contributors: Scott Stoller Barry Tanaka **Rocko Brown** Phil Luecking

Subconsultants



**Structural Engineer** 



MARK THOMAS

Land Surveyor



**Project Director** Jorgen Blomberg

4



- Project Location
  - Marin County
  - Lagunitas Creek watershed
    - Drains to Tomales Bay near Point Reyes Station
  - Landowner: Trust for Public Land





- Project Need
  - Central California Coast Coho Salmon ESU
    - Federally listed Endangered Species under Endangered Species Act
  - CDFW Priority Barriers
    - Barrier to >4 square miles of watershed





#### • Site Conditions

- Dam built early 1900s for cattle ranching
- Dam retrofitted with fish ladder in 1960s
- Dam replaced in 1999 with steel and concreate weirs





8

- Site Conditions
  - Fish Passage Barrier
  - Fish stranding

# 1999

# "Roy's Pools"



- SPAWN teamed with ESA
  - Preston Brown with Ayano Hayes
  - Partnered with Landowner(s)
    - Current: Trust for Public Land
  - Secured funding
    - Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
      - Grant Manager: Matt Erickson
      - Engineer: Marjorie Caisely





#### **Project Funder, Permitting, CEQA and Engineering Review**

s Conservation Learning
1

#### **Fisheries Restoration Grant Program**





Figure 1. Geographical Areas and Fourth Field Hydrologic Units Covered by CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program.




• Problem: large drop at Roy's Pools



# • Design Guidance:

- California Salmonid Stream
  Habitat Restoration Manual
  - Part XII: Fish Passage Design and Implementation (CDFW, 2010)

PART XII FISH PASSAGE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

• Project Profile Design: broken into two design approaches



Stream Crossing Project Type

New

Fish Passage Solutions

Profile

Natural

Removal

Drop

Replacement

Adjust

Profile

Uncontrolled

Retrofit

Increase

Roughness

1

Roughened

Geomorphic Design Approach: Riffle Pool Natural Bed 



**Debris Flows** 

Large Woody Debris

deposition

mobile: acts as sediment

scour

largely immobile: traps sediment

hill-

slope

hollow

- Riffle Pool Natural Bed
  - Variable width to promote natural riffle pool processes
    - Wide at riffle crest to encourage deposition
    - Narrow at pool to encourage scour





Graphic Source: MacWilliams et all (2006)

• Hydraulic Design Approach: Cascade Roughened Channel



Keystones

Cascade Roughened Channel



Photo: Ryan Cole (https://www.oregonkayaking.net/rivers/cascade/cascade.html)

#### CDFW (2010):

#### "A roughened channel can only approximate the characteristics of a cascade

channel. Individual rocks are expected to adjust position but the larger rocks are sized to be stable and not move out of the roughened channel reach. The bed material must remain fixed because, unlike stream simulation, if a rock within the roughened channel becomes mobile it will not be replaced by natural recruitment."



- Cascade Roughened Channel
  - Grade Control Crest
    - Resist mobility to maintain grade
  - Rib Crest
    - Provide structure but allowed to adjust
  - Flow Stone & Cascading Flow Path
    - Flow stone establishes low flow path
    - Low flow path excludes larger rock to allow for natural scour and deepening





WIDTH VARIES 20 TO 28

NATIVE MATERIAL FILL

#### Cascade Roughened Channel

- Key element: Engineered Streambed Material



#### *CDFW (2010):*

"A roughened channel can only approximate the characteristics of a cascade channel. Individual rocks are expected to adjust position but the larger rocks are sized to be stable and not move out of the roughened channel reach. The bed material must remain fixed because, unlike stream simulation, if a rock within the roughened channel becomes mobile it will not be replaced by natural recruitment."

- Engineered Streambed Material (ESM)
  - Rock sizing and gradation
    - Design flow 100-year Peak Flow (2231 cfs)
    - Starts with stable rock sizing methods by USACE (21994)
    - Gradation methods by CDFW (2010) to create "stable bedform while filling the interstitial voids"



- Engineered Streambed Material (ESM)
  - Roughened Channel rock sizing and gradation
    - Expand gradation to 12 classes + crest stones (3 tons)

#### ENOUGH LARGE ROCK TO ALLOW FOR GEOMORPHIC CHANGE AND REMAIN FUNCTIONAL

	Material Specification	Sub-Mix Ratio (by weight)	Specifications Reference
	Native Material (soil)	1	02300 Earthwork
	Native Alluvium	1	02300 Earthwork
ESM Backfill Sub-Mix	3/4" Class 2 Aggregate		Standard Section 26
	Base	1	
	Small RSP 4" Thick	1	Standard Section 72-4
	Small RSP 7" Thick	1	Standard Section 72-4
	Class I (20 lb)	1	Standard Section 72-2
	Class II (60 lb)	1	Standard Section 72-2
	Class IV (300 lb)	2	Standard Section 72-2
	Subtotal	9	
ESM Framework Sub-Mix	Class V (1/4 ton)	1	Standard Section 72-2
	Class VII (1/2 ton)	1	Standard Section 72-2
	Class VIII (1 ton)	1	Standard Section 72-2
	Class IX (2 ton)	2	Standard Section 72-2
	Subtotal	5	

Back fill mix used to construct riffle



22

- Cascade Roughened Channel
  - Hydraulic Design Approach
    - Requires evaluating hydraulic fish passage design criteria
  - High flow velocity criteria met along channel edges
  - Low flow depth criteria met through flow path



#### CDFW (2010):

"The geomorphic characteristics of natural channel types, along with **hydraulic fish passage design criteria** for water depths and velocities, turbulence, hydraulic drops and minimum pool depths, can be used to **guide design of a roughened channel**."

	Design Flow	Left Edge Velocity	Channel Velocity	Right Edge Velocity	CDFW Criteria Maximum Average Water Velocity
	(cu ft/s)	(ft/s)	(ft/s)	(ft/s)	(ft/s)
Juvenile Salmonids					
U/S Cascade	30	1.2	2.4	1.2	1
D/S Cascade	30	1.3	3.0	1.4	1
Adult Salmonids					
U/S Cascade	337	3.9	6.8	3.9	5
D/S Cascade	337	3.6	6.4	3.6	5

		CDFW Criteria			
Design Flow	Flow Depth	Minimum Flow Depth			
(cu ft/s)	(ft)	(ft/s)			
Juvenile Salmonids					
1	0.8	0.5			
Adult Salmonids					
3	1.2	1			



23







#### **Construction Contractor**





#### Engineer Observation



with support from

A3GEO

#### MARK THOMAS



• Demolition



• Water Control



• Staging, review, and mixing of rock



Cascade Roughened Channel Construction



30

Cascade Roughened Channel Construction: Flow Stone







Cascade Roughened Channel Construction: Tamp and Jet to Seal







Cascade Roughened Channel Construction: Low Flow Path Established







Cascade Roughened Channel Construction: Willow Pole Plantings







Cascade Roughened Channel Construction



ESA

Phasing





PHASE 2

(YEAR 2: 2021)

• Riffle Pool



ESA

• Riffle Pool





• Under the Bridge



COUNTY OF MARIN

ESA

39



- October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021: 9 inches of rain in 24 hours
- Flows estimated to be 1,200 cfs (>5-year event)







- For 5-year event (~1,140 cfs)
  - > 1.2 ft (or 250 lb) and smaller rock expected to be mobile



#### Engineered Stream Bed Rock Gradation

• Post construction surveys before and after the October 2021 storm



—Design CAD Surface ——As Built Survey (2021) → Post-Construction Monitoring Survey (2/9/2022)

#### **ESM DEPOSIT DOWNSTREAM**



• Riffle Pool looking downstream



44

ESA

Cascade Roughened Channel Cascade looking downstream



45

Cascade Roughened Channel looking upstream from pedestrian bridge



46

ESA

Cascade Roughened Channel looking upstream from San Geronimo Valley Dr



47

ESA
#### Geomorphic Change

• Embrace change!



**ESA** 

# Questions







# North Fork Battle Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

Implementation Lessons Learned When Design Cannot Progress Past a Conceptual Level

> Salmonid Restoration Conference P. Travis James, P.E. April 27, 2023



## **Project Location**



## Battle Creek Schematic with Lower and Upper Barriers



## Profile of Eagle Canyon Reach



## Design Overview

# Site Characterization

- Survey (total station, sonar, laser scan)
- Geotechnical investigation
- Boulder mapping
- Flow lines mapping
- Sieve mapping
- Pressure transducers
- Timelapse cameras
- Flow measurements

## Upper Barrier Site Flow Paths and Sieves



# Scan point cloud



## UBS Alternative C: Natural Channel Regrade Boulders and Bedrock to be Removed



## Design Documents

#### Lesson: Be clear about uncertainties

#### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE NORTH FORK BATTLE CREEK EAGLE CANYON FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT

#### - - - - UPPER BARRIER SITE

CONCEPTUAL CHANNEL DESIGN PLAN & PROFILE



Overall Slope = 9.2%

## Implementation

# **Eagle Canyon Implementation Team**



Implementation: Access & Water Management











### **Boulder Removal**



## Lesson: Label what you know

SPC

### Lesson: Know how to use survey tools

\*\*\* 🖗 Trimble.

= 6.

Ξ6.6

## Lesson: Create visual references

3.

10





1,800 tons of rock removed (3,600,000 lbs) Reconstruction: Structure 1





# Lesson: Plan as far in advance as possible






Reconstruction: Structure 2







### Reconstruction: Structure 3









### Reconstruction: Structure 4







## Reconstruction: Structure 5, Part 1











## Reconstruction: Structure 5, Part 2





### Implementation: Final Outcome











TLC2000 2022/02/09 14:40:01





TLC2000 2021/12/25 15:00:01

#### Lesson: Take time to enjoy your hard work



#### **Questions?**

# Beale Lake Dam Removal and Roughened Ramp Mark Gard California Department of Fish and Wildlife, West Sacramento, CA, USA

# Heather Hanson, Jessica Pica and Paul Cadrett U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# Acknowledgments

# Funded by U.S. Air Force

# Introduction

 Dam removal is an increasingly common method being used to provide fish passage

 For Beale, dam removal was selected because it was more cost-effective than constructing a new pool and chute fish ladder
## Questions to be addressed

- How should the channel in the impoundment area be restored?
- How should fish passage be provided at a waterfall at the upstream end of the impoundment?











## Study Area









## Methods

Topographic and sediment surveys Reference reach Design of channel and rocky ramp Hydraulic modeling















## **Design Criteria**

- Flow range 60 1900 cfs
- Minimum depth 0.9 feet
- Maximum velocity 8 ft/s
- Minimum pool depth 3 feet or 1.25 times jump height
- Maximum jump height 5.6 feet



























Date & Time: Thu, Aug 20, 2020, 10,45,54 PDT Position: :037.109024\* / -121.336364\* (±23.11) Altitude: 1857 (±58.61) Datum: WGS-84 Azimuth/Bearing: 247\* \$67W 4891mils True (±18\*) Elevation Angle: -01.9\* Horizon/Angle: -00.4 Zoom: 1.0X Beal\_AFB\_Dam\_Project




























# Discussion

- Most of the design process focused on recreating a channel in the inundation area and design of the rocky ramp
- Cost of the project rose substantially due to permitting requirements (to remove accumulated sediment) and dewatering
- Data collected during lake drawdown was crucial for refining the design

# Conclusions

 Dam removal can be a cost-effective way of providing fish passage

# **Questions?**

# Email: Mark.Gard@wildlife.ca.gov

# FSS



#### Nelson Dam Removal: Final Design, Material Sourcing, and Construction Methods

Michael Garello, PE 40<sup>th</sup> Annual SRF Conference 2023

Fish Passage Design and Implementation Lessons Learned

FS



#### **Presentation Agenda**

Provide an overview of major final design, material sourcing, and construction methods used for the Nelson Dam Removal Project on the Naches River, Yakima, WA.





# **O Pre-Project Conditions**

### **Project Location**

- Naches River is the largest tributary to the Yakima River
- 8-foot-high by 140-foot-long irrigation diversion dam
- Provides water to four individual diversions (>8,000 customers)





#### **Pre-Project Infrastructure**



### What's the Problem?



#### Aging Infrastructure

- Dam built in 1920s
- Exposed rebar
- Needs replacement



#### Sediment Accumulation Upstream

- Decreased flood conveyance capacity
- Increasing flood events
- Potential damage to life/property

#### **Fish Passage**



Low effectiveness of current ladder



#### Diminished Geomorphic Process

- Lower sediment continuity
- Fixed elevated floodplains
- Lower potential for dynamic habitat redevelopment



#### **Intake Maintenance**

- Requires high level of maintenance
- Instream manipulation needed to clear accumulated sediment, create check dams, maintain adequate water levels

#### **Project History**







#### **Project Benefits**



Overall reduction in WSELs, resulting in **less frequent floodinduced infrastructure damage** 



Greater reliability of water supply systems



**Decreased** level of effort associated with facility **maintenance** 



**Increased stability** of bridge piers and roadway embankments



Creation of **fish passage** corridors to allow volitional upstream and downstream migration



Opportunity for **sediment continuity** through and past the Project reach



**Increased habitat** potential for rearing and spawning fish

#### **Three Primary Project Goals**



#### **Project Participants**







#### **Removal of Pre-Project Infrastructure**

USBR Fish Ladder

Fill (as part of fish ladder installation)

Nelson Dam

- Fish Bypass Piping

-Naches-Cowiche Canal Co. Diversion

- Headworks And General Diversion

Old Powerhouse Road Surface

-Old Powerhouse Road Bridge Abutment

Photo courtesy of Yakima County FCZD

**New Project Elements** 

Photo courtesy of Yakima County FCZD

Secondary Channels

Channel-Spanning Roughened Channel Fishway

**Floodplain Restoration** 

- Recontouring
- Pilot Channels
- Native Revegetation

- Consolidated
  Diversion
- City (General)
- Naches-Cowiche
- Fruitvale
- Old Union

Concrete Sluiceway

**Bank Protection** 

- Primary Channel





### **Design Techniques**



## **Hydraulic Design**

#### **Physical Modeling**

 Bypass channel and sluiceway design & testing

#### **Numerical Modeling**

- 1-Dimensional
  - $_{\circ}$  HEC-RAS
  - $_{\rm o}$  2- to 100-year flood profiles
  - $_{\circ}$  Document flood level reduction
- 2-Dimensional

∘ SRH-2D

 Development of hydraulic design parameters for key assessments





## Final Design: SRH-2D

- Example analysis velocity at 6,520 cfs
- Modeled velocity, depth, WSEL, shear



**Pre-Project Conditions** 

Post-Project Conditions

## **Final Design: Rock Sizing**

- Rock filter layer
- Structural foundation rock layer
- Mobile bed layer

ENGINEERED

STREAMBED MATERIAL

FOUNDATION

ROCK

SCALE: NTS

INFILL

SEDIMENT -

ROCK FILTER LAYER

> NATIVE MATERIAL



## **Final Design: Fish Passage**

- Biometric comparison to 2D hydraulic modeling results
- Flow velocity vs. time to exhaustion vs. fish swimming distance adapted from Katopodis and Gervais, 2016



• Adult fish passage at 6,520 cfs, depth 0.9 feet or greater



**Pre-Project Conditions** 

Post-Project Conditions

Adult Passage - River Velocity (1ps)

## **Final Design: Care of Water During Construction**

- Major project component:
  - Cost
  - Risk

- Three phase strategy focused on construction of:
  - Main roughened channel area
  - Sluiceway and intake
  - Pilot channels



#### **Final Design: Care of Water During Construction**

- Phase 1
- 2,500 cfs



#### **Final Design: Care of Water During Construction**

- Phase 2
- 2,500 cfs


### **Final Design: Care of Water During Construction**

- Phase 3
- 2,500 cfs



### **Summary of Construction Sequence**









### **Material Sourcing**

- Bid solicitation through City of Yakima Public Works
- Selection of three local quarries to produce material meeting design requirements
- Stockpile select material and deliver as requested by contractor during construction
- Total select rock deliveries to the project site 39,000 tons

### Onsite Material Receiving, Sorting, and Handling





### Large Rock Handling









Over 2,700 supersacks used for cofferdams



Temporary and permanent sheet pile walls



Multiple river diversion strategies



Networks of dewatering pumps, and conveyance techniques



#### Phase 1:

- Bypass channel construction
- Existing dam isolation
- September 23, 2021



#### Phase 1:

- Existing dam removal
- Permanent sheet pile wall
- Temporary sheet pile wall installation
- October 22, 2021



#### Phase 1:

- Temporary sheet pile wall installation
- Construct middle roughened channel
- February 1, 2022



#### Phase 2:

- Construct sluiceway
  and intake
- April 4, 2022



#### Phase 2:

- Construct sluiceway and intake
- Temporary gravity irrigation diversion established
- June 9, 2022



#### Phase 3:

- Construct sluiceway
  and intake
- Construct left bank floodplain and roughened channel
- October 24, 2022



#### Phase 3:

- Construct sluiceway
  and intake
- Construct left bank floodplain and roughened channel
- November 22, 2022



#### Phase 3:

- Construct sluiceway and intake
- Construct left bank floodplain and roughened channel
- January 27, 2023



April 19, 2023 Phase
 1 project complete





Photo courtesy of Yakima County FCZD





### **Anticipated Project Future**



Phase I – Construction Complete: April 2023



**Diversion Decommissioning:** Fruitvale and Old Union Diversions will be decommissioned



Operation, Testing, and Monitoring: April – October 2023, then ongoing...



**Future Work:** Habitat / Floodplain Restoration, Set-Back Levees, and Flood Damage Reduction Efforts



Phase II – Begin / End of Construction: June 2024



Nelson Dam Project and associated Phases of Work complete 2027



### **Questions?**

Thank You for Attending!



**FSS** 

Special thanks to the City of Yakima, Yakima County Flood Control Zone District, and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Mike Garello Mike.Garello@hdrinc.com