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Edwin T. McFadden III
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES
ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 7, 2021, 9:00 A.M.
Board Room

UWCD, 1701 North Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

In addition to its public Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, UWCD provided virtual access to the meeting via the Webex virtual meeting platform.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Lynn E. Maulhardt, chair
Director Edwin T. McFadden III (participated via Webex)
Director Daniel C. Naumann

STAFF ATTENDING

Mauricio E. Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Brian Collins, operations and maintenance manager
Joseph Jereb, chief financial officer (participated via webex)
Evan Lashly, environmental scientist
Craig Morgan, senior engineer (participated via Webex)
Josh Perez, human resource manager
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator
Michel Kadah, engineer (participated via Webex)
Linda Purpus, environmental services manager (participated via Webex)

PUBLIC PRESENT

Burt Handy (participated via Webex)

OPEN SESSION: 9:06 a.m.

Director Naumann called the Engineering & Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:06a.m. as Chair Maulhardt had not yet arrived.

Committee Members Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Destiny Rubio commenced Roll Call. Committee members: Director McFadden, and Director Naumann were present. Director Maulhardt was absent.

1. Public Comment

Director Naumann asked if there were any public comments for the Committee. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 3, 2020 Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, Director McFadden; Second, Director Naumann. Roll call vote, two ayes (McFadden, Naumann). None opposed. One absent (Maulhardt) Minutes approved 2/0/1.

Director Naumann stated Motion Item 3.3 will no longer be on the agenda for today's meeting.

3. January 13, 2021 Board Meeting Motion Agenda Items

3.1 Approving the CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption Determination for the Oxnard Hueneme Backup Generator at El Rio Booster Plant

Chief Engineer Maryam Bral provided an update on a CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption (CEQA NOE) determination for the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Backup Generator at the El Rio Booster Plant and asked the Committee to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board, approving staff's determination of the CEQA categorical exemption. Dr. Bral stated that Attachment A of the motion item had been updated and Attachment B had been added to supplement the motion item (see attached). The committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

Chair Maulhardt joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

3.2 Execution of a Contract for the Purchase of Carryover Water from Ventura Water and Casitas Municipal Water District and Finding that the Associated State Water Project Transfer is Statutorily Exempt from CEQA

Operations and Maintenance Manager Brian Collins provided an update on a contract for the purchase of carryover water from Ventura Water and Casitas Municipal Water District (MWD) which included findings that the Associated State Water Project transfer is statutorily exempt from CEQA. He added that staff is currently revising this motion item to include a Notice of Exemption Resolution based on a recommendation from District's legal counsel. Mr. Collins asked the Committee to recommend approval of the motion to the full Board, authorizing the General Manager or designee to execute the contract for the purchase of carryover water and approving staff's finding of the CEQA statutory exemption.

Director McFadden asked if the water would be delivered for roughly about \$250 an acre foot. Mr. Collins confirmed the cost (\$53.47 per AF for the water and an estimated \$200 per AF conveyance fee for a complete cost estimated at \$918,000 for about 3,600 AF of water). Director Naumann inquired about what is needed to get this agreement approved. Mr. Collins stated that the District has received preliminary approval from the City of Ventura and Casitas MWD has also provided a preliminary approval or willingness to take the item to its full Board.

Mr. Collins stated that he plans on attending Casitas MWD January 13 Board meeting with Murray McEachron, in case the Casitas Board has any questions. Director Naumann asked what would occur if the agreement is not executed. Mr. Collins stated that there would be no risk to United. Director Naumann clarified and stated that this is carryover water so there would be a deadline for executing the purchase of the carryover water, as essentially

the District either takes it or the other water agencies lose the water. Mr. Collins responded that was not the case, unless San Luis Reservoir spills, in which case an Article 21 offering would be forthcoming. Mr. Collins added that United's contingency plan for that would be to accept any undelivered portion of that carryover water via Santa Clarita.

General Manager Mauricio Guardado, Jr. stated that if the agencies cannot take carryover water and San Luis Reservoir is about to spill, United's contingency plan would be to send the water down Castaic Creek. He added that United has an agreement with Santa Clarita Water and if that were the case, the water would then be split between each of the three agencies, with each receiving its participative portion.

Director Naumann asked what would happen to Casitas carryover water if they did not take any action. Mr. Collins stated that it would stay in San Luis Reservoir for Casitas to take delivery themselves or to offer to the open market.

Chair Maulhardt asked if United has the funds to purchase this water. Mr. Collins stated that yes, the District has enacted a water purchasing fund. The Committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

3.3 Execution of a Contributed Funds Agreement for the Physical Modeling of the Freeman Diversion Rehabilitation Project with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Motion item removed from agenda and was not discussed.

3.4 Execution of a Contract Amendment with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants for the Freeman Diversion Hardened Ramp Physical Modeling Support Motion Item

Dr. Bral provided an update on the contract amendment for Northwest Hydraulic Consultants in the amount of \$125,595, which would provide technical support during physical modeling of the Hardened Ramp as a fish passage alternative for the Freeman Diversion. She asked the Committee to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board, authorizing the General Manager to execute the contract amendment. Director Naumann stated that when the \$125,595 amendment is added to the contract, it brings the total contract amount to over \$800,000. He then asked if there would be another request for additional monies or would this conclude the design work. Dr. Bral stated this will likely be the end of the design work. The Committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

3.5 Execution of a Contract Amendment with Stantec for the Freeman Diversion Modeling and Design of Vertical Slot Fish Ladder and Intake

Dr. Bral provided an update on the contract amendment for Stantec in the amount of \$403,879, which would provide further analysis and support during physical modeling of the Vertical Slot as a fish passage alternative for the Freeman Diversion. Dr. Bral asked the committee to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board, authorizing the General Manager to execute the contract amendment. The Committee members agreed to recommend approval of the motion item to the full Board.

UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting MINUTES

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4. Project Highlights

4.1 A Summary of the Activities to Prepare for the 2021 Wet Season at the Santa Felicia Project and Freeman Diversion

Environmental Service Manager Linda Purpus and Environmental Scientist Evan Lashly provided updates and slides (see attached) summarizing the staff activities in preparation for the 2021 wet season. Chair Maulhardt asked if staff identifies species based on video surveillance footage. Mr. Lashly stated that staff never touches the fish and identifies the species from the video footage. Director Naumann asked if staff has tried to tag and identify where fish are going. Mr. Lashly stated that staff is currently not doing that, but it is something that is being considered under the MSCHP. Chair Maulhardt asked what was the intent of having a second camera. Mr. Lashly stated it provides a second layer of information. Chair Maulhardt asked if there are better tools to provide that information. Mr. Guardado, Jr. stated that after the trial, United had put together some temporary mitigation items as staff worked towards the fish passage design and the cameras are one of the items that staff identified, and the camera was among the best in the market at that time for what United was required to do.

5. Future Agenda Topics

No future agenda topics were offered.

ADJOURNMENT 10:05 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt adjourned the Engineering and Operations Committee meeting at 10:05 am.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of January 7, 2021.

ATTEST:



Lynn Maulhardt, Chair



Staff Report

To: Engineering and Operations Committee

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Date: December 23, 2020 (January 7, 2021 Committee Meeting)

Agenda Item: **3.1 CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption Determination for the OH Backup Generator Project at the El Rio Booster Plant**
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee will consider recommending to the full Board that it considers approving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of categorical exemption determination for the OH Backup Generator project at the El Rio Booster Plant and allowing staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Ventura County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

Discussion:

The District is the lead agency for the OH Backup Generator project at the El Rio Booster Plant under CEQA. The proposed project consists of the installation of a backup diesel-powered generator at the El Rio Water Treatment and Groundwater Recharge Facility which supplies the Oxnard-Hueneme Pipeline (OH) system. The generator would automatically turn on in the event of a power outage to enable the District to continue to run the upper aquifer wells at the Wellfield thereby facilitating continued supply of the OH System to meet customer potable water needs.

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to the CCR Section 15301 "Existing Facilities" Class 1 and the CCR 15302 "Replacement or Reconstruction exemption" Class 2.

Fiscal Impact:

The County Clerk and Recorder's Office filing fee for the CEQA NOE is \$50.00 which is included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

Attachment A – Notice of Exemption
Attachment B – Resolution 2021-02

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency _____

Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

RESOLUTION 2021-02

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPROVING THE OXNARD-HUENEME SYSTEM BACKUP GENERATOR PROJECT AT THE EL RIO BOOSTER PLANT

WHEREAS, for the purpose of continued supply of potable water to the Oxnard-Hueneme System during power outage events, the United Water Conservation District (“District”) proposes the installation and operation of a new backup diesel-powered generator, the Oxnard-Hueneme System Generator (Project), at the existing El Rio Booster Plant; and

WHEREAS, the Project will be installed on existing District facilities; and

WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of the Project include the contractors of the Oxnard-Hueneme Pipeline who are groundwater pumpers and water users within the District.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District does hereby **RESOLVE**, **DETERMINE**, and **ORDER** as follows:

1. CEQA Compliance

The Board of Directors hereby finds that approval of the Project is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) (“CEQA”) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), on grounds that the Project is categorically exempt. Specifically, the Board of Directors finds that the Project is categorically exempt pursuant the Class 1, Existing Facilities exemption (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301), and the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction exemption (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15302). The Board of Directors further finds that none of the exceptions to the application of these exemptions apply. (See State CEQA Guidelines, § 15300.2.)

2. Approval of the Project

The Board of Directors hereby approves the Oxnard-Hueneme System Generator Project and its implementation.

3. Notice of Exemption

The Board of Directors hereby directs Staff to file a Notice of Exemption (“NOE”) for the Project within five (5) working days of the approval of the Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF JANUARY 2021

Michael W. Mobley, President

Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer

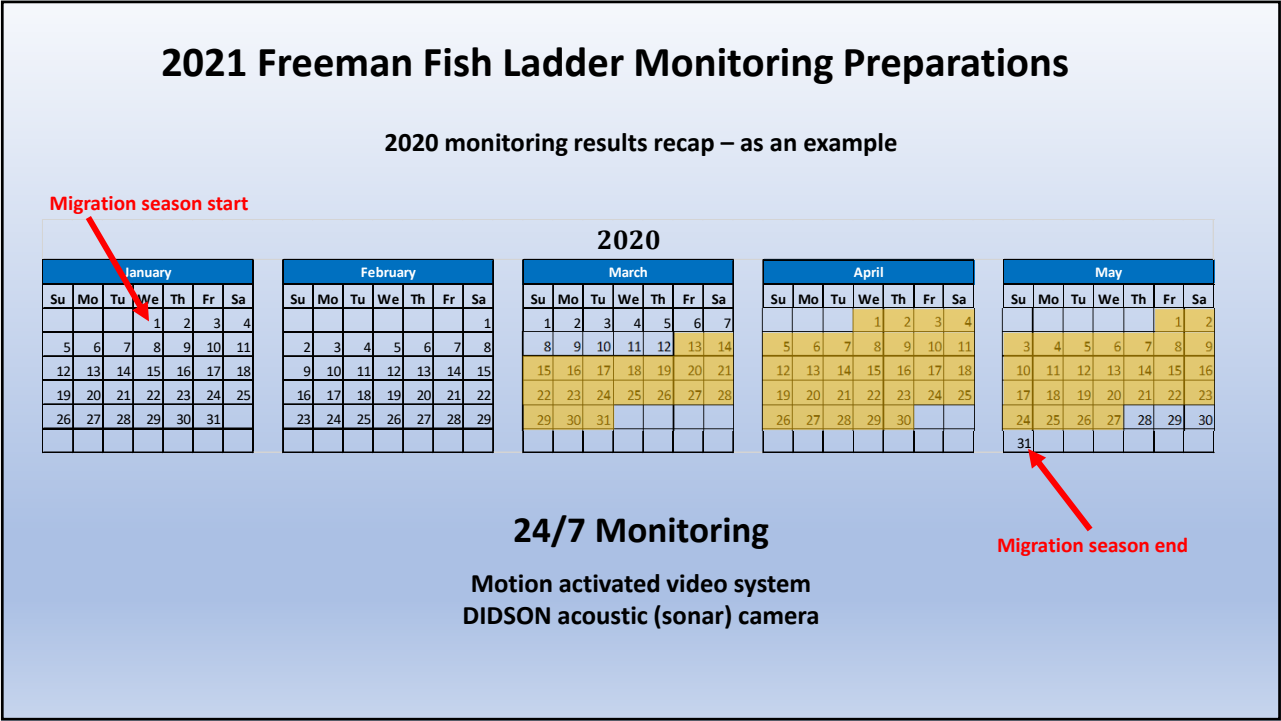


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Regulatory
Compliance
Initiatives

- FERC license water release requirements
 - Habitat Water Releases (7-20 cfs)
 - Migration Water Releases (200 cfs)
- Freeman Court Order mandates
 - Operation of fish ladder
 - Surveillance equipment
 - Triggered activities

2



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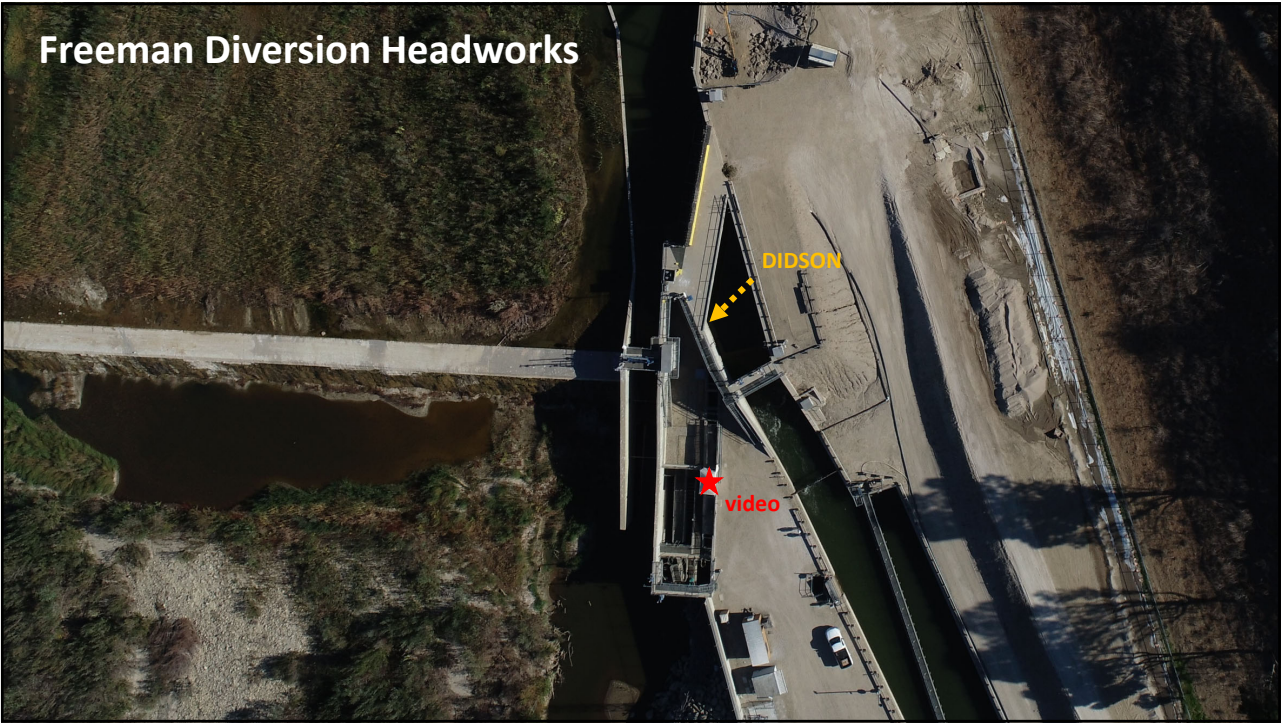
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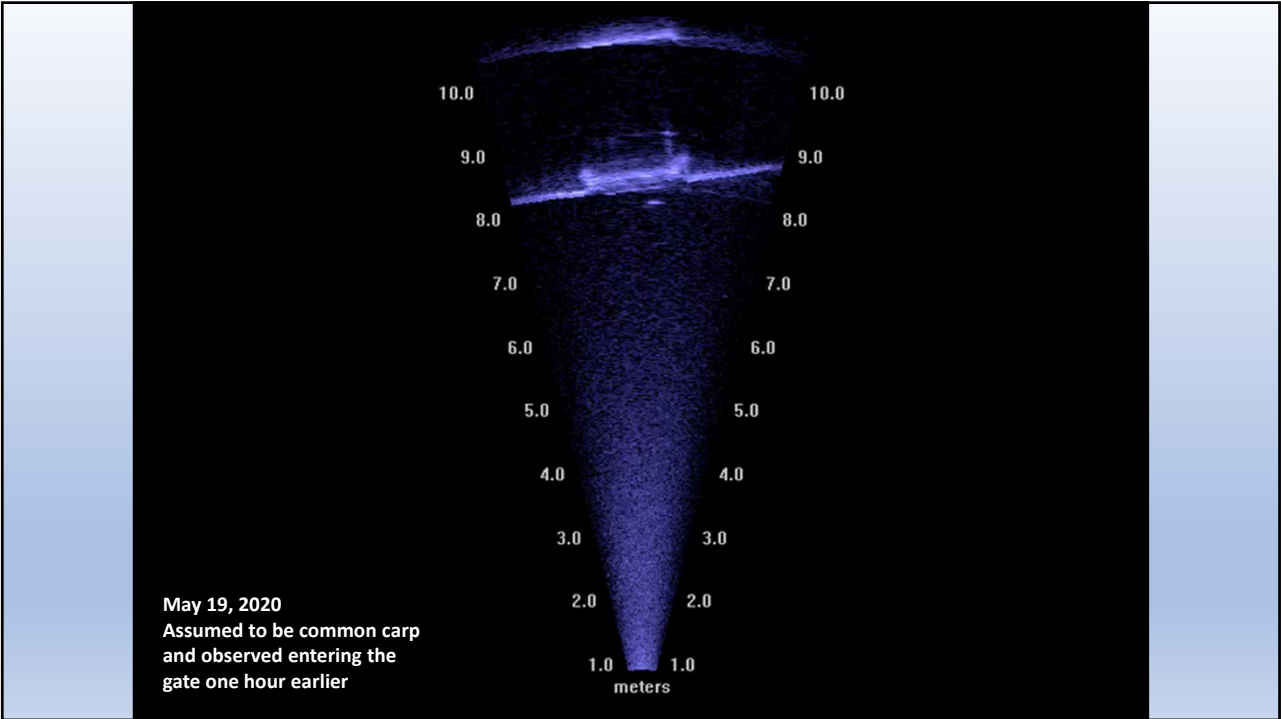
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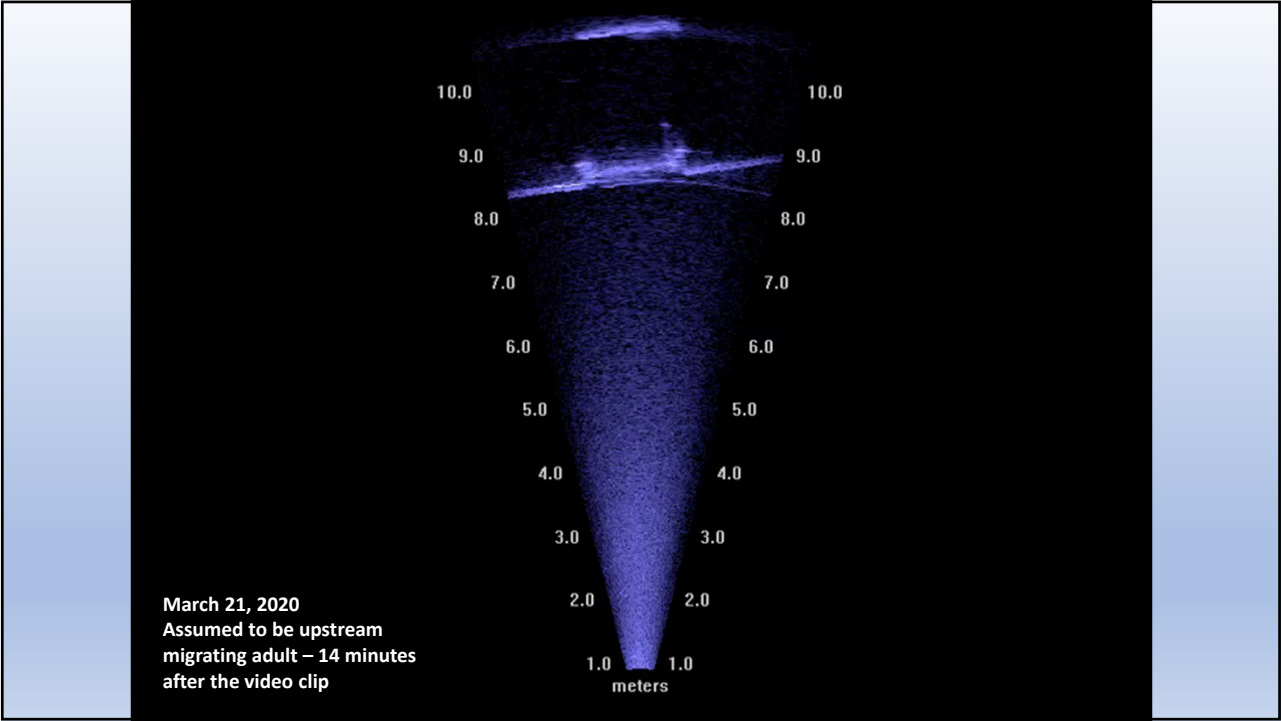
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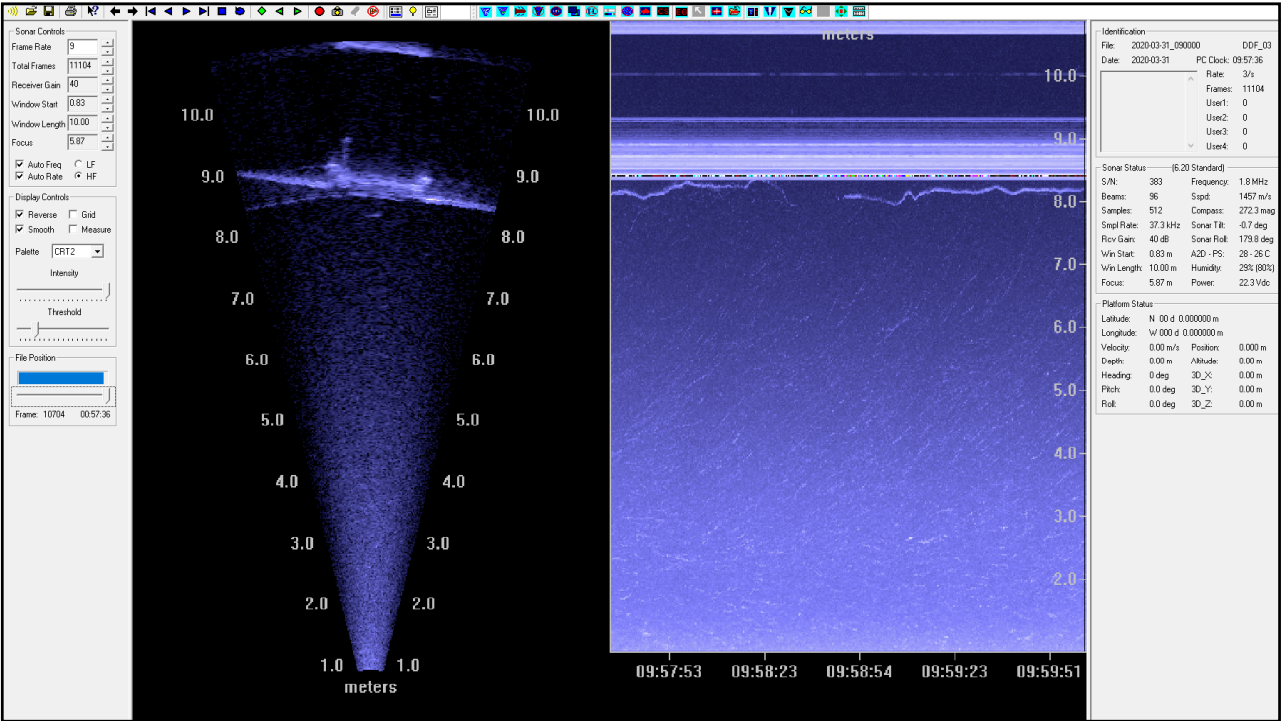
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Reviewing Monitoring Footage is Time Intensive

2020 monitoring results as an example

Video Surveillance	DIDSON Footage
<p>2082 total clips (~18 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 fish<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 upstream migrating <i>O. mykiss</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 adults, 1 smolt• 3 common carp• 28 birds• 246 bugs• LOTS of splashing• 1 two-striped garter snake• 1 western pond turtle	<p>1675 total hours (69.8 days) of footage for review</p> <p>428 individual observations of fish</p> 

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2021 Monitoring Preparations

✓ Video and DIDSON footage review protocols

✓ Establish cloud database backup

✓ Test – troubleshoot – resolve surveillance system issues

✓ Provide remote access for footage review (COVID-19 precaution)


✓ Develop Survey123 app for field use and data organization

Daily During Fish Ladder Operation

- Review acquired footage
- Check, clean, and replace DIDSON if necessary
- Test IR beams and video upload
- General facility visual check

Prepare for snorkel surveys in Piru Creek below Santa Felicia

- 1x monthly; 2x weekly for 4 weeks following detection at Freeman



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