

Lynne Plambeck
AB1234 report
June 19th 2020, 10AM-Noon

"Greater Ventura County GDE Webinar"

Webinar produced by Santa Clara River Watershed Council

Candice Meneghin, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Melissa Rhode, Nature Conservancy, Mark Capelli , Southern Steelhead Recovery Coalition, Natalie Stark and Kevin Delano (geologist in Dept. of Water Rights State Water Resources Control Board, Presenters

The River and its ecosystems are not limited by political boundaries so important the GSA's are coordinated throughout the watershed. That is especially true when considering ground water dependent ecosystems.

Melissa Rhode presented several slides and diagrams to explain what a GDE. One indication is no more than 30 feet depth to water. Must be measured at the right time of year, so as not to erroneously eliminate a GDE. TNC has developed a tool for looking at GDE lands that will be available to agencies in the Santa Clara River Watershed.

Mark Capelli spoke about steelhead throughout the Southern California Area. Species occurrence is related to surface flows and influenced by ground water pumping . Southern California steelhead was listed in 1997. He discussed several of the biogeographical groups including the Santa Clara River. Groundwater extraction is identified as a threat to the continued survival of the steelhead.

State Water Control Board presenters discussed the Ventura River Water shed were they are measuring and calculating instream flows Natalie discussed the meaning of sustainable for SGMA – lack of 6 undesirable results. Reductions in flow that have a significant impact on beneficial uses including GDE. There are a lot of data gaps. If plans are not submitted or inadequate, SWCB will step in (triggered by deadlines). Next deadline for us (jan 31st 2022). The basin could be put on probation. Public trust resources – navigatable waterways and fisheries, Scott River Decision also linked this to groundwater. SWRCB charged to protect the public trust. Kevin Delano discussed SWRCB modeling efforts on the Ventura River Watershed, what they are looking at and how they are doing it.

The webinar ended with a Quick Fire panel of various resource agency representatives from Fish and Wildlife (State and Federal) to DWR discussing their various roles in the GSPs.

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SANTA CLARA RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING #84

Thursday, June 25th, 2020 9:00 a.m. –11:35a.m.

Mission Statement for the Watershed Council:

Stakeholders in the Santa Clara River Watershed are dedicated to the conservation of the Santa Clara River, from its headwaters and tributaries to its estuary, for the mutual benefit of the natural resources dependent on the river and the people who live, work, and recreate along the river.(www.SCRwatershed.org)

Water Talks working with DACS to bring them into the GSPs.

Fillmore-Piru working to get ground level data

EJ Remson gave report on Fox Canyon GSA – looking at ramp down to meet GSA Sustainability.

Stakeholder will meet this afternoon. Fox Canyon Water Market open since March. 150 AF traded so far.

Lara Meeker reported on GDE webinar from last Friday – materials will be up on Watershed Council website soon.

Lynn R. Spoke about watershed coordinator grant. A new grant for watershed coordinator from DWR may be available and will be applied for. Want to include upper watershed. Rick Vergutz has been contacted. (Due in Sept.)

Rick Vergutz gave an update on the SC GSA Stakeholder meeting yesterday. Another one in July.

Aaron Engstrom – Planner for Ventura County shared findings for the coastal trail and sea level rise work. Talked about Ventura’s Coastal Plan – City and County of Ventura, Oxnard and State Parks. Coastal trail is supposed to go all the way up to Oregon along the coast. I, like the Pacific Crest trail. Intended for none motorized vehicles. Glaciers are the main contributors to sea level rise – happening fast. The state wants local jurisdictions to address erosion, wave event, tidal inundation with rising tides and river flooding – 8, 16 an 58 inches. State Planning for resiliencie for 3-5- feet by 2050. Also evaluated vulnerable native specie. Managed retreat is controversial – tso concentrate on green fields and open space to buffer sea level rise. Negative impacts of coastal armor, increased erosion and reduced recreational amenities.

Peter Dixon from TNC reported on their projects along the Santa Clara River.

Homelss in sensitive wetlands area. Can’t be removed without a place to go, but are discussing setbacks and clean camp policies.

Chris Cole - Coastal Conservancy is interesting in proceeding with Plan but needs good local partner.

State Parks report on McGarth Park is also a state beach and the estuary is a natural preserve. Trying to protect tidewater goby and southern steelhead while providing additional recreational oppurtunities. Also plan for sea level rise. Resore up to 30 acres of wetlands to natural estuary habitat. Plan is to elevate structures above 100 year flood level.

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