



Environmental Committee

3/3/21 – 10 AM

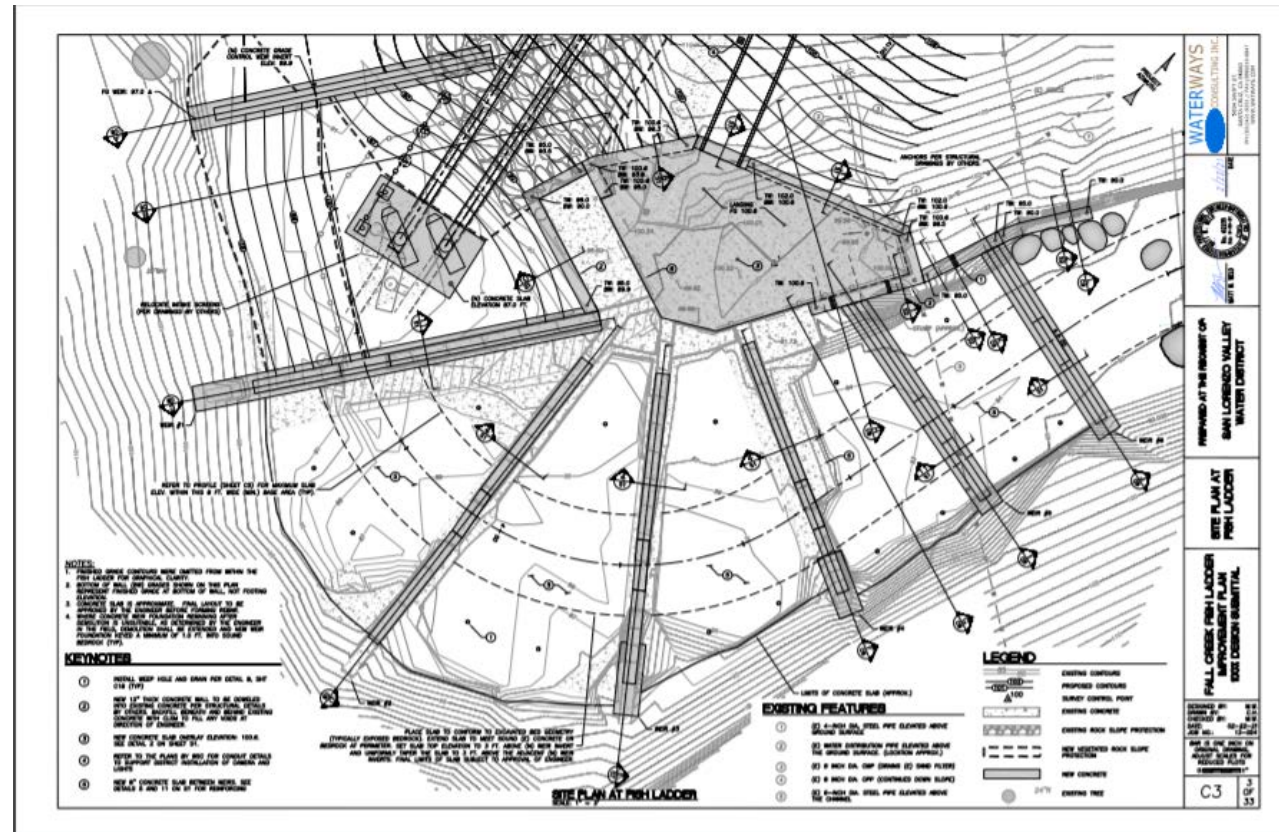
Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project - Update

- *CEQA: Notice of Exemption - Complete*
- *CDFW 1600 permit – Complete*
- *Central Coast Water Quality Control Board's Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification – Complete*
- *County Riparian Exception Application – Complete*
- *NFMS/Army Core of Engineers – pending receipt and approval of Biological Opinion*

- *Construction bidding to begin early April 2021*

Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project - Update

- Staff reviewing 100% designs & calculations



Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project - Update

Draft schedule:

- RFP released early April
- Notice to proceed issued by May 1, 2021
- Construction to begin June 2021
- Construction ends August 2021



2020



Date Unknown

Olympia Conservation Easement Area Contract

Overview

- District completed the Olympia Conservation Area Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan in Sept. 2020
- Plan developed to guide habitat management, restoration, and related activities within the Olympia Conservation Area—a 6.3- acre) located in the District's 180-acre Olympia Watershed Property.
- The conservation area was set aside by the District to mitigate impacts of its capital improvements and operations and maintenance projects on rare species and sensitive habitat in the Sandhills



Director of Operations
transplanting Buckwheat
– Probation Tank 2019

Olympia Conservation Easement Area Contract

Proposal

- Jodi McGraw Consulting (JMc) conducted 2020 plan implementation
- Annual report due to the Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
- Overview of work; exotic plant management, restoration of natives, species enhancement, monitoring and reporting
- Total cost ~12K (partially funded through conservation area endowment)



Ben Lomond Wallflower

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC FOLLOW-UP LETTER

- Follow-up to 2020 PG&E letter submitted by District
- CC list (?)
- Signed by Board Chair or District Manager (?)
- Trees cleared after 2020 fires – to be addressed in letter?



Priority Projects by Month

- March – July 2021 Planning
- Additional Committee items of interest?



**Jodi McGraw
Consulting**

Olympia Conservation Area Management: 2021

Prepared for:

Carly Blanchard
Environmental Planner
San Lorenzo Valley Water District
cblanchard@slvwd.com
831-430-4639

Prepared by:

Jodi McGraw
Principal and Lead Ecologist
Jodi McGraw Consulting
PO Box 221 • Freedom, CA 95019
jodi@jodimcgrawconsulting.com
(831) 768-6988

SCOPE OF SERVICES

In this project, Jodi McGraw Consulting (JMc) will conduct work in 2021 to restore, manage, and monitor the Olympia Conservation Area. Table 1 lists the tasks to be implemented in 2021, which are described in greater detail in the Olympia Conservation Area Habitat Management and monitoring Plan (McGraw 2020) as well as the 2020 annual report (McGraw 2021).

BUDGET

Table 1 identifies the estimated costs to complete the project tasks based on the estimated level of effort required. JMc will bill the San Lorenzo Valley Water District on a time-and-materials basis based on the labor and reimbursable mileage rates identified in the budget. While costs may vary for the individual tasks outlined in Table 1, depending on the actual level of effort required to implement the project tasks, the total costs will not exceed \$11,137.84 unless the District authorizes and adjustment to the budget in writing

REFERENCES

McGraw, J. M. 2020. Olympia Conservation Area Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. Prepared for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. September 2020. 190 pages

McGraw, J. M. 2021. Olympia Conservation Area Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan 2020 Annual Report. Prepared for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. January 2021. 20 pages

Table 1: Costs for Olympia Conservation Area plan tasks during 2021

1	Task	Ecologist (\$115/hr.)		Assistant Ecologist (\$75/hr.)		Habitat Technician (\$55/hr.)		Private Vehicle Use (\$0.56/mi.)		Other Direct Costs		Total Unit Cost (\$)	
		Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Hours	Cost (\$)	Miles	Cost (\$)	Items	Cost (\$)		
1	Exotic Plant Management												
1.1	French broom and Portuguese broom	2	230			9	495	29	16.24			741.24	
1.2	Velvet Grass, Thistles, and Spring Vetch	1	115			9	495	29	16.24	contractor bags	20	646.24	
2	Restoration of Silver Wattle Area												
2.1	Collect and Process Seed	4	460			30	1,650	236	132.16			2,242.16	
2.2	Remove litter and woody debris	2	230			24	1,320	113	63.28	tarps	50	1,663.28	
2.3	Broadcast seed	4	460			8	440	29	16.24			916.24	
3	Species Enhancement												
3.1	Cage Ben Lomond wallflower	1	115			8	440	58	32.48	wire, bamboo, staples	250	837.48	
4	Monitoring and Reporting												
4.1	Conservation Area Condition	2	230	12	900			116	64.96		-	1,194.96	
4.2	Photomonitoring	2	230	8	600			29	16.24			846.24	
4.5	Annual Report	10	1,150	12	900							2,050.00	
	Total	28	3,220	32	2,400	88	4,840	639	357.84		0	320	11,137.84

Patricia K. Poppe, CEO and President
Michael Lewis, Senior Vice President,
Electric Transmission Operations

Aaron J. Johnson, Vice President,
Wildfire Safety and Public Engagement
Pacific Gas & Electric
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94015

Dear Poppe, Lewis and Johnson:

In 2020 the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (District) wrote to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) regarding its power lines and infrastructure within the San Lorenzo Valley; highlighting concerns around PG&E's infrastructure on District property. As discussed in our previous letter the District relies on surface water tributaries and springs that empty into the San Lorenzo River to supply drinking water to 7,900 connections. The District is committed to protecting its associated watershed lands for water quality, water quantity and protecting critical habitat within the San Lorenzo Valley's biodiverse region.

In 2020 the San Lorenzo Valley area suffered significant fire damage during the CZU Lightning Complex Fires. After the fires PG&E escalated their right of way (ROW) clearing around power lines that cross District property, from Boulder Creek to Empire Grade. Over the past several years, District staff have collaborated with PG&E's contractors regarding vegetation and tree removal activities on District property. However, the increase in ROW clearing, unauthorized access, and felling trees without removal is alarming.

While our District is committed to its collaboration with PG&E, we want to again make it clear that we do not support a process that ultimately results in a zero vegetation situation or potentially causes additional hazards on our watershed properties. We believe clearing a large swath could trigger a cascading effect, even if unintentional, that will (a) significantly increase the potential of greater erosion, which (b) has a high potential to significantly impact our District's water collection and treatment facilities at a high cost to our customers (for example, if turbidity levels due to increased erosion exceed 30 Nephelometric Turbidity Units), and which (c) could cause significant damage to downstream fish habitat in the San Lorenzo River watershed—habitat that is finally seeing the beginnings of Steelhead trout and Coho salmon rejuvenation after years of effort on the part of many stakeholders. Ultimately, we do not believe that such outcomes are in anyone's best interests.

Our District supports PG&E's consideration of taking a different approach using current and future power industry best practices and technologies. We urgently request PG&E prioritize hardening its power infrastructure in environmentally sensitive areas like the District's. We believe that accelerated overall upgrades to PG&E infrastructure will help avoid PSPS shutoffs which also affect water delivery. And we request that PG&E and its contractors continue to collaborate with District staff prior to tree removal activities on this sensitive property. We believe that this approach will result in better



13060 Hwy 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
(831) 338-2153

outcomes for the environment, will enhance public protection against wildfires, and will minimize impacts to the overall watershed and, specifically, District facilities.

Thank you for continuing to work with our District on this vital public policy issue.

Rick Rogers

San Lorenzo Valley District Manager

Cc: Attached <Carly provided list>

Environmental Committee Priority Projects & Items:

March 2021

Fall Creek Fish Ladder

Olympia Conservation Area Restoration & Monitoring

PG&E Follow-up Letter

April 2021

Urban Water Management Plan

Conjunctive Use – CEQA & Updates

Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPMP)

May 2021

Zayante Surplus Watershed Land

Fire Management Plan Draft (April or May)

Bypass Flows

June 2021

Solar Panel Maintenance

Balance Hydrologics Operational & Ecological Gauging WY19-WY20 Presentation

Fire Management Plan Implementation

July 2021

Priority List for July – December

Sandhills Habitat Conservation Plan

PG&E Conservation Easement

To be scheduled:

Fall Creek Fish Ladder Tour

*staff recommends reestablishing priority projects and items by July 2021