



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-12-105  
Meeting 12-35  
October 24, 2012

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### AGENDA ITEM

Informational Presentation from the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the Central California Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit Final Recovery Plan

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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Receive an informational presentation from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the Central Coast Coho (CCC) Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Final Recovery Plan.

### SUMMARY

The CCC Coho salmon ESU includes all naturally spawned (reproducing) populations of Coho salmon within a specific portion of the Central California Coast. Within the District's Sphere of Influence, this area includes San Gregorio, Pescadero, and Gazos Creeks (all San Mateo County Coast Coho bearing streams). The CCC Salmon ESU was listed by the state as "Endangered" in 1995 and federally as "Threatened" in 1996 and then re-listed federally to "Endangered" in 2005.

### DISCUSSION

The NMFS issued a final Recovery Plan for the CCC Salmon ESU in September 2012. Recovery Plans are used to identify a road map for restoration of listed species and their ecosystems to the point that they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. NMFS will present information contained in the Final Plan to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors.

Many District projects are undertaken that benefit Coho salmon including: implementation of the Big Dipper Ranch Roads Restoration Project, the El Corte de Madera Creek Watershed Protection Program, routine maintenance activities, and proposed future work efforts associated with the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. In some instances, grant funding tied to Coho Salmon and other threatened fisheries recovery has been awarded (or applied for) in order to fund implementation of a specific project.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The District, as part of its mission statement, already works to “protect and restore the natural environment” including Coho salmon habitat, through implementation of strategic purchases, restoration projects, and by upgrading and maintaining existing infrastructure. Projects that benefit Coho salmon are anticipated to continue to occur regardless of whether or not a Recovery Plan has been issued for the species. The Recovery Plan has identified important Coho Salmon habitat within the District’s boundary, and within specific preserves, which can help facilitate additional grant funding for future acquisition and restoration. The District will continue to seek grant opportunities to fund Coho salmon preservation and restoration/ recovery projects.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

No Board Committee review is required for this project.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice for this presentation was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Presentation of information to the Board of Directors does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**NEXT STEPS**

The District will continue to work with the NMFS and other regulatory agency partners to protect threatened and endangered species.

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Same as above