



Putah Creek Community Gathering #1

Questions and Answers

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 5th, 2023, from 6:30-8:00 pm

Meeting Location: In-person at the Winters Community Center, 201 Railroad Ave, Winters, CA 95694

Water Use & Management Questions

Question: Water use; How much is allocated to maintaining the fishery, groundwater levels, agricultural needs, and any other demands on the resource?

A: PCWM will answer this question.

Question: What effect does prior flood control and gravel extraction have on the ecology of Putah Creek and responsiveness of the Creek to changes in releases? How do they affect management of flows, transit time of water and water temperature?

A: PCWM will explore this question.

Question: Is there enough (water)? How are boundaries drawn and interests chosen to receive a limited resource?

A: PCWM will explore this question.

Question: Who foots the instream flow contribution for the voluntary agreements/ Bay Delta Plan?

A: Solano County Water Agency.

Question: Who is clearing the Creek sides?

A: Putah Creek extends more than 30 miles with approximately 200 parcels, both public and private, in two counties, Solano and Yolo. Clearing vegetation can be done for many purposes; fire risk reduction, weed

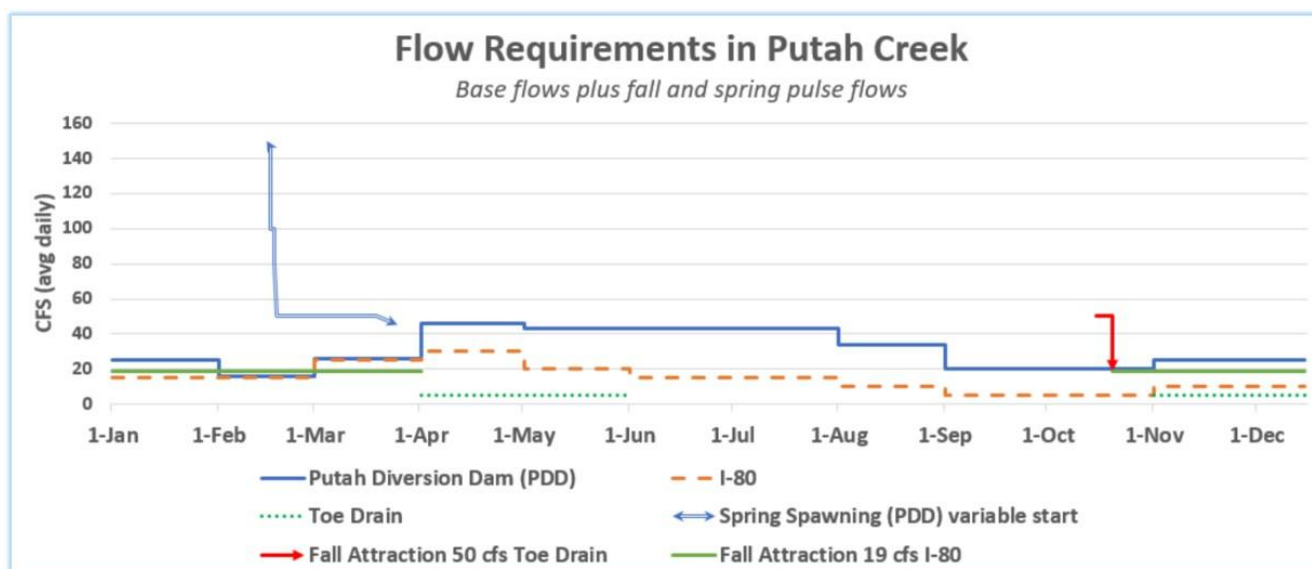
removal and pest control, access issues, farming operations, and other reasons. Sometimes the work is permitted by a regulatory agency, but most of the time it is not. If you have concerns about a particular activity on the Creek, please call Max Stevenson, the Putah Creek Streamkeeper at Solano County Water Agency. Perhaps he can provide more information.

Question: I have been farming on Lake Solano for 30 years and it is filling in with sediment. The Creek is becoming shallower. I am concerned about it. Is there a plan to deal with that?

A: What is occurring is called ecological succession. Excess sediment from upstream tributaries is trapped by aquatic vegetation and over time is slowly turning the edges of Lake Solano into wetland habitat. There is no plan at this time to make changes to this natural process.

Question: It would be helpful if you gave us specific information on the Creek's flows, so we understand the water resources. What are the water flows monthly, seasonally, yearly?

A: The Putah Creek Accord (2000) mandates certain minimum flows in the Creek at the compliance locations. Below is a graphic explaining some of the details. Additionally, information about Putah Creek water flows can be found on the Solano County Water Agency's website [here](#).



Water Quality Questions

Question: UC Davis has a dump next to the Creek, have people been monitoring the water quality in that area?

A: The UC Davis landfill is no longer operational. There are a series of groundwater monitoring wells surrounding the former landfill, which monitor groundwater quality in the area.

Question: There is the California National Primate Research Center next to the Creek. It stinks over there. How do they handle the monkey sewage? Is it treated? Have people been monitoring the water quality in that area?

A: The smell that one sometimes notices near the creek is actually from the nearby biodigester facility, which recycles organic matter into electricity. The Monkey cage runoff flows into a retention basin and does not flow offsite. Water quality in the area is monitored through a series of groundwater wells in the vicinity. Surface water quality is not monitored since it does not run offsite.

Creek History Question

Question: Where is the information about how gravel was removed from the Creek to build the Montecillo dam?

A: The US Bureau of Reclamation built the dam and recorded this information in their documentation of the Monticello Dam. You can find that source information in the Bureau of Reclamation project notes. If you want more specific details, you will have to find the construction records of the Dam that are in the National Archive in Denver.

Wildlife Question

Question: Do you anticipate the Creek becoming a robust wildlife corridor?

A: The creek is a robust wildlife corridor and future restoration projects will maintain the creek as a wildlife corridor.

Recreation Question

Question: Is the Creek a navigable stream? Can you canoe on the Creek?

A: Yes, the creek is a navigable waterway.

Fish Question

Question: Before the Monticello dam was built, did the salmon swim up to the headwaters?

A: Historically, there were salmon before the Monticello dam, but not a lot. The salmon would usually swim up the Sacramento River.

PCWM initiative Questions

Question: Why are we doing the PCWM initiative? What are the concerns it is trying to address?

A: It is about trying to balance agricultural, fishery, and recreational needs.

Question: As the public, what is our role in the PCWM initiative?

A: Provide input on concerns, provide ideas to increase creek health, review ideas from others to see if they help the creek.

Question: How do you know who the interest groups are for Putah Creek? And how did you know who to interview?

A. From people who participated in LPCCC meetings, from people who participated in the Accord process, and from landowners who suggested people to interview.

Question: Are the interview findings going to be shared?

A. The interviews were confidential but yes, we will share the themes and concerns we heard.

Question: How did Ag Innovations get hired to manage the community engagement process for PCWM? Who hired you?

A: Ag Innovations worked on the Cache Slough land evaluation project, facilitated flood town halls in 2020, and worked with Solano County Board on an agricultural assessment, we are currently working with Solano County Sustainable Groundwater Management. Solano County was aware of our work on agriculture and water resources.

Question: What are the significant issues the PCWM initiative is compelled to respond to?

- *Supporting agriculture's needs for water information to plan their operations,*
- *Fair Creek management,*
- *Comply with water regulation,*
- *Maintain environmental flow.*

Question: Is it possible to amend the Putah Creek Accord?

A: PCWM will explore this question.

Question: Where can people sign-up to receive notification for PCWM?

A: People can [sign-up using this form here](#). This form is also on the [PCWM webpage](#).

Questions Not Applicable to PCWM

Question: Is the Solano County Water District going to give water to the new Forever California Community?

A: This is not applicable to PCWM. The Solano County Water Agency has not been approached about water to the proposed community.

Question: How much water goes to making Anheuser Busch beer?

A: This is not applicable to PCWM.