

# ME AND MY CDFG

Jay Norvell, Chief Environmental Planner  
California Department of Transportation

# OUR INTERACTIONS

- ⊙ Regulator / Regulated
  - ⊙ Permits and Agreements
- ⊙ Required Coordination
  - ⊙ CEQA
  - ⊙ Other...
- ⊙ Partnerships and Collaboration
  - ⊙ NEW: Advance Mitigation



# REGULATOR / REGULATED



- ⊙ Compliance
  - ⊙ Streambed Alteration (Fish and Game Code 1600 et seq. )
  - ⊙ Ca. Endangered Species Act and “Fully Protected Animals”
- ⊙ Issues:
  - ⊙ **Overlapping responsibilities with other agencies**
  - ⊙ **Reactive, project by project**
  - ⊙ **Lack of actionable planning\***
  - ⊙ Lack of permitting ability for “Fully Protected”

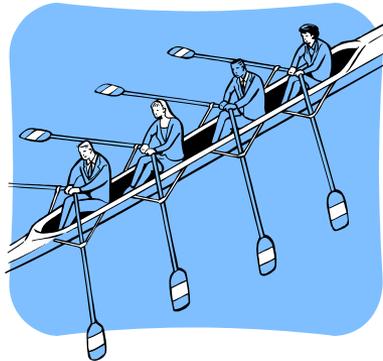
# REQUIRED COORDINATION

- ◎ CDFG as a CEQA Responsible Agency
- ◎ SB 857 Fish Passage
- ◎ Issues
  - ◎ Level of CEQA document
  - ◎ Resources to respond



# PARTNERSHIPS

- ① Staffing / Service Agreement
- ① Issue / Area Collaboration
- ① Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP)
- ① Statewide Advance Mitigation Initiative (SAMI)

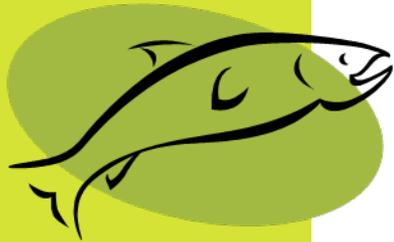


# STAFFING / SERVICE AGREEMENT

- ③ Caltrans / CDFG Agreement
- ③ Caltrans funds seven positions. CDFG expedites reviews.
- ③ Next: Programmatic fee payments?



# ISSUE / AREA PARTNERSHIPS



- ◎ California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project
  - ◎ CDFG and Caltrans lead with FHWA funding. 60 Agencies involved.
  - ◎ Pending FHWA National Environmental Award
- ◎ Fish Passage Forum – North Coast
- ◎ Level 1 / Level 2 Pilot in NW California – North Coast

# REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PROGRAM (RAMP)



- ◎ Grew out of 2006 Meeting
  - ◎ Current project-by-project approach is broken
  - ◎ Bond Program - Caltrans and CDFG mitigation needs overlap
- ◎ Uses existing authorities and funding
- ◎ Pilot is for the Sacramento Valley, although being pushed statewide
- ◎ MOU signed by CDFG, Caltrans, DWR, USFWS, and NMFS.
- ◎ TNC was promoting legislation to have Resources Agency manage a fund

# STATEWIDE ADVANCE MITIGATION INITIATIVE (SAMI)



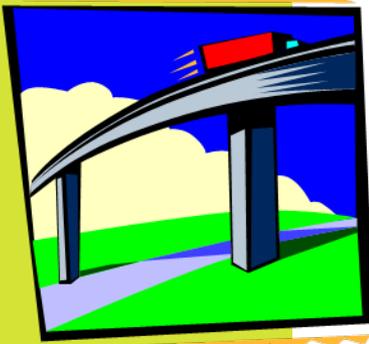
- ⊙ For habitat and wetlands mitigation (and possibly other...)
- ⊙ Modeled on North Carolina approach
  - ⊙ No change in legal requirements to avoid and minimize
  - ⊙ Front-load funding for off-site mitigation
  - ⊙ Establish planning , implementation, and validation unit in State Government. Delegates planning and mitigation to that entity.
  - ⊙ “Stock Market” for mitigation needs
- ⊙ Programmatic mitigation is in place prior to need

# STATEWIDE ADVANCE MITIGATION INITIATIVE (SAMI)

- ◎ MOU in place – CDFG, USFWS, ACOE, EPA, NMFS.
  - ◎ HSRA, DWR, and Transportation Planning Agencies interested
- ◎ UC did modeling for Caltrans on future mitigation needs.
- ◎ Working with FHWA on programming and accounting issues for federal funds
- ◎ Discussions with CDFG on implementation
  - ◎ Hope to have contingency budget documents in place with CDFG (BCP/FL)



# STATEWIDE ADVANCE MITIGATION INITIATIVE (SAMI)



- ◎ Changes how we do business
- ◎ Win-win for the environment AND project delivery
  - ◎ Mitigation in advance. Aligned with conservation needs.
- ◎ Aligns regulatory agency approaches and planning
- ◎ Focuses on watershed / bioregion / landscape approaches rather than project by project
- ◎ *This is how California should lead!*

# NEEDS

- ⊙ Coordination and collaboration between regulatory agencies to reduce cross-regulation
  - ⊙ Agreements? Delegations?
- ⊙ Staffing and funding flexibility to be innovative
- ⊙ State leadership
  - ⊙ Actionable planning
  - ⊙ Advance Mitigation
- ⊙ Future funding?





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