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
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

- Staffing / Service Agreement
- Issue / Area Collaboration
- Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP)
- Statewide Advance Mitigation Initiative (SAMI)
Caltrans / CDFG Agreement
Caltrans funds seven positions. CDFG expedites reviews.
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
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!
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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