



H. T. HARVEY & ASSOCIATES
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

19 April 2011

Ms. Katie Drexhage
County of San Luis Obispo
Public Works Department
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Ms. Drexhage:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with San Luis Obispo County on the Arroyo Grande Creek Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). As requested, we have revised our cost estimate for completing and finalizing the HCP. This estimate reflects our analysis and greater understanding of the remaining issues and completeness of the HCP, which we provided in a memorandum to the County, dated 3 March 2011. Also included are a description of the remaining tasks and a summary of our approach to complete these tasks.

We look forward to working with you to complete the Arroyo Grande Creek HCP. Please feel free to contact me or Sharon Kramer if you have any questions. I can be reached directly by phone at (408) 458-3203 or by email sterrill@harveyecology.com, and Sharon at (707) 822-4141 ext 101 or by email skramer@harveyecology.com.

Sincerely,

Scott Terrill, PhD.
Principal in Charge
H. T. Harvey & Associates
E-mail: sterrill@harveyecology.com



Task 1: Scoping meeting. Sharon Kramer would travel to San Luis Obispo to assist the County in conducting a public scoping meeting. Christine Hamilton would assist in preparation for the public scoping meeting, including preparing handouts and/or presentation materials. Travel costs were not budgeted for this task, in anticipation that it could be coordinated with travel for other meetings (for Task 2, or “additional tasks” below).

Task 2: Updates for Zone 3 and TAC. Sharon would travel to San Luis Obispo three times over the course of a year to attend three Zone 3, and three TAC meetings (assumes attendance at one Zone 3 and one TAC meeting per trip). The cost of travel between Arcata and San Luis Obispo is significant and is included in the Task 2 budget. Costs can be saved by participating by conference call.

Task 3: Draft HCP. Based on our section-by-section review of the 2009 draft HCP provided in a 3 March 2011 memorandum to the County, we estimated the number of hours it would take to complete each section. We concluded that the Project Description, Environmental Setting, Conservation Plan, and Take Assessment sections in particular would require significant effort and time to complete; we estimated these sections as being 5%, 50%, 10%, and 25% complete, respectively. Sharon would play a significant role in drafting the Conservation Plan and the Take Assessment sections based on negotiations and discussions with the County and the agencies. Christine Hamilton would play a lead role in gathering and incorporating this information into all sections of the HCP. We included time for our GIS staff to create high-quality maps to help convey the covered area and environmental setting. Reviews (based on expertise) would be conducted by Jeff Wilkinson (amphibian expert) and Adam Wagschal (fisheries expert), and Sheri Woo (technical editor) would provide technical editing. Dr. Scott Terrill (Principal-in-charge) would conduct a final review for consistency and quality.

Task 4: Administrative Draft HCP Review and Revisions. A complete draft HCP will be submitted to the County for review. After County review, we would revise the HCP and provide the revised version (“Administrative Review Draft”) to the County for agency review. After receiving agency comments, we would work with the County to respond. If the County does not agree with agency comments, it may be necessary to have additional meetings with the agencies to work through their comments: we did not provide a budget for these meetings. Ultimately, HTH will prepare a revised HCP for public review. Christine Hamilton would play a lead role in editing the HCP based on the County and agency comments, with reviews (based on expertise) by Jeff Wilkinson, Adam Wagschal, and Sharon Kramer. Sheri Woo would provide technical editing and would insure regulatory compliance. Dr. Scott Terrill would conduct a final review for consistency and quality.

Task 5: Draft HCP and NOA. HTH will prepare a Notice of Availability that the draft HCP is ready for public review. Christine would play a lead role in preparing the notice, with assistance and review by Sharon.

Task 6: Draft IA. HTH will prepare a draft Implementing Agreement for review by the County and the agencies. Christine would play a lead role in preparing the notice, with assistance and review by Sharon.

Task 7: Final HCP and IA. HTH will work with the County to respond to public comments and revise the HCP and IA: this version of the HCP would go back to the County and agencies for a final review. Christine would play a lead role in organizing and responding to public comments and agency and County comments, with assistance and review by Sharon.

Task 8: Prepare Final HCP and IA. HTH will work with the County to prepare the final HCP and IA based on a final review from the County and agencies.

Additional Tasks: We included additional Tasks not included in the numbered list of tasks from the 12 October 2010 Scope of Work.

NEPA/CEQA Coordination. Sharon and Christine would provide minor assistance to the County or consultant to aid with NEPA and CEQA documentation.

Site Visit and Meetings. Sharon Kramer and Christine Hamilton would conduct an initial site visit to gain an understanding of the dam and its components and to have a face-to-face meeting with the County and/or with agency personnel. After the initial site visit, Sharon would play a lead role in meeting with the agencies and with the County to gather additional information and reach agreement on remaining issues, such as the project description, mitigation and minimization measures covered lands, species, and activities, and funding. We would anticipate scheduling monthly phone meetings to coordinate with the County, provide an update on our progress, work with the County to finalize any minimization and mitigation measures before they are presented to the agencies for review, and discuss strategies for finalizing the HCP and obtaining agency approval. We would anticipate scheduling bi-monthly meetings with the agencies to present and discuss various options for mitigation and minimization measures, and to reach consensus on the measures. Christine would assist Sharon in preparing for these meetings, generating hand-outs, and could also document meeting decisions and action items. Due to the high cost of travel, we have budgeted for only one in-person meeting during the initial site visit; we believe the other meetings can be conducted via conference call.

Project Management. Sharon would conduct all project management aspects of the project, including budget, schedule management, and coordination and phone conversations with the County. Time for quality control and document preparation has been budgeted for in Tasks 4-8.