Project Number: EMC-2015-001
Project Name: Class II-L Monitoring

Background and Justification: Conflicts in implementing the original Class II-L rules led to passage of the regulation titled "Class II-L Identification and Protection, 2013", which went into effect on January 1, 2014. These new rules created two methods to help determine the presence of Class II-L watercourses based on either a threshold drainage area or active channel width necessary to sustain the function of a Class II-L watercourse. Due to the uncertainty associated with Class II-L watercourses, the Board placed a sunset provision (i.e., January 1, 2019) on these determination methods pending further evaluation of the efficacy of Class II WLPZs widths in achieving the goals outlined in CCR 916.9[936.9, 956.9] (a). The Department was also directed to report to the Board at least once annually on the use and effectiveness of the Class II-related rules.

Objective(s) and Scope: The objectives of this project are framed as general monitoring questions, and the scope of this monitoring are the areas subject to the Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rules. The rationale for these monitoring questions are explained in the concept proposal titled "Class II-L Monitoring: Concept Proposals." Monitoring questions are the following:

1) Are the Class II-L identification methods resulting in conflicts between Review Team personnel and the regulated public?
2) Are the drainage area values consistent with an active channel width of five feet?
3) Are the Class II-L identification methods effective in identifying watercourses that have the potential to translate thermal impacts to Class I watercourses? Is one method (i.e., width vs. area) better than the other?
4) Are the Class II-L identification methods effective in identifying watercourses that have the potential to transport LWD to Class I watercourses through debris flow processes?
5) Are the Class II WLPZ riparian standards effective in achieving the goals outline in 14 CCR § 916.9[936.9, 956.9](a)?

FPRs and regulations: 14 §CCR 916.9 (936.9, 956.9)(a)and (g)

EMC Critical Question or Priority: See Section 2.4, Theme 1

Collaborators: CAL FIRE, CDFW, North Coast Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Geological Survey.

Existing or Needed Funding: In kind staff contribution

Timeline and Fiscal year (s): Questions 1 through 4 – December 2018; Question 5 - ?

Submitted by Drew Coe, 9/15/15