

A Rare and Cool Plan for Fish in the Napa River Watershed



Napa River near Yountville in 1958

Mike Napolitano, San Francisco Bay Water Board

Clean Water Act: The First 20 Years



Cuyahoga River in 1969

It really sucks when the river catches on fire!

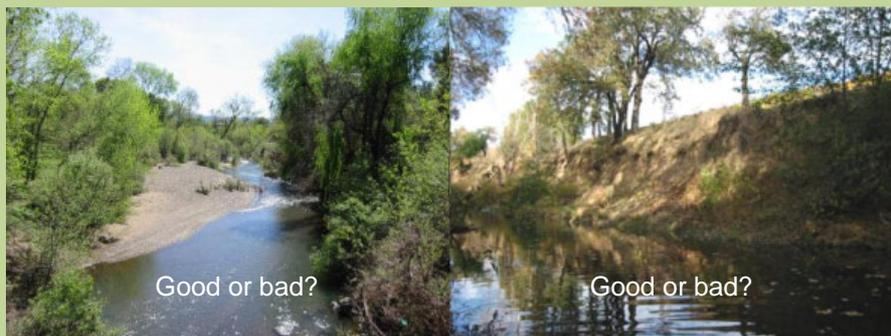
Clean Water Act: Early 1990s



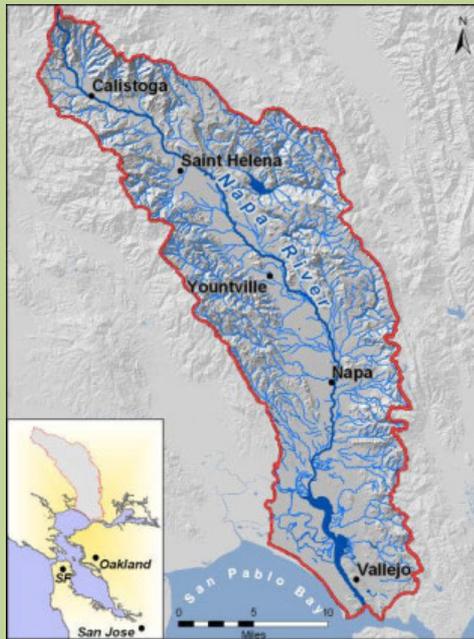
I want to live!

- Lots of losses in court
- ESA listings of West Coast salmon runs
- **EPA needs to make much more rapid progress**

The Clean Water Act: Today



- TMDL program up and running
- NPS control an additional priority
- **However limited federal funds and authority**



The Napa River Watershed

- 55 mile long river
- Third largest watershed in the Bay Area
- Diverse native fish and wildlife communities
- Regionally significant steelhead and salmon runs

Fisheries in Decline



- Since the 1940s, significant drop in steelhead and salmon populations
- Widespread erosion and sedimentation?
- Linkages?

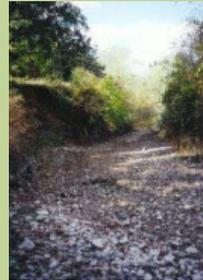
Fish Problems in the Napa River Watershed

Lack of base flow



Incision/simplification

Lots of sand



Barriers to migration

Upland Sediment Sources



Natural erosion



Road-related



Vineyard-related



Grazing-related

Narrow, Simple, and Disconnected



And a big source

Many disturbances, near and far in space and in time



We Want Wide, Complex, and Connected



Coordinated action, many landowners, extensive area



Watershed Plans Match Tools to Problems



Art work by Sandi Potter

- Regulation to reduce upland fine sediment supply
- Partnerships to restore channels
- Partnerships to restore fish passage
- Regulation and partnerships to protect base flow

Four Essential Elements

- Strong scientific foundation
- Connection to stakeholder WM objectives
- Communication in plain English
- Lots of relationship building



Photo credit: Jonathan Kohler, Napa RCD

Three Elements of the Napa Watershed Plan



- 1. Management measures and critical locations**
(natural background and impacts, local lead, strategy versus tactics)
- 2. Interim milestones**
(momentum and adaptive management)
- 3. Monitoring plan**
(three parts and matching responsible parties, capabilities, resources)

Progress Report



Napa River habitat enhancement:
Three miles of Rutherford constructed
Planning for 14-mile reach nearly complete



Vineyard sediment control: 14,000 acres
with farm plans and effective management
measures (40% of total)



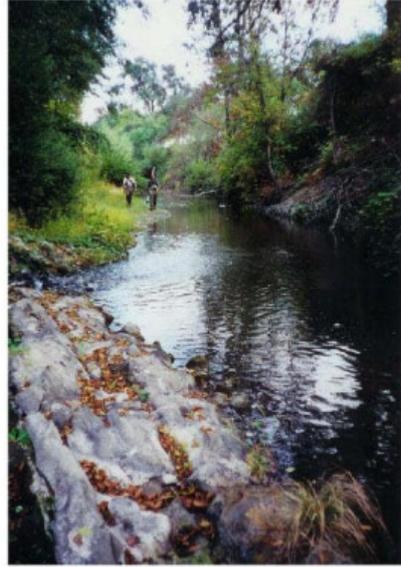
Fish Passage: key barriers removed on
Zinfandel, Dry Creek, and Bear Canyon



Fisheries population monitoring underway

Five Yardsticks in Five Years from Now

- WDR waivers
- Updated sediment budget
- 5 years of WQ monitoring
- 10 years of fish monitoring
- Miles of river enhanced



Adapt, Persist, and Partner



Photo credit: Jonathan Kohler, Napa RCD

For more information contact:

Mike Napolitano at mnapolitano@waterboards.ca.gov or 510-622-2397