

I.E. Goals and Objectives Summary

The primary goal of the Restoration Project is to restore and enhance approximately 42 miles of anadromous fish habitat in Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles of habitat in its tributaries while minimizing the loss of renewable energy produced by the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1121). The additional 48 miles of anadromous fish habitat is being restored to support an assemblage of fish species including four separate runs (races)⁴ of Chinook salmon and steelhead. The four runs of Chinook salmon include winter-run, spring-run, fall-run and late fall-run. Winter-run Chinook, spring-run Chinook, and steelhead have been identified as the priority species for recovery because they are listed under the state or federal endangered species act (CESA and ESA respectively) as either endangered (winter-run Chinook) or threatened (spring-run Chinook and steelhead. Fall-run Chinook and late fall-run Chinook are also included in the restoration goals for Battle Creek and are listed as candidate species under the ESA. Restoration of fall-run Chinook and late fall-run Chinook salmon may be delayed until viable population levels have been met for higher priority salmonids. This delay may occur if the restoration of fall-run Chinook and late-fall run Chinook salmon would impede the ability of higher priority species to achieve viable population levels. Restoration of fall-run Chinook and late fall-run Chinook salmon could only be further delayed or interrupted after the higher priority species have achieved viable population levels if it is demonstrated that their restoration impedes the ability these species to maintain viable population levels and if no other Adaptive Management actions can be taken to assist the higher priority species.

The objectives of the Restoration Project include: (1) restoration of self-sustaining populations of four races of Chinook salmon and steelhead, and their habitats in the Battle Creek watershed through a voluntary partnership with state and federal agencies, a third party donor(s), and PG&E; (2) up-front certainty regarding specific restoration components, including Resource Agency prescribed instream flow releases, selected decommissioning of dams at key locations in the watershed, dedication of water diversion rights for instream purposes at decommissioned sites, construction of tailrace connectors, and installation of Fail-Safe Fish Screens and Fail-Safe Fish Ladders; (3) timely implementation and completion of restoration activities, and; (4) joint development and implementation of a long-term AMP with dedicated funding sources to ensure the continued success of restoration efforts under this partnership.

⁴ The scientific use of the terms “runs” and “races” can be confusing, and may be confounded in this document. “Race” is most properly used to describe component populations of the same species which are genetically distinguishable. “Run” is more generally used to describe component populations of the same species that migrate and spawn at different times or locations. While some runs in Battle Creek have been shown to be properly considered races, additional genetics work remains before all four runs can be properly considered as races. In this document, we attempt to adhere to these conventions and try to use “race” in its genetic context. Errors in usage may arise where it was important to use the genetic connotation in a reference to the four runs even though it has not been proven that indeed four races exist.