



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 16, 2012

RE: Auburn Ravine Fish Passage
Description for Presentation

In cooperation with Placer County, in the fall of 2011 Nevada Irrigation District (NID) constructed a fish ladder below the NID stream gaging station in the Lincoln Crossing Nature Preserve.

The NID gaging station is located approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the State Route 65 bridge crossing in the city of Lincoln. Since the structure's installation in 1981, the channel bed downstream of the gaging station dropped approximately six feet. Historically water dropped over the weir and cut into the streambed below. Over time, the water flowing through the constricted channel and over the weir resulted in enough incision into the streambed below that the steep drop in elevation created a barrier to fish passage.

This project included a "nature-like fish way" consisting of a series of rock chutes and armored step pools constructed to mimic a natural stream channel. The channel was designed to eliminate future erosion using elements such as concrete cutoff walls stabilized by large rock, with smaller material mixed in to control porosity, reduce sub-surface flows, and allow for fish passage in a variety of flows.

Auburn Ravine has the potential for significant anadromous fish resources, especially fall-run and late fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Gravel-bedded stream reaches suitable for spawning of salmonids exists upstream from the City of Lincoln. Surveys of potential salmonid spawning habitats conducted in 2004 within streams in western Placer County found that Auburn Ravine contained more potential spawning habitat than all other surveyed stream reaches combined.

If you need any further information, please feel free to call me at 530-271-6864.

Sincerely,

Keane Sommers, P.E.
Associate Engineer

