APPENDIX A

Field data sheets used for recording habitat quality during biological assessment surveys

CALIFORNIA BIOASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

WATERSHED/ STREAM: _____ DATE/ TIME: _____

COMPANY/ AGENCY: _____ SAMPLE ID #: _____

SITE DESCRIPTION: _____

SAMPLING CREW

_____

_____

_____

SITE INFORMATION

GPS Coordinates

Latitude: _____

Longitude: _____

Elevation: _____

Ecoregion: _____

COMMENTS:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Temperature: _____

Specific Conductance: _____

pH: _____

Dissolved Oxygen: _____

Bioassessment Laboratory Information:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SEND A COPY OF THIS FORM TO:
DFG/ WPCL
2005 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 358-2858
website: www.dfg.ca.gov/cabw/cabwhome.html

RIFFLE/ REACH CHARACTERISTICS

Point Source Sampling Design

Riffle Length: ____

Transect 1: ____

Transect 2: ____

Transect 3: ____

(record Physical/ Habitat Characteristcs in Riffle 1 column)

Non-Point Source Sampling Design

Reach Length: _____

Physical Habitat Quality Score: _____

Physical/ Habitat Characteristics

	Riffle 1	Riffle 2	Riffle 3
Riffle Length:			
Transect Location:			
Avg. Riffle Width:			
Avg. Riffle Depth:			
Riffle Velocity:			
% Canopy Cover:			
Substrate Complexity:			
Embeddedness:			
Substrate Composition:			
Fines (<0.1"):			
Gravel (0.1-2"):			
Cobble (2-10"):			
Boulder (>10"):			
Bedrock (solid):			
Substrate Consolidation:			
Percent Gradient:			

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
AQUATIC BIOASSESSMENT LABORATORY

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LABORATORY
REVISION DATE-- MAY 1999

PHYSICAL HABITAT QUALITY
(California Stream Bioassessment Procedure)

WATERSHED/ STREAM: _____ DATE/ TIME: _____

COMPANY/ AGENCY: _____ SAMPLE ID NUMBER: _____

SITE DESCRIPTION: _____

Circle the appropriate score for all 20 habitat parameters. Record the total score on the front page of the CBW.

Parameters to be evaluated within the sampling reach

HABITAT PARAMETER	CONDITION CATEGORY			
	OPTIMAL	**SUBOPTIMAL**	**MARGINAL**	**POOR**
1. Epifaunal Substrate/ Available Cover	Greater than 70% (50% for low gradient streams) of substrate favorable for epifaunal colonization and fish cover; most favorable is a mix of snags, submerged logs, undercut banks, cobble or other stable habitat and at stage to allow full colonization potential (i.e., logs/snags that are not new fall and not transient).	40-70% (30-50% for low gradient streams) mix of stable habitat; well-suited for full colonization potential; adequate habitat for maintenance of populations; presence of additional substrate in the form of newfall, but not yet prepared for colonization (may rate at high end of scale).	20-40% (10-30% for low gradient streams) mix of stable habitat; habitat availability less than desirable; substrate frequently disturbed or removed.	Less than 20% (10% for low gradient streams) stable habitat; lack of habitat is obvious; substrate unstable or lacking.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
2. Embeddedness	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 0-25% surrounded by fine sediment. Layering of cobble provides diversity of niche space.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 25-50% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 50-75% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are more than 75% surrounded by fine sediment.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
3. Velocity/ Depth Regimes *(deep<0.5 m, slow<0.3 m/s)*	All four velocity/depth regimes present (slow-deep, slow-shallow, fast-deep, fast-shallow).	Only 3 of the 4 regimes present (if fast-shallow is missing, score lower than if missing other regimes).	Only 2 of the 4 habitat regimes present (if fast-shallow or slow-shallow are missing, score low).	Dominated by 1 velocity/ depth regime (usually slow-deep).
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
4. Sediment Deposition	Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% (<20% for low-gradient streams) of the bottom affected by sediment deposition.	Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 5-30% (20-50% for low-gradient) of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools.	Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 30-50% (50-80% for low-gradient) of the bottom affected; sediment deposits at obstructions, constrictions, and bends; moderate deposition of pools prevalent.	Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; more than 50% (80% for low-gradient) of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
5. Channel Flow Status	Water reaches base of both lower banks, and minimal amount of channel substrate is exposed.	Water fills >75% of the available channel; or <25% of channel substrate is exposed.	Water fills 25-75% of the available channel, and/or riffle substrates are mostly exposed.	Very little water in channel and mostly present as standing pools.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0

Parameters to be evaluated in an area longer than the sampling reach

HABITAT PARAMETER	CONDITION CATEGORY			
	OPTIMAL	**SUBOPTIMAL**	**MARGINAL**	**POOR**
6. Channel Alteration	Channelization or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal pattern.	Some channelization present, usually in areas of bridge abutments; evidence of past channelization, i.e., dredging, (greater than past 20 yr) may be present, but recent channelization is not present.	Channelization may be extensive; embankments or shoring structures present on both banks; and 40 to 80% of stream reach channelized and disrupted.	Banks shored with gabion or cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted. Instream habitat greatly altered or removed entirely.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
7. Frequency of Riffles (or bends)	Occurrence of riffles relatively frequent; ratio of distance between riffles divided by width of the stream <7:1 (generally 5 to 7); variety of habitat is key. In streams where riffles are continuous, placement of boulders or other large, natural obstruction is important.	Occurrence of riffles infrequent; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 7 to 15.	Occasional riffle or bend; bottom contours provide some habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 15 to 25.	Generally all flat water or shallow riffles; poor habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is a ratio of >25.
	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
8. Bank Stability (score each bank) Note: determine left of right side by facing downstream	Banks stable; evidence of erosion or bank failure absent or minimal; little potential for future problems. <5% of bank affected.	Moderately stable; infrequent, small areas of erosion mostly healed over. 5-30% of bank in reach has areas of erosion.	Moderately unstable; 30-60% of bank in reach has areas of erosion; high erosion potential during floods.	Unstable; many eroded areas; "raw" areas frequent along straight sections and bends; obvious bank sloughing; 60-100% of bank has erosional scars.
	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
9. Vegetative Protection (score each bank) Note: determine left or right side by facing downstream.	More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zones covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost all plants allowed to grow naturally.	70-90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well-represented; disruption evident but not affecting full plant growth potential to any great extent; more than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption obvious; patches of bare soil or closely cropped vegetation common; less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	Less than 50% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption of streambank vegetation is very high; vegetation has been removed to 5 centimeters or less in average stubble height.
	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width (score each bank riparian zone)	Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone.	Width of riparian zone 12-18 meters; human activities have impacted zone only minimally.	Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities haveimpacted zone a great deal.	Width of riparian zone <6 meters: little or no riparian vegetation due to human activities.
	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0