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BoS Agenda Item 29, November 13, 2012

1 message

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Mon, Nov 12, 2012 at 7:27 PM

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EL DORADO COUNTY

Ron –

With regards to Agenda Item 29, regarding the SMUD monies, I'd like to make a couple of points.

As stated in the agenda item, the Section 4.4 payments are to be used for "activities related to the UARP". After the County signed their agreement and left the negotiations, it was conclusively determined that the SMUD UARP project had significant impact on the flow regime of the Chili Bar reach, and that flow regime fundamentally changed the recreational use and associated land management along the Chili Bar reach.

As a result of this changed flow regime, SMUD agreed to make an annual payment to BLM of \$270,000. PG&E agreed to make an annual payment to BLM of \$30,000.

SMUD agreed to make an annual payment to State Parks of \$67,500, and PG&E agreed to make an annual payment to State Parks of \$7,500.

These payments will be adjusted annually, as are the County's.

As you are aware, the County is the primary manager on the South Fork below Chili Bar, and has very significant use directly on the lands it owns at Chili Bar and Henningsen-Lotus Park.

Because the County left the negotiations years prior to the consummation of the PG&E and SMUD agreements with the other managing agencies on the Chili Bar reach, and because its one and only agreement with SMUD specifically said that the monies were to be used for "activities related to the UARP", and because the County has no management responsibility and negligible land ownership on any of the reservoirs, river reaches, or UARP affect lands above Chili Bar, SMUD represented and all parties still at the table agreed that a significant part of the \$590,000 annual SMUD payment to the County should be available to defray costs associated with County land and river management and improvements below Chili Bar. Given that BLM will get \$300,000 annually, and State Parks will get \$75,000, it seems that one rational approach is that the County, as the lead managing agency and significant landowner allocate at least an equal amount annually for the Chili Bar reach.

I submit this for the record for consideration when more final commitments are made for the allocation of the

SMUD monies paid to the County for the impacts of the UARP project. I support the concept of continuing to place incoming SMUD monies in the established special fund, and respectfully urge full consideration at an appropriate future date, perhaps best soon after the annual payment actually arrives, of other "good uses of the SMUD settlement funds" besides and/or in addition to the ones articulated in the proposed guidelines for future expenditures.

Thanks for your consideration.

Bill Center