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9/22/2017

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:24 PM

BOS 9/26/2017

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Petition by Suzanne Robinson · 100 supporters

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vincent tamariz

san francisco, CA · Sep 22, 2017

As a physician who volunteered on a healing waters trip I can tell you these are life affirming and meaningful events for individuals. Please help us continue them.



Kurt Thompson

San Ramon, CA · Sep 22, 2017

The outdoors heals people. It's that simple.

**Susie Dodge**

San Anselmo, CA · Sep 22, 2017

Because it's the right thing to do!

**Samuel Ackerman**

SF, CA · Sep 22, 2017

I'd hate to see this incredible program impacted by a process blind to its impact on those who take part in it. Incredibly valuable and unique. Please put in the extra time/effort to ensure that it might continue.

**Polina Osipova**

San Diego, CA · Sep 22, 2017

Healing Waters is a wonderful organization that does important work. I've had the good fortune to hear the stories of many Healing Waters volunteers and participants. The RMP should absolutely be able to accommodate such groups. Please postpone making any decisions until you have provided adequate time for Healing Waters to participate in crafting new language.

[View all 100 supporters](#)**CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS**

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The BOSTHREE <bosthree@edcgov.us>

RMP Extension

1 message

Nick K. Aghazarian <bluesotar@hotmail.com>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:45 AM

To: District I - John Hidal - <bosone@edcgov.us>, District II - Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, District III - Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, District IV - Michael Ranalli <bosfour@edcgov.us>, District V - Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I have been rafting, relaxing and playing on the SFA since the early 90s. In some years around 100 days, this year closer to 40. I often stay at Camp Lotus, sometimes with friends in the valley and occasionally at other places like the American River Resort. I frequently get breakfast at Sierra Rizing or at Chevron, and have eaten at many of the local places like Marco's and Squally's, or in Cool or Rescue. Sometimes I make a stop in Cameron Park to gas up and get stuff from Safeway for my longer stays. This place is like a second home to me. I love it and love introducing it to people I bring up to take rafting. I know how much work and love has gone into creating this special public resource while balancing the needs of surrounding communities and private landowners. It is only with cooperation and collaboration and active engagement by thousands who love the river corridor over many years that any of this succeeds over the long term, without overwhelming it.

So, I was quite surprised to discover that the Board is considering adopting the River Management plan which would dissolve the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) without a single public workshop. The RMAC has been essential to successful management, and if there are changes needed than those should be addressed and resolved with a vigorous public process. As you are aware, Cronin Ranch and other BLM projects were made tremendously stronger by the inclusion of public voices, as was the project to replace the 49 bridge in Coloma -- certainly, those spearheaded by El Dorado County should do no less.

Please revise your timeline for adoption of this plan to allow public involvement. It's the right thing to do. And if for no other reason, do it in honor of our River's longtime champion, Bill Center.

Thank you for your attention and for the work that you do,

Nick K. Aghazarian
San Jose, California



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Public Comment on RMP Update for BOS Mtg 9/26

1 message

Suzanne Robinson <suzanne@hwaters.org>

Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 11:39 AM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Cc: joesbga@yahoo.com, sonja.hunt@us.af.mil, eric@friendsoftheriver.org, chairs@icrafting.org

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, please see the attached letter from the Institutional Groups regarding Agenda item 31 - "Approval of the final draft of the Summer 2017 River Management Plan" for the 9/26 meeting.

 **Institutionals to BOS. Sept 22 2017 .pdf**
399K

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
From: Institutional Groups (Friends of the River, Healing Waters, Calvary Chapel)
Re: Institutional Group Category Transition in RMP (Summer Draft)
Date: September 22, 2017

Dear Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

We are writing on behalf of the Institutional Groups as designated by the River Management Plan (RMP) (2001)¹ in regards to proposed changes in the RMP Draft (Summer 2017) to reduce the qualifying groups to only accredited academic programs². Respectfully we request that the County defer the vote scheduled for September 26th, in order to allow our organizations more time to evaluate the County's proposal to transition our groups to Commercial User Permits. The proposal, presented on September 15th, will have significant impact to our organizations, who for more than two decades have designed our programs and business models around the Institutional Permits outlined in the RMP. Since our organizations face significant financial risk or closure under the proposed requirement to transition to commercial permits, we again ask the County to defer the vote on September 26th to a later date in order to allow our groups time to further discussions with the County and conduct internal analysis.

We appreciate the meeting that took place on September 15, 2017 with County Deputy Chief Administrator Laura Schwartz and River Recreation Supervisor Noah R. Triplett. This was a good start to exploring the process around whether the groups can transition from an Institutional User Permit to a Commercial User Permit. We are grateful for the work that has happened to date to move us toward addressing the issue. Thank you also for addressing language in the RMP Appendix D that acknowledges the 3-year time frame for transition. It has been unclear to us, up until this point what the County's intentions were for the Institutional groups who do not qualify as accredited academic programs. While many options have been discussed, we had not seen the details of the County's proposal until our meeting. We would like to review these details roughly outlined at the meeting, and look forward to receiving that information. To date, none of the Institutional groups have been interviewed by the consultant, Steve Peterson, in his RMP update process. This deeply concerns us because significant changes are being made to this part of the RMP. Again, we greatly appreciate the

¹ *River Management Plan (2001)*, p. 6-13.

6.1.2 An Institutional Group is defined as a non-commercial group participating in a river trip operated as a program of a non-profit organization that meets IRS tax-exempt requirements, or a non-commercial group participating in a river trip through an accredited academic program as part of the educational curriculum of a school, college, or university.

² *River Management Plan Update (Summer 2017 version)*, p. 34.

6.1.4 Institutional Group:

6.1.4.1 A non-commercial group participating in a river trip through an accredited academic program as part of the educational curriculum of a school, college, or university. Fees or charges may only be collected to cover the actual costs of the trip.

time spent with us by staff at the September 15th meeting which has helped to create a dialogue around the proposed changes.

We would also like to respectfully ask that the members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors fulfill the first goal stated in the current RMP to “Promote on-going community and user participation in river management”³ by engaging the Institutional groups in a meaningful and productive process that addresses the issues of concern for both parties.

Institutional groups are a small portion of river users representing only 2.25% of the total use in 2016. However, El Dorado County can be proud that—unlike commercial groups rafting for profit or private users rafting for their own pleasure—Institutional groups have been opening doors for decades to protect the environment and support the underserved. Our participants are people who are: frequently low-income, people of color, children living below the poverty line in inner cities, people recovering from addiction, military personnel and veterans, people who seek the freedom to practice their religion, environmental advocates, and those living with HIV/AIDS. It would be unfortunate for the County to approve regulations that deter or prevent the positive benefits of the Institutional rafting programs.

It is helpful to create context for the impacts of the Institutionals on the overall river user totals on the South Fork American River, in comparison to commercial outfitter numbers and the participants and volunteers involved. According to the 2016 Annual Report, a total of 114,046 river use days splits use into: commercial (86,482), private (24,999) and institutional (2,565).⁴ Institutionals, therefore, are 3% of traffic that Commercials create. Overall, Institutionals represent 2.25% of the total river use in the County. According to the 2013 Annual Report, from 2002-2013 (excluding the lack of data for 2005)⁵, Institutionals averaged 3,486 Institutional user days per year for that period. It is also important to note that Institutional total include guides, assistant guides and non-guest, whereas commercial numbers do not.

Institutionals have the following input and requests about the proposed changes to the RMP:

1. The RMP revisions change the **definition** of the Institutionals to only identify educational groups, excluding the legacy organizations that have worked within the existing RMP and have operated on river for over 20 years. We request that the definition for the Institutionals continue as stated in the RMP 2001⁶

³ *River Management Plan Update* (Summer 2017 version), p.15

⁴ *El Dorado County River Management Plan 2016 Annual Report*, pg.3

⁵ *El Dorado County River Management Plan 2013 Annual Report*, p. 35

⁶ *El Dorado County River Management Plan* (2001), p. 6-13.

2. The **3-year transition period**⁷ proposed by Noah Triplett and discussed at the September 15th meeting with staff should be included in the RMP Update (Summer 2017) should the County decide to transition the groups. It should outline the steps that will be taken by the County and those that are required of the Institutionals to achieve this transition and to ensure they do not suffer significant financial hardships under the new system, closure, or other unintended consequences.
3. The fees, taxes and potential penalties associated with the new River User Permits for Institutional organizations have the potential to raise the cost of our trips above what our organizations and less affluent clients might afford. While County staff has indicated that some of those fees might be waived, those understandings should be documented in writing. In addition, caps on user fees and other fees for the Institutional groups should be explored.
4. According to the litigation that precipitated the River Management Plan, Institutionals have standing within the considerations of an RMP update. However, there are **not records or instances that anyone within the Institutional Community**, much less the staff or leaders of the organizations, **were consulted in the review** and most recent rewrite process of the current draft of the RMP. This causes us concern as we have a legal right to be considered in this process.
5. If Institutionals are required to transition to commercial permit status without some of the provisions of the March 2013 Recommendation, **some of the consequences** for the organizations include:
 - a. Closure
 - b. Increased costs
 - c. Additional and more frequent reporting
 - d. Employment regulations not appropriate to volunteers including, potentially, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations
 - e. Reduced offering to communities in need
6. If the County seeks to levee increased user fees on the Institutional Groups as a source of **additional revenue for the River Trust Fund**, it would only result in \$7,000-9,000⁸ per year based on the average Institutional river use days and permit fees. It is likely that the administrative overhead that adding 5-7 additional groups to the Fund would easily cancel out the benefit of those additional monies.

⁷ Staff Memo to El Dorado County Planning Commission from Noah Triplett (May 26, 2017), Re: Workshop on River Management Plan Update, p. 4-5

⁸ According to the numbers reported in 2016—10 Institutionals x \$200 (maintenance permit) + 2,565 user days x \$2 (per person)=\$7,130 –OR- using the average user days from 2002-2013—10 Institutionals x \$200 (maintenance permit) + 3,486 user days x \$2 (per person)=\$8,972.

7. Within the **broader context of California**, it is a critical time as income disparity and equity issues escalate and become increasingly visible across county lines. Poverty, drug addiction, depression and mental health issues plague our communities. Now is the time to open the doors wider for people in need such as the clients that the Institutional groups serve, not to close them shut.

For over 20 years our organizations have been functioning within El Dorado County and the South Fork of the American River. We ask the Board of Supervisors and El Dorado County to work with us to craft a solution that will allow us to continue operations on the South Fork of the American River, is included in the RMP Update and is agreeable to both parties.

Regards,



Eric Wesselman
Executive Director
Friends of the River

Joe Pratchard
Pastor

Calvary Chapel
Concord

PO BOX 6098 Concord, CA 94524
925-687-9084
calvarychapelconcord@gmail.com
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Delton Johnson
Program Director
Healing Waters

TJ Lee
Board Co Chair
Healing Waters



Travis AFB Outdoor Recreation
273 Ellis Drive, Bldg 863
Travis AFB, CA 94535
707-386-5048 / 707-424-5049

Natasha Abeygunawardena
Co-Chair

SIERRA CLUB



October 20, 2017

SEP 22 2017 PM 1:41
EDC BOS RCVD

EDC Board of Supervisors

330 Fair Lane

Placerville, CA 95667

SENT TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS

Hello John, Shiva, Brian, Michael and Sue:

WHOA!!

Please slow down the process / vote and allow public comment on OUR crucial revision to the RMP on the South Fork of the American River.

On behalf of myself: rafter and kayaker.

On behalf of my son: whitewater rafting guide for OARS

On behalf of all of us, the public, because we deserve input.

How would you feel being on the outside looking in on an issue vote in your community with no public discussion that affected you, your friends, your neighborhood, your school or your home? You'd probably be outraged. Let's not be outraged – let's sloooooow down and get this right.

Trust me, we the public don't want to drag things on and on...we just want to hear what's going on and voice our opinions. After all, we spend a lot of time on the SFA.

Thanks.



-Tom Senter

Lodi, CA.



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

RMAC

1 message

Jon Brommeland <yakrjon@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 1:12 PM

To: bosfour@edcgov.us

Cc: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear Supervisor Ranalli,

I think it is a mistake to do away with the RMAC. I attended some meetings early on and went away believing the RMAC did represent me and my concerns about access and use of the South Fork of the American River. At that time I was concerned about commercial interests locking out the public except through their toll booth. I think the county has done a good job managing the river. I am not sure who/what decided the RMAC was not useful. I disagree with that. So far as I know it has represented my interests as a citizen of the county and a frequent user of the river. I have done a lot of boating and to this day enjoy paddling a kayak.

Please revise your timeline for adopting the River Management Plan to allow more time for public involvement. Thank you.

Jon Brommeland
Cool, CA

