



River Management Plan Update

September 26, 2017

Requested BOS Actions

- Tentatively approve the final draft of the Summer 2017 River Management Plan (RMP) which will serve as the project description for the preparation of a CEQA Initial Study
- Direct staff to move forward with the Consultant to complete the CEQA process
- Provide direction to staff on Resolution 065-2002 relating to the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)

History

- March 28, 2013 – Planning Commission directed staff to complete a CEQA initial study related to minor modifications to the RMP
- After additional review, the list of minor modifications was significant and the issue of Institutional groups was not addressed
- August 20, 2013 – During a public RMAC meeting, RMAC recommends changes to the Institutional Group permit
- Staff decided to move forward with a comprehensive review of the entire RMP and retained ESP (now Dudek) to conduct a review of the RMP

Public Outreach

- April 13, 2015 – Presentation from Steve Peterson to RMAC – No action taken. Presentation included reference to Institutional Group Requirement changes
- June 3, 2015 – Two Public Workshops held at the Coloma Grange, facilitated by Steve Peterson. 63 people attended. Multiple references to the need for changes to the Institutional groups

Public Outreach cont.

- February 10, 2016 – Redlined version of RMP prepared by Consultant posted to the County website for public comment
- February 18, 2016 – Public meeting held at the Coloma Grange with the Consultant present to answer questions
- February thru June 2016 – Public comment period extended four times to allow RMAC time to complete comments

Public Outreach cont.

- June 22, 2017 – Workshop with the Planning Commission
- July 10, 2017 – Further discussion at RMAC meeting
- July 25, 2017 – Special RMAC meeting to discuss updated RMP
- August 10, 2017 – Planning Commission review and approval
- August 14, 2017 – Further discussion at RMAC meeting
- August 30, 2017 – Second special RMAC meeting to discuss update RMP

Objectives of RMP update

- Removes tasks and monitoring elements that are now unnecessary
- Removes regulations that are unenforceable by the Parks Division or are currently regulated by another department
- Provides consistency between the County, State Parks and Bureau of Land Management
- Provides consistency on how organized entities (Commercial and Non-Profit) are managed
- Brings the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) into the annual reporting process as this Commission was established for the express purpose of overseeing the development and maintenance of recreational opportunities within the County



Institutional Group Changes

Institutional Groups

- Current County Ordinance 5.50
 - “Institutional Group” means a group participating in a **noncommercial** river trip operated as a program of a non-profit
 - Noncommercial river trip
 - Fees collected only to recover actual cost of the trip
 - All expenses shared equally by all group members
 - No member of the group obtains financial gain, including salaries
 - No paid employees such as guides, lead guides or drivers, with the exception of educational leaders
 - No advertising or promotion of river trips

Change to Institutional Group Permit

- Only accredited educational courses would be able to register as an Institutional Group
- Change affects six non-profit organizations currently designated as Institutional
- Change requires these groups to now get an annual River Use Permit
- Brings the County's requirements of these organizations in line with current practices of State Parks and Bureau of Land Management
- Eliminates the disparity between how categories of organized entities (Commercial and Non-profit) are treated
- Allows for better management of daily capacity

River Use Permit Requirements

	River Use Permit Requirements	Institutional Group Requirements	Change
Annual Registration/Permit Application	\$200 Annual Permit Maintenance Fee	No Registration Fee	\$200 Annual Permit Maintenance fee
River User/Guest Fee	\$2.00 per guest	No guest fees	\$2.00 per guest fee
Guest limitations	Weekend and Weekday guest allowances set by permit	No guest limitations	Guest limitations would be set by permit
Workers Comp.	Required with exemption for volunteers	Not required	Would be required with exemption for volunteers
County Business License	Required, \$43 annually, can file for an exemption	Not required	Can file for an exemption
Possessory Interest Tax	Required, amount depends on business assets	Not required	Can file for an exemption
Authorization to use private property for river trips	Letter from land owner giving permission	Not required	Would be required
Water Flow notice provided to guests	Required	Not required	Would be required

River Use Permit Requirements

	River Use Permit Requirements	Institutional Group Requirements	Change
Health Permit	Required if food provided	\$328	Can file for an exemption
Reporting of River Use	Required Monthly, fees if late	Required Annually, no late fees	Monthly and late fees would apply
Putting in or taking out at Henningsen Lotus Park	Pay \$9 per raft or \$3 per kayak	Pay \$5 per raft or \$1 per kayak	Pay \$9 raft and \$3 per kayak
Violation of permit or registration requirements	\$100 1 st offence \$250 2 nd offence \$500 3 rd offence	No penalty's	Penalties would apply

River Use Permit Requirements

	River Use Permit Requirements	Institutional Group Requirements	Change
Guide First Aid and River Rescue Requirements	Required	Same	No Change
Liability Insurance	County named as additionally insured up to \$1 million dollars	Same	No change
Life Jackets	Required	Same	No Change
Quite Zone	Required	Same	No Change
Trip Size	Required	Same	No Change
Waste	Required	Same	No Change

River Use Permit Requirements

	River Use Permit Requirements	Institutional Group Requirements	Change
Paid employees such as guides, lead guides and drivers are compensated by salary, wages, or equipment	Allowed	Not Allowed	Would be Allowed
Fundraising Trips	Allowed	Not Allowed	Would be Allowed
Solicitation or requirement of membership or donation	Allowed	Not Allowed	Would be Allowed
Advertisement or promotion of river trips	Allowed	Not Allowed	Would be Allowed
Fees charged are above actual trips cost	Allowed	Not Allowed	Would be Allowed

Transition Plan

- Three year transition period for the six groups identified
- County currently has two unallocated River Use Permits and plans to divide these among the six groups identified using a flex permit system
- There are enough user days available to allow the same use as the six groups are currently using
- County will allow groups time to file exemptions for various permit fees
- Total financial impact of annual permit fees and user fees (based on historical use reports) averages approximately \$635 per group, with no one group exceeding \$1,000
- Over the course of three years if an issue comes up that is insurmountable and could cause a non-profit to cease river trips, staff has agreed to revisit the issue and bring forward any necessary recommended changes to the BOS



Commissions and Committee Changes



RESOLUTION NO. 065-2002

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

A RESOLUTION OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 170-2001 RELATING TO THE
RIVER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

V. POWERS AND DUTIES

The RMAC provides a forum for the discussion of river use issues, ideas or conflicts among persons or groups with an interest in the South Fork of the American River. The committee may make recommendations to both the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on matters related to whitewater recreation and campground development along the river.

A. RMAC SHALL BE **ADVISORY TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

1. Administration of the River Management Plan and Plan Update by the County.
2. Implementation of the River Management Plan Update.
3. Amendments to the River Management Plan and Plan Update.
4. Ordinances or regulations relating to private or commercial activities on the South Fork American River.
5. Use of the River Trust Fund.
6. Other matters referred by the Board of Supervisors.
7. Nothing in this resolution shall require that comments or recommendations from RMAC be a prerequisite for a decision by the Board of Supervisors on any matter.

RMAC cont.

- Staff is recommending the removal of references to RMAC in the updated plan
- RMAC is an advisory committee, not a directive of the plan
- Tentative approval of the updated RMP does not dissolve RMAC
- RMAC has evolved into more of a community-focused group vs. river-focused

Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC)

- County Ordinance 2.20.660
“Because recreation is so important for the physical and mental health of both the residents of, and visitors to, the County, the County establishes a commission with the expressed purpose of overseeing the development and maintenance of recreational opportunities within its borders”

Updated RMP

- Adds the PRC as the legislative body that will hear annual summaries related to river management activities in a public session
- If substantive issues or suggestions are identified in these sessions, the Parks Division will conduct focuses study of these subjects
- The PRC has the authority to appoint citizen's committees to assist in making recommendations to the Commission concerning these issues

Fees

Fee update

- River fees (other than put in/take out fees at Henningsen Lotus Park – updated in 2011) have not been updated since 1997 for user fees and 2001 for annual permit fees
- A fee study can not be conducted until an updated RMP is approved
- Any delay in approval of the RMP means that updated fees will not be in place prior to the 2018 river season



Staff Resources

Staff resources

- Current program including support for RMAC requires:
 - Full Time River Recreation Supervisor
 - Three Seasonal River Instructors
 - 20% Parks Manager
 - 20% Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
 - 25% Sr. Office Assistant

Conclusion

Proposed update to the RMP result in:

- Streamlined plan
- Enforceable by the Parks Division
- Consistent with other governmental agencies
- Supportive of safe river use
- Protects the environment



Board questions or
comments?