

29. 12-1398 Supervisor Sweeney recommending the Board continue placing the revenues from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) settlement agreement in the established special fund and that such revenues be used for road maintenance and law enforcement within the area of the Upper American River Project.

Dear EDC Supervisors,

I have comments to make on Item 29. 12-1398 above. I am a resident in Lotus and own property along the South Fork of the American River. I am also on the RMAC committee. River safety is often a topic of concern from local people attending the RMAC meetings who are property owners along the river and also the river community at large who use and enjoy the river and all it has to offer in the way of recreation. As described in the agreement with SMUD and the County, the money should be used for watershed management and other miscellaneous activities related to UARP impacts in El Dorado County. We have over 60 thousand people going down the river between Chili Bar and Folsom Reservoir with commercial outfitters in a summer season and many private boaters as well. This brings in business and is good for our community and county. In recent years, the number of people taking inflatable inner tubes down the class 2 stretch of the river has increased dramatically. These people often do not know the rules of the river and are unaware of river safety. Since the city of Sacramento has outlawed alcoholic beverages on the main Sacramento River many inner tubers are now coming up the road to Lotus and floating here on the South Fork instead. Many inner tubers are not aware of the dangers of a class two river and often come ill prepared without life jackets or shoes, while on the river. Also, they are not as respectful of private property as commercial boaters or private rafters and hard shell kayakers. We have had many more break-ins of vehicles parked at Greenwood Creek parking lot in the last few years as well. So while it is good for our community and economically positive for the county that so many people are using the river in the summer, for continued success of our wonderful recreational resource, we need to protect the river we enjoy and make it a positive experience for all users and land owners. This means that we need to support a staff that creates a safe environment on the river.

I am in favor of having some of the funds from this special fund to be used for hiring and keeping more staff to monitor the South Fork of the American River between Chili Bar and Folsom Reservoir during peak summer months. Noah Triplett, River Recreation Supervisor, and his team do not have the necessary staff to manage the large numbers of people using this river throughout the summer. There are many beneficial projects along the South Fork of the American River in Eldorado County. In my opinion, revenues from SMUD funds should be allocated to other projects along the South Fork through the Lotus Coloma Valley and the River Recreation Team as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Cushman
RMAC Committee Member