



**Suzanne Robinson**  
 San Francisco, CA  
 397

Supporters

**LATE DISTRIBUTION**  
 DATE 9/21/2017  
 BOS 9/26/2017

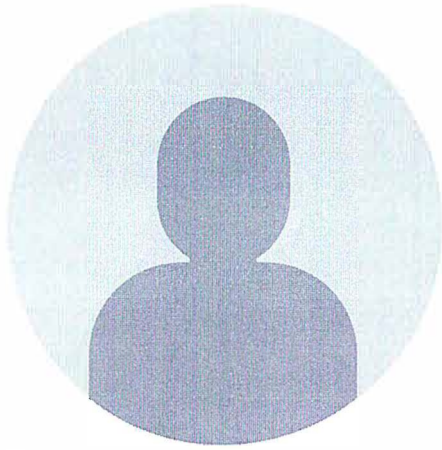
Rafting with Healing Waters has impacted so many lives. Since 1996 we have been empowering, inspiring and enriching the lives of people with HIV and AIDS, and more recently through our work with drug recovery centers. We are proud to have served and changed so many lives and many of you have been part of these moments.

El Dorado County is about to pass a revision of the River Management Plan (RMP) Update that would eliminate our ability to raft with our current status. Without proper language in it to address this issue, we have no guarantees what our future holds. Last week we sat in a meeting with County Staff and other Institutional Groups that began the process of exploring a new regulatory status for us. But we are worried that if the RMP Update passes without some language to protect us, we may not be able to continue our rafting program as we know it.

Please sign this petition and urge the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to defer the vote on the RMP scheduled for the September 26, 2017 Meeting, giving Healing Waters and the other Institutional Groups time to continue discussions with the County and align around a plan that works for our organizations to be able to serve our clients by creating life changing experiences for them on the South Fork of the American River.

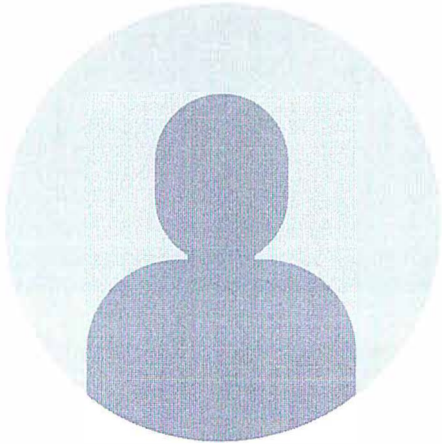
**This petition will be delivered to:**

- County of El Dorado, Board of Supervisors
- **District I, El Dorado County**  
 Supervisor John Hidahl
- **District II, El Dorado County**  
 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen



- **Supervisor Michael Ranalli**  
District IV, El Dorado County

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- **Supervisor Sue Novasel**  
District V, El Dorado County

## Public Comment on RMP Update for BOS Mtg. 9/26



**Suzanne Robinson San Francisco, CA**

# Mail

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## RECENT SUPPORTERS



**KC Bess**

Jackson, WY · [Sep 21, 2017](#)

I believe that these types of organizations are important i people together and to the outdoors.



**Erick Rozigas**

Merced, CA · [Sep 21, 2017](#)

This program is needed.



**Heinz Voss**

San Francisco, CA · [Sep 21, 2017](#)

For the past 5 years, the Rafting Trip with Healing Water: HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR. Granted, this year I couldn't afford it, THAT'S HOW BAD THE ECONOMY IS - PLEASE



**Kevin Jones**

Hayward, CA · [Sep 21, 2017](#)

this kind of access needs to be preserved



**Jason Bennett**

San Francisco, CA · [Sep 21, 2017](#)

I have AIDS !!!

[View all 100 supporters](#)



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Fwd: Please postpone RMP decision making vote**

1 message

**The BOSTWO** <bostwo@edcgov.us>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 11:31 AM

To: EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;, Shiva Frentzen &lt;shiva.frentzen@edcgov.us&gt;

Elaine Gelber  
Assistant to Supervisor Shiva Frentzen  
Board of Supervisors, District II  
County of El Dorado  
530.621.5651

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Taddojones** <taddojones@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 4:31 PM

Subject: Please postpone RMP decision making vote

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

To El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

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

I urge you to delay the impending decision to dissolve RMAC for the American River recreational amenities policies. I am personally hoping you will include much more public input and time before taking any steps to make radical changes to your County's River Management Plan.

Please, we just got a boating season back for the first time in 7 years, don't make this decision to dissolve RMAC now.

--

Sara Taddo Jones  
Auburn, CA



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Fwd: RMAC issues**

3 messages

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**The BOSONE** <bosone@edcgov.us>  
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM

Kind Regards,

***Cindy Munt***Assistant to Supervisor John Hidahl, District 1  
Board of Supervisors, County of El Dorado  
Phone: (530) 621-5650  
CLICK HERE to follow Supervisor Hidahl on Facebook

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer** <jen94401@yahoo.com>  
Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 8:26 AM  
Subject: RMAC issues

To: "bosone@edcgov.us" &lt;bosone@edcgov.us&gt;, "bostwo@edcgov.us" &lt;bostwo@edcgov.us&gt;, "bostthree@edcgov.us" &lt;bostthree@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosfour@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosfive@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfive@edcgov.us&gt;

Dear Supervisors,

I am alarmed to hear that you are planning on dissolving the RMAC without any public hearings on the matter that is so important to a large diversity of people, animals, and business. Although I do not live in your district I visit it 3 to four weekends a month for 6 to 8 months a year to spend time on the river, spend money on guides, food, lodging, gas and lots and lots of gear (your stores may think we are locals). We are white water kayakers and enjoy fly fishing. As a do no harm user of the river and supporter of your economy I believe you should postpone the vote on the River Management Plan and start scheduling public workshops to address concerns and explore RMAC options. All users, supporters, and business should have a say in this natural resource.

Please postpone the vote.

Jennifer Kardos (and my family from San Mateo)

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**EDC COB** <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 12:12 PM

To: The BOSTWO &lt;bostwo@edcgov.us&gt;, The BOSTHREE &lt;bostthree@edcgov.us&gt;, The BOSFOUR &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, The BOSFIVE &lt;bosfive@edcgov.us&gt;, Laura Schwartz &lt;laura.schwartz@edcgov.us&gt;, Vickie Sanders &lt;vickie.sanders@edcgov.us&gt;, Noah Triplett &lt;noah.rucker-triplett@edcgov.us&gt;

fyi

Office of the Clerk of the Board  
El Dorado County  
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667  
530-621-5390

[Quoted text hidden]

**Jennifer** <jen94401@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: Jennifer <jen94401@yahoo.com>  
To: "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

I sent this to all five supervisors and just found out I needed to copy you too.

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017 8:26 AM, Jennifer <jen94401@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Supervisors,

I am alarmed to hear that you are planning on dissolving the RMAC without any public hearings on the matter that is so important to a large diversity of people, animals, and business. Although I do not live in your district I visit it 3 to four weekends a month for 6 to 8 months a year to spend time on the river, spend money on guides, food, lodging, gas and lots and lots of gear (your stores may think we are locals). We are white water kayakers and enjoy fly fishing. As a do no harm user of the river and supporter of your economy I believe you should postpone the vote on the River Management Plan and start scheduling public workshops to address concerns and explore RMAC options. All users, supporters, and business should have a say in this natural resource.

Please postpone the vote.

Jennifer Kardos (and my family from San Mateo)



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Fwd: RMP Extension**

1 message

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**The BOSTWO** <bostwo@edcgov.us>  
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 11:50 AM

Elaine Gelber  
Assistant to Supervisor Shiva Frentzen  
Board of Supervisors, District II  
County of El Dorado  
530.621.5651

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nick K. Aghazarian** <bluesotar@hotmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:45 AM

Subject: RMP Extension

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

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 &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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## Proposal to Eliminate RMAC (BOS meeting 9/26/17)

1 message

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**John Simpkin** <johnmsimpkin3@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 2:00 PM

To: John Hidal &lt;bosone@edcgov.us&gt;, Shiva Frentzen &lt;bostwo@edcgov.us&gt;, Brian Veerkamp &lt;bosthree@edcgov.us&gt;, Michael Ranalli &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, Sue Novasel &lt;bosfive@edcgov.us&gt;

Cc: edc.cob@edcgov.us, Simpkin John Gmail &lt;johnmsimpkin3@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am alarmed that the Board of Supervisors is apparently holding a hearing on the proposal to remove the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) from the River Management Plan **without first** learning how those impacted by such action view this a proposal. I am requesting a delay in considering this proposal until the communities, businesses, and individuals affected by it are allowed to voice their concerns.

I've been a resident of El Dorado County for nearly 60 years. I went to local schools and taught at El Dorado HS for 30 years. For the duration of my residence here I have enjoyed many activities on the American River. Currently I ride my bike along the river, hike, swim, and kayak the SF American. To my knowledge, there is no other individual, group or **experienced resource** that is versed on river issues (aside from RMAC) that an individual, a business, or a community can approach for clarification or resolve a complaint regarding river management.

I have attended RMAC meetings and think that the committee is a valuable channel for public input into matters of managing the river corridor. Without the representation that RMAC provides, the community's options for clarification or input on river issues are very limited.

The way in which the river is managed impacts local businesses directly.

RMAC is a tool to managed impacts to business by developing direct cooperative approaches to river management challenges. RMAC provides a means for individuals, communities, (as well as businesses) to communicate with County agencies regarding river issues. RMAC mitigates/instructs land and boater interface issues. RMAC facilitates conversations between commercial interests and private boaters. RMAC upholds river safety concerns.

I don't believe that removing the most river-knowledgeable sitting group in the county is wise, nor do I believe that the community will be served by such action. I think that *at the very least* the County should set aside the proposal to remove RMAC for a reasonable period of time, hear the citizens affected by its removal, and seriously reconsider this ill-advised proposal.

John Simpkin  
Placerville  
530 621 1941





EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Fwd: River Management Plan**

1 message

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**The BOSTWO** <bostwo@edcgov.us>  
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 2:18 PM

Elaine Gelber  
Assistant to Supervisor Shiva Frentzen  
Board of Supervisors, District II  
County of El Dorado  
530.621.5651

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sue Stover** <stoversusanm@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 7:57 PM  
Subject: River Management Plan  
To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Dear Eldorado County Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to POSTPONE the vote on the current proposed River Management Plan until there has been adequate consideration for public forums, and specifically to explore options for the River Management Advisory Committee. It is essential that all parties work toward the common good and seek consensus when possible. The River Management Advisory Committee is a critical resource for information key to the River Management Plan.

I am a college professor and whitewater raft enthusiast. I frequently use raft experiences on the South Fork of the American River to introduce my college students to the outdoors where they gain the confidence to embrace new experiences and challenges and leadership skills, and an appreciation for our natural resources and the environment.

Please POSTPONE the vote on the current proposed River Management Plan until there has been adequate public input.

Respectfully,  
Susan M Stover, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVS  
Professor



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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## Comments on Item 31- 17-1034 Board of Supervisors Meeting Sep 26, 2017

1 message

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**hilde schweitzer** <hilde@amriver.us>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 2:44 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Comments submitted by Hilde Schweitzer

Board of Supervisors meeting Sep 26, 2017

Agenda item 31. 17-1034

As a former member of the RMAC (8 years), former Chair of the RMAC (2 years), signatory to the UARP agreement between SMUD and PGE regarding the South Fork American River, riverfront landowner in Coloma for 26 years, active whitewater boater and river user, and active participant in the RMAC as a citizen for over 26 years I respectfully submit the following comments.

Staff has repeatedly made the statement included in the packet memo:

“Over the years, this Committee has evolved into more of a community-focused committee. Staff does see value in providing a forum for the river community to provide input and feedback on river related issues. One alternative would be to look at more of an ad-hoc committee that could provide feedback to the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commission as issues arise.”

The RMAC helps oversee the management of over 100,000 river users each season, both Commercial and Public, they monitor what is going wrong and right on the river, and act on problems and issues associated with the river. This body, in it's present County sanctioned form, has been and continues to be the watchdog and protector of the river, the river environment, and the landowners that live along the river. The collective body of historical knowledge, the technical expertise, and the volunteer dedication of the Committee makes it unique in and of itself.

Staff has never given a single example or concrete reason to substantiate the statement above. For the Consultant to come to the same conclusion without a single example or substantive reason is not good science and is at best a very subjective observation. To base a decision on whether or not the RMAC should maintain it's current format and status on a statement like this is not informed.

The mandate for the RMAC is to:

Assist the Planning Commission and Board on river related issues.

The RMAC's powers and duties include:

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.

The RMAC's advisory scope includes:

1. Administration of the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate by the County.

2. Implementation of the River Management Plan Update.

3. Amendments to the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate.

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.

All meetings and the ancillary support necessary for the meetings are paid for by the River Trust Fund. The composition of the committee includes 7 members:

A business representative, a commercial outfitter representative, 2 members at large, a non commercial boater representative, a landowner representative, a State Parks representative, and ONE County Staff member to act as secretary.

\*Staff, in it's memo, understates the efficacy of the RMAC and what it has attempted to do, especially these last few years. The County has been more than derelict in their responsibilities to the Community and the the Committee.

Staff, without public or RMAC scrutiny or approval which is mandated under item 5 above, signed a contract with a consultant to perform a River Management Plan Update in 2014. This contract-for \$61,145 (just under \$62K), clearly under the purview of the RMAC, was never shown to or discussed at any public RMAC meeting before it was signed by Staff.

Despite repeated requests to review the contract by RMAC, the contract was only shown to them in March of 2016. Repeated requests by RMAC for a fiscal analysis of the RMP done by the Consultant in December 2014 were denied until May of 2016—they were stated to be confidential.

The original contract, in addition to not being reviewed by the RMAC, was never sent to the Planning Commission or the BOS for analysis or approval but was internally approved without proper vetting by the RMAC for authorization to use the River Trust Fund as payment.

In March of 2017, after years of delay, and with no explanation for the delays, RMAC was finally given a Draft document to review. At the time there were vacancies on the Committee, making it hard to meet a quorum. Meeting after meeting, the members and the public received information a few days, or in some cases, the day before a meeting. They were given unrealistic deadlines for comments and when comments were submitted as recommendations to Planning and the Board they were ignored by Staff.

In my opinion it is not the RMAC that has failed the County or the Community. It is El Dorado County that has failed the people it represents. Public service is never easy and is usually not convenient, as you well know, but it is the responsibility of public servants like Staff and the Board to carefully examine and understand both sides of every issue and respond appropriately. The public, through RMAC, the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and now through the Board has repeatedly asked that RMAC continue to be allowed to function in it's present state.

I urge you to continue the RMAC in it's present state and to keep it's Board mandated Ordinance as direction. To do any less is to do a tremendous disservice to the people that live and recreate on the river, and the people you as Supervisors represent.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this subject and thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilde Schweitzer



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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## South Fork American RMAC plan

1 message

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**bruno pitton** <brunopitton@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 3:10 PM

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

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The South Fork of the American River in Eldorado County is utilized by a diverse user group, including land owners, river runners, mountain bikers, business owners, and equestrians. When coming back to whitewater boating, I started on the SFA and have been kayaking there for over four years. I grew up whitewater boating in an area of California where there was no input from river users on the management of the river resources. This prevented a large group of stakeholders' interests from being heard. I feel very fortunate that there are stakeholders who share my recreation interests on the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC).

It would be very unfortunate if a River Management Plan (RMP) was adopted that dissolved the RMAC. It is essential to do public outreach to address this crucial revision of the RMP and there have been zero public workshops to date. As an exercise in contrast, when the Bureau of Land Management took on the task of revising their South Fork American River Management Plan they held 48 public workshops to get community consensus and when they were deeded ownership of nearby Cronin Ranch they held 20.

The RMP vote should be postponed until numerous public workshops have been coordinated to address users' concerns. The SFA is a large economic driver in Eldorado County and eliminating the RMAC may reduce the prosperity of the region if user groups are negatively affected because their interests are being heard.

I look forward to the public workshops to address the RMAC and RMP.

Best,  
Bruno Pitton  
Winters, CA



The BOSTHREE &lt;bosthree@edcgov.us&gt;

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## Commercial Outfitters Formal Comments

1 message

**Nathan Rangel** <nate@raftcalifornia.com>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 3:48 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, The BOSFOUR &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Cc: Noah Triplett &lt;noah.triplett@edcgov.us&gt;, Vickie Sanders &lt;vickie.sanders@edcgov.us&gt;, Laura Schwartz &lt;laura.schwartz@edcgov.us&gt;

Dear Mr. Mitrising,

Please accept this email and attachments as the formal commercial outfitter comments made for the upcoming BOS meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the Draft RMP. I send these to you, the Board and staff as the appointed commercial representative to the RMAC and as President of our state outfitter trade association, California Outdoors.

First, I reference the attached letter from the River Management Advisory Committee. We find the comments and suggestions in that letter completely relevant to this issue and to our concerns. If your Board so chooses we would support your following the RMAC proposal.

Second, I want to literally draw from comments made to your Board regarding this issue by a private landowner and private boater, Ms. Hilde Schweitzer. Specifically I reference the following from her testimony in blue italics:

*Staff has repeatedly made the statement included in the packet memo:*

*"Over the years, this Committee has evolved into more of a community-focused committee. Staff does see value in providing a forum for the river community to provide input and feedback on river related issues. One alternative would be to look at more of an ad-hoc committee that could provide feedback to the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commission as issues arise."*

*The RMAC helps oversee the management of over 100,000 river users each season, both Commercial and Public, they monitor what is going wrong and right on the river, and act on problems and issues associated with the river. This body, in it's present County sanctioned form, has been and continues to be the watchdog and protector of the river, the river environment, and the landowners that live along the river. The collective body of historical knowledge, the technical expertise, and the volunteer dedication of the Committee makes it unique in and of itself.*

*The mandate for the RMAC is to:*

*Assist the Planning Commission and Board on river related issues.*

*The RMAC's powers and duties include:*

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*The RMAC's advisory scope includes:*

- 1. Administration of the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate by the County.*
- 2. Implementation of the River Management Plan Update.*
- 3. Amendments to the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate.*
- 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.*

*All meetings and the ancillary support necessary for the meetings are paid for by the River Trust Fund. The composition of the committee includes 7 members:*

*A business representative, a commercial outfitter representative, 2 members at large, a non commercial boater representative, a landowner representative, a State Parks representative, and ONE County Staff member to act as secretary.*

*\*Staff, in it's memo, understates the efficacy of the RMAC and what it has attempted to do, especially these last few years. The County has been more than derelict in their responsibilities to the Community and the the Committee.*

*Staff, without public or RMAC scrutiny or approval which is mandated under item 5 above, signed a contract with a consultant to perform a River Management Plan Update in 2014. This contract-for \$61,145 (just under \$62K), clearly under the purview of the RMAC, was never shown or discussed at any public RMAC meeting before it was signed by Staff.*

*Despite repeated requests to review the contract by RMAC, the contract was only shown to them in March of 2016. Repeated requests by RMAC for a fiscal analysis of the RMP done by the Consultant in December 2014 were denied until May of 2016—they were stated to be confidential.*

*The original contract, in addition to not being reviewed by the RMAC, was never sent to the Planning Commission or the BOS for analysis or approval but was internally approved without proper vetting by the RMAC for authorization to use the River Trust Fund as payment.*

*In March of 2017, late, and with no explanation for the delays, RMAC was finally given a Draft document to review. At the time there were vacancies on the Committee, making it hard to meet a quorum. Meeting after meeting, the members and the public received information days, or in some cases, the day before a meeting. They were given unrealistic deadlines for comments and when comments were submitted as recommendations to Planning and the Board they were ignored by Staff.*

I reference her testimony because, quite frankly, I couldn't do a better job.

We're asking your Board to recognize the unreasonableness of this proposal. We're asking your Board to take a breath, take a break, and give our community – private and commercial boaters, business people, landowners and other recreationalists – an opportunity to weigh in on this issue in a meaningful manner. Following this draft as written is a recipe for disaster. And, to be clear, the suggested amendment to Element V from the Planning Commission is meaningless. It still leaves RMAC formally out of the RMP loop as regards those responsibilities and issues that it was created to handle.

We're simply asking your Board to give us a three to four month window to meet and decide what we would like our voice to look like, and to work with you staff in a meaningful manner to see if we can make that happen in a way that makes RMAC a more useful tool for your Board, and our County, to manage this resource. Moving this RMP forward as written will not allow us to do that in a meaningful way – it does quite the opposite. And, with all due respect, is that the message you want to send to the largest pure tourism industry on the West Slope?

I respectfully ask for your due consideration of our concerns. And I thank you, in advance, for your time, service and consideration.

Regards,

Nathan Rangel

Outfitter Representative

El Dorado County River Management Advisory Committee

President

California Outdoors



**Final RMAC letter to BOS 8-30-17.pdf**

196K







EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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## Commercial Outfitters Formal Comments

1 message

**Nathan Rangel** <nate@raftcalifornia.com>

Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 3:48 PM

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Cc: Noah Triplett &lt;noah.triplett@edcgov.us&gt;, Vickie Sanders &lt;vickie.sanders@edcgov.us&gt;, Laura Schwartz &lt;laura.schwartz@edcgov.us&gt;

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Please accept this email and attachments as the formal commercial outfitter comments made for the upcoming BOS meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the Draft RMP. I send these to you, the Board and staff as the appointed commercial representative to the RMAC and as President of our state outfitter trade association, California Outdoors.

First, I reference the attached letter from the River Management Advisory Committee. We find the comments and suggestions in that letter completely relevant to this issue and to our concerns. If your Board so chooses we would support your following the RMAC proposal.

Second, I want to literally draw from comments made to your Board regarding this issue by a private landowner and private boater, Ms. Hilde Schweitzer. Specifically I reference the following from her testimony in blue italics:

*Staff has repeatedly made the statement included in the packet memo:*

*“Over the years, this Committee has evolved into more of a community-focused committee. Staff does see value in providing a forum for the river community to provide input and feedback on river related issues. One alternative would be to look at more of an ad-hoc committee that could provide feedback to the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commission as issues arise.”*

*The RMAC helps oversee the management of over 100,000 river users each season, both Commercial and Public, they monitor what is going wrong and right on the river, and act on problems and issues associated with the river. This body, in it's present County sanctioned form, has been and continues to be the watchdog and protector of the river, the river environment, and the landowners that live along the river. The collective body of historical knowledge, the technical expertise, and the volunteer dedication of the Committee makes it unique in and of itself.*

*The mandate for the RMAC is to:*

*Assist the Planning Commission and Board on river related issues.*

*The RMAC's powers and duties include:*

*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.*

*The RMAC's advisory scope includes:*

1. *Administration of the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate by the County.*
2. *Implementation of the River Management Plan Update.*
3. *Amendments to the River Management Plan and PlanUpdate.*
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.*

*All meetings and the ancillary support necessary for the meetings are paid for by the River Trust Fund. The composition of the committee includes 7 members:*

*A business representative, a commercial outfitter representative, 2 members at large, a non commercial boater representative, a landowner representative, a State Parks representative, and ONE County Staff member to act as secretary.*

*\*Staff, in it's memo, understates the efficacy of the RMAC and what it has attempted to do, especially these last few years. The County has been more than derelict in their responsibilities to the Community and the the Committee.*

*Staff, without public or RMAC scrutiny or approval which is mandated under item 5 above, signed a contract with a consultant to perform a River Management Plan Update in 2014. This contract-for \$61,145 (just under \$62K), clearly under the purview of the RMAC, was never shown or discussed at any public RMAC meeting before it was signed by Staff.*

*Despite repeated requests to review the contract by RMAC, the contract was only shown to them in March of 2016. Repeated requests by RMAC for a fiscal analysis of the RMP done by the Consultant in December 2014 were denied until May of 2016—they were stated to be confidential.*

*The original contract, in addition to not being reviewed by the RMAC, was never sent to the Planning Commission or the BOS for analysis or approval but was internally approved without proper vetting by the RMAC for authorization to use the River Trust Fund as payment.*

*In March of 2017, late, and with no explanation for the delays, RMAC was finally given a Draft document to review. At the time there were vacancies on the Committee, making it hard to meet a quorum. Meeting after meeting, the members and the public received information days, or in some cases, the day before a meeting. They were given unrealistic deadlines for comments and when comments were submitted as recommendations to Planning and the Board they were ignored by Staff.*

I reference her testimony because, quite frankly, I couldn't do a better job.

We're asking your Board to recognize the unreasonableness of this proposal. We're asking your Board to take a breath, take a break, and give our community – private and commercial boaters, business people, landowners and other recreationalists – an opportunity to weigh in on this issue in a meaningful manner. Following this draft as written is a recipe for disaster. And, to be clear, the suggested amendment to Element V from the Planning Commission is meaningless. It still leaves RMAC formally out of the RMP loop as regards those responsibilities and issues that it was created to handle.

We're simply asking your Board to give us a three to four month window to meet and decide what we would like our voice to look like, and to work with you staff in a meaningful manner to see if we can make that happen in a way that makes RMAC a more useful tool for your Board, and our County, to manage this resource. Moving this RMP forward as written will not allow us to do that in a meaningful way – it does quite the opposite. And, with all due respect, is that the message you want to send to the largest pure tourism industry on the West Slope?

I respectfully ask for your due consideration of our concerns. And I thank you, in advance, for your time, service and consideration.

Regards,

Nathan Rangel

Outfitter Representative

El Dorado County River Management Advisory Committee

President

California Outdoors



**Final RMAC letter to BOS 8-30-17.pdf**

196K

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
From: River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)  
Re: River Management Plan Update  
Date: August 30, 2017

Dear Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

The members of the El Dorado County River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) respectfully recommend that the members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors give strong support for the RMAC Proposal that is defined in this letter. We believe that doing so will continue to meet the objectives and goals of the Board of Supervisor's Resolution No. 065-2002. We believe that not doing so would be to the detriment of the best management of the South Fork of the American River; increase annual costs to the operations of the river management program; result in potential negative impacts to the business sector of the Coloma–Lotus Valley region as well as opening up the County of El Dorado to unnecessary expensive litigation and/or costly environmental review.

We sincerely urge you to take the time and consideration to fully review this proposal. We look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and County Staff to address and work toward solutions to the various problems and concerns that challenge the South Fork of the American River and its adjacent lands.

### History

In 1999, after having spent two years considering 15 alternative approaches to managing the South Fork of the American River (SFA), the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed staff to prepare an EIR that considered only one River Management Plan (RMP) alternative, the RMAC Alternative<sup>1</sup>. This

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<sup>1</sup> P. 1-3, Section I Introduction, 2001 River Management Plan: "On March 30, 1999, the Board directed again that a Revised Draft EIR be prepared, that considers the River Management Advisory Committee Alternative (RMAC Alternative), without modification, as the proposed project. (The RMAC is an advisory body that provides review and comment on river management activities to the El Dorado County Planning Commission. The RMAC holds regular public meetings that provide a forum for the discussion of river use issues, ideas, and conflicts.) The Board also directed that a multi-factor carrying capacity approach be developed as a project alternative or as mitigation for impacts associated with projected growth in river use."

RMP update implemented a discretionary process for managing river permits, a change that was required after the County was sued and lost the 1995 Carlson v. El Dorado County case, and based this process on the RMAC. The county's standing river management EIR, and the River Management Plan associated with it, are thus based upon the existence of the RMAC, and its oversight of the RMP and its implementation.

In early 2013, after hosting multiple public input meetings and doing multiple draft revisions, the RMAC completed an RMP update and issued it to the Planning Commission for consideration, in accordance with Section 7.2.1 of the standing 2001 RMP. In accordance with adaptive management planning principles in use for BLM river management plans<sup>2</sup> and State Parks (and also recommended by staff's consultant), the RMAC's RMP update focused largely on an update to institutional permits issued to not-for-profit entities (NFP's). Through this planning process wherein RMAC had many public meetings with representatives of the institutional groups, NFP's, permitted outfitters, and the general public, the resultant RMAC RMP update addressed this difficult issue that the county had been struggling with for many years. RMAC's recommendation was one that reached a consensus with the various parties, would likely be economical to the county, and would likely meet environmental standards. And it should also be noted that this RMP update had been drafted by RMAC volunteers at no cost to the county.

After reviewing the RMAC RMP update, the Planning Commission directed county staff to proceed with RMAC's recommended update with a CEQA initial Study and appropriate CEQA document and return these to the Commission<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> See p. 18, Plan Amendments of BLM's July 2004 South Fork American River Management Plan. Note also that the BLM held a total of 48 meetings between 2000 and 2003 to gather public input in a community-based collaborative process.

<sup>3</sup> Per Section 7.2.1 of the 2001 RMP: Planning Commission Consideration of RMAC Recommendations: The County Planning Commission will conduct a public session for consideration of any RMAC recommendations to modify the existing RMP. After the receipt of public comments and deliberation, the Planning Commission will reject or tentatively accept the RMAC recommendation. If the RMAC recommendation is accepted, a CEQA Initial Study will be conducted to identify and report the potential environmental impacts of the proposed program modification. The results of this analysis will be reported to the County Planning Commission in a public session. The Planning Commission will consider the results of the CEQA analysis and accept or reject the RMAC recommendation to modify the RMP.

However, county staff did not comply with the Planning Commission's directive, but instead hired a consultant, Environmental Stewardship Planning (or ESP, now acquired by Dudek), to attempt a broad rewrite of the RMP.

- It should be noted that consulting fees for the prior 2001 RMP update exceeded \$500,000, creating a River Trust Fund (RTF) debt that took many years to pay down, and additional consulting fees could not reasonably be expected to be paid down by the RTF without raising outfitter fees.
- It should also be noted that the new (2014) RMP update consulting contract for \$61,000 signed by staff was not disclosed to the RMAC, nor that the consultant hired by staff was being paid with River Trust Funds.
- And finally, it should be noted that staff's Annual River Reports for many years showed that funds flowing into the RTF, largely from outfitter fees, were being spent in their entirety on an annual basis, and consequently the recommended RTF balance of one year's worth of annual expenses, roughly \$175,000 - \$200,000, would be imperiled by any additional expenses.

ESP met with various county staff, and privately interviewed RMAC members, promising confidentiality for all input. Approximately 1 1/2 years after the contract was signed on 7/21/2014, ESP publicly disclosed recommendations in February 2016, having never held a community meeting to collect public input for inclusion in the consultant's recommendation. At the first public meeting held afterward in Coloma, more than 70 people attended, and delivered near unanimous public rejection of the proposed elimination of the RMAC.

Staff's proposal to eliminate the RMAC, or more recently, to allow the RMAC to stand but eliminate its powers and duties, will abolish the RMAC's mandated role in monitoring river management and the management of the River Trust Fund. Staff also proposes to eliminate many monitoring and reporting requirements embedded in the current RMP. The RMAC believes each of these two actions would as a consequence require a new EIR at considerable expense.

Furthermore, the RMP rewrite process proposed by staff has not been completed, meaning that staff's proposed RMP will require more RMP update expenditures. For example, staff proposes to repeal the "institutional" permits issued to several not-for-profit organizations (NFPs)<sup>4</sup>, restricting institutional

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<sup>4</sup> Current 2001 RMP definition of institutional permit holders:

"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

permits to educational institutions only<sup>5</sup>. While staff has separately recommended that the County issue unused commercial permits to other NFPs, there is no such provision in staff's currently proposed RMP. As several institutional organizations have expressed their concerns in public meetings over the loss of their permits and have received no assurances from staff that they will qualify as private users, this remains an outstanding issue with potentially explosive consequences for the County.

The RMAC instead proposes that the County support a **low cost, low risk, revenue growth approach**:

1. Above all, adopt a **fiscally conservative approach** to RMP updates. The River Trust Fund is already overstretched and the county cannot afford another expensive top-to-bottom EIR, more consulting fees, or the fallout from massive RMP changes that could easily be challenged.
  - a. The RMAC, drawing upon its own resources and community volunteers, has the expertise to draft plan updates. Much of the new content in staff's proposed RMP update was contributed by the RMAC. For example, the complex language in the new subcontracting provision in section 6.2.1.7 was entirely drafted by RMAC members<sup>6</sup>.

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. An Institutional Group must also meet the following criteria:

- 6.1.2.1 Fees or charges are collected only to recover the actual costs of the trip.
- 6.1.2.2 All expenses are shared equally by all group members.
- 6.1.2.3 No member of the group obtains financial gain, including salaries, or otherwise benefits by increased assets.
- 6.1.2.4 No paid employees such as guides, lead guides and drivers are compensated by salary, wages, or equipment, with the exception that educational leaders for accredited educational programs may be paid or compensated.

<sup>5</sup> New institutional definition in staff's 2017 RMP:

"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."

<sup>6</sup> 6.2.1.3.7 It shall be permissible for an outfitter to subcontract with a second outfitter, if all of the following criteria are met:

- 6.2.1.3.7.1 The second outfitter uses their own equipment, properly marked with the second outfitter's name;
- 6.2.1.3.7.2 The raft is guided by the second outfitter's employee;
- 6.2.1.3.7.3 The raft is covered by the second outfitter's insurance;
- 6.2.1.3.7.4 The second outfitter is responsible for all fees;

2. The RMAC believes that the **adaptive management process**, recommended by ESP (now Dudek) and also employed in the river management plans of BLM<sup>7</sup> and State Parks, is both most appropriate and most fiscally prudent. The adaptive management process provides for changing a standing plan when and where change is needed. **The RMAC believes that RMP updates that would require a new EIR are best avoided if possible**, due to the environmental sensitivities of the river and the likelihood of challenges.
  - a. The RMAC institutional permit update, which received preliminary Planning Commission approval on 3/28/2013, should move forward, in compliance with county ordinance, regulations, and the Board of Supervisor's standing Resolution 065-2002. This update is highly unlikely to require a new EIR because existing monitoring and mitigation provisions would demand a reduction in commercial outfitter launches should any exceedances in total river traffic occur.
    - i. RMAC recommends against any RMP changes that would effectively eliminate access to low cost river recreation for existing institutional users, among them inner city youth and people suffering from life-threatening health conditions, as is currently proposed in staff's RMP update.
  - b. Additional updates to the RMP have been proposed that the RMAC believes have merit, including some that the RMAC has drafted itself. The RMAC recommends that the County return to a community-based collaborative process for RMP updates, and to the standard as prescribed in law, regulation and Board Resolution 065-2002 whereby it is the RMAC, not staff, that recommends RMP updates to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.
    - i. Additionally, the RMAC believes that as an advisory committee whose agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance, section 54954 (b) of the Brown Act requires that its meeting be held within its area of jurisdiction, which is within ¼ mile of the center of the South Fork of the American

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6.2.1.3.7.5 The customer signs a liability release with the second outfitter.

<sup>7</sup> See p. 18, Plan Amendments of BLM's July 2004 South Fork American River Management Plan. Note also the the BLM held a total of 48 meetings between 2000 and 2003 to gather public input in a community-based collaborative process.



River<sup>8</sup>. The RMAC requests that the BOS direct staff to return its meetings to the Lotus Coloma valley, where most of the most heavily impacted residents, businesses and river users live and congregate. The RMAC believes it is imperative that RMP update meetings be held within its area of jurisdiction.

3. The RMAC believes that if county staff gains complete control over updates to the River Management Plan and RMP implementation, staff is likely to increase outfitter fees without proper analysis and public input resulting in unknown impacts on this sector of our economy. Should it be determined that additional revenues need to be generated after proper analysis and public review, RMAC proposes to revise the RMP to **pursue other sources of revenue for the River Trust Fund** that are not currently allowed in the existing RMP or proposed in the staff plan:
  - a. It is worthy of note that in the BOS 02/23/2016 meeting, after receiving a presentation from the ESP consultant on its recommendations, four supervisors advocated for exploring and identifying new revenue sources for the River Trust Fund, including tapping SMUD or TOT funds.
  - b. In addition, the RMAC recommends that the RMP be updated to allow the River Trust Fund to add funds from independent revenue sources such as grants, donations, and other fees.
    - i. In particular, the RMAC recommends that the RMP be updated to enable the RMAC to annually identify capital expenditure projects pertinent to recreational river use on the South Fork American, and with Planning Commission and BOS approval, to pursue fundraising efforts for such projects. Such projects could include a whitewater park, recommended three years ago by the economic consultant in the 2014 Henningsen Lotus Park Plan as the only Parks

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<sup>8</sup> 54954. (a) Each legislative body of a local agency, except for advisory committees or standing committees, shall provide, by ordinance, resolution, bylaws, or by whatever other rule is required for the conduct of business by that body, the time and place for holding regular meetings. Meetings of advisory committees or standing committees, for which an agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54954.2, shall be considered for purposes of this chapter as regular meetings of the legislative body.

(b) Regular and special meetings of the legislative body shall be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction...

project likely to meaningfully contribute to the County's economic growth<sup>9</sup>.

In conclusion, the RMAC believes that the South Fork of the American River is viewed by many citizens not only as a County recreational resource, but a state and national resource. Its extraordinary popularity with visitation of about 100,000 river users per year drives a meaningful sector of the County's economy, including outfitters, campgrounds, B&Bs, wineries, restaurants and other service oriented businesses. At the same time, this river is environmentally sensitive. Its management is more complex and demanding than other Park resources, unquestionably. This is why the RMAC was constructed of representatives spanning multiple user types, land owners, business owners and impacted parties, and why its powers and duties remain relevant and necessary today. The foresight of the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County in establishing the River Management Advisory Committee in its Resolution No. 065-2002, has proven, over the test of time, to be a very wise decision. We, the committee members of the RMAC, strongly recommend and hope that the current Board of Supervisors will continue to support and recognize the value of this advisory committee.

We thank you for your time and consideration,

The RMAC Committee Members

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<sup>9</sup> See Economic Assessment, p. HLP-35 of June 2014 Henningsen Lotus Park Plan at <https://www.edcgov.us/government/parks/masterplan/documents/HLP%20Concept%20Plan%20Final%202014%2006%2030.pdf>:

"Specifically, as a whitewater recreation venue, HLP can dramatically contribute to the community visitor industry and provide wider economic impacts to area businesses who serve this outdoor recreation market. We anticipate that a purpose-designed and built in-stream whitewater venue will have a significant impact on the local community both in terms of direct visitor expenditures but also for community image, branding and marketing, local recreation amenities, business reinvestment, and for re-positioning Coloma-Lotus as a premier whitewater destination. However, these benefits must be carefully weighed against the costs to the local community such as competition for access to HLP and the river, increased traffic, and environmental impacts."