

#25



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

# Agenda item 16-0629: Feasibility Study, Public Access to SF American River at Mosquito

1 message

John Simpkin <johnmsimpkin3@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 12, 2016 at 4:18 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: Simpkin John Gmail <johnmsimpkin3@gmail.com>

To: El Dorado County Transportation Board,  
Community Development Agency, Transportation Division,  
Board of Supervisors.

Placerville Office, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

Submitted via email: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear Supervisors,

Regarding agenda item 16-0629: **DRAFT Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge.**

I'd like to encourage all of you to **support increased public access to the Mosquito Bridge**. This can be achieved by simply leaving the conditions at the bridge unchanged. If there must be locked gates, move the gates to the bridge itself instead of leaving them a half a mile away from the river. I went down to the bridge several days ago and measured a nearly 40 foot wide point in the road near the bridge that looked to me to be a good turn-around spot. In my opinion there is room for at least a dozen cars near the bridge.

My name is John Simpkin and I've been a resident of this county since 1957. I went to Diamond Springs elementary and secondary schools, and Ponderosa High School. I taught science at El Dorado High for nearly 30 years. Both of my children went to local schools.

River access in the western county has changed dramatically since I was a youngster. River access to the Cosumnes is now barred from the public. When I was growing up there were at least four locations on that river where the public was free to enjoy the river. The proposal now before you to lock the gates a half mile from the river on the north and south sides of the American River near the Mosquito Bridge is, in my opinion, de facto exclusion of the public from a previously free-access location.

John Simpkin  
5020 La Mesa Rd, Placerville 95667  
530 621 1941

**LATE DISTRIBUTION**  
DATE 8/15/16  
BOS 8/16/16



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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## Regarding agenda item 16-0629: DRAFT Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge.

1 message

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**Akio Joy** <akijoy@gmail.com>  
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Sun, Aug 14, 2016 at 5:18 PM

To whom it may concern,

I recently heard that the access to Mosquito creek at the old Mosquito bridge is in question. Often overlooked, this particular spot on the river is home to one of Placerville's few rock climbing venues (among other things, such as a swimming hole and takeout for whitewater kayakers). Although I am no longer a resident of El Dorado county, I grew up just a few miles down the road from the bridge. Having spent many days of my youth climbing beneath the bridge, I can relate to why it would be an excellent option to encourage access to the river here. Not only is it a beautiful spot, but it offers itself as a refuge for many people to swim, fish, kayak, and climb. For me and my friends, it kept us out of trouble and helped instill a passion for the outdoors at a young age.

Mosquito creek holds a special place in my heart. It is where I learned to climb, a skill that now defines my career choices. I would hate to see opportunities like this be taken away from others due to simple access issues. It seems as though one solution would be to provide parking/turnaround room at or near the bridge. This would be a great way to allow users to still utilize this resource, while closing down the bridge to vehicle traffic.

Regardless, thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope my thoughts were taken into account.

Akio Joy



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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## Agenda item 16-0629: DRAFT Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge

2 messages

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Theresa L. Simsiman <theresa@americanwhitewater.org>  
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us  
Cc: Dave Steindorf <dave@americanwhitewater.org>

Mon, Aug 15, 2016 at 2:27 PM

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and Transportation Division,

Please find attached American Whitewater's comments and associated documents regarding Agenda item 12-0629: Adopt Draft Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge.


Thank you for your time and consideration.


Theresa L. Simsiman  
California Assistant Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
916083501460


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### 4 attachments

 **AW Mosquito Road Bridge FS Comments.pdf**  
308K

 **Response to Invitation to Comment 12-8-15.pdf**  
1036K

 **20160212-3028(31237060).pdf**  
67K

 **SMUD Consultation Meeting 7.28.2016 Whitewater Boating Update.pdf**  
153K

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EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>  
To: "Theresa L. Simsiman" <theresa@americanwhitewater.org>

Mon, Aug 15, 2016 at 3:29 PM

Thank you. Appropriate public comment provided for upcoming agenda items will be added to the corresponding file.

Office of the Clerk of the Board  
El Dorado County  
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667  
530-621-5390  
[Quoted text hidden]



Theresa Simsiman  
California Stewardship Assistant  
Dave Steindorf  
California Stewardship Director  
4 Baroni Drive  
Chico, CA 95928

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August 15, 2016

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
Community Development Agency, Transportation Division  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
Submitted via email: [edc.cob@edcgov.us](mailto:edc.cob@edcgov.us)

**RE: Agenda item 16-0629: Adopt the Draft Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge**

American Whitewater appreciates the opportunity to comment to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on Agenda Item 16-0629: Adopt the Draft Feasibility Study (FS) for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge. We fully support the Mosquito Road Bridge replacement project and have participated in all the public workshops. American Whitewater would like to thank El Dorado County Transportation Division for initiating a feasibility study on public access in compliance with California Streets and Highway Code 991. However, it is noted that no formal study or noticed public hearing on the question of access was completed. This has resulted in the exclusion of interested stakeholders, the omission of alternative options, inaccurate information on alternative access sites and the absence of mitigation measures for the loss of public access. Therefore, we request that the Board of Supervisors postpone the adoption of this draft until these elements can be addressed.

**American Whitewater**

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with a mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources including public access. With over 5,800 members and 100 locally based affiliate clubs, American Whitewater represents the conservation interests of thousands of whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. Many of our members reside in El Dorado County and enjoy recreating on a section of the South Fork American River known as Slab Creek.

As a result, American Whitewater has a direct interest in the outcome of public access at the historic Mosquito Road Bridge once a new bridge is constructed.

## Comments

- Paddlers are not the only stakeholders requesting that the County maintain public access at Mosquito Road Bridge. Absent a noticed public hearing on the question of access the County has overlooked interested stakeholders. For instance the Access Fund has outlined in a letter you received on 8/12/15 that the existing Mosquito Road Bridge has provided access to area recreational climbers for decades.
- American Whitewater notes that a copy of our response to Transportation's Invitation to Comment was not included as an addendum.<sup>1</sup> This is important because our response incorporated different alternatives that were not explored including seasonal access down the same South Placerville side that the study is proposing to maintain for emergency vehicles. Also of note, a request for robust recreational facilities was never put forward in our comments yet the associated expenses are cited as reasons not to provide public access. Additionally, leaving the primitive take out is a notable alternative absent from this study.
- In reference to Sacramento Municipal Utility District's plans for a White Rock Take-Out facility, the study overlooked a key nuance when they cited this access as an alternative to Mosquito Road Bridge. The concept plans for this facility have not been completed and in fact with no resolution on a final location SMUD has asked for a one-year extension on this plan from FERC.<sup>2</sup> It is likely that the Mosquito Road Bridge replacement project will be completed a decade or more in advance of any SMUD facility downstream.
- Currently, at Mosquito Road Bridge the public has access to the river and there is room for 4-6 vehicles to park close to the river on the South Placerville side where the road widens to 38 feet shortly before the road narrows to one lane at the bridge approach. During the 6 days of SMUD recreational releases for Slab Creek, monitoring reported 49% of the paddling groups running this reach used this take out at Mosquito Road Bridge.<sup>3</sup> The feasibility study does not outline any mitigation measures for the loss of this access, which will be a requirement of the CEQA process.

We are well aware of the County's cost concerns regarding public access and submit that American Whitewater is ready to partner with the County to find funding when they

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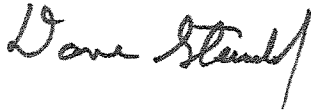
<sup>1</sup> American Whitewater Response to Invitation to Comment Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project River Access December 31, 2015

<sup>2</sup> FERC Order Granting Extension of Time to File An Access and Parking Plan Under USFS 4(e) Condition 50 Accession number 20160212-3028(31237060)

<sup>3</sup> SMUD Consultation Meeting 7-28-2016 Whitewater Boating Update

address such projects outside of the HPB program. However, simply proposing pedestrian access from gates located ½ mile away from the river with no alternatives for parking is effectively removing public access from a navigable river. Thus, within the scope of the Mosquito Road Bridge replacement process and through the feasibility study we encourage the County to fully consider all public access alternatives and the mitigation associated with any such loss of access.

Sincerely,



Dave Steindorf  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Director  
530-518-2729



Theresa Simsiman  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Assistant  
916-835-1460

Att: American Whitewater Response to Invitation to Comment Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project River Access 12-31-16

FERC Order Granting Extension of Time to File An Access and parking Plan Under USFS 4(e) Condition 50

SMUD Consultation Meeting 7.28.16 Whitewater Boating Update



Theresa Simsiman  
California Stewardship Assistant  
Dave Steindorf  
California Stewardship Director  
4 Baroni Drive  
Chico, CA 95928

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December 31, 2015

Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner  
El Dorado County Community Development Agency  
Transportation Division  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

**RE: Invitation to Comment - Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project - Controlled River Access**

Dear Ms. Postlewait,

In response to the invitation to comment on the Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project, American Whitewater is glad to note El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division compliance to California Streets and Highway Code 991 and provides the following response to assist in the scoping process for river access at this location.

As outlined in our previous comments, the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license order for Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) Upper American Hydroelectric River Project (UARP) issued on July 23, 2014 will provide recreational flows on the South Fork American River below Slab Creek for the next 50 years. These flows are mandated by conditions issued by the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), the United States Forest Service (USFS) and supported by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).<sup>1</sup> Mosquito Road Bridge currently provides crucial recreational access to the river and is 1 of 2 public river access points on the SFA below Slab Creek. It currently serves as the historic take-out for boaters who desire a shorter run and for boaters without the skill set to run the Class V rapid

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<sup>1</sup> FERC Order Issuing New License for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project #2101 is available on the Commission's website from the eLibrary feature at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> . Accession number 20140723-3046 - Condition 4. Recreation Streamflows Page 91 and Condition 50. Recreation Streamflows Page 208

downstream known as Motherlode Falls.<sup>2</sup> Thus, consistent with a BLM request as part of their right of way agreement for Mosquito Road Bridge, American Whitewater would like to see public river access included in all bridge alternatives provided for the Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project.

### **Preferred Scenario**

Based on current conditions at Mosquito Road Bridge American Whitewater suggests the following preferred river access scenario:

- Provide year around access to the river, as is the current setup at Mosquito Road Bridge.
- Maintain the old Mosquito Road Bridge as a pedestrian walkway and as a bicycle route across the river.
- Provide year around vehicle access to the river on the South Placerville side where the public currently parks for river access.
- Explore the possibility for additional parking spaces adjacent to the river and at the first hairpin turn on the South Placerville side.
- Improve pedestrian access down to the river at the current Mosquito Road Bridge

### **Alternative Scenario**

Recognizing resource constraints mentioned in the Transportation Division invitation to comment, American Whitewater suggests the following alternatives while maintaining year around river access:

- Seasonal vehicle access to Mosquito Road on the South Placerville side that coincides with SMUD's scheduled recreational releases for SFA Slab Creek, which would be available between March to May, or the month of October.
- Provide turnout and parking on both sides of the new bridge to allow for pedestrian river access via Mosquito Road.

### **Funding**

In terms of funding for road maintenance at the Mosquito Road river access, American Whitewater notes that El Dorado County entered into a Cooperation Agreement with SMUD that provides an annual amount of \$590,000. These annual payments are to be "utilized by the County for purposes of road maintenance, watershed management, and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/147/>

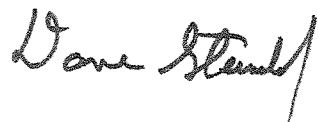


other miscellaneous activities related to the UARP and its impacts on facilities owned or services provided by, or any resource or other interest within the jurisdiction of, the County.”<sup>3</sup> Since SFA below Slab Creek is well within the boundaries of the UARP it stands to reason that some of these funds could be utilized for maintaining river access at Mosquito Road.

### Conclusion

American Whitewater commends El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division for the work done thus far on the Mosquito Road Bridge Project. We look forward to the next steps in the public process with the release of the Environmental Impact Report and the selection of a preferred bridge alternative.

Sincerely,



Dave Steindorf  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Director  
530-518-2729



Theresa L. Simsiman  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Assistant  
916-835-1460

Att: American Whitewater Comments July 27, 2015  
American Whitewater Comments November 18, 2014

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<sup>3</sup> Filing of El Dorado – SMUD Cooperation Agreement with FERC for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project #2101 available on the Commission’s website from the eLibrary feature at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> Accession number 20051205-0233 - Page 8 Section 4.4 Use of Payment Funds



Dave Steindorf  
California Stewardship Director  
Theresa Simsiman  
California Stewardship Assistant  
4 Baroni Drive  
Chico, CA 95928

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July 27, 2015

Janet Postlewait  
El Dorado County DOT  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Postlewait,

American Whitewater appreciates having the opportunity to provide comment on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Mosquito Road Bridge Project. As was detailed in our letter to your office dated November 18, 2014 - a significant percentage of our members that reside in and travel to California enjoy the many recreational opportunities provided by the South Fork American (SFA) River. One specific SFA reach is Slab Creek which runs under the current Mosquito Road Bridge.

Our letter outlined Slab Creek would have regular recreational flows provided by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) as mandated by Hydropower FERC Project #2101 License conditions from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).<sup>1</sup> As such we advocate for continued public access to this resource at Mosquito Road Bridge and provide the following comments regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR.

**Consider recreational access scoping and information for all alternatives - Alt 1 (High Level), Alt 6 (Mid-Level) and Alt 8 (Low Level) - that help the county comply with California Streets and Highway Code 991.**

Again refer to our letter to your office dated November 18, 2014 which suggested components to help comply with California Streets and Highway Code 991 including:

- Define and implement a scoping process for a River Access Feasibility study
- Determine potential recreational access points

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<sup>1</sup> FERC Order Issuing New License for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project #2101 is available on the Commission's website from the eLibrary feature at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Accession number 20140723-3046 - Condition 4. Recreation Streamflows Page 91 and Condition 50. Recreation Streamflows Page 208

- Establish and describe right of ways for recreational access
- Identify potential funding sources for recreational access
- Make a formal and transparent determination for recreational access

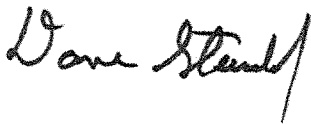
**Removal of the Mosquito Road Bridge is not consistent with screening criteria for preserving the community character.**

The local community and recreational advocates strongly support the preservation of the historical Mosquito Road Bridge. American Whitewater notes all three alternative drawings presented at your workshop DA-1 Impact Areas Alt 1 (High Level), DA-2 Impact Areas Alt 6 (Mid-Level) and DA-3 Impact Areas Alt 8 (Low Level) contain language to “REMOVE BRIDGE”. Given that the management of the existing bridge will not be considered under the scope of this project, any such language/plans to remove the old Mosquito Road Bridge during the construction of the new project should be excluded until a proper public and transparent process has been undertaken.

**Consider river passage & river access during constructions for all three bridge alternatives.**

Again, American Whitewater requests that the County consider and fully vet options to insure river navigability and access on the South Fork American River at Mosquito Road Bridge during construction.

Sincerely,



Dave Steindorf  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Director  
530-518-2729



Theresa L. Simsiman  
American Whitewater  
California Stewardship Assistant  
916-835-1460

Att: American Whitewater Comments  
November 18, 2014



Theresa Simsiman  
California Stewardship Assistant  
Dave Steindorf  
California Stewardship Director  
4 Baroni Drive  
Chico, CA 95928

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November 18, 2014

Janet Postlewait  
El Dorado County DOT  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Postlewait,

American Whitewater appreciates having the opportunity to provide comment on the El Dorado County Mosquito Road Bridge Project, which proposes to replace Mosquito Bridge at the South Fork of the American River. Keeping with Objective 9.1.4 of El Dorado County's General plan to "conserve and promote the waterways of El Dorado County, particularly the South Fork American River, as recreational and economic assets" - construction of a new bridge at this location will provide opportunity to improve public river access for public recreation.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with a mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. With over 5,800 members and 100 locally based affiliate clubs, American Whitewater represents the conservation interests of thousands of whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. A significant percentage of our members reside in and travel to California for its whitewater resources, and enjoy recreating on a section of the South Fork American River known as Slab Creek. As a result, American Whitewater has a direct interest in the outcome of the proposal to construct a new bridge at Mosquito Road especially in terms of access to the river.

### **South Fork American River Slab Creek Use & Available Recreational Flows**

The South Fork American River between Slab Creek Dam and White Rock Powerhouse offers a unique 7.5 mile continuous Class IV to V whitewater experience for advanced boaters through a scenic river canyon. Mosquito Road Bridge serves as a historic take-out point for boaters who want a shorter run and as an alternative to portaging the hardest Class V rapid downstream.<sup>1</sup> Currently, boaters will park at the limited spaces on the south side of Mosquito Bridge and up the road on the south during recreational flow days.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/147/>

In the past boaters only had infrequent opportunity to run Slab Creek during high water years when Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) would be forced to spill over Slab Creek Dam. However, the new license order issued by FERC on July 23, 2014 for SMUD's Upper American Hydroelectric River Project provides for regular opportunities to boat Slab Creek for the next 50 years. For the first 15 years until use triggers are met or until the Iowa Hill project is constructed, SMUD will provide for seven scheduled whitewater recreational flow releases below Slab Creek Dam in below normal, above normal & wet water year types between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. After this period recreational releases could be made in all water year types during the spring ranging from 6-12 days and up to six days in October. Total possible scheduled recreational flow days after the first 15 years depending on the water year type will be 18 days.<sup>2</sup>

## **Comments Mosquito Road Bridge Project**

### **A. Compliance with California Streets and Highway Code 991**

Compliance with state and federal laws will guide the Local Assistance Representative from Caltrans District 3 when evaluating the selected bridge alternative to be funded. Section 991 of the California Streets and Highway Code states:

“Before any bridge on a county highway is constructed over any navigable river, the board of supervisors, after a study and public hearing on the question, shall determine and shall prepare a report on the feasibility of providing public access to the river for recreational purposes and a determination as to whether such public access shall be provided.”

Section 84.5 sets the same parameter for public river access for any bridge on a state highway. American Whitewater has worked collaboratively with Caltrans Representatives from District 3 to insure recreation and river access were incorporated into the Highway 49 South Fork American River Bridge Project and outlined the following components to Caltrans to help them comply with this code:

#### **Defining and implementing a scoping process**

1. The specific issues associated with a River Access Feasibility study should be determined as part of a formal public scoping process regarding any bridge construction or bridge repair projects.
2. Notify appropriate interested stakeholders, including local watershed groups, recreational fishing, boating, and hunting groups, and state and national river conservation organizations such as American Rivers and American Whitewater, as parties to initial Caltrans project scoping.

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<sup>2</sup> FERC Order Issuing New License for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project is available on the Commission's website from the eLibrary feature at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> . Accession number 20140723-3046 - Condition 4. Recreation Streamflows Page 91

3. Identify and describe the waterway and the recreational interest in the waterway being affected. This information can be supplemented from the American Whitewater National River Database, or from other online guidebooks such as Dreamflows (these resources are suggestions, and by no means an exhaustive list of the resources, that Caltrans should consider).
4. Through the public scoping process it should be determined if there is a need and potential to improve river access.

#### **Determining potential access points**

1. Determine all existing access points utilized by the public to access the affected river segment, whether established or informal.
2. If access in the bridge right of way is deemed infeasible or of lesser quality than a nearby improvement or development, explore the potential to establish a new public access site outside of the direct project right of way. Determine the land ownership of these potential access sites and engage landowners or agencies to determine if they are willing to explore improving river access.

#### **Establishing and describing right of ways**

1. When acquiring right of ways necessary for construction, Caltrans should, whenever possible, include public access as part of the right of way agreements.
2. The Feasibility Study should evaluate existing easements and determine to what extent they allow public access.
3. Clear and obvious signage should be in place to inform the public of the right of way boundary and where the public is legally allowed to access the river along the bridge.

#### **Identifying Potential Funding Sources**

1. The study should identify potential funding sources. Some sources for consideration include partnership with nonprofits, California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Department of Parks and Recreation (Recreational Trails Program), and the California Natural Resources Agency (California River Parkways and EEMP).

#### **Making the final determination**

1. Establish a formal and transparent decision-making framework to determine the feasibility of providing public access
2. If deemed feasible, that determination should mandate the planning and implementation necessary to provide the identified public access.

While recreation and river access is considered within the evaluation criteria for the Mosquito Road Bridge we encourage the County to prepare a report regarding river access as part of the project to comply with state code. Significant cost savings associated with the development of public waterway access could be achieved if it is incorporated into the initial construction project plans, potentially negating the need for external funding sources. An example of a feasibility report that followed the above basic

components can be found in Appendix D of Caltrans Initial Study for the South Fork American River Bridge Project available at the following Link:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/southforkamericanriver/southforkamericanriver.htm>.

**B. For High Level Bridge Alternatives Consider Using the Old Road and Bridge For Recreation and River Access**

Although the old road and bridge will be handled in a separate project by El Dorado County Parks and Recreation, American Whitewater believes these existing facilities at Mosquito Road will provide a viable river access option that can be incorporated into any of the high level bridge alternatives.

**C. Provide River Passage & River Access During Construction**

American Whitewater recommends that the County consider and fully vet options to insure river navigability and access on the South Fork American River during construction.

**Conclusion**

American Whitewater applauds the transparent and public process taken to present the progress of the Mosquito Road Bridge Project. We recognize the importance of a new bridge that will provide the much-needed improvements for emergency vehicle travel and built to current safety standards. Concurrently, the replacement of this bridge provides the opportunity to improve public access to the South Fork American River. We hope to work collaboratively with El Dorado County to insure compliance with California Streets and Highway Code 991, brainstorm viable river access options and insure navigability & access to the river during construction. To that end, please feel free to contact us with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,



Dave Steindorf  
California Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
530-518-2729



Theresa L. Simsiman  
California Stewardship Assistant  
American Whitewater  
916-835-1460

20100212-0020 FERC ID (SR0110101) 02/12/2016

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project No. 2101-084

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE AN ACCESS AND PARKING  
PLAN UNDER USFS 4(e) CONDITION 50

(Issued February 12, 2016)

1. On January 25, 2016, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, licensee for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2101), filed an extension of time request to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse (plan). The plan is required under the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) section 4(e) Condition No. 50; Appendix B to the project license.<sup>1</sup> The Upper American River Project consists of eight developments located on the Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and South Fork American River in El Dorado and Sacramento counties in central California.
2. The purpose of the plan is to select and secure an appropriate long-term takeout location for the whitewater boating activities required below Slab Creek Dam in the same section 4(e) Condition No. 50. Condition 50 requires the plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management, and the Consultation Group for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project.
3. The licensee reported that it initiated feasibility studies for various locations in an attempt to meet this Condition. This has included presentations to, and site visits with, members of the Consultation Group including staff from the Federal and State agencies. On November 5, 2015, the licensee met with the groups to summarize their efforts and to discuss the requirements of the plan as well as ideas for going forward. In general, the discussion revealed that several options have been removed from consideration and the investigation is ongoing. Given there is no resolution on the final location at this time, it was agreed that the deadline for the plan should be extended to February 23, 2017, to allow time for the licensee to work with all the required parties to provide a plan containing more certainty.

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<sup>1</sup> Order Issuing New License, issued July 23, 2014 (148 FERC ¶ 62,070).



4. The licensee's request to extend the deadline to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse, until February 23, 2017, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Sacramento Municipal Utility District's January 25, 2016 request for an extension of time to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse Plan, pursuant to U.S. Forest Service's section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the license for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2101), to February 23, 2017, is granted.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 8251 (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2015). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

Robert J. Fletcher  
Chief, Land Resources Branch  
Division of Hydropower  
Administration and Compliance

Document Content(s)

P-2101-084.DOC.....1-2

# Whitewater Boating Update

- 2016 provisional use levels
- Slab Creek reach downstream take-out

# 2016 Slab Creek Summary

Release Date	Groups	Boats	Boaters	Kayak %	Raft %
4/23/2016	9	38	40	97%	3%
4/24/2016	7	30	39	73%	27%
4/30/2016	9	21	31	81%	19%
5/1/2016	9	29	53	72%	28%
5/14/2016	8	30	34	90%	10%
5/15/2016	3	8	13	75%	25%
Season Total	45	156	210	82%	17%
Daily Average	7.5	26	35	n/a	n/a



# 2016 Slab Creek Summary (cont.)

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- Commercial Boaters
  - 16% of Groups, 43% of Boaters, and 25% of Boats
  - Average 6 Boats/Group, 15 Boaters/Group, and 2.5 Boaters/Boat
- Wait time at Put-in
  - 89% of groups experienced no wait time
  - Wait times did not exceed 5 minutes
- Group Use Patterns
  - Slab Dam PI 100%
  - Mosquito Bridge TO 49%
  - Rock Creek Powerhouse TO 51%
- Feedback Discussion



Donna Keeler &lt;donna.keeler@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Meeting Date: 8/16/16 Agenda Item #16-0629**

1 message

Emir Simbirdi &lt;esimbirdi@yahoo.com&gt;

Mon, Aug 15, 2016 at 2:53 PM

Reply-To: Emir Simbirdi &lt;esimbirdi@yahoo.com&gt;

To: Donna Keeler &lt;donna.keeler@edcgov.us&gt;

Cc: Kyle Lassner &lt;kyle.lassner@edcgov.us&gt;, Matthew Smeltzer &lt;matt.smeltzer@edcgov.us&gt;, Jon Balzer &lt;jon.balzer@edcgov.us&gt;

Hi Donna, thank you for the response and clarification.

My comments are as follows:

The current placement of the Mosquito Road gate controlling access to roadway segments on the south side of the SFAR is well inside my property line. Once the new span is built, the old bridge is dismantled, and the plan to close the gates to public vehicle access is implemented (as noted in the Draft Feasibility Study Public Access to South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge), I would like to kindly request that the location of the physical gate be moved from it's current position to further west so it controls public vehicle access right at the very western edge of my property line, instead of allowing traffic to travel into my property before being turned away.

The property owners adjacent to my land are having many issues with trespassers and home break-ins. I, too, have experienced trespassers on my land which is extremely dangerous and of high concern. Limiting vehicle traffic into my property will provide another level of protection to me and my neighbors from unauthorized access and related activities.

Please let me know if there are any questions or further clarification of my comments is required.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Emir Simbirdi

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**From:** Donna Keeler <donna.keeler@edcgov.us>**To:** Emir Simbirdi <esimbirdi@yahoo.com>**Cc:** Kyle Lassner <kyle.lassner@edcgov.us>; Matthew Smeltzer <matt.smeltzer@edcgov.us>; Jon Balzer <jon.balzer@edcgov.us>**Sent:** Tuesday, August 9, 2016 8:06 AM**Subject:** Re: Mosquito Bridge

Good Morning Emir,

You don't need to be present at the presentation and are welcome to submit written comments on the final placement of the gates or any other aspect of the project. You can send your comments to me or directly to the Board of Supervisors at [edc.cob@edcgov.us](mailto:edc.cob@edcgov.us). Be sure to include the meeting date (August 16, 2016) and Agenda item no. 16-0629.

Feel free to call or email with further questions.

All my best,  
Donna

On Mon, Aug 8, 2016 at 4:14 PM, Emir Simbirdi <[esimbirdi@yahoo.com](mailto:esimbirdi@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Hi Donna - thanks for the heads up and information. Will I need to be present at the presentation? Also with regard to the gates on the county road once the new span is built, how much say do I as a property owner have relative to the final placement of county road gates as part of the proposal? thank you,

Emir

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**From:** Donna Keeler <[donna.keeler@edcgov.us](mailto:donna.keeler@edcgov.us)>

**To:** [esimbirdi@yahoo.com](mailto:esimbirdi@yahoo.com)

**Cc:** Kyle Lassner <[kyle.lassner@edcgov.us](mailto:kyle.lassner@edcgov.us)>; Matthew Smeltzer <[matt.smeltzer@edcgov.us](mailto:matt.smeltzer@edcgov.us)>;

Jon Balzer <[jon.balzer@edcgov.us](mailto:jon.balzer@edcgov.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2016 3:33 PM

**Subject:** Mosquito Bridge

Dear Mr. Esimbirdi,

On August 16, 2016 the El Dorado County Transportation Division is giving a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on the *Draft Feasibility Study for Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Bridge Road*. The Draft Study is available for viewing at: <http://www.edcgov.us/MosquitoBridge/>.

The presentation will take place in the Planning Commission Hearing Room at 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville, California. The meeting agenda and details will be posted on the County's website **one week prior** to the meeting: <https://eldorado.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions. Comments and questions can also be posted on the County's website.

Kind regards,

Donna

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**Donna Keeler**

Senior Planner

**County of El Dorado**

Community Development Agency

Transportation Division

2850 Fairlane Court

Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-3829 / Fax (530) 626-0387

[donna.keeler@edcgov.us](mailto:donna.keeler@edcgov.us)

Comments on Draft Feasibility Study Public Access to the South Fork of the American River at Mosquito Road Bridge

**To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors**

**My name is Violet Jakab and I reside at 6556 Yankee John Ct. in Placerville, CA. I would like to thank the Board and DOT staff for the work on receiving federal funding for the Mosquito Road Bridge project. As a recently retired Civil Engineer from another municipality, I know the scarcity of available funding for capital improvement projects and maintenance of over 1000 center lane miles roads and 76 bridges currently maintained by El Dorado County DOT. As a resident of the County and the Mosquito/Swansboro area, I have reviewed the Feasibility Study (FS) and my comments are as follows:**

- **We are aware that the FS was prepared to comply with California Streets and Highway Code 991 and 84.5 mandating public access to navigable waters of the State. The FS concludes that no feasible access exists at the existing bridge site. I respectfully disagree with this conclusion. During the mid 1990's, with a group of rafters I rafted repeatedly the river reach bellow the Slab Creek Dam. Knowing and wanting to avoid the class V waterfall bellow the Mosquito Road Bridge, I and other paddlers hiked out at the existing bridge. Restricting public access at this location will force all the paddlers to continue and run Mother Lode falls.**
- **-Although not prepared for addressing the faith of the existing bridge, the FS concludes that the existing Mosquito Road Bridge is proposed to be removed. The community respectfully disagrees with this conclusion... Since federal involvement including federal funding is part of the future bridge project Section 106 must be complied with including public input and comments on the future of the existing bridge. The bridge currently does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its age and special construction technique the eligibility should be re-evaluated This bridge offers a unique connection to our community's heritage.**
- **The community respectfully request help from the County to have the bridge re-evaluated and nomination prepared to have the bridge formally listed.**



- **On 7-27-2015 DOT presented the NOP for the EIR. The community was waiting for the Draft EIR to be published and circulated, so the community can review and provide public input for the bridge alternatives. The FS cut through the public input phase of the EIR process. We respectfully request time, so the EIR process with public input and public hearing is followed.**

**We respectfully request the Board not to adopt the FS without public hearing and public input.**