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Draft
owmp

September 10, 2007

Gregory L. Fuz, Director
El Dorado County Development Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Fuz,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Oak Woodlands Management Plan for El Dorado County. The beauty of our oak woodlands and the rural nature of this region are no doubt the primary reason people choose to live and work in El Dorado County.

I have thoroughly reviewed the Draft OWMP and have one comment to make in regard to Figure S-1 and pages 59 and 60 of the Draft OWMP. Oak Woodland Corridors are vital to the sustainability and viability of oak populations. Policy 7.4.2.2 of the 2004 General Plan states, "Protect critical wildlife areas and migration corridors from degradation by retaining non-disturbed natural areas through clustered development or density transfers; determine setback for corridors during environmental analysis..." In addition, policy 7.4.4.5 states, "Retain a corridor of oak trees that maintain continuity between all portions of the stand with a density equal to that of the stand."

General Plan Measures and Policies related to the OWMP clearly state that connectivity and corridors of oak woodland habitat are retained. I do not see solid evidence or relevant language that serves to implement these policies. Figure S-1 footnote 2 states that "programs *could be developed* to assist property owners in habitat protection that would enhance oak woodland values, using state, local, and federal grant funding." (Emphasis added). Although this statement poses a possible tool for protecting oak woodland corridors, it does not adequately address the policies listed above relating to retaining oak woodland corridors. Language relating to the development of conservation programs such as acquisition of conservation easements in oak woodland corridors within the OWMP would adequately address the policies stated in the 2004 General Plan.

Sincerely,

Elena DeLacy
Conservation Project Coordinator
American River Conservancy

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