

Agenda of: March 8, 2018
Staff: Noah R. Triplett

STAFF REPORT – 2017 ANNUAL REPORT on the RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPLICANT: County of El Dorado, Chief Administrative Office, Parks Division, River Program

REQUEST: Receive and file the 2017 Annual Report on the River Management Plan.

LOCATION: The project area is located in western El Dorado County, within the South Fork of the American River (South Fork) corridor, between Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the 2017 Annual Report on the River Management Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The River Management Plan (RMP) requires an annual report and since 2001 that has come before the Planning Commission. The 2017 annual report went before the River Management Advisory Committee and the Parks Commission in January of 2018. The RMP identifies important issues for annual review including: the results of river use monitoring; the effectiveness of the carrying capacity system; the compliance by River Use Permit holders. The RMP also stresses the importance of community input on this report. This annual report fulfills these aspects by compiling the results of the County's monitoring programs with feedback from the public and the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) on this year's river operations.

The River Management Plan update was approved February 13, 2018 which changes the review and revision process. Specifically the annual and periodic review process has changed.

The updated RMP outlines this process as follows:

Annual Operations

After completion of each rafting season County Parks and Trails Division will present a summary of the year's river management activities to the County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) in a public session.

If substantive issues or suggestions are identified in these sessions, the County Parks and Trails Division Manager will direct staff to conduct a focused study of these subjects for consideration at the next PRC meeting:

- *Where it is likely no EIR would be required, the PRC will annually propose RMP updates for immediate implementation, using an adaptive management protocol.*
- *Where it is likely an EIR would be required, the PRC will aggregate proposed RMP updates for recommendation in a 5 year update cycle.*

Five-Year Periodic Review

The five-year RMP review process is the heart of the intent to refine and improve the County's ongoing management of the River. This five-year cycle will provide the interested parties with current information, use trends and the results of public involvement opportunities from each season. Each group's role, described below, is advisory. Unless otherwise stated, all decision-making authority and responsibility for updating the RMP rest with the Board of Supervisors.

RMP annual reports will be compiled by County Parks and Trails Division by December 30 of every fifth year. This report summary, along with County staff recommendations will be submitted to the PRC to solicit input and comments. County staff recommendations, including input and comments from the PRC, will then be presented to the Planning Commission for review. All comments and recommendations generated by the PRC and Planning Commission are advisory and will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review and consideration. Staff will incorporate comments and recommendations from the PRC and the Planning Commission to the maximum extent possible. If staff is unable to incorporate any advice and recommendations, an explanation will be provided to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has the authority to determine whether to continue implementation of the existing RMP as prescribed, continue implementation of the RMP with minor modifications, or to update the RMP

REPORT ORGANIZATION:

The 2017 Annual Report is organized into five sections:

- The Report which covers trends of whitewater recreation on the South Fork American River during 2017 and a synopsis of how the RMP elements' were implemented during 2017 and budget report;
- Response to the Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Appendix A);
- Water Quality Monitoring Program and Test Results (Appendix B);
- El Dorado County Sheriff's Department Boating Safety Unity Summary (Appendix C);
- Public comments made at the conclusion of the 2017 season (Appendix D);

CONCLUSION:

Staff requests that the Planning Commission:
Receive and file the 2017 Annual Report on the River Management Plan.