

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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Clerk of the Board



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March 28, 2017

Mr. Jason DeWall
Superintendent, Gold Fields District
California Department of Parks and Recreation
7806 Folsom Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630

Mr. Drew Lessard
Area Manager, Central California Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630

RE: Proposed Recreational Bridge at China Bar – Support

Dear Mr. DeWall and Mr. Lessard,

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors fully supports a multi-use recreational bridge spanning the North Fork of the American River at the China Bar area of the Auburn State Recreation Area. The construction of such a bridge will restore needed connectivity in the recreational trail system between the communities of Cool and Auburn; connectivity once provided by the “Auburn to Cool Trail” (ACT).

The ACT was a multi-use recreation trail route between Cool and Auburn that reached across the North Fork of the American River within the Auburn State Recreation Area. The ACT was a significant but unavoidable loss when the Bureau of Reclamation and the Placer County Water Agency worked together to build a new pump station just upstream of the Auburn Dam site. Completed in 2008, the pump station project restored the North Fork of the American River to its historic channel and restored the public’s recreational access to a five-mile stretch of the river. Unfortunately, the project also resulted in the loss of the ACT and a key point of the connectivity of the trail systems between Cool and Auburn.

Our residents have consistently communicated to our Board their support for improved and expanded public recreational trail systems within the County of El Dorado. The proposed bridge project at China Bar will restore an essential connection of the trail systems between the Communities of Cool and Auburn and will expand this trail system for the utilization of many types of users and for a variety of purposes.

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The Auburn State Recreation Area is a valuable recreation area. A bridge that would restore the connectivity once provided by the Auburn to Cool Trail would greatly enhance recreational and economic opportunities within the Auburn State Recreation Area to the benefit of the public, our shared constituency and the surrounding agencies.

Should you have any questions regarding our County's support of this multi-use trail connectivity bridge, please do not hesitate to contact myself or District IV County Supervisor Michael Ranalli.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado