

Agenda of: March 24, 2016
Staff: Noah R. Triplett

STAFF REPORT – 2015 ANNUAL REPORT on the RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

REQUEST: Receive and file the 2015 Annual Report on the River Management Plan and make the following recommendations:

- 1) Approve 2015 Annual Report on implementation of the River Management Plan
- 2) Recommend continued implementation of the RMP as currently prescribed

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:

- 1) Approve 2015 Annual Report on implementation of the River Management Plan
- 2) Recommend continued implementation of the RMP as currently prescribed

BACKGROUND:

The River Management Plan (RMP) requires an annual report to your Commission in order to ensure the Plan is accomplishing its goals. 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 Special Use Permit holders with their permit conditions; and the completeness of the CEQA mandated mitigation monitoring plan. 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, the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and our agency partners on this year's river operations.

The County has contracted with Environmental Stewardship and Planning to provide a comprehensive update to the River Management Plan. Changes identified in this annual report and changes identified in the 2002-2006 and 2007-2011 five year summary reports on the

implementation of the RMP will be considered in the RMP update. The update is expected to be completed in 2016 and will be brought to your commission for input.

PURPOSE:

The annual review of the River Management Plan provides a process to evaluate and craft improvements to the County's management of whitewater recreation. The Annual Report provides your Commission an opportunity to consider the issues introduced above and the public's input to:

- Make recommendations regarding amendments to the River Management Plan;
- Evaluate River Management Plan elements that pertain to the carrying capacity system; and
- Make recommendations to improve the Plan's implementation

REPORT ORGANIZATION:

The 2015 Annual Report is organized into five sections:

- The Report which covers trends of whitewater recreation on the South Fork American River during 2015 and a synopsis of how the RMP elements' were implemented during 2015 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);
- River Management Advisory Committee comments on the whitewater program made at the conclusion of the 2015 season (Appendix D);
- Public comments made at the conclusion of the 2015 season (Appendix E);

ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS:

The annual review and reporting process includes:

- 1) River Program staff review
- 2) Public and RMAC comments and recommendations on the staff report; and
- 3) Planning Commission recommendations

CONCLUSION:

Staff requests that the Planning Commission:

- 1) Approve the 2015 Annual Report on the River Management Plan
- 2) Commission recommends that staff continue implementation of the RMP as currently prescribed