

**Placer County Water Agency  
Middle Fork American River Project  
(FERC Project No. 2079)**

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT D  
Stakeholder Interest Statements**



Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 6570  
Auburn, CA 95604

December 2007

**CONTENT**

Supporting Document D (SD D) includes interest statements provided by the stakeholders in association with the relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) solicited interested statements early in the relicensing process to help identify issues and concerns and to frame the environmental studies. These interest statements will be considered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) during their scoping process.

Interest statements were provided by 14 organizations and one individual during Plenary and Technical Working Group meetings and by e-mail or letter. A copy of each stakeholder interest statement is provided in Appendix A for reference. The associated report provides a synopsis of the interest statements, organized by resource topic. PCWA expects that stakeholders' interests will evolve as the relicensing process proceeds and more data about the Project and environmental resources becomes available.

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**


---

	Page
1.0 Introduction.....	1
2.0 Synopsis of Stakeholder Interests .....	2

**List of Appendices**

## Appendix A. Stakeholder Interest Statements.

Auburn Chamber of Commerce	1
California Outdoors	2
Foothills Water Network	3
Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve	7
Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria	8
National Park Service	9
Placer County	10
Placer County Resource Conservation District	11
Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)	12
Protect American River Canyons (PARC)	13
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	14
Tom Jones	15
United States Dept of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS)	16
Upper American River Foundation	19
Western States Trail Foundation	20

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Interest statements were presented by stakeholders at the beginning of the relicensing process for PCWA's MFP, in order to develop an initial understanding of resource issues in the vicinity of the MFP and to learn about the interest and concerns of these participants. The interest statements were provided to the MFP relicensing participants during Plenary and Technical Working Group meetings as well as by written correspondence. A copy of each stakeholder interest statement is provided in Appendix A. A total of 15 stakeholders submitted interest statements including:

- Auburn Chamber of Commerce
- California Outdoors
- Foothills Water Network
- Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve
- Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria
- National Park Service
- Placer County
- Placer County Resource Conservation District
- Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)
- Protect American River Canyons (PARC)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Tom Jones
- United States Dept of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS)
- Upper American River Foundation
- Western States Trail Foundation

The interest statements were provided by the stakeholders with the understanding that the statements did not represent absolute or definitive representations, policies, or positions of an individual, organization, or agency; rather the statements are for informational purposes to aid in early Project scoping. Furthermore, these resource interests may change or be refined by the stakeholders during the relicensing of the MFP as more information becomes available on: 1) the occurrence and status of environmental and cultural resources; 2) potential effects (both beneficial and adverse) of ongoing operations and maintenance of the MFP on these resources; and, 3) potential conflicts between competing resource interests or management objectives.

A wide diversity of resource interests were provided by the stakeholders that ranged from Project-specific to watershed level. All interest statements were accepted by the relicensing participants as legitimate regardless of competing interest between different stakeholders or applicability to the FERC's jurisdiction in the MFP relicensing. The intent is to have an open exchange between the stakeholders to better understand resource interests in the vicinity of the MFP and facilitate scoping of issues for study plan development.

## 2.0 SYNOPSIS OF STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS

The following provides a synopsis of stakeholder interest statements (Appendix A) organized by resource topic. In developing this synopsis, multiple stakeholder interests were summarized, combined, and organized to provide a consistent presentation of the information. PCWA's interests are summarized in the Executive Summary section of the Pre-Application Document (PAD), therefore, it is not included in this synopsis.

### Interest Statements Points Organized by Topic

#### **Preserve the Public Benefits of MFP**

- Maximize the many benefits of MFP on behalf of the citizens of Placer County.
- Generate sufficient revenues to maintain and improve the productivity of the MFP.
- Provide seamless transition in operations of the MFP over the term of the next FERC license.
- Provide a reliable and high quality supply of water for Placer County.
  - Preserve existing water rights and entitlements.
  - Maintain operational flexibility and storage capacity to meet consumptive demand.
  - Maintain and improve facilities to ensure water delivery and water treatment.
- Protect the value of the MFP power generation capabilities for the benefit of the people of Placer County.
  - Maintain operational flexibility to vary pattern of water releases through facilities.
  - Maintain facilities that protect generation value.
  - Maximize water flow through generation facilities.
- Maintain Project reservoir levels to protect beneficial uses and to ensure that aesthetic, recreational, ecological, and hydroelectric production needs are addressed.
- Ensure that Project-related special-use authorizations are up-to-date and address current uses.

#### **Protect Biological Resources**

- Protect and/or enhance ecological diversity.
- Protect aquatic and riparian species including suitable habitat for all lifestages.
- Maintain a healthy native bird population.
- Maintain riparian vegetation in proper functioning condition.
- Minimize entrainment at diversion facilities.
- Protect threatened, endangered, Forest Service sensitive, watchlist, species of concern, and management indicator species and their habitat.

---

### **Manage Flow Regimes for Aquatic Resources**

- Maintain seasonal discharge fluctuations that follow the shape of the natural hydrograph to the extent necessary to meet aquatic resource objectives.
- Maintain a flow regime necessary to provide for fluvial geomorphic processes and suitable habitat conditions (i.e. physical and chemical) for aquatic and riparian species.
- Ensure all Project-affected stream reaches have compliance gages that are properly maintained and functioning.
- Provide for the ability to evaluate compliance and resource responses to future changes in streamflow.

### **Maintain Sediment Supply and Transport in the Watershed and Manage Sediment Disposal Activities**

- Ensure delivery and transport of sediment are balanced so that stream channels are not excessively aggrading or degrading over time, and particle size distribution allows for diverse bedform within the stream channel.
- Ensure development of a sediment disposal management plan that addresses disposal sites, staging areas, maintenance of disposal sites, erosion control, and rehabilitation of disposal sites and staging areas.

### **Protect Water Quality and Beneficial Uses**

- Ensure MFP operations will not adversely affect water quality or the beneficial uses of the affected lakes and stream reaches within the Middle Fork American River drainage.
- Maintain water quality to support aquatic species, recreation, and consumptive use.
- Provide watershed management practices that protect water quality and quantity.
- Minimize hazardous material in watershed.

### **Preserve and Protect Cultural Resources**

- Evaluate heritage resources that may be affected by the Project, and protect/conservate significant resources, or mitigate effects.
- Preserve and protect cultural resources and values, including sacred areas.
- Provide Native Americans with access to Project waterways and lands, in order to learn, teach, and preserve traditional cultural practices.
- Identify, maintain, and/or enhance forest resources of economic and social importance to Native American tribes.
- Provide for curation of cultural artifacts.
- Ensure full compliance of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

---

## **Maintain or Enhance Recreation Opportunities**

### General

- Maintain or enhance recreation by providing a broad range of developed and dispersed opportunities and experiences that meet current and projected future demand while preserving the natural character of the watershed, protecting natural resources, and providing for other beneficial uses.
- Provide a range of angling opportunities and experiences for anglers.
- Allow for public access to Middle Fork American River and Rubicon River watersheds.
- Ensure people of all income levels have access to recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Develop a comprehensive recreation management plan.

### Recreation Facilities

- Provide and maintain a range of recreation facilities and services that are safe and consistent with design standards with appropriate management area direction, comply with Federal policy and USDA-FS direction for accessibility, are consistent with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class (or equivalent), protect environmental and cultural resources, and address future recreation demand.

### Stream-based Recreation

- Provide a flow regime that optimizes stream-based recreational opportunities (i.e. angling, swimming, waterplay, and boating) during the peak recreation period consistent with protecting environmental resources and other resource needs.
- Provide sufficient whitewater boating opportunities to support commercial, instructional and private uses through sound recreational management including the provision of reliable flows and access.
- Provide reductions and/or control of river flows at river crossings during scheduled trail events.

### Reservoir-based Recreation

- Protect and enhance fishing opportunities in Project reservoirs consistent with overall reservoir-based recreation and reservoir level goals.

## **Implement Vegetation Management and Fire Management Measures**

- Maintain watershed health and water quality/quantity through effective vegetation management as needed for wildfire protection and development of a healthy forest.
- Identify and provide appropriate vegetation management for Project-related activities.

- Minimize the spread and introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species by Project activities. Remove and/or control as appropriate.
- Where opportunities exist, or can be created, cooperatively assist the USDA-FS in identifying and creating defense zones to protect water quality through vegetation management.

### **Maintain Roads and Trails**

- Ensure roads, trails, and access points are well maintained (i.e. USDA-FS standards).
- Preserve, maintain, and protect the historic Western States Trail within the MFP.

### **Protect Visual Quality**

- Ensure that visual quality meets appropriate management area direction.

### **Enhance Interpretative, Public Awareness, and Public Education Programs**

- Increase public awareness of recreational, ecological, cultural, historical, and economic resources in the watershed.
- Provide for the collection and distribution of historic information relating to the use of the historic Western States Trail by the Paiute and Washoe Indians, Pioneers, and Pony Express Riders.
- Provide the public with timely stream flow and reservoir level information for Project-affected reaches and reservoirs to facilitate recreation use.
- Provide and maintain meaningful interpretive resource information at designated recreation facilities.
- Establish a legacy of information and knowledge for future generations.

### **Support Watershed Stewardship/Partnership Programs**

- Support ongoing investment and stewardship in the American River and Rubicon River watersheds.
- Partner with USDA-FS, State of California, and local counties to maintain a healthy forest and create recreational areas.
- Develop a watershed management process that responds to changing conditions over the term of the next license.
- Identify and facilitate land exchanges, management easements, or acquisitions that would benefit Project-watershed values.

### **Ensure Consistency with Existing Management Plans**

- Ensure consistency with resource management plans (i.e. USDA-FS and Basin Plan).
- Ensure adequate protection and utilization of USDA-FS lands affected by the Project.

- Protect and enhance the Rubicon River reach, which has been designated as a Wild Trout Stream in the Rubicon River Wild Trout Management Plan.
- Maintain or enhance wilderness values and “outstandingly remarkable” wild and scenic river values.

**Continue Stakeholder Collaboration/Consultation**

- Continue to work collaboratively with agencies, tribes, and other stakeholders during MFP relicensing.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Stakeholder Interest Statements**

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT RELICENSING  
STAKEHOLDER INTEREST STATEMENTS

Interest Statements received to date:

Auburn Chamber of Commerce  
California Outdoors  
Foothills Water Network  
Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve  
Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria  
National Park Service  
Placer County  
Placer County Resource Conservation District  
Placer County Water Agency  
Protect American River Canyons (PARC)  
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)  
Tom Jones  
United States Dept of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS)  
Upper American River Foundation  
Western States Trail Foundation

The following Interest Statements are presented as a way to develop a preliminary understanding of stakeholder interests at the beginning to the MFP relicensing process. These statements are in no way presented as absolute or definitive representations/policies/positions of any individuals/organizations/agencies interests. It is recognized that as the MFP is studied and better understood, stakeholder interests will change or be refined.

## **Auburn Chamber of Commerce Interests in Relicensing the Middle Fork Project**

June 21, 2006

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) seeks the continuance of a community united in the principles which encourage economic growth that enhances its culture and its distinctive foothill environment.

The Chamber sees the continued operation of the Middle Fork Project by Placer County Water Agency and Placer County after relicensing in year 2013 to be an important element of this vision. With this in mind and utilizing the County and Agency's gained experience after the last 40+ years operating the Middle Fork Project, the Chamber would like to see an almost seamless transition to the next 50 year period of operations under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license.

### **To this end the Chamber recognizes the following priorities:**

Providing a reliable and high quality supply of water for Placer County, this includes preserving existing water rights and entitlements, maintaining operational flexibility and storage capacity to meet consumptive demands, maintaining facilities that ensure water delivery, and providing for watershed management practices that protect water quality and quantity.

Enhancing the recreational value of the North and Middle Fork American rivers, their tributaries and their watersheds, including optimizing river flows for recreational use during peak recreation periods.

Protecting the value of the Middle Fork Project's power generation capabilities for the benefit of the people of Placer County, this includes maintaining operational flexibility to vary the pattern of water releases through the facilities, maintaining facilities that protect the generation value, and maximizing water flow through generation facilities.

Protect the environmental factors and cultural values that share or are influenced by the Middle Fork Project, which include the identification of project effects and resources; and the development of effective measures that protect, mitigate effect on, or enhance resources.

Continue in the commitment by all to work cooperatively with Agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to provide for open and transparent collaboration amongst these groups during the licensing and beyond; identify, communicate and respect interests; and focus on resource management recognizing the basic watershed resources are the underlying providers for the project.



## CALIFORNIA OUTDOORS

*Dedicated to preserving,  
promoting, and experiencing  
California's unique rivers.*

PO Box 401  
Coloma, CA 95613  
530.295.0102  
[www.caloutdoors.org](http://www.caloutdoors.org)

A Whitewater Connection  
Able Rafting  
Access to Adventure  
Action Whitewater Adventures  
Adventure Connection, Inc.  
Ahwahnee Whitewater Expeditions  
All-Outdoors Adventure Trips  
American River Recreation  
American Whitewater Expeditions  
ARTA (American River Touring Association)  
Aurora River Adventures  
Beyond Limits Adventures  
Bigfoot Outdoor Company  
California Canoe & Kayak  
California River Guides  
CBOC Whitewater  
Chuck Richards Whitewater  
Current Adventures Kayak School & Trips  
Earthtrek Expeditions  
ECHO  
Electric Rafting Company  
Environmental Traveling Companions (E.T.C.)  
Gold Rush River Runners  
Kern River Tours  
Kings River Expeditions  
Koolriver Adventures Tours, Inc.  
Living Waters Recreation  
Mariah Wilderness Expeditions  
Mother Lode River Trips, L.T.D.  
O.A.R.S., Inc.  
Outdoor Adventures  
Ram-River Adventures and More  
River Dancers  
River Riders Whitewater Tours  
River Runners  
River Travel Center  
Rubicon Whitewater Adventures  
Sierra Mac River Trips  
Sierra South  
South Bay River Rafters  
Sierra Mac River Trips  
Sierra South  
Sierra Western Adventure Trips  
South Bay River Trips  
Sunshine River Adventures  
Tahoe Whitewater Tours  
Tributary Whitewater Tours  
Turtle River Rafting  
W.E.T.  
Whitewater Excitement  
Whitewater Voyages  
Zephyr River Expeditions

May 16, 2006

Memo To: MFA Relicensing Stakeholder Group

RE: Interest statement

Following is the initial interest statement for California Outdoors, a trade association consisting of 51 professional outfitters throughout the state of California, including most Middle Fork American outfitters.

**Out interest is in securing timely, reliable and predictable flows downstream of Oxbow Reservoir in a quantity sufficient to allow a quality whitewater rafting and kayaking experience.**



**Initial Interest Statements  
PCWA Middle Fork Project Relicensing**

June 5, 2006

Dear Stakeholders in the Middle Fork American Relicensing Process,

In response to PCWA’s request for initial interest statements from the stakeholders, the Foothills Water Network Middle Fork Working Group would like to submit the enclosed interests on behalf of its member groups. While every member may not endorse each interest listed, this list provides a snapshot of the range of interests our members have discussed over the last months.

The following interest statements are presented as a way to develop a preliminary understanding of stakeholder interests at the beginning of the MFP relicensing process. These statements are in no way presented as absolute or definitive representations/policies/positions of any individuals/organizations/agencies interests. It is recognized that as the MFP is studied and better understood, stakeholder interests will change or be refined.

**INITIAL INTERESTS**

<b><u>CUMULATIVE EFFECT</u></b>
Healthy functioning Rubicon and Middle Fork American watersheds including the waterway, riparian corridor, and uplands.
Preservation of wild and scenic values in Rubicon River
Watershed management process that is flexible in its capacity to respond to changing conditions over the course of the license period and still meet the balanced objectives of stakeholders.
Consistency between hydropower operations and the Forest Plan, BLM Plan and with the reasonable protection of other beneficial uses of water as identified in the Basin Plan.
Ability to evaluate compliance and resource responses to changes in streamflows.
<b><u>GEOLOGICAL AND SOIL RESOURCES</u></b>
Channel maintenance, flexibility, stability, and upland slope integrity
Suitable levels of sedimentation for ecosystem and hydrologic functioning

**WATER/AQUATIC RESOURCES**

Populations of native aquatic biota, including fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and riparian species are viable with adequate habitat consistent with species' needs. All life stages of native aquatic species are maintained or enhanced.

Flows are protective of the designated beneficial uses of cold freshwater habitat and warm freshwater habitat as appropriate, and do not adversely affect water temperatures for local aquatic and riparian-dependent species assemblages.

Minimization of the effects of stream diversions or other flow modifications from hydroelectric projects on threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Protection and enhancement of ecological diversity to preserve and foster the biological resiliency of the system.

Good water quality - fishable, swimmable, drinkable;

Minimization of hazardous material in watershed and channel.

Maintenance of reservoir levels sufficient to ensure that aesthetic, recreational, ecological needs are addressed.

**FISHERY RESOURCES**

Favorable conditions for all life stages of fisheries

Protection and Enhancement of designated wild trout streams on the Rubicon River

Healthy populations of wild trout and their habitat

Healthy anadromous fisheries and trout fisheries and habitat in Western Placer Creeks including: Dry Creek, Coon Creek, Pleasant Grove, Curry Creek, and Auburn Ravine

**TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES**

Existing roads, trails, and access points to the Middle Fork American canyon are well-maintained

Ability for public to access public and waterways for multiple uses

**SHORELINE MANAGEMENT**

Healthy and functioning native riparian vegetative communities on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers

Healthy native bird population

**RECREATION**

Streamflow regime that optimizes recreational opportunities, including stream angling, swimming, waterplay, boating, and other recreational beneficial uses that are consistent with ecosystem capabilities; that minimize user and ecological conflicts; and that maintain a high degree of user satisfaction, with due consideration for lake levels and levels of quality lake-based recreation.

Financially sound and economically beneficial commercial, instructional, and private kayaking and rafting industry combined with recreation management that offer the public safe and fun access to public waterways.

Range of angling opportunities for fishermen

Preservation of fishability values ie. isolation; wilderness experience; accessibility; health of the watershed.
Protection and enhancement of lake-fishing opportunities consistent with overall lake-based recreation
Safe and reliable existing access points in the Midde Fork American and Rubicon watersheds
Well-kept existing campgrounds for recreational enjoyment
Both opportunities for wilderness experience as well as opportunities for well-maintained accessible public access points
Increased public awareness of recreational, ecological, cultural, historical and economic values to increase public stewardship and investment in the health of the watersheds and natural resources
Provision of quality day use and overnight recreation opportunities associated with the Project that do not adversely impact natural resources.
Visual quality meets appropriate management area direction.
<b><u>ECONOMICS</u></b>
Ongoing investment in the American and Rubicon watersheds as well as good stewardship to protect and enhance the health of the watersheds for generations to come.
<b><u>CULTURAL</u></b>
Protection of cultural, historic, and archaeological resources
Interpretation of cultural, historic, and archaeological resources for public education, recreation, increased stewardship

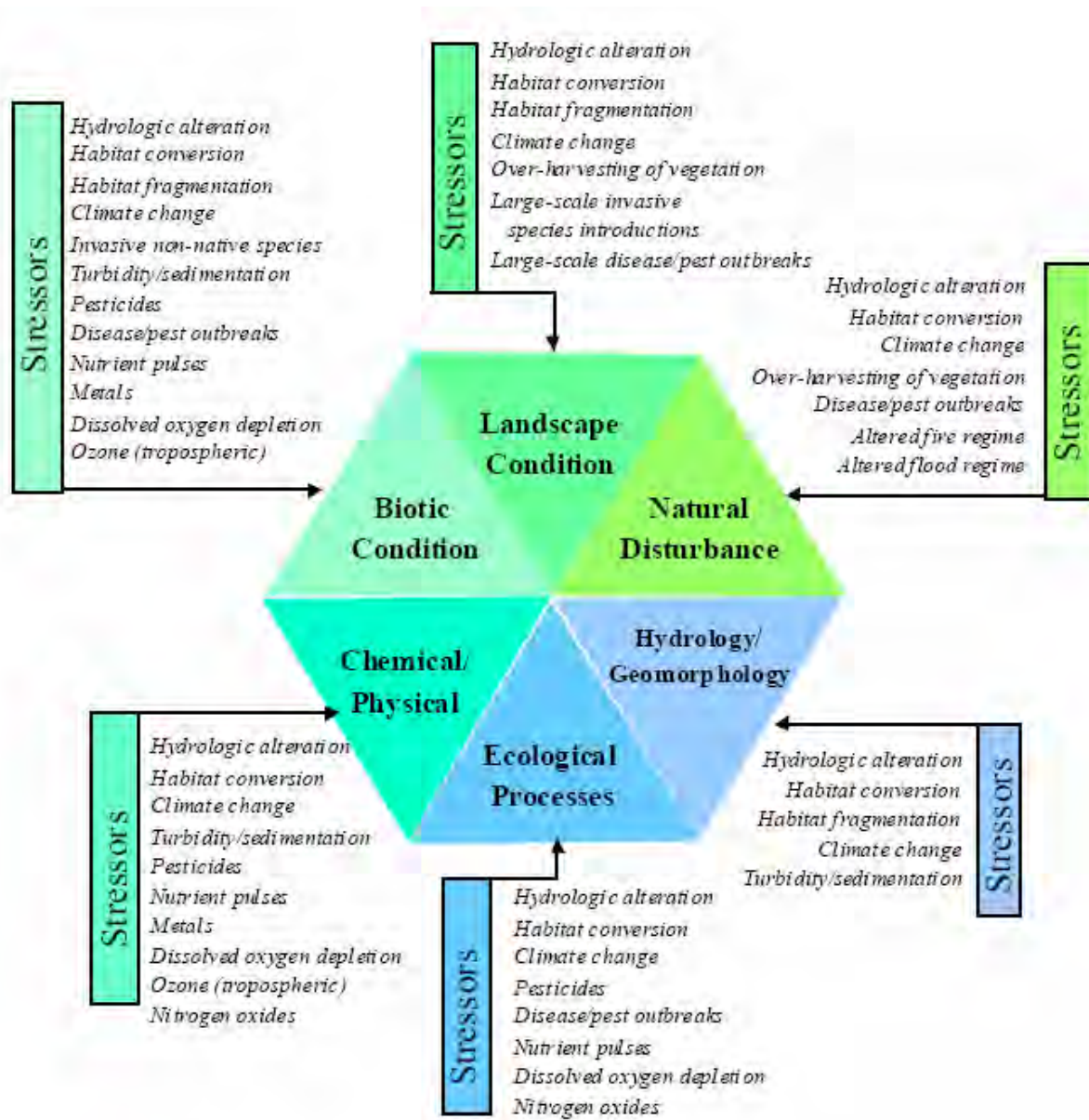
In Appendix A, we have included a diagram of Indicators of Watershed Health developed by the EPA to demonstrate all the components of watershed health. This particular framework for watershed indicators is gaining traction with the state resources agencies in response to the Governor’s Initiative on Watershed Health as his State of the state in January 2005.

Thank you for the opportunity for submitting our initial interest statements.

Sincerely,

Nate Rangel California Outdoors  
Monte Hendricks, Rubicon River Angler  
Larry Goodell, Auburn Flycasters  
Bill Templin American River Watershed Group  
Dan Crandall Current Adventures  
Terry Davis, Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club  
Marilyn Jasper, Clover Valley Foundation and Placer Group Sierra Club  
Julie Leimbach, Foothills Water Network

Appendix A: Indicators of Watershed Health, EPA





# Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve

November 05, 2007

## MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT RELICENSING

### Stakeholder Interest Statement

Fifty years ago, when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, (FERC), issued an operational license for the Middle Fork of the American River, there were two major considerations, water delivery and power production. Although FERC considered other issues such as recreation and fisheries it was done from a limited knowledge base.

Today, seven years into the new millennium, in an environment of enlightenment, most would agree that a more balanced approach makes sense. Not only do our physical needs have to be provided for but also our spiritual needs. A balanced recreational use and a responsibility to protect and improve our natural resources now poses a challenge that rivals power and water delivery.

This special “Sierra Ecosystem” needs our protection and respect. The collapse or degradation of any part of this system would be a major travesty the people of Placer County can’t afford to have happen.

The mission of **Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve** is to help facilitate a process to protect, enhance and restore the natural, cultural, recreational, economic and historical resources of the Middle Fork of the American River drainage. As stewards, we hope to help accomplish this by the following:

- Support and promote a more natural flow regime in the various reaches of the watershed, while still providing reasonable hydroelectric production, water transference and recreational multi-use.
- Enhance environmental conditions as needed that will serve to protect and enhance “Species of Concern” within the scope of the FERC License.
- Maintain as natural of an environment as possible within the constraints of a major hydro-project for aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora.
- Encourage, support and improve public access along the river drainages on state, federal and county lands for recreational use by the public.
- Enhance spawning areas for fish, frogs, turtles, and other aquatics within the river systems.
- Support and respect other eco friendly recreational uses of the river systems
- Preserve and protect gold rush era sites along the river.
- Support efforts to identify and protect Native American sites on public and private lands.
- Support the management by California Department of Fish and Game for natural gene pool diversity of the fisheries in the various reaches of the streams and rivers.

MIWOK TRIBE OF THE EL DORADO RANCHERIA  
P.O. BOX 1284  
EL DORADO, CA 95623  
(530)363-3257  
[miwoktribe@hotmail.com](mailto:miwoktribe@hotmail.com)

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING  
STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Typically, our concerns in projects such as this relicensing have dealt with the preservation of sacred areas and cultural resources. But, our statement of interest is broader than that of protecting our past.

As original stewards of the land we based our culture on the life cycles of our environment with villages and traditional areas primarily along waterways. The need to re-establish or strengthen that connection is crucial to the continued survival of our heritage.

We are seeking access along a waterway so we may develop areas to learn, practice and teach traditional cultural practices to our people. The native tribes, Miwok, Nisenan and Maidu were historically from this area; their people and culture were devastated with the Gold Rush and the affects still linger. Lack of land with access to a natural waterway is smothering the true essence of our cultural connection with the environment.

In these times of the naturalist, conservationist, herbalist and other groups that are supported in our society to seek understanding of the earth and living things, the indigenous people with innate environmental understanding await the opportunity to strengthen their spiritual connection by practicing their ways in traditional areas. The success of this approach to restore aspects of our culture will take intergovernmental cooperation, but can lead to educational benefits to all concerned.

Therefore, the Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria wish to express our interest in the project waterways and lands to protect and preserve that which is most sacred to us, our culture.

Jeri Scambler  
Tribal Chairperson

# National Park Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Interest Statement

To create, preserve, or enhance recreation by providing a broad range of developed and dispersed opportunities that meet current and projected demand while preserving the natural character of the watershed and providing for other beneficial uses.

### Specific interests:

- Provide for diverse quality recreation opportunities that consider current and future demand, while not impacting critical habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Ensure recreation is given equal consideration along with the other resources.
- Develop a comprehensive recreation management plan.
- Ensure that people of all income levels have access to recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Ensure reasonable public access to wildlife lands.

### NPS Authorities:

- Federal Power Act, regulations as amended - requires consultation with NPS (18 CFR 4.38(a) and 18 CFR 16.8(a)); identifies topics for consultation (18 CFR 4.51(f)(4),(5) & (6).
- Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 - NPS technical assistance about outdoor recreation resources (Sec.4601-1)

### Applicants for FERC hydropower licenses are required to consult with NPS about:

- Recreational resources
- Cultural, historic and archeological values
- Land management and aesthetics

### NPS primarily makes recommendations about:

- Recreation access and facilities
- Instream flows for recreation
- Riparian corridor and conservation buffer zone protection

May 16, 2006

## Placer County

### Statement of Stakeholder Interest

Placer County and the Placer County Water Agency are co-beneficiaries of the Middle Fork Project. As such, the County shares the same interests and goals in the re-licensing of the Project as the Agency. Overall, the County's primary interest in this project is to maximize the many benefits of the project on behalf of the citizens of Placer County.

## Placer County Resource Conservation District

### **Statement of Interest regarding wildfire safety, healthy forest, and water quality within and around the Middle Fork Project area**

Perform on-going vegetation management as needed for wildlife protection and a healthy forest, thus aiding preservation of water quality and quantity by maintaining watershed health.

Improve community awareness through stewardship of the soil, water, vegetation and animals within the watershed to foster respect for the ecosystem.

Develop an assortment of strategies for vegetation management that residents can accept and agencies can incorporate into their current and future management practices.

Some activities to accomplish the above:

- Include initial vegetation reduction activities in the NEPA for the ILP.
- Include annual vegetation management activities in the budget for maintenance and operations.
- Include community awareness programs that address landowner treatment objectives, existing conditions, cost of initial treatment and operations/maintenance, and how much time a landowner might be required to spend on vegetative management.
- Cooperation with surrounding landowners/managers, including the Tahoe National Forest and Eldorado National Forest, is vital for success.

## MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT

### RELICENSING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

---

The mission of the relicensing project is to successfully relicense the Middle Fork American River Project to insure reliable water and energy supplies for the people of Placer County consistent with responsible stewardship of the watershed resources in partnership with stakeholders.

The specific goals of the relicensing are:

- Retain the license for the project.
- Obtain a license that provides for the long term integrity of the project facilities.
- Improve and upgrade project facilities, including capacity, energy and water supply where feasible based upon good economic and environmental principles
- Secure the benefits of the project for the people of Placer County and the State of California
  - Water – Preserve and maintain a reliable water supply for the health, security and economic benefit of Placer County.
  - Power – Manage the power and energy benefits of this renewable resource in a reliable manner.
    - Maximize the value of the available hydroelectric power and energy output.
    - Maximize the statewide benefits of reliable, renewable energy sources.
  - Environment – Be a responsible long term steward of the watershed resources in partnership with the resource agencies and stakeholders.
    - Balance the values of the community, including protecting, and if possible, enhancing the environment.
  - Recreation – Respond to the diverse recreation needs of the public by utilizing the project's inherent capabilities and attributes, recognizing the need for public safety.
- Be consistent with Placer and El Dorado county General Plans, Forest Service Plans, environmental and recreational policies and comply with regulatory requirements and applicable laws.
- Engage the stakeholders in an open and efficient relicensing process.
- Provide public education opportunities on environmental and cultural resources in the project area.

Protect American River Canyons (PARC)  
Stakeholder Interests Statement  
concerning  
Placer County Water Agency  
Middle Fork Project Relicensing

May 16, 2006

The interests of Protect American River Canyons in the relicensing of PCWA's Middle Fork Project are protecting, conserving, and improving the natural, recreational, cultural, and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons for all to responsibly care for and enjoy for generations to come.

These interests are based upon the value proposition that human beings should be able to live and use the planet along side the other living organisms without reducing or destroying the ecosystems essential for the other organisms to live and thrive. Human beings have the responsibility to be stewards of the planet for all life present and to sustain all existing life forms.

Because the relicense period may be for as long as 50-years, we are interested in collecting the essential data regarding the environmental conditions present today and over the next 50-years. Our interest is leaving a legacy of information and knowledge to help future generations when undertaking their relicensing process.

PCWA is to be commended for embracing collaboration as the process for the undertaking the relicensing effort. Collaborative is much more productive than adversarial and conflict based processes and should be the agreed to process for managing the license over the next 50-years.

## **SWRCB Collaborative Process Participation Statement**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards are the principal state agencies responsible for administering the state's water quality control program. (Wat. Code, §§ 13000-14958.) This includes responsibility to grant, waive, or deny water quality certification as provided for under section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. (Wat. Code, § 13160; see generally 33 U.S.C. § 1341.) The SWRCB issues water quality certification before a license to operate a hydropower project may be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In addition, the SWRCB is the state agency responsible for administering surface water rights throughout the state. (Wat. Code, §§ 1000-5976.)

Where the SWRCB's regulatory approval is required, the SWRCB has a legal duty, independent of any arguments raised by parties to the proceeding before the SWRCB, to assure that the requirements for that approval are satisfied. In this case, the SWRCB has an independent statutory duty under the Clean Water Act and the applicable regional water quality control plan to ensure that the operation of the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) will not adversely affect water quality or the beneficial uses of the affected lakes and stream reaches within the Middle Fork American River drainage.

The SWRCB agrees to participate in the development of information regarding the Middle Fork American River Project that may lead to a settlement among the interested parties. It is the policy of the SWRCB to promote voluntary settlements among the parties to adjudicative proceedings before the SWRCB. It is also the policy of the SWRCB to assist applicants and members of the public by making available information about the requirements of the programs it administers. The SWRCB will participate in the collaborative process with a view towards encouraging settlement among the parties and other persons interested in proceedings before the SWRCB, and providing applicants, protestants and other interested persons with information concerning the requirements applicable to SWRCB approvals.

While the SWRCB can provide information that will help guide the parties towards a settlement that is likely to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals, however, the SWRCB cannot make a prior commitment to the outcome of any regulatory approval that must be issued by the SWRCB. The SWRCB acts in an adjudicative capacity when it acts on a request for water quality certification, water right application, change petition, or other water right approval that may be required for or requested in connection with a proposed project. The SWRCB must be an impartial decision-maker, avoiding bias, prejudice or interest, in any adjudicative proceedings conducted in accordance with the SWRCB's regulatory approvals. Consistent with its adjudicative responsibilities, including its obligation to consider any arguments that may be raised or information provided by parties to a SWRCB proceeding, the SWRCB cannot execute any settlement agreement or make any other commitment that would be binding on the SWRCB as part of its action on a request for water quality certification or other necessary SWRCB permit, license, or other regulatory approval.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tom Jones [mailto:mrtomjones@jps.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2006 1:50 PM  
**To:** marie@rainwater-associates.com  
**Subject:** Stakeholder Interest Statement

Ms. Marie Rainwater, Please accept this email as my statement of interest. I hope to help keep the group focused on certain premises. The water is a public resource. It is not a county or agency asset. The middle fork project is a opportunity for this resource to be controlled by our public not for profit agency. We should be able to generate sufficient revenue to maintain and IMPROVE the productivity of the MFP and be assured that it will be in excellent condition when we request the next relicensing in 2063. We should be able to use the surplus funds to invest in improving the water treatment and delivery systems, improve the water shed and partner with national forest, State of California, and local counties to maintain a healthy forest and create recreation areas. Placer County and other stake holders should be able to identify infrastructures projects that will allow our future generations needs addressed. I am going to bring a grandfathers perspective to our process. I also am a member of Placer County Taxpayers association and a fiscal conservative. Thank you for including me.

Tom Jones

**Forest Service Interests  
Middle Fork American River Project**

**July 19, 2006**

Forest Service interests are based on direction described in the Eldorado and Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans). The Forest Service's primary interest is to ensure adequate protection and utilization of National Forest System lands affected by the project through meeting the goals and objectives in the Forest Plans for elements such as aquatic and other water-related resources, facilities, transportation, recreation, heritage resources, soil resources, and vegetation and fuels. The Forest Plans contain specific direction for each management area affected by the Middle Fork American River Project. This summary provides a broader definition of interests than the detailed management area direction.

**Aquatic Biota/Hydrology/Soils/Riparian**

1. Meet water quality goals from the Regional Basin Plan.
2. Identify, maintain, preserve, restore, and/or enhance special aquatic features and/or implement restoration actions to provide the ecological conditions and processes needed to maintain, recover, and/or enhance the viability of native and/or desired non-native species that rely on these areas. These items could include: (a) ensuring a renewable supply of large down logs; (b) maintaining riparian vegetation in proper functioning condition; and (c) ensuring water use achieves seasonal discharge fluctuations that follow the shape of the natural hydrograph in duration, magnitude, rate of change, and frequency to the extent necessary to obtain the aquatic resource objectives.
3. Minimize entrainment at the outlets of reservoirs.
4. Identify, preserve, and/or restore macroinvertebrate indices (metrics) in Project-affected stream reaches.
5. Ensure delivery and transport of sediment are balanced so that stream channels are not excessively aggrading or degrading over time, and particle size distribution allows for diverse bed form within the stream channel.

**Recreation**

1. Determine appropriate level of Project-related recreation for which licensee is responsible.
2. Provide and maintain a range of recreation facilities and services that meet design standards, are safe, are consistent with appropriate management area direction, are compliant with Federal policy and Forest Service direction for accessibility, and are consistent with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class (or equivalent).
3. Provide recreation facilities within the current and future capabilities of the ecosystem.
4. Address future recreation demands.
5. Provide streamflow regimes to optimize recreational opportunities, such as stream angling, swimming, waterplay, boating, and other recreational beneficial uses that are consistent with ecosystem capabilities and other resource needs.
6. Protect and enhance fishing opportunities in Project reservoirs consistent with overall reservoir-based recreation and reservoir level goals.
7. Maintain reservoir levels in Project reservoirs to protect beneficial uses and to ensure that aesthetic, recreational, ecological, and hydroelectric production needs are addressed.

8. Maintain or enhance wilderness values and outstandingly remarkable wild and scenic river values.
9. Provide streamflow and reservoir level information for Project-affected reaches and reservoirs that is available to the general public and is adequate for river and lake recreation use.
10. Assist land managers to provide and maintain meaningful interpretive resources at designated recreation facilities.

### **Visual Quality**

Ensure that visual quality meets appropriate management area direction.

### **Heritage Resources/Tribal Relations**

1. Identify, inventory, protect, monitor, and enhance heritage resource sites where feasible.
2. Identify Native American and other cultural group values associated with sites.
3. Provide for curation of cultural materials.
4. Identify, maintain, and/ or enhance Forest resources of economic and social importance to tribes.
5. Evaluate heritage resources that may be affected by the Project, and protect/conserv e significant resources, or mitigate effects to those resources.
6. Conduct, as part of Section 106 compliance, on-going consultation with the appropriate Native American tribe(s) as defined by the FS.
7. Ensure full compliance of Section 106.

### **Noxious Weeds**

Minimize introduction of, and remove and control noxious weeds and invasive species related to Project activities.

### **Terrestrial Wildlife**

1. Maintain and protect habitat for, and protect threatened, endangered, and Forest Service sensitive and watchlist species.
2. Improve habitat capability for Forest Service management indicator species.

### **Vegetation Management**

1. Identify and provide appropriate vegetation management for Project-related activities.
2. Where opportunity exists, or can be created, cooperatively assist the Forest Service in identifying and creating defense zones to protect water quality through vegetation management.

### **Facilities**

1. Ensure all Project-affected stream reaches have compliance gages that are properly maintained and functioning.
2. Determine appropriate level of road and trail maintenance for which licensee is responsible.
3. Ensure roads and trails are maintained to FS standards. Ensure Project-related facilities are appropriately identified and maintained.

4. Ensure development of a sediment disposal management plan that addresses disposal sites, staging areas, maintenance of disposal sites, erosion control, and rehabilitation of disposal sites and staging areas.

### **Lands**

1. Identify and facilitate land exchanges, management easements, or acquisitions that would benefit project-watershed values.
2. Identify project-related water rights.

### **Administration**

Ensure that Project-related special-use authorizations are up to date and address current uses.

To: Placer County Water Agency  
From: Upper American River Foundation, Board of Directors  
Date: June 19, 2006

Subject: Interest Statement for the Middle Fork American River Project  
FERC Relicensing from the Upper American River Foundation

Our group will be a member-based organization founded to conserve and protect the unique qualities of the Upper American River watersheds in Placer and El Dorado Counties. The objectives of our group include identifying resource and related issues that need to be resolved and developing funding that will be needed to help resolve them so future generations will continue to be able to enjoy the experiences that we have enjoyed during our lifetimes in this area.

Our approach includes working with existing resource-management agencies, private land owners, and other stakeholders to increase everyone's level of appreciation and understanding of the abundant resources in this area and how they need to be managed as one big inter-related system. Our group wants to be very active in regional decision-making and policy. Relationships built within the framework of this foundation will strive for full understanding of short-term and long-term individual interests and regulatory management in the watershed to address watershed issues with mutual respect for all stakeholders.

Your FERC Relicensing efforts on the Middle Fork American River and adjacent streams interests us very much and we hope to help develop partnerships to make the process play out favorably to all interested parties.

We look forward to working with you and the other member agencies, organizations and individuals to better understand the fishery population dynamics, their life-cycles, and the health of their food sources so we can protect and improve these major resources in our watersheds.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Upper American River Foundation



# WESTERN STATES TRAIL FOUNDATION

1216-C High Street ♦ Auburn, California 95603 ♦ (530) 823-7282 ♦ FAX (530) 823-7901

Add More Years to Your Life;  
More Life to Your Years.  
Ride a Horse. REALLY RIDE.

E-Mail: [wstf@foothill.net](mailto:wstf@foothill.net) ♦ <http://www.foothill.net/tevis>

THE TEVIS CUP 100 MILES ONE DAY RIDE

SPONSORS FOR THE FAMOUS TEVIS CUP 100 MILES ONE DAY RIDE ON THE HISTORIC SCENIC WESTERN STATES PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

July 2006

## Placer County Water Agency Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

Stakeholder statement of Interest: Western States Trail Foundation (WSTF).

WSTF interests speak too; but, are not limited to the following purposes:

1. Preserve, maintain, protect the Historic Western States Trail (WST) within the Middle Fork Project (MFP); and, develop as appropriate any ancillary trails linked historically to the Gold Rush Emigrants throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains within the MFP.
2. Provide for the collection, publication and/or distributing, for educational purposes, of the historical data and information relating to the use of the Historic WST by Paiute and Washoe Indians, the Pioneers, and early Express and Mail Riders during our early history of California and Nevada within the MFP.
3. Encourage public visitation/use by Equestrians and Hikers along the WST for education, knowledge, connection and recognition of sites and trails once utilized by Native Americans, early travelers and settlers of gold rush mining camps and trail side locations.
4. Maintain and establish access sites, camp sites and other recreational destinations, within the MFP, in keeping with sound environmental/ecological practices to enhance the natural experience and preserve it for future generations.
5. Ensure cooperation with trail users, individual and groups, for safe use of established trails and way sites to include:
  - A. Maintain trail access and crossing points of water flows to minimize potential catastrophic occurrences.
  - B. Plan for and provide reduction and/or control of water flows during occasional and annual scheduled events to allow for safe water crossing site(s); providing advanced published notification to other users and groups.

A Western States organization of California and Nevada horsemen: To save and preserve for future generations the historic Western States Trail of the pioneer Gold Rush to California and the trail route of miners from the gold mines of California to the silver mines of Nevada. To encourage public participation in riding and hiking on the Western States Trail to sites of once populous Gold Rush mining camps and



locations of events prominent and important in the history of the West. To sponsor annually the Western States 100 Miles One Day Ride for international competition. To recreate public attention and interest everywhere for endurance riding as made famous in our western history more than a century ago, by the riders and horses of THE PONY EXPRESS.