

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING  
STAKEHOLDER INTEREST STATEMENTS

Interest Statements received to date:

1. California Outdoors
2. Placer County Resource Conservation District
3. Protect American River Canyons (PARC)
4. Tom Jones
5. Placer County Water Agency
6. Placer County
7. Upper American River Foundation
8. Auburn Chamber of Commerce
9. Foothills Water Network
10. Western States Trail Foundation

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.

Interest Statements may be submitted to Placer County Water Agency's Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing email address:

[relicensing@pcwa.net](mailto:relicensing@pcwa.net)



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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.**

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.

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.

-----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 infrastures 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

# MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT

## RELICENSING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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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.

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.

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



## **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.



**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.

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**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





# WESTERN STATES TRAIL FOUNDATION

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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.