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2/19/10

Placer County Water Agency
Resource Development Department
Mr. Mal Toy
Project Manager
P.O. Box 6570
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604

RE: FERC Project # 2079 Middle Fork of the American River Project

Dear Mr Toy,

Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game Preserve (HBP) is a private organization that was created to expand the recreational activity on the Middle Fork of the American River (MFA). HBP is a stakeholder in MFA FERC project # 2079. HBP hosts a variety of events for philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, such as Wounded Warriors, Casting for Recovery (breast cancer survivors) numerous Nonprofit Fly Fishing clubs, scouting, as well as, fund raisers and events for local schools and other nonprofit organizations in Northern CA. In addition, HBP brings guests from all walks of life (in both public and private sector) to use and enjoy the property/river which extends five miles on both sides of the river. HBP has been attending the FERC meetings on a regular basis and has participated in various studies. The reason for writing this letter and submitting the attached survey is to put forth an accurate picture of the angling and recreational activity that occurs on the MFA Peaking Reach project.

Since the creation of HBP the recreational activity and angling on the upper MFA peaking reach has doubled each year. During the calendar year of 2009 angling activity at HBP exceeded 1200 visits and is expected to nearly double during the 2010 calendar year. Recreational activities, such as camping, hiking, observing nature, bird watching, recreational mineral exploration, historical and cultural field trips, that have occurred at HBP *have not* been recorded in any of the project Recreational Studies. The members of the public that participated in all of these activities come from a wide range of cultural, ethnic, geographical and economic

backgrounds. Their ages range from kindergarten school children to senior citizens. Their uses and activities *should* be included in the Recreational Study.

HBP is also actively involved in the restoration of fish habitat and population throughout the MFA and other FERC projects in Northern California. HBP is currently pursuing the restoration and recreation of over a mile and a half stretch of river, known as Horseshoe Bar. During the 1880's the Tunnel Chute was created that diverted the river in order to dewater the mile and a half of the MFA River known as Horseshoe Bar. HBP efforts to restore a flow around Horseshoe Bar to create a native and wild fish spawning area will not only benefit the members and guests, it will also benefit many miles above and below the property and could eventually become an important and key asset to the restoration of anadromous fish.

The PCWA Recreational Study relied on the input from relatively few anglers to establish its findings. Had the 1200 plus anglers who fish the upper reach of the MFA been allowed to have their input considered, the results would have been significantly different.

Our desire is to work with other recreational groups to develop a flow regime that best serves all vested parties. From an angling perspective we believe that flows of 400 CFS to 600 CFS will provide a safe and successful angling experience. Of course, the scientific studies developed to maintain a healthy fishery must take precedent over all of the interests.

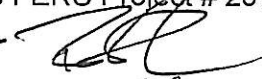


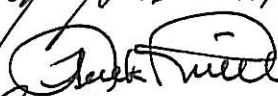


HBP would be happy to supply documented accounts and letters confirming the activity and accuracy of this letter and survey. Please ensure that this letter and all of its attachments are entered as part of the official records of these proceedings.

Sincerely,



Thomas G.M. Bartos
President

CC: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Placer County Supervisors
PCWA Board of Directors
Department Fish & Game
US Department of Forestry
Stakeholders FERC Project # 2079

1. Bob Schwan  bs@sokwest.net
2. Nick Strelchuk  STRELCHUK@AOL.COM
3. Hans Geyer  HANSGEYER@HOTMAIL.COM
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7. R. Heath Wakelee R. H. Wakelee hwakelee@gmail.com
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General Visitor Survey
Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game Preserve
FERC Project # 2079
Middle Fork of the American River Project
2-21-09

During the numerous recreational use meetings held over the last 12 months we have requested that PCWA conduct surveys of the 1200 plus anglers that fish the upper reach of the MFA FERC Project #2079. It is unfortunate that individual surveys were not taken during the process. As a consequence we will attempt to provide the information as accurately as we can.

The Survey Location site would be the Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game Preserve, Foresthill, CA. This preserve covers approximately five miles of the river, on both sides of the river, starting just below Oxbow Dam and continuing downstream for five miles. This stretch of the river is very significant because it represents the highest level of angling activity on the peaking reach and is approximately 20% of the MFA. The time frame for this survey is the calendar year 2009. The hours of the day were generally from sunrise to sunset with overnight events on various occasions.

The following estimates are best estimates based on documented records and accounts from the caretaker, owner and individuals (HBP members, numerous nonprofit Fly Fishing Clubs members, philanthropic, government and nonprofit organizations) who participated.

1. Camping at semi-developed site: 200
Day use along Stream/river: 1200
Fishing: 1000
2. What types of vehicles were used? Car/SUV and light trucks
3. How many people were in each vehicle? 50% 1 per vehicle and 50% had 2 or more.
4. How Many people in your group are in the following age categories:
Under 18 250 18 and over 950
5. How many & what types of vehicles were used? 100% Car/SUV/Van and light trucks

6. County of Residence?

Santa Clara County: 40
San Mateo: 40
Sacramento: 300
Placer: 530

Marin: 20
San Francisco: 80
Nevada: 150
Santa Clara 40

7. What is your age?

4 – 17 100
18 – 25 200
25 – 65 700
Over 65 200

8. Which Cultural or ethnic group do you most closely identify with?

Hispanic/Latino: 250
Black/African American: 25
White /Caucasian: 750
Asian: 175

9. Primary spoken language? English

10. How Many years have you recreated in the area? 3 to 5

11. How many trips do you take to this area annually Jan to December? 6

12. How much money do you spend during your visit to this area? These estimates vary greatly depended on where the individuals live. SF Bay Area counties would be at the high end and placer county residents would be much lower as such things as gas, food and lodging would not be as expensive for those that live locally. Regardless of where an individual lives they spend money in all of the areas listed below.

Placer County \$200 to \$500
Auburn Area \$101 to \$200
Foresthill Area \$51 to \$100

13. Reason why you chose this area to recreate: Main Reason Secondary Reason

Close to home: 50%
Scenic Quality: 100%

| | | |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Recreational activities/opportunities: | <u>100%</u> | |
| Access to stream/river: | <u>100%</u> | |
| Cost of facility access fee | <u>100%</u> | |
| Presence of onsite mgr/host: | | <u>30%</u> |
| Lack of Crowding | <u>100%</u> | |

14. How important are each of the following facilities

| | Very Import | Important | Somewhat | Not Import |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Hiking Trails | | | | X |
| Fishing Access Trails | X | | | |
| Educational & Historical exhibits | | | | X |

15. Activities:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Picnicking in undeveloped sites | | | X |
| Camping in Undeveloped sites | | | X |
| Stream Fishing | X | | |
| Hiking/Walking | | | X |
| Visiting Historical/Cultural sites | | X | |
| Viewing wildlife/scenery/photography | | X | |
| Rock Hounding | | | X |
| Relaxing | X | | |
| Solitude | X | | |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| 16. Rate available /adequacy Information | Somewhat Acceptable | Not Acceptable |
| River/Stream Flow Info | <u>60%</u> | <u>40%</u> |

Explain: PCWA website provides historical river flow information but does not provide information in advance so that you can plan for angling activities.

17. How would you rate your overall recreational experience?

Very satisfied 45% Satisfied 20% Unsatisfied 35%

The most common complaint is high, peaking, dangerous & unfishable flows. Peaking flows have a very negative effect on fishing as fish do not like change. Depending on the peaking rate and period anywhere from 4 to 6 hours (one third to one half of the day) can be lost during the day because of the effect peaking has on the fish. Also the high flows

restrict access to a very significant portion of the river thereby forcing anglers into a few areas where increased fishing pressure not only reduces the success rate; it also has a negative effect on the recreational experience.

18. Are there additional recreational facilities, amenities, or opportunities that would improve your recreational experience? Yes A website that would allow the public to view what the flows will be throughout the day in advance. A more balance approach that would allow anglers to fish at lower flows in the latter part of the day is needed to allow anglers to fish safely and successfully.
19. What was fishing method was use? Catch & Release 100% fly fishing barbless flies.
20. Indicate the type and number of fish caught and released. 100% of fish caught were released. 95% were Rainbow Trout 5% were Brown Trout
21. Average number of fish caught: 5
22. Average size of fish: 6" to 12" 5% : 12" to 14" 65%: 16" to 18" 25%: 18" to 22" 5%