APPENDIX J

Angler Focus Group Materials

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
List of Potential Focus Group Participants

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

Potential Angling Focus Group Participants					
First Name	**Last Name**	**Affiliation**	**Position**	**Suggested by**	**Notes**
Gray	Allen	Public Relations Consultant	PCWA Board Member	PCWA	
Dan	Bacher	UARF, Fish Sniffer		J Leimbach	younger, planting fish, maybe more access, prefers PM meeting
Tom G.M.	Bartos	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve	President	J Leimbach	
Karl	Brustad	Trout Unlimited Granite Bay Flycasters		J Leimbach Brent Smith	
Joe	Byrne	General Public		G Flanagan	
Bill	Carnazzo	UARF Spring Creek Guide Service		J Leimbach	prefers PM meetings fishing guide for last 15 yrs- 35 yrs experience in watershed- uses flyrod and flies
Brad	Cavallo	Fisheries Scientist		J Leimbach	
Sam	Davidson	Trout Unlimited	CA Field Director	J Leimbach	
Gary	Flanagan	Horseshoe Bar Guide Service Federation of Flyfishers		J Leimbach	
Damian	Forsythe	Hooked Up Anglers		J Leimbach	
Grant	Fraser	UARF		J Leimbach	prefers pm meeting
Larry	Goodell	CA Inland Fisheries		G Flanagan	
Monte	Hendricks	Angler		J Leimbach	
Roger	Lee	Wilderness Adventures		J Leimbach	He has knowledge of runs other than the Oxbow reach. Also on Boating list.
Ronald F	Otto	General Public		G Flanagan	Bev is checking email address_040708.
Bart	Petrini	UARF		J Leimbach	
Bill	Templin	Upper American River Foundation		J Leimbach	prefers pm meeting
Ed	Wahl	Flyfisher		J Leimbach	
Heath	Wakelee	Sierra Foothills Audubon	Conservation Coordinator	J Leimbach	
Robert	Weygandt	Placer County Supervisor, District 2		B Storey	Storey to provide contact info per 3/26 meeting heidipaoli@placer.ca.gov_Mr. Weygandt's secretary

Notes:
All personal information including contact information has been removed.

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Email Correspondence, Invitation Letter
and Material to Potential Focus Group Participants

"PCWA MFP Relicensing" <Relicensing@pcwa.net>
04/04/2008 12:57 PM

To "Bart Petrini" <bfpetrini@foothillwireless.net>, "Bill Carnazzo" <bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net>, "Bill Templin" <wtemplin@surewest.net>, "Brad Cavallo"
cc
bcc
Subject PCWA/MFP FERC Relicensing - Angler Focus Group Invitation

Dear Stakeholder -

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) invites you to participate in a focus group to develop information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP). The Angler Focus Group session will be held from 6:00 - 9:00 PM on May 20, 2008, in PCWA's American River Room located at 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California. Directions and a map are attached for your use. An invitation, which includes additional information about the purpose of the group and details about the meeting, is attached. This invitation and associated map are also available on PCWA's web site and can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://relicensing.pcwa.net/meetings.htm.

We look forward to your participation in the Angler Focus Group. Please reply to this message and let us know if you are planning to participate so that we can plan accordingly. As always, feel free to call Mal Toy, MFP Relicensing Manager, at (530) 823-4889 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Beverly Bell
Administrative Aide
PCWA

(530) 823-4973 April 4, 2008 Angler Focus Group Invitation.pdf Fig 1_ Rivers and Streams.pdf Map to PCWA.doc

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gray Allen, District 1
Alex Ferreira, District 2
Lowell Jarvis, District 3
Mike Lee, District 4
Otis Wollan, District 5

David Breninger, General Manager
Ed Tiedemann, General Counsel

BUSINESS CENTER
144 Ferguson Road
MAIL
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604
PHONE
530.823.4850
800.464.0030
WWW.PCWA.NET

PCWA
FIFTY YEARS

April 4, 2008
File No. 01030A

Re: Invitation to Participate in an Angler Focused Discussion Group
Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079)

Dear Stakeholder -

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) invites you to participate in a focus group to develop information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). These river and stream reaches are shown on the Figure 1 (Attachment A).

The Angler Focus Group session will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on May 20, 2008 in PCWA's American River Room located at 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California. Resource maps and other materials will be provided during the meeting to aide the discussion. A brief overview of the MFP and the relicensing process is provided in Attachment B.

Your participation is being requested due to your specific knowledge about the fishing opportunities and resources in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (Watershed). The Angler Focus Group participants are identified on the attached invitation list (Attachment C). The Angler Focus Group participants were selected to represent a broad range of experience, skill levels, and interests. The specific topics to be covered are summarized in Attachment D. We encourage you to bring any additional information you think may help us characterize the fishing opportunities on the stream and river reaches associated with the MFP.

PCWA appreciates your participation in the Angler Focus Group. If you have any questions regarding this focus group or need any additional information, please contact Mal Toy, MFP Relicensing Manager, at (530) 823-4889.

Sincerely,
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

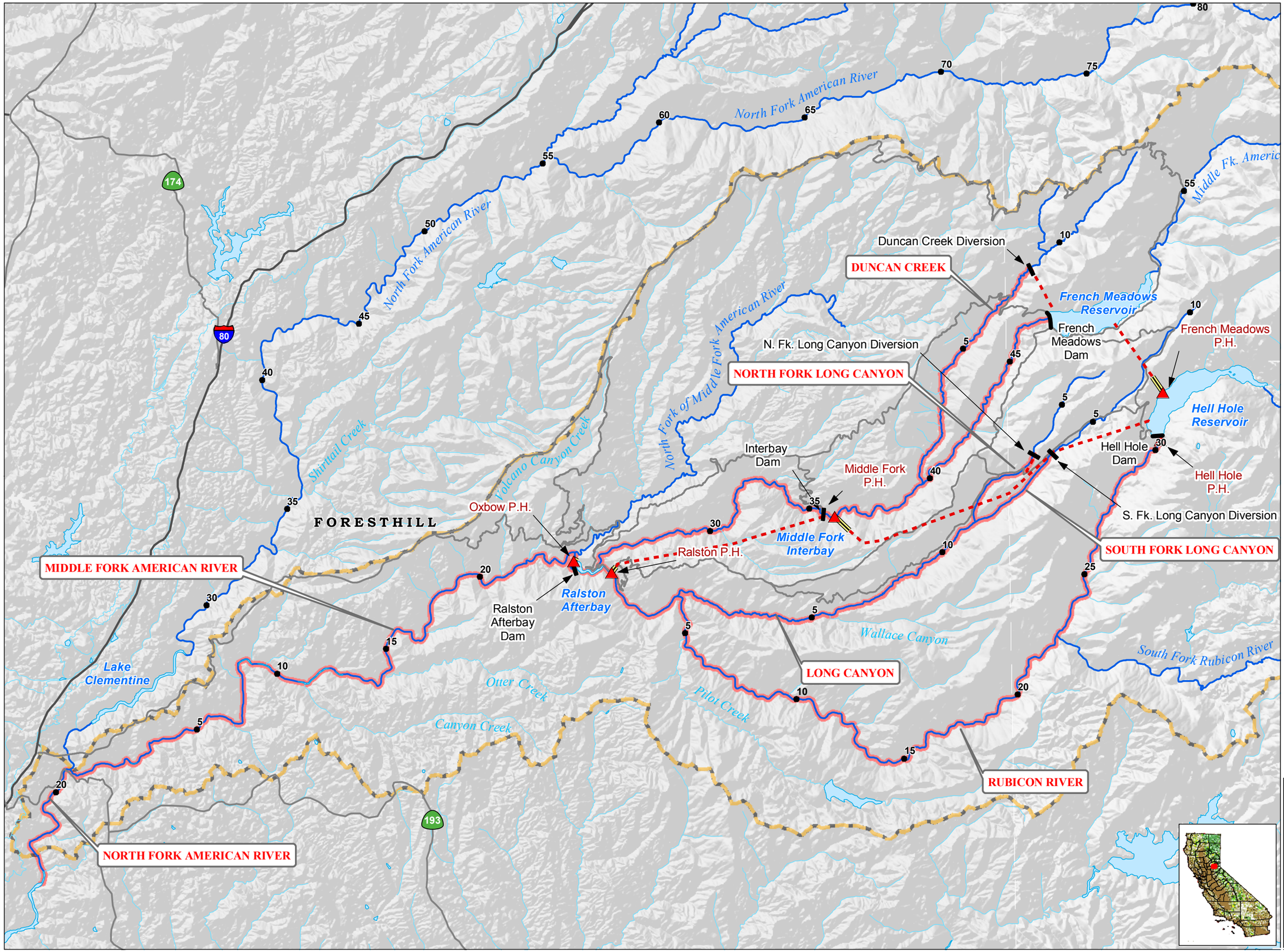
Mal Toy

Mal Toy
Director of Resource Development

Attachments:
A- Figure 1 (Map)
B- Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process
C- Angler Focus Group Invitation List
D- Angler Focus Group Topics

April 4, 2008 Invitation..doc

ATTACHMENTS



Project Facilities

- Powerhouse
- Dam
- Tunnel
- Penstock

Transportation

- Major Highway
- Minor Highway

Hydrography

- Watercourse with river miles (5 mi. increments)
- Water Body
- Middle Fork American River Watershed*

*Modified from Calwater Ver. 2.2 to represent drainage above high-water mark of Folsom Lake

- Watercourse Affected by PCWA Operations

PCWA

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Figure 1

River and Stream Reaches Associated with the MFP

0 1 2 3 Miles

Date: 3/3/08

Projection: CA State Plane, Zone 2
Datum: NAD 83

Z:\Entrix\3116501\map\RecreationMaps\PCWA_ProjectWatercourse_FlowAffected_17i11i_01.mxd

Attachment B

Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process

PCWA owns and operates the MFP, a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project. The MFP facilities are situated in the foothills and mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, within the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. The MFP facilities are located on the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, Duncan Creek, and the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The MFP began operating in 1967 and supplies water for homes, industry, and agriculture within western Placer County and clean renewable energy to the California electric grid.

The MFP operates under a 50-year license, which was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1963. The current license will expire on March 1, 2013. Accordingly, PCWA has initiated a process to the relicense the Project. PCWA formally began the relicensing process when it filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the FERC on December 13, 2007. The NOI and PAD are available in their entirety on PCWA's relicensing website at http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad.htm.

In April and May of 2006, PCWA conducted several Introductory Stakeholder Meetings, organized a Plenary Group to facilitate communication and decision making activities, and formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs). A major accomplishment of the Plenary and TWGs was the collaborative development and approval of 28 separate Technical Study Plans (TSPs), of which five are recreation-related. These five TSPs were included in the PAD and are identified as follows:

REC 1 – Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment TSP
REC 2 – Recreation Visitor Surveys TSP
REC 3 – Reservoir Recreation Opportunities TSP
REC 4 – Stream-based Recreation Opportunities TSP
REC 5 – Visual Quality Assessment Technical Study Plan

All of the TSPs are available on PCWA's website at http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad_SDH.htm. The five recreation-related TSPs can be accessed by clicking on the Appendix A - Recreation Technical Study Plans link.

PCWA began implementing select elements of the Plenary-approved TSPs in May 2007. These included: selection of instream flow modeling transects; fish, amphibian, and macroinvertebrate surveys; water quality sampling; recreation user counts; cultural resources inventories; vegetation community and wildlife habitat mapping; and bat surveys. The remainder of the technical studies presented in the PAD will be completed in 2008 and 2009. The focus groups are an element of the REC 4 – Stream Based Opportunities TSP and will be conducted in 2008.

Attachment C

Angler Focus Group Invitation List

Gray Allen	Public Relations Consultant
Dan Bacher	Upper American River Foundation (UARF) Fish Sniffer
Tom G.M. Bartos	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve Member - Granite Bay Flycasters
Karl Brustad	Trout Unlimited Granite Bay Flycasters
Joe Byrne	General Public
Bill Carnazzo	UARF Spring Creek Guide Service
Brad Cavallo	Fisheries Scientist
Sam Davidson	Trout Unlimited
Gary Flanagan	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve Member - Granite Bay Flycasters
Damian Forsythe	Hooked Up Anglers
Grant Fraser	UARF
Larry Goodell	CA Inland Fisheries
Monte Hendricks	Angler
Roger Lee	Wilderness Adventures
Ronald F. Otto	General Public
Bart Petrini	UARF
Bill Templin	UARF
Ed Wahl	Flyfisher
Heath Wakelee	Sierra Foothills Audubon
Robert Weygandt	Placer County Supervisor, District 2

Attachment D

Angler Focus Group Discussion Topics

Overview by PCWA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Objectives
3. Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process
4. Summary of Recreation Technical Studies

Group Discussion

1. Discuss Background and Experience of Participants

    - Primary fishing method
    - Affiliation(s)
    - Commercial or private
    - Specific experience fishing the river reaches in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
    - Interests

2. Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus

3. Characterize Each Reach Identified Above

    - Identify fishing locations, including access points and adequacy (private and public access)
    - Typical fishing season
    - Typical fishing method
    - Fishing quality (success, fish size)
    - Flow related effects on fishability
    - Safety concerns
    - Comparable regional fishing streams
    - Identify sources for other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites)
    - Adequacy of support facilities
    - Conflicts with other users

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Meeting Materials and Sign-in Sheet

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Recreation Resources
Angler Focus Group Discussion Meeting

May 20, 2008
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

American River Room
Placer County Water Agency
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95603

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	**Overview by PCWA** • Welcome and Introductions • Review of Meeting Objectives • Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process • Summary of Recreation Technical Studies
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	**Group Discussion** • Discuss Background and Experience of Participants • Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus • Characterize Each Reach Identified Above
9:00 PM	**Adjourn**

MEETING OBJECTIVE

Develop information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches associated with the MFP

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT RELICENSING
ANGLER FOCUS DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING
MAY 20, 2008
6PM – 9PM
SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	AFFILIATION	INITIALS
Gray Allen	Public Relations Consultant	
Dan Bacher	Upper American River Foundation (UARF) Fish Sniffer	
Tom G.M. Bartos	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve Member - Granite Bay Flycasters	
Karl Brustad	Trout Unlimited Granite Bay Flycasters	
Joe Byrne	General Public	
Bill Carnazzo	UARF Spring Creek Guide Service	
Brad Cavallo	Fisheries Scientist	
Sam Davidson	Trout Unlimited	
Gary Flanagan	NCCFFF	
Damian Forsythe	Hooked Up Anglers	
Grant Fraser	UARF	
Larry Goodell	CA Inland Fisheries	
Monte Hendricks	Angler	MH
Roger Lee	Wilderness Adventures	
Ronald E. Otto	General Public	
Bart Petrini	UARF	
Tom Simms	Member of the Public	
Bill Templin	UARF	
Ed Wahl	Flyfisher	
Heath Wakelee	Sierra Foothills Audubon	
Robert Weygandt	Placer County Supervisor, District 2	

MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT RELICENSING
ANGLER FOCUS DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING
MAY 20, 2008
6PM – 9PM
SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	AFFILIATION	INITIALS
Jim McNairy	None	JM

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group Discussion Topics

Overview by PCWA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Objectives
3. Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process
4. Summary of Recreation Technical Studies

Group Discussion

1. Discuss Background and Experience of Participants

    - Primary fishing method
    - Affiliation(s)
    - Commercial or private
    - Specific experience fishing the river reaches in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
    - Interests

2. Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus

3. Characterize Each Reach Identified Above

    - Identify fishing locations, including access points and adequacy (private and public access)
    - Typical fishing season
    - Typical fishing method
    - Fishing quality (success, fish size)
    - Flow related effects on fishability
    - Safety concerns
    - Comparable regional fishing streams
    - Identify sources for other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites)
    - Adequacy of support facilities
    - Conflicts with other users

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: _____

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

_____

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: _____

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

_____

_____

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☐ Yes ☐ No

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Participant Profiles

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: THOMAS BARTOS

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:
   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☒ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: HORSESHOE BAR FISH + GAME PRESERV

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?
   PRIVATE WATER FISHING CLUB

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:
   5 YEARS OXBOW TO SACRAMENTO
   HAVE ALSO FISHED MANY OF THE
   SIERRA RIVERS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: JOE BYRNE

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: NEVADA COUNTY LAND TRUST; YUBA RIVER PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   1 YEAR AT HORSESHOE BAR

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Bill Carnazzo

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Fly Fishing Only

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☑ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Granite Bay Flycasters; Federation of Fly Fishers; Trout Unlimited; Cal Trout

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☑ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

   Fly Fishing Guide Service

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   35 years fishing the watershed
   15+ years guiding in the watershed

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Emailed to Entrix 5/28/08

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Brad Cavallo

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:
   (1) flyfishing (2) gear
   ↳ including bait

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: American Fisheries Society

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:
   20 years: MF American (peaking reach), Rubicon upstream of Ralston, Rubicon U/S of Elliot Bridge, Long Canyon near confluence w/ Rubicon, N.F. Middle Fork, Duncan Creek.

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Monte Hendricks

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   fly fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: member trout Unlimited

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   31 years Rubicon River

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Jim McNaiey

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Spincasting & fly fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: None

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   Long Canyon Creek
   Duncan Creek } 31 years, primarily Long Canyon

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☐ Yes ☒ No

   But am willing to provide additional information on these reaches.

   ↳ jmcnaiey@sbcglobal.net

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

5/20/08

Name: Ron OTT

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   fly(G) - steelhead, sturgeon

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Granite Bay Fly casters; Fed. Fly Fishers; Foothills Water Net. et al.

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   None recently on the MFA drainage
   only previous: Pilot Cr., Rubicon R. (Gm) Feb., c. 20-30 years ago

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   Some week-ends, yes

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: ED WAHL

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☑ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: _____

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☑ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   20 YRS FLY FISHING RUBICON AND THE REST OF THE DRAINAGE

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☑ Yes ☐ No

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Robert Weygandt

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:
   Fly Fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☒ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Caltrout, Trout Unlimited

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:
   On and off, since mid 1960's

6. Are you willing and able to participate in fishing flow studies on the Middle Fork American River during the summer 2008? ☒ Yes ☐ No

when/if available

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Meeting Notes

"PCWA MFP Relicensing"
<Relicensing@pcwa.net>
09/15/2008 04:14 PM

To "Bart Petrini" <bfpetrini@foothillwireless.net>, "Bill Carnazzo" <bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net>, "Bill Templin" <wetemplin@att.net>, "Brad Cavallo"
cc "Ben Rualo" <ben_ffnc@yahoo.com>, "Bill Carnazzo" <bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net>, "Bill Deitchman" <bdeit@parks.ca.gov>, "Brad Cavallo"
bcc

Subject PCWA/MFP - May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting Notes

Dear Angler Focus Group and Recreation Resources Technical Working Group Members –

Attached are the spreadsheets containing the notes that were captured during the angler focus group session, which was held at PCWA's headquarters on May 20, 2008. The information contained in the spreadsheets is essentially as it was recorded during the meeting, with one exception. Specifically, additional language was added to clarify access points and roads, where necessary. Please note that the information contained in the focus group spreadsheets is an attempt to capture comments made during a dynamic discussion. This is a starting point and we are continuing to build upon this information as our studies proceed.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (530) 823-4973.

Sincerely,
Beverly Bell

Administrative Aide

1_MFAR FM-Interbay updated.xls
2_MFAR Interbay - Ralston updated.xls
3_ MFAR Oxbow - Ruck updated.xls
4_ MFAR Ruck - Oregon Bar updated.xls
Duncan Crk updated.xls
Rubicon River - HH to Ellicott updated.xls
Long Canyon updated.xls
Rubicon River - Ellicott to Ralston updated.xls

Rubicon River - Hell Hole Reservoir to Ellicott Bridge

Fishing Locations:

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	North side of the river can be accessed using Hunter's Trail, which parallels nearly the entire reach from HH dam to Ellicott Bridge. The south side of the river is accessible using Parsley Bar Trail, Deer Creek Trail and South Fork Trail. Can also access this area by working upstream from Ellicott Bridge
	There used to be a primitive access area upstream of Ellicott Bridge. However, the area was blocked off as part of FS route designation process. Use has since decreased, particularly car camping and families who don't travel far from camp.
	Camping on south side of bridge is still available for primitive car camping.
Public or private access	All public access except for a section of private land on Parsley Bar Trail.
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Deer Creek Trail has small parking area, no info about facilities at South Fork Trail, unpaved parking area at Ellicott bridge, no facilities otherwise
Adequacy of support facilities	Deer Creek Trail access is adequate, toilet facilities at Ellicott Bridge would be a good improvement, parking is adequate at Ellicott Bridge
Typical season of use	Anglers would like to get into fishing areas earlier in the year. Access is limited early in the year due to snow. Usually can't get into Ellicott before Memorial Day.

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	Generally more spinning and bait fishing closer to access point. More fly fishing as you travel farther than the access point.
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Combination bank and wading.
Target species	Rainbow and brown trout.
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	All agreed not to discuss this topic
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	All agreed not to discuss this topic

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	can fish the whole area
Variety of fish species	haven't caught any brown trout since last high water event in 1997.
Size of fish	Fish size has declined over the years, particularly over the last 10-12 years. Observed algae in one particular area near Deer Creek (has long shallow runs with more sun)
Road access to fishing location	11 pines road
Trail access to fishing location	Hunters Trail on north side is a well maintained backpacking trail. Deer creek trail is difficult to find. The section of Parsley Bar Trail from Wentworth Springs road to the river does not exist and the section of the trail near Parsley Bar is difficult to find due to logging activity and overgrown vegetation.
Overall fishing experience	Good opportunity for remote hiking, camping, fishing experience. Not heavily used, which adds to uniqueness of this area.

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Standard summertime flow is easy to fish. Flows have usually decreased by the time you can get into the area. Rubicon has water in it when other streams may not, for example Middle Fork American River. This stretch looks the same all the time.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	motorcycles on Hunter's trail
Conflicts with other users	motorcycles on Hunter's trail
Comparable regional fishing streams	
	algae (Didymo?) observed between RM 25 and RM 26.

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Rubicon River - Ellicott to Ralston

Fishing Locations: Ellicott Bridge Area, Nevada Point Trail Area, Ralston Powerhouse Area

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	The Rubicon from Ellicott Bridge downstream to about RM 18 can be accessed from Ellicott Bridge, Slide Point Trail, and Lawyer Trail. These points are accessed via FR-2. The area between RM 18 and RM 6 is virtually inaccessible. The area downstream of RM 6 can be accessed via Nevada Point Trail, which from the east is accessed by Nevada Point Trail, and from the west is accessed from Road 13N66. The Nevada Point Trail crosses the Rubicon at an old bridge that is located upstream of the Long Canyon confluence. The area near Long Canyon confluence is accessible from the north via 14N25G and from the south via road 13N66. Anglers also fish the Rubicon upstream of Ralston Powerhouse
	There used to be a primitive access area upstream of Ellicott Bridge. Area was blocked off as part o FS route designation process. Use has since decreased, particularly car camping. Families don't travel far from camp.
	Camping on south side of bridge is still available for primitive car camping
	Ed accesses river from Lawyer Trail and fishes upstream to bridge. Monte sets up camp and fishes downstream of Lawyer Trail. From Nevada Point trail he works upstream
Public or private access	All public access points
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Unpaved parking area at Ellicott bridge and near Ralston PH. Otherwise, no support facilities are located at these access points.
Adequacy of support facilities	Toilet facilities at Ellicott Bridge would be a good improvement, parking is adequate at Ellicott Bridge. Directions to Nevada Point trail would be helpful as the trail is difficult to find
Typical season of use	Can get into this area earlier than upstream of Ellicott because it is lower elevation. Can access when flows are too high to fish.

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	Spin and fly fishing. Upstream of Nevada Point access is a rugged canyon. Usually spin fishing upstream of Nevada Point.
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat	Combination bank and wading.
Target species	Rainbow and brown trout.
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	All agreed not to discuss this topic
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	All agreed not to discuss this topic

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location	
Number of fish caught	satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	can fish the whole area
Variety of fish species	haven't caught any brown trout since last high water event in 1997. Have caught big suckers
Size of fish	Fish size has declined over the years, particularly over the last 10-12 years.
Road access to fishing location	Limited access to area. Large area in the middle of the reach that is virtually inaccessible.
Trail access to fishing location	
Overall fishing experience	Good opportunity for remote hiking, camping, fishing experience. Not heavily used, which adds to uniqueness of this area.
	Characterizations apply to upstream and downstream reaches.

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Standard summertime flow is easy to fish. Flows have usually decreased by the time you can get into the area. Rubicon has water in it when other streams may not, for example Middle Fork American River. This stretch looks the same all the time.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	Can not fish when flows are high because you can not cross stream to work up and down river. This typically occurs during the spring when tributary flows are high.
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	high flows - see above, wading and fording
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Informatior	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites)	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Middle Fork American River - French Meadows Dam to Middle Fork Interbay
Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Trail access immediately below dam and about 1 mile downstream from FM dam. Can also access at Middle Fork Interbay.
Public or private access	
Support facilities available at this fishing location	none
Adequacy of support facilities	okay
Typical season of use	access constrained by snow

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	spinning and flyfishing
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Wet wade. May have to swim to get to good fishing spots.
Target species	mostly brown trout
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	occasionally some big fish (10 years ago)
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Can normally catch quite a few fish. Satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	satisfactory if you wet wade
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	Satisfactory
Road access to fishing location	good after snow is cleared
Trail access to fishing location	good if you know the access points
Overall fishing experience	good

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Anglers have to time fishing so that they are not there when flows are too high to wet wade (e.g. after spring run off period).
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Other Information	
Safety concerns	Important to make sure it is possible to get in and out of river canyon. It is possible to end up in a part of the river where it is difficult to get out due to steep banks.
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g., guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Middle Fork American River - Middle Fork Interbay - Ralston Afterbay

Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Not great fishing due to lack of water. Better opportunities nearby.

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	
Public or private access	
Support facilities available at this fishing location	
Adequacy of support facilities	
Typical season of use	

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	
Target species	
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	
Trail access to fishing location	
Overall fishing experience	

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Other Information	
Safety concerns	
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Duncan Creek

Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Western States Trail, which crosses Duncan Creek between Robinson Flat and French Meadows Reservoir. Mosquito Ridge Road (Road 96) where it crosses Duncan Creek. Duncan Creek Diversion Dam access road.
Public or private access	Tahoe National Forest
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Parking is available at Robinson Flat, which is a good area to stage from. Otherwise there are no support facilities.
Adequacy of support facilities	NA
Typical season of use	Open year round but snow on Mosquito Ridge Road limits access during late fall, winter and early spring. Group considers this a spring fishery because after that the water warms up and the fish get "spooked".

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	Mostly fly fishers.
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Float tube at French Meadows inlet - good fishing for browns in the fall
Target species	Brown trout and rainbow trout. Varies by year.
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	NA
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	NA

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	Can fish the whole area
Variety of fish species	Similar to Rubicon River but smaller fish.
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	Road 96 provides access.
Trail access to fishing location	Western States Trail provides access.
Overall fishing experience	Good opportunity for remote hiking, camping, fishing experience. Not heavily used, which adds to uniqueness of this area.
Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	No problem fishing or wading under typical flow conditions.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	Anglers mainly fish from banks and typically do not wade in stream.
Ability to cross the stream	No problem fishing or wading under typical flow conditions.
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Other Information	
Safety concerns	
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties.)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Long Canyon
Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Forest Route 2, Forest Road 14N25, Ramsey Crossing, Buckeye Flat Road (dirt)
Public or private access	Long Canyon traverses patchwork of private and public lands
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Middle Meadows Group Campground is located on the South Fork Long Canyon Creek. Otherwise, there are no facilities. Anglers mainly access Long Canyon from dispersed camping areas.
Adequacy of support facilities	adequate
Typical season of use	access constrained by snow

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	spinning and fly
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	bank wading
Target species	all rainbows
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	NA
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	NA

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	satisfied
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	
Trail access to fishing location	
Overall fishing experience	

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Adequate. Flow is fairly stable. Flows decrease during the summer but the creek is still fishable.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Other Information	
Safety concerns	none
Conflicts with other users	none
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Middle Fork American River - Oxbow to Ruck a Chucky

Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Indian Bar Rafter Put-in, private access at Horseshoe Bar, Cache Rock Road (OHV), Driver's Flat Road, Sliger Mine Road, Cock Robin Trail to Fords Bar. Can also get to Fords Bar area from the north side of the river via Todd Valley Road, which is gated.
Public or private access	All access is located within ASRA. Road to Horseshoe Bend area is private. Road to Cache Rock is maintained by USFS. Road to Fords Bar is private.
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Toilets and parking at Indian Bar Rafter put-in. Campground and day use facilities, including parking and toilets at Ruck-a-Chucky. Private facilities at Horseshoe Bar. Otherwise, no developed facilities.
Adequacy of support facilities	Adequacy of Indian Bar facilities is good, gate at the end of Drivers' Flat road is a problem
Typical season of use	Year round use

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	everything
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	all
Target species	rainbows, brown trout
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	NA
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	NA

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	adequate
Variety of fishing areas	Limited by lack of access, long distances between public access points, and mixture of public and private land. More access than on the Rubicon but higher expectations because there is more water.
Variety of fish species	Rainbow fishery with more browns as you go downstream. Break in the type of species caught below Cache Rock. More browns below Cache Rock area.
Size of fish	Fair
Road access to fishing location	Road access is okay. There is not good access for boat fishing and people who want to do a multi-day trip. Gated access at Ruck a Chucky makes it difficult to take out because you have to portage gear around Ruck a Chucky rapid.
Trail access to fishing location	Primarily use roads to access this reach.
Overall fishing experience	Fishing is good at high flows and at low flows. Can move around to find where fish are at low flows and at high flows. Fishing is poor when conditions are changing during ramping. Fish stop rising. This occurs over a 3 hour window (2 hours of ramping plus about an hour afterwards)

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	High flows reduce area to fish because you can't cross over to move upstream and downstream.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Always fishable
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	May cross at low water and then get stranded when flows increase. Forces you to swim to get back to your car.
Conflicts with other users	Haven't had any conflicts with commercial whitewater boaters. Potential conflicts with private property owners (e.g. access along the stream given it is contiguous to private property)
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Middle Fork American River - Ruck a Chucky to Oregon Bar
Fishing Location (link to wall map):

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	On north side of river: Driver's Flat Road to Ruck-a-Chucky, gated road gated to Poverty Bar, Mammoth Bar, Confluence area, China Bar Recreation Area (Birdsall and Oregon Bar Access points). On south side of river: Sliger Mine Road to Cherokee Bar, Quarry Trail, American River Trail.
Public or private access	All access is located within ASRA. Highway 49 also provides access.
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Day use and overnight facilities located at Ruck-a-Chucky, including parking and toilets. Toilets and parking available at the Mammoth Bar, the Confluence, and in the China Bar Recreation Area.
Adequacy of support facilities	Facilities are okay at Mammoth Bar. Parking is not good at Oregon Bar/China Bar because parking lot is too far from river.
Typical season of use	Year round fishing. However, the gate at China Bar recreation area is only open on weekends.

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All.
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	All fishing methods. Also fished from boats. Pretty good boat fishing from Mammoth Bar to Confluence.
Target species	Fewer trout. Good brown trout fishing in the fall.
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	NA
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	NA

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Not many fish compared to upstream.
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	Greater variety of fish than upstream.
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	See above
Trail access to fishing location	Lots of trails
Overall fishing experience	Not great but close to town

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	High flows reduce area to fish because you can't cross over to move upstream and downstream.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Can fish at fairly low flows in this reach.
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Other Information	
Safety concerns	Murderer's Bar rapid (just below Mammoth Bar), no place to take out upstream of the whitewater channel adjacent to the pump station (although you can portage around it)
Conflicts with other users	nude bathers downstream of Confluence
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine counties)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

May 20, 2008 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Stakeholder Comments

FOOTHILLS WATER NETWORK

julie@foothillswaternetwork.org
P.O. Box 713
Lotus, CA 95651
T: 530-622-8497

September 22, 2009

Comments on Placer County Water Agency's
Draft REC 4 – Stream-based Recreation Opportunities Technical Study Report

Dear Mal Toy and Andy Fecko,

Please accept the following comments on PCWA's Draft REC 4 – Stream-based Recreation Opportunities Technical Study Report (REC 4 Report) on behalf of the Foothills Water Network Middle Fork American Work Group members.

The Foothills Water Network asks that the Recreation Study Report be revised in the manner recommended in our comments below. We are not asking for new studies at this time.

Foothills Water Network
This response was jointly developed and signed by non-governmental organizations and by individuals participating in the Middle Fork American Relicensings. The Foothills Water Network represents a broad group of non-governmental organizations and water resource stakeholders in the Yuba, Bear, and American Watersheds. The overall goal of the Foothills Water Network is to provide a forum that increases the effectiveness of non-profit conservation organizations to achieve river and watershed restoration and protection benefits for the Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers. This includes negotiations at the county, state, and federal levels, with an immediate focus on the FERC relicensing processes.

Organization of Comments
Our comments are divided into three major sections: Hydrology, Angling, and Whitewater Boating. Within each of the two sections, our comments are organized chronologically as they appear in the REC 4 Study Report. Further, we have copied the report's wording directly into this letter and added our recommended changes. The report's wording is italicized; our edits are indicated with strikethrough and underlines.

In addition, we have included two Appendices:
Appendix A: Bill Carnazzo's Comments on the Angling Portions of the Recreation Study
Appendix B: Comments Related to Typography and Presentation

ANGLING

The REC 4 Study Report, inappropriately interprets information received in the Angler Focus Group information to say that angling is best when flows are low and clear on the peaking and

bypass reaches. We find that the interpretation of the study results goes beyond the limited information provided by the study and reads more into the data than is actually there.

In contrast to the report's synopsis of angling results, anglers have found that some of the best fishing in the Middle Fork American and Rubicon watersheds occurs when the flows are higher than the typical summer flows in the bypass reaches and when there is some color to the water, which provides some cover for larger fish to feed. The report's interpretation of the angler focus group results should be revised in the manner recommended below.

Our Network comments are informed by the angler signatories as well as contributions by expert Bill Carnazzo, a member of the Upper American River Foundation and a licensed guide with approximately 50 years of fly fishing experience. He has been fishing the streams found in the Middle Fork drainage for over 40 years. We reference parts of Mr. Carnazzo's comments, which have been submitted to PCWA separately.

Following are our recommended edits and comments to underscore the point that low flow and clear water are not best for angling in all the project reaches:

[p.26]
While the Angler Focus Group Notes indicate that anglers find it possible to wade in all parts of the river during summer flows on the bypass reaches, the notes do not make any reference to whether they prefer those low flows or would prefer a little higher flows, or whether those low flows are "conducive" or support the best fishing experience. We suggest the following edits to reflect the Angler Focus Group Notes.
According to the Angler Focus Group participants, the project's stable summer flows on the bypass reaches, including on the Rubicon River, make the rivers wadeable. Spring flows with accretion from tributaries make it more difficult to wade in the river. However, anglers expressed an interest in being able to access the bypass reaches earlier in the spring. Currently, snow prohibits access because the roads are not plowed. ~~are conducive to fishing when the area is accessible (e.g., snow does not prohibit access).~~

[p.27]
The Angler Focus Group reports that fishing quality declined during the ramping period on the peaking reach. The report should clarify at what threshold rate the fishing quality is affected (40cfs / 15 min ?). If this is not known, the study should say the information is not available.

[p.110]
We disagree with the representation that the Angler Focus Group reported a preference for low flows. The Angler Focus Group Notes do not anywhere say the anglers stated a preference for low flows. Anglers did report that low summer flows made fishing "easy" and a large area of river "wadeable". The notes do not indicate if the anglers might prefer a slightly higher flow than is currently available in the summertime. Neither do the notes speak to anglers' ability to fish from the bank nor instream eddies at higher flows. The notes do not include any numeric flow estimates to correlate to what are referred to as "wadeable" flows, "summer" flows, or "low" or "high" flows. The Angler Focus Group Notes do not mention anything about high flows making

it harder to catch fish because they seek refuge nor due to turbidity. If this information was collected in follow-up interviews, the process and interviews should be described.
The interview question that seems to be the source of the representation for the Draft REC 4 Report is "What is the available instream fishing area?" This question does not ask whether the fishing is satisfactory or what flows they would prefer. Nor does the question ask about the association between wading, low flows, and clarity.

For example, the Angler Focus Group Notes for the Rubicon state:
Availability of usable instream fishing area: Standard summertime flow is easy to fish. Flows have usually decreased by the time you can get into the area. Rubicon from Ellicotts to Ralston has water in it when other streams may not, for example Middle Fork American River. This stretch looks the same all the time. (Appendix J: Angler Focus Group Notes)

Ability to fish from streambank; Ability to walk shoreline/bank; Ability to stand/wade in stream; Ability to cross the stream: Can not fish when flows are high because you can not cross stream to work up and down river. This typically occurs during the spring when tributary flows are high. (Appendix J: Angler Focus Group Notes)

The following indicates that anglers may like to be able to fish the Rubicon at higher flows before the tail-end of the snow-melt hydrograph. This does not support the PCWA Study Report analysis that anglers only prefer clear and low flows. Angler Focus Group Notes state:
Anglers would like to get into fishing areas earlier in the year. Access is limited early in the year due to snow. Usually can't get into Ellicott before Memorial Day. (Appendix J: Angler Focus Group Notes)

Monte Hendricks, one of the anglers in the Angler Focus Group clarified in an email that at the Focus Group, he said, "I stated at the angler's focus group meeting that one reason I fished the Rubicon canyon was because of the higher flows as compared to the Middle Fork coming out of French Meadows. That should not have been taken as overall satisfaction with the current flow regime."

On the subject of fishing the Interbay-Ralston reach, Bill Carnazzo writes: The flows are so attenuated beginning in late spring that you can walk across it and hardly get your ankles wet. The algae is so thick that angling is nearly impossible. There are some plunge pools that hold fish but the water is so warm that it's probably not ethical to fish for them. In short, this stream is sick and needs far more water than the current allotment. If more water is provided, it can recover….

Long Canyon
Availability of usable instream fishing area: Adequate. Flow is fairly stable. Flows decrease during the summer but the creek is still fishable. (Appendix J Angler Focus Group Notes)
Again, this does not mean anglers prefer low or clear flows as reported in the draft REC 4 report.

Peaking Reach – Ralston – Ruck-a-Chucky Campground and to China Bar / Rattlesnake Bar
Fishing is good at high flows and at low flows. Can move around to find where fish are at low flows and at high flows. (Appendix J Angler Focus Group Notes)

Anglers didn't say they prefer low and clear flows on this reach. However, they did say that "High flows reduce area to fish because you can't cross over to move upstream and downstream". But a reduced area to fish and better fishing at slightly higher but still wadeable flows may be preferable.

Accordingly, we suggest the following edits to the Recreation Study Report.
[p.110]
The conclusions one can draw from the Angler Focus Group Notes are very limited. The Angler Focus Group Notes do not reflect ~~focus group participants did not identify any~~ specific flow-related concerns or issues on the bypass reaches, including the Rubicon River. The focus group participants reported that flows on the bypass reaches are typically conducive to wading and fording in the summertime~~. Fishing~~ when the area is accessible (e.g., the roads are no longer closed due to snow and spring run-off has receded).
~~According to the focus group participants, anglers prefer the lower flows that are typically present when the area is accessible, for several reasons~~:
From the information provided by the Angler Focus Group, we may surmise that lower flows allow easier wading and fording in ~~access to~~ the river channel, and movement upstream and downstream through the channel. Though the Notes do not mention a preference for wading versus fishing from the bank in any of the reaches, anglers may focus on wading due to steep and rugged banks as well as encroaching vegetation that may hinder casting.

The first bullet is the only one that is supported by the Angler Focus Group Notes and it is captured in the paragraph above. The study results do not provide information to support the last two bullets so we recommend they be struck.

- *~~Lower flows allow easier access to the river channel, and movement upstream and downstream through the channel. Lower flows allow anglers to more easily move along the shoreline and cast;~~*
- *~~Fish seek refuge when flows are high and therefore can be harder to catch; and~~*
- *~~Turbidity increases when flows are high, which reduces angling success.~~*

[p.111]
Higher flows are a limitation to wet wading and fording but not fishing from the banks or eddies. Focus group participants said they do a combination of bank and wet-wade on Rubicon (Appendix J Angler Focus Group Notes). Encroaching vegetation due to a lack of spring flushing flows can hinder angling from the bank. The Angler Focus Group Notes are silent on this issue but the question could be informed by correlating angling sites with the Riparian Study. Please change the following statement accordingly:

If planning to wet wade, anglers have to time their fishing excursions so that they are not there when flows are too high to wet wade (e.g., after spring run off period). At flows that are too high to wade, anglers need space on the banks to hike and cast. In bypass reaches vegetation may be encroaching, which hinders angling from the bank. The Angler Focus Group Notes are silent on this issue. The Riparian Study Results should be considered in correlation with the areas anglers are fishing to understand if vegetation encroachment could be limiting angling activities from the bank in some river reaches.

[p.113]
While access for private boat fishing may be poor, commercial rafting / fishing outfitters do provide multi-day trips that should be mentioned here. Please make the following changes:

- *Anglers primarily use roads to access this reach. Access is poor for private boat fishing and for anglers who want to do a multi-day trip. Drivers Flat Road is gated at Ruck-a-Chucky, which means that anglers cannot take a boat or gear out above Ruck-a-Chucky Rapid. This results in a difficult portage around Ruck-a-Chucky Rapid.*
- *There are two commercial rafting/angling outfitters that offer multi-day drift boating and rafting trips down the Middle Fork American River starting at Oxbow and ending at China Bar Recreation Area.*

Despite the challenge of access, the REC 4 Report should note that the Angler Focus Group indicates that they do boat fish in the Mammoth to Oregon Bar reach as stated below:
Typical method used to fish this location: All fishing methods. Also fished from boats. Pretty good boat fishing from Mammoth Bar to Confluence.

[Insert p. 113]
Middle Fork American River – Oxbow Powerhouse to Ruck-a-Chucky Campground
The Aquatics Studies are examining test flows for re-watering the Horseshoe Bend. This river reach, if re-watered, could provide a nursery for fish and enhance angling opportunities on the Tunnel Chute Run.

[p. 114]
We understand the study plan included the North Fork American River down to the high water mark of Folsom Reservoir. That said, in order to give an informative description of the Confluence Reach, the Rattlesnake Bar access and takeout should be included in the description as an alternative takeout and access point for anglers to wade upstream into the project area. Please also include Rattlesnake Bar in the maps. We recommend the description of the reach in the Angling section be changed accordingly:

Middle Fork American River and North Fork American River – Ruck-a-Chucky Campground to China Bar / Rattlesnake Bar

- *The lower portion of this reach is accessible via roads and trails in the China Bar Recreation Area and Rattlesnake Bar. However, China Bar is closed during the weekdays, which limits most use by anglers to weekends. If Folsom Reservoir is high, take-out at Rattlesnake Bar requires a flat water paddle out.*
- *When Folsom Reservoir is low, anglers also can wade upstream from Rattlesnake Bar as in summer 2009. See the descriptions of these runs in the Whitewater Boating sections for put-in, take-out, and whitewater characteristics.*

Please add the following information:

Duncan Creek
Anglers report smaller fish than Rubicon River. Duncan Creek is a spring fishery because after that it warms up too much and fish get spooked.

Peaking Reach
Anglers report peaking reach fishing is "Not great but close to town".

Safety Concerns
The primary safety concern for anglers in the peaking reach is stranding when ramping up takes place.

Facilities
Rubicon - Hell Hole to Ellicott
Toilet facilities at Ellicott Bridge would be a good improvement (Appendix J Angler Focus Group Notes)

WHITEWATER BOATING

[p.20]
Julie Leimbach provides comments on behalf of the Foothills Water Network Middle Fork Working Group, which includes a number of groups. Please clarify that this was not a comment letter provided by an individual. Please make the following edits:

Summary information about each of the reaches identified and discussed during the focus group session is provided in Table REC 4-7. The Foothills Water Network and its members, ~~Ms. Julie Leimbach~~ provided comments about the information developed at the focus group session in a letter dated February 9, 2009. The Foothills Water Network's comments have been incorporated into Table REC 4-7, as appropriate.

[p.20]
Please make the above statement more specific to clarify that one of the bypass reaches has been boated a great deal while only one boater has been reported to boat one bypass reach on the Middle Fork American. This is important to contextualize the whitewater boating information in the REC 4 Report.
Follow-up Consultation with Whitewater Boaters
~~*All of these contacts are considered highly experienced boaters and have boated at least one of the bypass reaches.*~~

All of these boaters have boated the Rubicon reach below Ellicotts Bridge. One of the boaters has boated the lower part of the French Meadows reach and all of the Interbay reach. None of them had boated the reach from French Meadows Dam to the confluence with Duncan Creek.

[p.21]

River/Stream	Reach or Segment	Boatable Flow Range (cfs)
Rubicon River	RM 25 to Ellicott Bridge	400–1500
Rubicon River	Ellicott Bridge to Ralston Afterbay	400–1500

		1501–3000
Middle Fork American River	Duncan Creek Confluence to Middle Fork Interbay	150–200
Middle Fork American River	Middle Fork Interbay to Ralston Afterbay	200–800
Long Canyon Creek	Confluence of North and South Fork Long Canyon Creeks to Confluence with Rubicon River	200–600

The flow ranges for Duncan and Middle Fork from Interbay to Ralston should be accompanied by a footnote stating:
These flow ranges are based on one boater's expert opinion formed from his experience on one trip down this river reach. No gauge information was available to him and the data cannot be checked against flows in the river because the trip date is unknown.

[p.21]
Since we don't really know what "most" boaters will do, this statement is too general and vague. We recommend the following edits:
The lower flow range represents the range of flows that both Class IV and V boaters can utilize, based on information developed through the focus group and through follow-up conversations with experienced boaters. The high range represents that range of flows preferred by Class V expert boaters.
The consultation interviewees and other professional boaters, including Phil Boyer and Jared Noceti, who attended the Recreation Work Groups, also underlined the amazing quality and uniqueness of this particular Sierra whitewater boating run.

~~*In the case of the Rubicon River – Ellicott Bridge to Ralston Afterbay reach, two flow ranges were analyzed, a lower range and a higher range. The lower flow range represents the range of flows that most boaters would utilize…*~~

[p.25]
Why is the analysis of boating opportunity days limited to starting in April and ending in October for the peaking reach? While this may be the appropriate window for commercial rafting on the Oxbow to Ruck-a-Chucky reach, the recently opened Confluence reach could be boated year-round. Perhaps an opportunities analysis for that reach from October to March would also be helpful. At a minimum, this section should state that the Confluence reach is used outside the timeframe of the boating opportunity days analysis.

[p.25 Boating Opportunities Analysis and related Table REC 4-12]
We recommend running the boating opportunity analysis with a 3-hour window in addition to the 4-hour window portrayed in this study report. A 3-hr window is the base minimum time needed to run a commercial rafting trip from Oxbow to Ruck-a-Chucky Campground at 1100 cfs. When making management decisions for dry water years, the analysis of the 3-hour window of time should be helpful. The analysis of the four-hour timeframe is also helpful; especially on days with high boating use and lower than optimum flow for commercial rafting.

[p.25]

The boating season is defined as April to October. Although that is the primary or peak season, the report should mention that private boating takes place all year.

[p.25]
The analysis of the study results uses 6 PM as the latest takeout for whitewater boating. This would be an early limit for private boaters from mid-May to mid-August and too late from mid-November to mid-February, especially on the Confluence reach, which is more accessible and can offer a short trip in the evenings.

[p. 29]
5.7.2 Existing Flow Information Sources
Flow information utilized by boaters, anglers and other stream users is typically available on internet and through flow phones, and may also be obtained from local outfitters and specialty stores.

We recommend clarifying that flow information is only available for some of the reaches under study from these various information outlets.
Boaters, anglers and other stream users find information on flows for some of the reaches under study online, through flow phones, local outfitters and specialty stores.

In general, flow information is not available at any of the aforementioned information outlets for any of the bypass reaches – French Meadows to Interbay, Interbay to Ralston, or Hell Hole to Ralston. Flow information is most widely available and most easily accessible in real time at Oxbow.

[Insert at the end of the paragraph] The results from our search for flow information outlets and the type of information they provide can be found in table XX…

[p.30]
5.7.3 Flow Information Enhancement Opportunities
Reaches where flow information may enhance stream-based recreational opportunities were identified based on analysis of the Recreation Visitor Survey conducted as part of the REC 2 – TSP, discussions during the focus group meetings, and follow-up conversations with anglers, equestrian users, and whitewater boaters.

At the end of the paragraph, please insert where the information on flow information for each reach can be found.

[p.32]
Please also discuss operations on weekends. This section only specifies operations on weekdays in the peaking reach. (see <u>Summer/Fall Season.</u> *On summer weekdays…)*

[p.36]
6.2.1 Bypass Reaches

Observations and vehicle count data collected by PCWA in 2007 and 2008 as part of the REC 1 – TSP (PCWA 2007) indicate that these areas experience very little recreation use, even on weekend and holidays (PCWA 2009b).

The above statement needs a qualifier or reference to data demonstrating a range of recreation users that is being qualified as "very little". In other words, please indicate whether "very little" means 3-5 users per day or 20-30 users per day? Or is it very little use compared to other sites?

[p. 38]
Stream-based Recreation Activities
...No one activity type dominated the data so the following discussion considers all user types combined together.

What percentage would an activity need to meet in order to "dominate the data"? It seems that 33% for swimming/water play is much more than the other activities. Please change to:
The following discussion considers all user types combined together.

[p. 47]
Please clarify the statements regarding flow perceptions to include similar wording as in the following statement:

Flow Perception
A total of 27 people, who perceived a change in flow, provided sufficient information to analyze against actual river flow.

[p.49]
Survey respondents were also asked whether the change in the river/stream level negatively affected their recreation experience. None of the respondents who actually experienced a change in flow stated that they were negatively affected.

Was the question in the survey about perceived flow posed so it only referred to the day the respondents took the questionnaire or their general experience on the river? This could account for people's responses about noticing a change in flow when there was no flow on that particular day. This could also be true for the other recreation locations where this resulted from survey questionnaire.

[p.54]
Operation of the MFP reduces flow in the bypass reaches thereby improving stream crossing conditions. Therefore, stream crossing along the bypass reaches is not discussed further in this report.

As part of the PM&E discussions, relicensing stakeholders, may propose to change the flow regime in the bypass reaches so that flows mimic the natural spring snowmelt hydrograph – making the flows in the bypass reaches higher in the spring.

[p.72]

We interpret this section as trying to describe some of the challenges to accessing the bypass reaches and with that in mind, would suggest the following changes. The list should start with the primary challenge to boaters which is lack of flow information on the bypass reaches. The bullet about limited road and trail access is too ambiguous to be useful as it stands. The statement about average gradient for all the combined bypass reaches is not helpful to make management decisions because when boaters decide to boat a river, they will plan to boat one of these bypass reaches, not all of them and therefore, the combination of an average gradient across all of them does not limit or challenge them. If the point about gradient has a place, it is in the individual descriptions of each bypass reach. In the last bullet, we recommend striking the use of the word typical as it is vague and replacing it with more specific wording referring to the study results.

In general, boaters on the bypass reaches are faced with the following challenges: ~~boating on the bypass reaches is limited by a combination of the following factors:~~

- *The biggest challenge is that there are no real-time flow gages on any of the bypass reaches. Accordingly, boaters have to determine whether boatable flows are present by sight, word of mouth, and/or estimate flows based on: (1) flows measured downstream at the Middle Fork American River Gage below Oxbow Powerhouse (USGS Gage No. 11433300); and (2) reservoir storage and/or spill information. The absence of real-time flow information may limit use of the bypass reaches because boaters do not know when boating flows are present.*
- *The bypass reaches bisect remote and rugged terrain, with limited road or trail access for emergency egress or scouting. Though put-in and take-out access to the bypass reaches are paved and dirt roads. There is one put-in that requires a trail hike to access an extra few miles of boating but boaters can put in at the paved road access instead. Despite its ruggedness, travel time to arrive at the reach is not the major challenge. In fact, the bypass reaches are located in relatively short proximity from major urban areas of Sacramento and the Bay Area. Comparable boating reaches identified would require equal or greater travel times.*
- *Due to snow, the roads to some of the access points along the bypass reaches are not accessible by car during the early spring, when boating flows are typically available under current operations. Specifically, roads that traverse areas above about 4,000 feet in elevation are typically not passable by car until the end of April, after the snow melts. Roads that traverse areas above about 5,000 feet in elevation may not be passable until the end of May in some years. However, there is a long record of boaters accessing the Rubicon reach by car in the winter and spring in years when there must have been an early melt to make the roads passable (information provided by whitewater boating focus group and follow-up interviews).*
- *As indicated on Table REC 4-17, the bypass reach gradients are extremely steep. The steep gradients result in difficult rapids and drops that can only be boated by Class IV – V boaters depending on the reach and the flow. ~~advanced and expert boaters, or portaged~~. ~~The average gradient on the bypass reaches ranges from a low of 164 feet per mile on South Fork Long Canyon Creek to as much as 237 feet per mile on Long Canyon Creek. For comparison, the average gradient on the peaking reach is 21 feet per mile between Oxbow Powerhouse and the North Fork American River Confluence and 16 feet per mile between the Confluence and Oregon Bar (Table REC 4-18).~~*
- *The overall character of the small bypass reaches, for example Duncan Creek, and North and South Long Canyon Creeks, ~~is not conducive to~~ boating are not attractive reaches*

for most boaters. These streams are relatively narrow, boulder choked, and densely vegetated. These types of streams are only attractive to expert boaters. ~~They are not typically boated more than once or twice by any one boater.~~ Based on the boating focus group and follow-up consultation, these small bypass reaches have not been boated more than once or twice by any one boater.

Again, while it is important to note that the Rubicon reach is not accessible by car in some years due to snow, there have been years when it obviously was accessible and there was enough flow. It is critical to note that in a small window of days or weeks, with no public information on flows, expert boaters flock to this river reach because it is a favorite and is accessible infrequently.

[p. 74]
The roads to the put-in/take-out are often impassible by car due to snow when boatable flows are present. These roads are not plowed. The take-out at Ellicott Bridge is usually accessible by late April after the snow melts. The put-in may not be accessible until the end of May. Though in some years, when there is an early melt or winter rain on snow, boaters have been able to access the river reach. When there is such an occurrence, boaters will run the reach twice in a row if possible and there is a lot of chat online between boating groups about when to go and what the run is like.

[p.76]
Other Considerations
Breeding populations of Foothill yellow-legged frogs (FYLF) have been observed in the Rubicon River from Ralston Afterbay upstream to approximately Ellicott Bridge (RM 20.9). FYLF could be affected by flow fluctuations and ramping rates from approximately early May to late September. Both egg masses (spring) and tadpole lifestages (spring through fall) are sensitive to flow fluctuations and ramping rates.

Because they cannot move, egg masses are certainly more sensitive to flow fluctuations and ramping rates than tadpoles. Because tadpoles can swim and move with changing stage heights, moderate flow changes with gradual ramping rates may have insignificant negative impacts on FYLF. Amy Lind is currently studying the sensitivity of tadpoles to flow fluctuations and various ramping rates on the Middle Fork American River. This study is still underway and results have not been published. Thresholds for stage changes and ramping rates that can support Foothill yellow-legged frogs are still to be determined.

Please add the above notes on the current studies and differences in sensitivity between egg masses and tadpoles to all sections labeled "Other Considerations" that repeat the same paragraph as above.

[p.77]
Comparable Runs to the Rubicon River between Ellicott Bridge and Ralston Afterbay
If the focus group identified specific runs on each of these rivers that are comparable, the specific runs should be included here. On some of these rivers, there are many boatable river reaches with a variety of classification of difficulty, access, and quality of experience.

[p.81]

Middle Fork American River – French Meadow Dam to Middle Fork Interbay

Since our information about this run only comes from one boater, it is important to give context that the information he provided is from one experience – not a review of many boaters. In addition, the report should make it clear that this one boater provided some analysis and recommendations – these are not tested so they should not be presented as fact. In particular, the report should not state that an in-channel portage is "required". One boater used this method to navigate the reach but future boaters may be able to find other ways around or through the gorge. In addition, the report should not give the one boater's estimate of boatable flow range as a fact but rather as his expert opinion.

We recommend the following paragraph should replace the one in the report:

Based on the information from the focus group and follow up consultations, PCWA could only find one person who had boated the Middle Fork American River between the Duncan Creek Confluence and Middle Fork Interbay. This person hiked in to Duncan Creek on a snowbound trail. He put in on Duncan Creek and boated to its confluence with the Middle Fork American where he continued to Interbay. The combined run from the hike in put-in on Duncan Creek to the take-out on the Middle Fork Interbay is 5.8 miles (2.1 miles on Duncan Creek and 3.7 on the Middle Fork American River) and was boated in about 5 to 6 hours. The 3.7 mile section of the Middle Fork American River below Duncan Creek is rated Class V with a narrow gorge. The one person who had run the reach, reported that he navigated the narrow gorge with an in-channel portage. He estimated that 200 cfs defines the upper range of feasibility for this type of portage. He is a seasoned expert boater who made this flow estimate without the help of a flow gauge at the put-in or take-out and the flow on that day has not been validated because we don't have an exact date.

Duncan Creek – Duncan Creek Diversion Dam to Middle Fork American River Confluence

As per our above comments, please replace the existing last sentence of the second paragraph with the following:

The one person who had run the reach, reported that he navigated the narrow gorge with an in-channel portage. He estimated that 200 cfs defines the upper range of feasibility for this type of portage. He is a seasoned expert boater who made this flow estimate without the help of a flow gauge at the put-in or take-out and the flow on that day has not been validated because we don't have an exact date.

[p.91]

The Tunnel Chute Run also has a Class II run within it between Kanaka and Canyon Creek that should be listed here and described in brief at the end of this section as suggested below on p. 106.

The peaking reach offers the following boatable runs:

- *Tunnel Chute Run – Middle Fork American River – Indian Bar Rafter Access to Ruck-a-Chucky Campground;*
- *Mammoth Bar Run – Middle Fork American River – Ruck-a-Chucky Campground to Mammoth Bar;*

- *Murderer's Bar Run – Middle Fork American River – Mammoth Bar to the North Fork American River Confluence; and*
- *Confluence Run – North Fork American River – Middle Fork American River Confluence to Oregon Bar / Rattlenake Bar.*
- *Kanaka to Canyon Creek Run*

[p.91]
Please be specific about the reach of the North Fork American to which you are referring. There are many boatable reaches on the North Fork but the only ones studied here and included in the private boating numbers is the reach between the confluence and Folsom Lake.

Please include the total number of private boaters as reported by ASRA. The percentage does not provide as much information. At the time of the ASRA study, the Confluence Run was not yet open, so numbers of boaters on this run have changed.

Recommended changes to text::
Private boating occurs on both the Middle Fork American River and the North Fork American River below the confluence to the high-water mark of Folsom Lake. However, private boating use in the peaking reach is substantially lower than commercial boating use. Based on counts of private boaters made by PCWA in 2007 and on commercial boating use data for 2007 provided by ASRA, private boating use was XX, which represents about 3% of the total boating use on the peaking reach for that year (PCWA 2009b).

[p. 100]
Any flow is suitable for more skilled boaters.
This statement should be replaced with the following: "Higher flows are acceptable for more skilled boaters, but this study did not determine the maximum boatable flow."
.
[p.106]
Please include Rattlesnake Bar as an alternative takeout for boaters on the Confluence Run. This information will inform management decisions pertaining to boating schedules and flows on this reach. We understand the study plan included the North Fork American River down to the high water mark of Folsom Reservoir. That said, in order to give an informative description of the Confluence Reach, the Rattlesnake Bar access and takeout should be included in the description as an alternative takeout and access point for anglers to wade upstream into the project area. Please also include Rattlesnake Bar in the maps. We are not asking for any more study to be conducted on the issue but rather that the results simply include the existence of this alternative takeout. We recommend the description of the reach in the Angling section be changed accordingly:

Access/Shuttle
The put-in is located at the confluence of the Middle Fork and North Fork American Rivers, which is also the take-out for the Murderer's Bar run described above.
Boaters can take-out at ~~either~~ the Birdsall Access, ~~or~~ the Oregon Bar Access, or Rattlesnake Bar. Birdsall and Oregon Bar are both located in the China Bar Recreation Area.

…For the majority of boaters, the distance between the river and the entrance gate is too far to comfortably carry a boat (raft or kayak) and gear. Therefore, the locked gate at the entrance to the China Bar Recreation limits boating on the Confluence Run to the weekends.

[Insert after description of Birdsall and Oregon Bar take-outs]
Rattlesnake Bar is an alternative takeouts to the China Bar Recreation Area and adds 4.5 miles of boating to the trip. Rattlesnake Bar is managed by the Folsom State Recreation Area and is accessible from Rattlesnake Bar Road off Auburn Folsom Road. If Folsom Reservoir is low, as in winter 2009, boaters have current all the way to Rattlesnake Bar. However, when Folsom Reservoir is high, then boaters have to paddle over the flat water to access the take-out at Rattlesnake Bar. The length of the flat water paddle of course depends on the level of the reservoir. However, when China Bar Recreation Area is closed on weekdays, Rattlesnake Bar is an alternative take-out any day of the week and adds an additional 4.5 miles to the boating reach.

[p.105]
With the river restored and access improved, the North Fork American River downstream of the confluence is now open to whitewater boating.
Boaters on this river section also can now enjoy man-made whitewater features installed through a joint agreement by PCWA and Bureau of Reclamation to clean up and enhance the Auburn Dam Site. These features were designed with low flows in mind (insert target design flows). There is one wave feature located in the right-hand channel that flows next to PCWA's Auburn Pump Station and multiple wave features in the left channel. Lower flows may allow for more long-term play at these sites but at higher flows, eddies get washed out and boaters have a harder time attaining the required position in the river and staying at the features. These limitations, combined with the location of the parking lot, keep it from being a typical park and play location, rather most boaters play in the features on their way from the Confluence to China Bar or Rattlesnake Bar.

[Insert on p. 109 after Mammoth Bar Run section:]
Kanaka to Ruck-a-Chucky Falls Run
This 7-mile class II run within the Tunnel Chute Run that begins just after Kanaka Falls and continues down to Canyon Creek. One or two of the rapids may be class II+, or even class III at higher flows. There is currently poor vehicle access to this run, although it could potentially be improved during the license period. Such improvements would open up a scenic wilderness run to novice and intermediate boaters that is generally only seen by class IV boaters. Some drift boaters and anglers may boat this section by putting in at Cache Rock.

This Class II section in the Tunnel Chute Run is not boated much by private or commercial boaters in isolation from the rest of the Tunnel Chute Run.

Access
There is a dirt road from Mosquito Rd down to the river above Kanaka Rapid (the last Class IV rapid before a long section of Class II whitewater). However this road is gated and owners only

give the code to outfitters for emergency access. There is also an access road down to Cache Creek Campground.

This Class II section ends at Canyon Creek above Ruck-a-Chucky Falls. Take-out is possible at Canyon Creek, which is located just upstream of Ruck-a-Chucky rapid and is accessible via Drivers Flat Road. However, a locked gate prohibits use by the general public, except by hikers, anglers and equestrian users. Canyon Creek access road is primarily used by commercial outfitters, who have a key to the gate. Commercial outfitters are not allowed to unload passengers at this location but can use it to unload gear. Composting toilets are available at Canyon Creek.

[Appendix Q, p. 10]
This is a recursive definition of who the typical boater is for this run and suggests that only boaters interested in the run at lower flows would be interested in it at higher flows. If it is running at a Class II flow, it will draw Class II boaters. If it is running at a Class III flow, it will draw Class III boaters. There isn't a particular flow that is inherently more appropriate for the run.

A flow of 2,500 cfs is most likely too high for most of the boaters who would use this run due to their skill levels. A flow of 1,700 is a more likely maximum acceptable flow threshold for the typical boater using this run.

The appendix flow graphs are useful. Would it be possible to plot daily min and max flows on the year-long graphs?

HYDROLOGY

The report does not mention that regulated flows in excess of 1,080 cfs are possible in the peaking reach by coordinating a spill from Ralston Afterbay for a few hours following a period of filling. This coordinated release is important to include as it could provide an enhanced recreational opportunity. The report should state how long and how often the project could release 1500, 2000, and 2500 cfs? This information will inform our management decisions in future PME& discussions.

[p. 33]
Except during high flow times of the year, releases from the Oxbow Powerhouse result in daily fluctuations in flow in the peaking reach between about 200 cfs and 1,080 cfs, which is the capacity of Oxbow Powerhouse (approximately 1,080 cfs) (Figure REC 4-7). However, it is possible to coordinate a spill from Ralston Afterbay for a few hours following a period of filling to create a flow in excess of 1,080 cfs.

[Insert p.35 at end of Section 6.1]
Geomorphology and Recreation
It is important to mention that the recreation opportunities favored in the peaking reach are river beaches and swim holes (see p.40 of this report). River beaches and swim holes are both

impacted by the PCWA project operations that manage flows, which produce different fluvial geomorphologic effects on the peaking reach. PCWA is conducting a Geomorphology Study, which can be correlated with the interest in sandy beaches to inform management decisions.

General Comments

We would like to convey our appreciation for PCWA's efforts in creating this report. The maps, especially, provide a comprehensive review of relevant recreational resources that isn't available elsewhere. They will be a valuable resource for the public, as well as for the relicensing effort.

On behalf of the Foothills Water Network, I would like to request a full set of the DVDs of the whitewater recreation flow studies to share with the Foothills Water Network members.

If you have any questions or clarifications about our comments, please call or email me. julie@foothillswaternetwork.org 530-622-8497.

Sincerely,
Julie Leimbach

Foothills Water Network
Middle Fork Working Group

Bill Carnazzo, Spring Creek Guide Service and Upper American River Foundation
Bill Templin, Upper American River Foundation
Nate Rangel, California Outdoors
John Donovan, Member of the Public
Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
Monte Hendricks, Angler
Gary Estes, Protect American River Canyons
Gene Freeland, Western States Trail Foundation
Gary Flanagan, Gold Country Flycasters
Dan Crandall, Current Adventures

Appendix A:

COMMENTS ON THE ANGLING PORTIONS OF THE RECREATION STUDY (REC-4, DRAFT)

Bill Carnazzo
Spring Creek Guide Service
5209 Crestline Drive
Foresthill CA 95631
(530) 367-5209 (H)
(916) 295-9353 (C)
www.billcarnazzo.com
bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net

Background

I am a licensed guide with approximately 50 years of fly fishing experience. I have been fishing the streams found in the Middle Fork drainage for over 40 years, and have extensive experience on all of them, including the Rubicon River, the Middle Fork American both above and below Hell Hole Reservoir, the main Long Canyon Creek as well as its two main forks, Duncan Creek both above and below PCWA's diversion facilities, Wallace Creek , and other small streams.

Due to time constraints relating to my guide business, I have been unable to actively participate in the relicensing process, and could not attend the one angler focus group meeting allowed by PCWA. When I called PCWA to ask if there was further opportunity for angler focus group meetings, I was peremptorily told that it had been decided by PCWA and its consultants that one meeting was enough. I was dismayed by this cavalier attitude, which appears to have carried over into this flawed (at least as to the angling portions) study.

Over the past 15-20 years I have noticed a significant decline in the quality of the fisheries in most of the streams mentioned above. It has been my view for many years that the decline is due to many factors, some of which are unrelated to PCWA facilities. However, some significant impacts on fish and the benthic macroinvertebrates ("BMIs") that are essential to a healthy fishery, can be traced directly to PCWA's operation of its facilities in the watershed, and its failure to properly maintain those facilities, including but not limited to roads and culverts that deposit lethal silt loads in the streams thereby harming BMIs and spawning habitat.

Comments

My comments mainly address the so-called "bypass" reaches which, as I understand the definitions, would all qualify as "impaired" due to the existence of dams and obstructions operated by PCWA. While I have fished extensively below Oxbow dam, there are others who have more experience in this area than I do, and who consequently can provide more insight that I can into the flow and other issues. I will address what I perceive to be statements that are either inaccurate, conclusory (i.e., without factual predicate), or both.

1. The Draft Report posits the conclusion[1] that angling is best when flows are low and clear; this is clearly wrong. In fact, some of the best fishing occurs in situations where the flows are higher than

[1] Draft Rec-4 Report, p. 110: "According to the focus group participants, anglers prefer the lower flows that are typically present when the area is accessible, for several reasons: Lower flows allow easier access to the river channel, and movement upstream and downstream through the channel. Lower flows allow anglers to more easily

normal summer flows, where there is some color to the water and the larger fish are most inclined to feed.

2. From the angler's perspective, wild trout require three things: food, oxygen, and cover (i.e., protection from predators). Of these, experience has taught me that cover trumps the other two. During periods when flows are high but it is still safe to fish (which does not necessarily mean that wading must be possible), all three of these ingredients are present. High flows cause turbidity, which in turn provides cover for trout. Fishing can be good with some turbidity; as turbidity renders the water essentially opaque, however, success rates fall off (but don't necessarily zero out). Higher flows naturally also increase available oxygen content in the water. Food availability is increased dramatically, with entrained aquatic insects and terrestrials (worms, ants, beetles, etc.) washed into the flow from the watershed. Thus, the three essential ingredients for increased success are present during higher flows.

3. By way of contrast, during the summer months when flows are low aquatic insect activity lessens in frequency and tempo, the water warms significantly thereby reducing dissolved oxygen content, and all-important cover is dramatically reduced. These factors operate to reduce fish activity, and negatively affect angling success. In other words, the three essential ingredients for angling success, mentioned above, are either lacking or significantly attenuated.

4. The fall months are generally characterized by low flows, at least until the arrival of the rainy season. Nevertheless, as air and water temperatures moderate, insect hatch activity (at least among certain mayfly and stonefly species) becomes more frequent and regular. Less dissolved oxygen leaves the water, and shade, cloud cover, and inclement weather provide cover. The river bottom is also littered with foliage that has fallen from trees and shrubs, increasing available cover and camouflage for trout. With rain, fog, and cold air temperatures, fall fishing improves. Other than the three factors' increased presence during fall, there is also the trout's increased instinctive push to feed in advance of winter. Accordingly, despite low water conditions, fall fishing can be excellent.

5. From the above analysis, it is clear that the conclusions reached in the draft report regarding when angling is most successful[2] are simplistic, inaccurate, and without adequate evidentiary support. Those faulty conclusions were used to abbreviate the study on angling-related flows, and used in an apparent effort to justify current flow conditions as satisfactory for angling in the future. This approach should be contrasted with the far more extensive and detailed analysis used for whitewater rafting.

6. With the above analysis in mind, what summer flows in the bypass reaches would provide the best angling experience?[3] In reaching the conclusions mentioned below, I have considered the information

---

move along the shoreline and cast. Fish seek refuge when flows are high and therefore can be harder to catch; and turbidity increases when flows are high, which reduces angling success. These reasons are similar to those expressed by stakeholders interviewed as part of Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) Chili Bar Project relicensing effort (SMUD/PG&E 2005)."

[2] See fn. 1 above.

[3] To some extent, the analysis is made more difficult due to the lack of definition of what is considered to be a "low" flow. Experienced anglers who are not scientists will say something like "I know it when I see it." What is "low" for the Rubicon will differ from that for the Middle Fork, or Duncan Creek, or Long Canyon Creek. What can

provided in Figures 4-5 and 4-6 describing historical flows in the large and small bypass reaches, and Figures 16-20 describing conditions for whitewater rafting. I have also taken into account Appendices K and L, which depict historical flow information in the bypass reaches in the form of hydrographs. The information in these figures and appendices could be rendered significantly more helpful if associated numbers were provided for the flow rates depicted on the graphs. For example, approximately one week ago I fished on the Rubicon above Ellicott's Bridge, near its confluence with the South Fork of the Rubicon. The water was very warm (67 degrees at approximately 8:00 a.m. and near 70 degrees at 11:00 a.m.) and the flows were very low. I cannot state with any accuracy what the flow numbers were, but I can say that the water was so warm and low that it was close to being unethical to fish—meaning that even practicing catch and release and being careful to not play fish for more than a moment, hooked fish were probably subjected to too much stress given the warmth of the water and scarce dissolved oxygen content.

7. Here are my tentative conclusions regarding the best possible bypass stream flows for angling purposes:

    a. **Rubicon above Ellicott's Bridge**: 75 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.

    b. **Rubicon below Ellicott's Bridge (10-15 miles below the bridge)**: 125 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.

    c. **Duncan Creek below diversion facility**: 20-25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.

    d. **Long Canyon Creek (north and south forks) below diversion facilities**: 20-25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.

    e. **Middle Fork below Interbay**: 25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.

8. Based on the above analysis, it is my recommendation that the Draft Study be reopened in order to provide more opportunity for angler input, and more extensive analysis of appropriate angling flows—at least comparable to the analysis devoted to whitewater rafting. As set forth above, the current state of the record on this issue is inaccurate and inadequate, and should not be used to make conclusions as to appropriate flows for angling purposes.

9. Finally, based on my experience with CEQA and NEPA requirements, the Draft Study, if challenged as inadequate, would be determined to be insufficient to support any agency decision as to appropriate flows for angling purposes.

---

be said with certainty is that the flows in each of these streams at this point in time, i.e., early September, 2009, is clearly low and possibly "very low." I have, consequently, used the term "summer flows," meaning flows during the months of July through September (although this will vary on either end of that time period by water year type).

Appendix B: Comments Related to Typography and Presentation

A note should be made that Oregon Bar refers to Oregon Bar on the NFA within Folsom Lake SRA and not the historical Oregon Bar on the MFA near Ruck-a-Chucky campground, which is shown on USGS topo maps.

When the name Ruck-a-Chucky is used, the report should specify whether it refers to Ruck-a-Chucky Campground or Ruck-a-Chucky Falls. The reports use of the term Ruck-A-Chucky to refer to both the falls and the campground/take-out is confusing and can be misleading. “Ruck-a-Chucky” and “Ruck-A-Chucky” are both used throughout the report text, figures, and maps. One of these should be chosen and used throughout.

The trail crossing opportunities sections are verbose and repeat the same parallel structure. It could be more concisely presented in a table rather than paragraph form.

On p.84] Note that Shirttail Creek, North Fork American Watershed in list of Comparable Runs.

Throughout the report, many occurrences of "then" should be changed to "than". For example, on p. 101, "then would have occurred" should be "than would have occurred". Additional instances include "then would", "then under", and "less then".

On p. 114 "form the north" should be "from the north". "American River Trial" should be "American River Trail"

On p. 120 "USGS National Water System Information" should be "USGS National Water Information System"

On p. 122 "Peaking Reach Reach" should be "Peaking Reach"

On p. 127 "Protect the American River Coalition (PARC)" should be "Protect American River Canyons (PARC)"

Fig 4-7 should say which years are shown.

Fig. 4-9 Does the discharge axis apply to the curves other than OXB? If not, that caveat should be explained with regard to unrated cross sections and the figure title should use "water level" or "stage" instead of "flow release". The X-axis needs units and labels on at least two of the ticks. Is it possible to get a plot of pump station flow data over OXB flow?

Fig. 4-10 "Ruck-a-Chucy" in note should be "Ruck-a-Chucky". "Indian" should be "Indian Bar".

Fig 4-22 Left Y-axis titles are hard to understand. Should it read ">= 2000 cfs" ? Not sure what "peaking and flows" refers to. Why does cutting the number of days per month in half only cut the average per day by a smaller amount? Were there more hours of ramping on the ramping days to compensate? Is the average number per day only counting days when ramping occurred? If so, that should be stated.

Map 4-6 Title "Dispersed Concentreated Use" should be "Dispersed Concentrated Use"

Figure M-1 should say if it is a daily average, or a daily sample, etc. It should say if it is modeled or observed data.

Figure M-3 title should say "below normal water year" instead of "below water year".

Figure N-2, N-5, etc. Would it be possible to get faint/thin vertical grid lines or alternating light background colors for days so it would be easier to tell the time of day when flows came up and dropped? If not, then add ticks across the top.

Fig. N-3, N-6, etc. Could we get one color for Monday to Friday and a different color for weekends? This would make it easier to read.

Bill Carnazzo
Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service
5209 Crestline Drive, Foresthill CA 95631
630 S. First St., Dunsmuir CA 96025
(530) 367-5209 (Foresthill)
(530) 235-4048 (Dunsmuir)
California Guide License No. 2917
Website http://billcarnazzo.com
Email bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net

January 18, 2010

Mssrs. Mal Toy and Andrew Fecko
Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604

Re: In-stream Flows (Upcoming February 2, 2010 meeting)

Dear Mssrs. Toy and Fecko:

I will be present at the February 2, 2010 meeting. My interest statement will be embodied within that being prepared by Julie Leimbach, representing the Foothills Water Network. In short, I am representing myself, both as an individual and as a licensed fly fishing guide, as well as the angling community that is interested in the adverse environmental impacts of PCWA's facilities in this watershed on the "bypass reaches" including the Rubicon River above Ralston powerhouse, the Middle Fork of the American above Ralston powerhouse, Duncan Creek, and Long Canyon Creek.

I am particularly concerned by your consultant's cavalier approach on the issues affecting angling on the Rubicon River above Ralston. When, at the last meeting, the consultant was asked why there were no slides on angling included within the Power Point program, the answer was that they were summarily deleted. That comment left the anglers present at the meeting somewhat nonplussed at the clear message it conveyed regarding the importance of anglers' input.

I sincerely hope that the consultant's attitude does not reflect PCWA's approach to angling interests. Judging by your expressed intent to avoid the problems created by SMUD and others in the South Fork American relicensing process, I assume that you are indeed willing to negotiate in good faith to address the issues that I and other interested anglers will express.

You already have some preliminary comments from me on the flawed draft Rec-4 study document, as well as the comments on that document submitted by Foothills Water Network. At the February 2, 2010 meeting you will see further comments and other issues will be raised. For your convenience I have attached a copy of those comments, most of which appear within the FWN document.

Finally, a cautionary note regarding the so-called "anglers focus group" results. As I have pointed out previously, the information, opinions, and conclusions contained in the narrative from that single meeting are inaccurate at best. I could not be present at that meeting, and when I later asked for a second or follow-up meeting, my request was flatly refused. In short, you should not rely on the information in that narrative in moving forward. Rather, in the upcoming meetings, I trust that you will utilize the more accurate information that we will endeavor to provide. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Carnazzo

COMMENTS ON THE ANGLING PORTIONS OF THE RECREATION STUDY

(REC-4, DRAFT)

Bill Carnazzo
Spring Creek Guide Service
5209 Crestline Drive
Foresthill CA 95631
(530) 367-5209 (H)
(916) 295-9353 (C)
www.billcarnazzo.com
bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net

Background

I am a licensed guide with approximately 50 years of fly fishing experience. I have been fishing the streams found in the Middle Fork drainage for over 40 years, and have extensive experience on all of them, including the Rubicon River, the Middle Fork American both above and below Hell Hole Reservoir, the main Long Canyon Creek as well as its two main forks, Duncan Creek both above and below PCWA's diversion facilities, Wallace Creek , and other small streams.

Due to time constraints relating to my guide business, I have been unable to actively participate in the relicensing process, and could not attend the one angler focus group meeting allowed by PCWA. When I called PCWA to ask if there was further opportunity for angler focus group meetings, I was peremptorily told that it had been decided by PCWA and its consultants that one meeting was enough. I was dismayed by this cavalier attitude, which appears to have carried over into this flawed (at least as to the angling portions) study.

Over the past 15-20 years I have noticed a significant decline in the quality of the fisheries in most of the streams mentioned above. It has been my view for many years that the decline is due to many factors, some of which are unrelated to PCWA facilities. However, some significant impacts on fish and the benthic macroinvertebrates ("BMIs") that are essential to a healthy fishery, can be traced directly to PCWA's operation of its facilities in the watershed, and its failure to properly maintain those facilities, including but not limited to roads and culverts that deposit lethal silt loads in the streams thereby harming BMIs and spawning habitat.

Comments

My comments mainly address the so-called "bypass" reaches which, as I understand the definitions, would all qualify as "impaired" due to the existence of dams and obstructions operated by PCWA. While I have fished extensively below Oxbow dam, there are others who have more experience in this area than I do, and who consequently can provide more insight that I can into the flow and other issues. I will address what I perceive to be statements that are either inaccurate, conclusory (i.e., without factual predicate), or both.

1. The Draft Report posits the conclusion[1] that angling is best when flows are low and clear; this is clearly wrong. In fact, some of the best fishing occurs in situations where the flows are higher than normal summer flows, where there is some color to the water and the larger fish are most inclined to feed.
2. From the angler's perspective, wild trout require three things: food, oxygen, and cover (i.e., protection from predators). Of these, experience has taught me that cover trumps the other two. During periods when flows are high but it is still safe to fish (which does not necessarily mean that wading must be possible), all three of these ingredients are present. High flows cause turbidity, which in turn provides cover for trout. Fishing can be good with some turbidity; as turbidity renders the water essentially opaque, however, success rates fall off (but don't necessarily zero out). Higher flows naturally also increase available oxygen content in the water. Food availability is increased dramatically, with entrained aquatic insects and terrestrials (worms, ants, beetles, etc.) washed into the flow from the watershed. Thus, the three essential ingredients for increased success are present during higher flows.
3. By way of contrast, during the summer months when flows are low aquatic insect activity lessens in frequency and tempo, the water warms significantly thereby reducing dissolved oxygen content, and all-important cover is dramatically reduced. These factors operate to reduce fish activity, and negatively affect angling success. In other words, the three essential ingredients for angling success, mentioned above, are either lacking or significantly attenuated.
4. The fall months are generally characterized by low flows, at least until the arrival of the rainy season. Nevertheless, as air and water temperatures moderate, insect hatch activity (at least among certain mayfly and stonefly species) becomes more frequent and regular. Less dissolved oxygen leaves the water, and shade, cloud cover, and inclement weather provide cover. The river bottom is also littered with foliage that has fallen from trees and shrubs, increasing available cover and camouflage for trout. With rain, fog, and cold air temperatures, fall fishing improves. Other than the three factors' increased presence during fall, there is also the trout's increased instinctive push to feed in advance of winter. Accordingly, despite low water conditions, fall fishing can be excellent.
5. From the above analysis, it is clear that the conclusions reached in the draft report regarding when angling is most successful[2] are simplistic, inaccurate, and without adequate evidentiary support. Those faulty conclusions were used to abbreviate the study on angling-related flows, and used in an apparent effort to justify current flow conditions as satisfactory for angling in the future. This approach should be contrasted with the far more extensive and detailed analysis used for whitewater rafting.

---

[1] Draft Rec-4 Report, p. 110: "According to the focus group participants, anglers prefer the lower flows that are typically present when the area is accessible, for several reasons: Lower flows allow easier access to the river channel, and movement upstream and downstream through the channel. Lower flows allow anglers to more easily move along the shoreline and cast. Fish seek refuge when flows are high and therefore can be harder to catch; and turbidity increases when flows are high, which reduces angling success. These reasons are similar to those expressed by stakeholders interviewed as part of Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) Chili Bar Project relicensing effort (SMUD/PG&E 2005)."

[2] See fn. 1 above.

6. With the above analysis in mind, what summer flows in the bypass reaches would provide the best angling experience?[3] In reaching the conclusions mentioned below, I have considered the information provided in Figures 4-5 and 4-6 describing historical flows in the large and small bypass reaches, and Figures 16-20 describing conditions for whitewater rafting. I have also taken into account Appendices K and L, which depict historical flow information in the bypass reaches in the form of hydrographs. The information in these figures and appendices could be rendered significantly more helpful if associated numbers were provided for the flow rates depicted on the graphs. For example, approximately one week ago I fished on the Rubicon above Ellicott's Bridge, near its confluence with the South Fork of the Rubicon. The water was very warm (67 degrees at approximately 8:00 a.m. and near 70 degrees at 11:00 a.m.) and the flows were very low. I cannot state with any accuracy what the flow numbers were, but I can say that the water was so warm and low that it was close to being unethical to fish—meaning that even practicing catch and release and being careful to not play fish for more than a moment, hooked fish were probably subjected to too much stress given the warmth of the water and scarce dissolved oxygen content.
7. Here are my tentative conclusions regarding the best possible bypass stream flows for angling purposes:
    a. **Rubicon above Ellicott's Bridge**: 75 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.
    b. **Rubicon below Ellicott's Bridge (10-15 miles below the bridge)**: 125 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.
    c. **Duncan Creek below diversion facility**: 20-25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.
    d. **Long Canyon Creek (north and south forks) below diversion facilities**: 20-25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.
    e. **Middle Fork below Interbay**: 25 cfs following the end of snowmelt and during the summer and fall months; prior to that the flows should mimic the snowmelt hydrograph.
8. Based on the above analysis, it is my recommendation that the Draft Study be reopened in order to provide more opportunity for angler input, and more extensive analysis of appropriate angling flows—at least comparable to the analysis devoted to whitewater rafting. As set forth above, the current state of the record on this issue is inaccurate and inadequate, and should not be used to make conclusions as to appropriate flows for angling purposes.
9. Finally, based on my experience with CEQA and NEPA requirements, the Draft Study, if challenged as inadequate, would be determined to be insufficient to support any agency decision as to appropriate flows for angling purposes.

---

[3] To some extent, the analysis is made more difficult due to the lack of definition of what is considered to be a "low" flow. Experienced anglers who are not scientists will say something like "I know it when I see it." What is "low" for the Rubicon will differ from that for the Middle Fork, or Duncan Creek, or Long Canyon Creek. What can be said with certainty is that the flows in each of these streams at this point in time, i.e., early September, 2009, is clearly low and possibly "very low." I have, consequently, used the term "summer flows," meaning flows during the months of July through September (although this will vary on either end of that time period by water year type).

March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Email Correspondence, Invitation Letter
and Material to Potential Focus Group Participants

From:	PCWA MFP Relicensing
To:	"bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net"; "melodemar@sbcglobal.net"; "gbfs@surewest.net"; "meritage@starstream.net"; "wetemplin@att.net"; "banjomaker@hendricksbanjos.com"; "blancapaloma@msn.com"; "bjohnson@tu.org"; "Flanagan@surewest.net"; "bcavallo@fishsciences.net"; "grant@sierraflyfishers.com"; "edlwahl@sbcglobal.net"; "Dave Martinez"; Andy Fecko; "julie@foothillswaternetwork.org"
Bcc:	"Mary Preuss"; "Sandy Perry"; Mal Toy; Ben Ransom; "Ed Bianchi"
Subject:	PCWA/MFP - March 4, 2010 Angler Meeting - 7pm
Date:	Thursday, February 25, 2010 3:49:40 PM
Attachments:	Map to Canyon View Community Center.pdf

Dear Relicensing Participant –

Per conversations with the Foothills Water Network, it appears most participants can attend the Angler meeting on March 4th. The meeting will begin at 7pm in the American River Room at the Canyon View Community Center. The American River Room is located downstairs. A map to the Canyon View Community Center is attached for your use.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (530) 823-4973.

Thanks,
Beverly

Beverly Bell
Administrative Aide
(530) 823-4973
(530) 823-4960 (fax)

Mary Preuss

From: PCWA MFP Relicensing [Relicensing@pcwa.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 2:00 PM

To: bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net; melodemar@sbcglobal.net; gbfs@surewest.net; meritage@starstream.net; wetemplin@att.net; banjomaker@hendricksbanjos.com; blancapaloma@msn.com; bjohnson@tu.org; Flanagan@surewest.net; bcavallo@fishsciences.net; grant@sierraflyfishers.com; edlwahl@sbcglobal.net; Dave Martinez; Andy Fecko; julie@foothillswaternetwork.org; hwakelee@gmail.com; strelch@aol.com; hansgeyer@hotmail.com; bs@surewest.net; sierraguide@sbcglobal.net; montehendricks@comcast.net; jwbryne@brynecompanies.com; Andy Fecko; Antonio Rossmann; April Moore; Ben Ransom; Beth A. Paulson; Beth Lawson; Bill Carnazzo; Bill Center; Bill Deitchman; William Spain; Bill Templin; Bob Hughes; Bob Snyder; Brett Storey; Bryan Tibbs; Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Dan Teater; Dana Gard; Dave Martinez; Dave Steindorf; Dennis Smith; Dick Maclay; Donna Day; Donna Williams; Ed Bianchi; Ed Moore; Eileen Dessaso; Gary Estes; Gary Fildes; Gary Flanagan; Gene Freeland ; Heath Wakelee; Hilde Schweitzer; Janet Peterson; Jared Noceti; Jim Micheaels; John Donovan; Julie Leimbach; Leon Poitras; Lester Lubetkin; Lori Powers; Mal Toy; Marie Davis; Marie Rainwater; Marilyn Jasper ; Mary Preuss; MaryLisa Lynch; Mo Tebbe; Nate Rangel; Pat Trimble; Patricia Gibbs; Phil Boyer; Rich Johnson ; Roger Lee; Russ Kanz; Sandra Walter-Perry; Sharon Stohrer; Stafford Lehr; Stephen Bowes; Tom Bartos; Tom Johnson; Tyrone Gorre; Vicki Jowise ; Alana Eichenhofer; Amy Lind; Andy Fecko; Ben Ransom; Beth Lawson; Bob Center; Bradley J. Cavallo; Brian Deason; Camilla Williams; Carol Szuch; Carrie Smith; Cheri Sprunck; Chris Shackleton; Chris Shutes; Christopher Fischer; Clay Schmidt; Dan Crandall; Darcy Erickson; Dave Hinshaw; David Breninger; Dawn Lipton; Dean Tibbs; Denise M Morison; Dick Warren; Dudley McFadden; Ed Horton; Einar L Maisch; El Dorado County Water Agency; Eldon Cotton; Eric Peach; Eric Waidmann; Grant Fraser; Gray Allen; Hank N White; Harold Flood; Jack Sanchez; Jan Goldsmith; Jane Hamilton; janelle@robertson-bryan.com; Jann O Williams; Jeff Meyer; Jeff Murray; Jenny Hatch; Jeremiah Karuzas; Jeri Scambler; Jim Linsdau; John Dunlap; John Greene; John Hauschild; John Robinson; Jon Jue; jtupper01@fs.fed.us; Katie Ross; Katina Bird; Katy Parr; Kim Morales; Krista Deal; Lowell Jarvis; Lynda Shoshone; Marie Barry; Matt Myers; Matt Triggs; Max Colorado; Michael Anderson; Michael Garabedian; Mike Pickett; Neil Cochran; Nicolas Fonseca; Nolan Smith; Pat Malberg; Patrick S Dwyer; Paul Sanders; Robert Schnetzler; Roger Canfield; Ron Nelson; Ross Hooper; Scott Finley; Scott Husmann; Sean Barry; Sherry Wicks; Susan Durham; Ted Frink; Terry Davis; Thomas Christofk; Tim Woodall; Tom Barham; Tom Jones; Tom Toy; Tony D.; Tracey Eden-Bishop; Waldo Walker; William Haigh

Subject: PCWA/MFP - March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting Materials

Dear Relicensing Participant –

At the request of some stakeholders, PCWA recently conducted a second Angler Focus Group session. The Angler Focus Group session was conducted at the Canyon View Community Center on March 4, 2010, from 7:00 – 9:45 P.M. The objective of this meeting was to develop additional information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches within the MFP. The meeting was attended by 13 anglers, as follows:

Bill Carnazzo
Ed Wahl
R. Heath Wakelee
Daniel Street
Nick Strelchuk
Thomas Bartos
Hans Geyer
Frank Rinella
Monte Hendricks
Joe Byrne

Charles Fullerton
Bob Schardt
Mel Odemar

Information developed during the meeting was documented "live" in an Excel work book and concurrently edited with those present at the meeting. The workbook and all associated meeting materials, including two letters provided by Bill Carnazzo and Tom Bartos, are available for review on PCWA's web site at the following link: http://relicensing.pcwa.net/html/public/twgrecreation.php, click on *2010*, then click on *March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting*. This information will be used to augment information developed during a previous Angler Focus Group meeting conducted in May 2008 and documented in the REC 4 – Stream-based Opportunities TSR.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (530) 823-4973.

Thanks,
Beverly

Beverly Bell
Administrative Aide
(530) 823-4973
(530) 823-4960 (fax)

March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Meeting Materials and Sign-in Sheet

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group Meeting

March 4, 2010
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Canyon View Community Center
American River Room
471 Maidu Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
7:00 PM – 7:15 PM*	Introductions ➢ Review Agenda ➢ Review of Meeting Objectives
7:15 PM – 7:30 PM	Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing and Focus Group Process
7:30 PM – 8:45 PM	Group Discussion ➢ Background and Experience of Participants ➢ Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus ➢ Characterize Each Reach Identified Above
8:45 PM – 9:00 PM	Review of Information Developed
9:00 PM	Adjourn

**Times are approximate and are subject to change on the meeting day.*

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Develop information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches associated with the MFP

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT RELICENSING
ANGLER FOCUS GROUP MEETING
MARCH 4, 2010
SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	INITIAL	AGENCY/AFFILIATION	PHONE	E-MAIL
Bill Giannazzo		FFF	(530) 367-1209	bcannazzo@ffemail.net
ED WAHL		N/A	916-595-2808	EDLLWAHL@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Heath Wakelee		Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game Preserve	916870-5253	hwakelee@gmail.com
Dan Street		Horseshoe Bar	916-920-9005	dstreet@saclaw.net
Chas Fullerton		"	916 482 5021	—
Nick Streelchuk		Reel Life Recoveries	415 505 3276	STRELCH@AOL.COM
Thomas Barros		HBP	916-791-6072	HBP@SVRNWEST.NET
HANS GEYER		HBP	916-996-4361	HANSGEYER@HOTMAIL.COM
Bob Senaott		HBP	916 847-1853	BS@svrwest.net
Frank Rivella		Fed of Fly Fishers	530 878 8708	SierraGuide@SBCglobal.net.
Monte Hendricks		angler	530-644-6891	montehendricks@comcast.net
Joe Byrne		HBP	530-268-8158	JOEBYRNE@BYRNEMUSTANGS.com
Mel Odemar		Granite Bay Flycasters	916-961-4435	melodemar@sbcglobal.net

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Overview of Relicensing Process

PCWA owns and operates the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP), a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project. The MFP facilities are situated in the foothills and mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, within the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. MFP facilities are located on the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, Duncan Creek, and the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The MFP began operating in 1967 and supplies water for homes, industry, and agriculture within western Placer County and clean renewable energy to the California electric grid. The MFP operates under a 50-year license, which was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1963. The current license will expire on March 1, 2013. Accordingly, PCWA has initiated a process to the relicense the Project. PCWA formally began the relicensing process when it filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) and reapplication Document (PAD) with the FERC on December 13, 2007. The NOI and PAD are available in their entirety on PCWA's relicensing website at:

http://relicensing.pcwa.netlpad.htm.

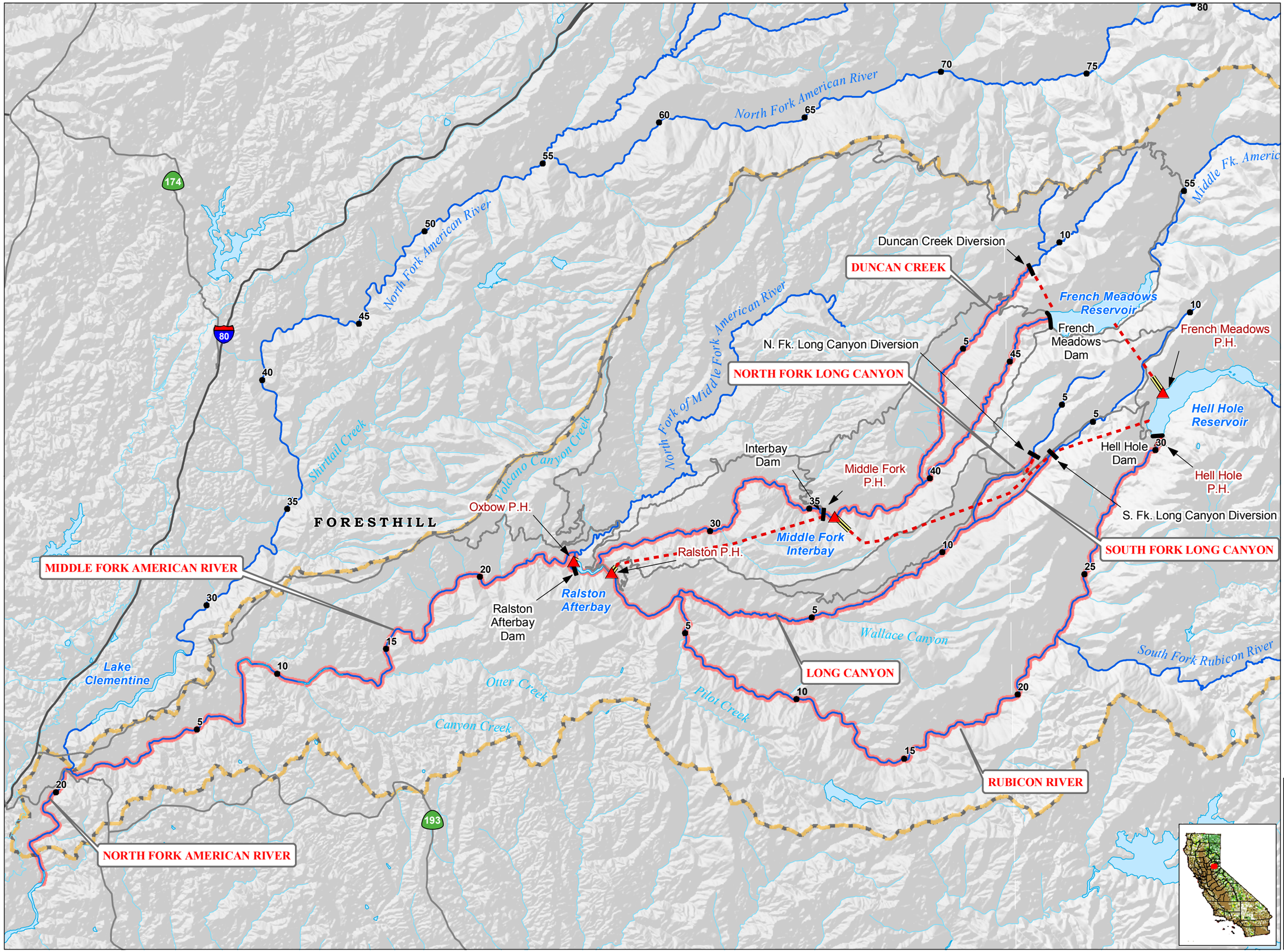
In April and May of 2006, PCWA conducted several Introductory Stakeholder Meetings, organized a Plenary Group to facilitate communication and decision making activities, and formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs). A major accomplishment of the Plenary and TWGs was the collaborative development and approval of 28 separate Technical Study Plans (TSPs), of which five are recreation-related. These five TSPs were included in the PAD and are identified as follows:

- REC 1 - Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment TSP
- REC 2 - Recreation Visitor Surveys TSP
- REC 3 - Reservoir Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 4 - Stream-based Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 5 - Visual Quality Assessment Technical Study Plan

The Angler focus group process is an element of the REC 4 – Stream Based Opportunities TSP.

PCWA began implementing elements of the Plenary-approved TSPs in May 2007. These included: selection of instream flow modeling transects; fish, amphibian, and macro invertebrate surveys; water quality sampling; recreation user counts; cultural resources inventories; vegetation community and wildlife habitat mapping; and bat surveys. The technical studies presented in the PAD will be completed, and Technical Study Reports finalized, in 2010. The status of the TSP and corresponding reports are available on PCWA's Website:

http://relicensing.pcwa.net/html/science/planimplementation.php



Project Facilities

- Powerhouse
- Dam
- Tunnel
- Penstock

Transportation

- Major Highway
- Minor Highway

Hydrography

- Watercourse with river miles (5 mi. increments)
- Water Body
- Middle Fork American River Watershed*

*Modified from Calwater Ver. 2.2 to represent drainage above high-water mark of Folsom Lake

- Watercourse Affected by PCWA Operations

PCWA

Placer County Water Agency
Middle Fork American River Project

Figure 1

River and Stream Reaches Associated with the MFP

Miles: 0 1 2 3

Date: 3/3/08

Projection: CA State Plane, Zone 2
Datum: NAD 83

Z:\Entrix\3116501\map\RecreationMaps\PCWA_ProjectWatercourse_FlowAffected_17i11i_01.mxd

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group Discussion Topics

Overview by PCWA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Objectives
3. Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process
4. Summary of Recreation Technical Studies

Group Discussion

1. Discuss Background and Experience of Participants

    - Primary fishing method
    - Affiliation(s)
    - Commercial or private
    - Specific experience fishing the river reaches in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
    - Interests

2. Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus

3. Characterize Each Reach Identified Above

    - Identify fishing locations, including access points and adequacy (private and public access)
    - Typical fishing season
    - Typical fishing method
    - Fishing quality (success, fish size)
    - Flow related effects on fishability
    - Safety concerns
    - Comparable regional fishing streams
    - Identify sources for other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites)
    - Adequacy of support facilities
    - Conflicts with other users

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: _____

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

_____

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: _____

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

_____

_____

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Participant Profiles

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Bill Garnazzo

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Fly fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☑ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Federation of Fly Fishers; Upper Amer. River Foundation; Granite Bay Fly Casters; other clubs

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☑ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

   Spring Creek Guide Svc.

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   40 years in canyon – all reaches.

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: ED WAHL

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☑ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: _____

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☑ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   20 + YEARS - RUBICON + TRIBS
   MIDDLE + NORTH FORK AMERICAN + TRIBS
   UPPER MF AMERICAN
   UPPER RUBICON

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: R. Heath Wakelee

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Dry Fly & Nymph w/o indicator

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Granite Bay Flycasters - Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game Preserve - Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   Ralston Afterbay, Rubicon, Middle fork Am River below oxbow.

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Daniel Street

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Flyfishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☑ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Horseshoe Bar Fish & Game

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☑ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   2 yrs at HBFG
   Flyfishing, camping, hiking with family
   Enjoy the stretch at HBFG - fish are wild & scenery is beautiful

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: NICK STRELCHUK

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: REEL LIFE RECOVERIES, GOLDEN GATE ANGLING & CASTING CLUB

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   2 YEARS AT HORSESHOE BAR PRESERVE

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: THOMAS BARTOS

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: HORSESHOE BAR, GRANITE BAY FF, GOLDEN GATE ANGLERS + CASTING CLUB
   CALIF SPORTS FISHING PROTECTION ASSOC.

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

   OWNER HORSESHOE BAR FISH + GAME PRESERVE, INC

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   14 PLUS YEARS. I FISH THE MFA PEAKING REACH
   APPROXIMATELY 150 TIMES A YEAR.

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: HANS GEYER (916) 996-4361

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☐ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☒ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: MEMBER HBP

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

MAINLY HBP (OXBOW DOWN TO 2 MI. BELOW TUNNEL CHUTE) - ALL C&R FLY FISHING, SINCE SPRING 2007

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Frank Rinella

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   Fly Fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☑ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☑ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: Nor. Cal. Council Federation of Fly Fishers

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☑ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

   Sierraguide Service Fly Fishing

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   2 years HBP Middle Fork Location
   40 year's fishing experience – 20 year Pro Guide
   for Fly Fishing

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: Monte Hendricks

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   fly fishing

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: trout unlimited - do not represent

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   Rubicon River below Hell Hole Reservoir 33 years

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing

Angler Focus Group - Participant Profile Form

Name: JOE BYRNE

Please provide the following information:

1. Your primary fishing method:

   FLY FISHING

2. Your primary type of waters fished (freshwater): ☒ rivers/streams ☐ lakes/reservoirs ☐ both

3. Affiliation(s), if any: HORSESHOE BAR PRESERVE

4. Do you own, or are employed by, a commercial fishing enterprise? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, what is that enterprise?

5. What is your fishing experience in the Middle Fork American River Watershed:
   Years of experience and locations:

   10 YEARS – MIDDLE FORK BELOW OXBOW
   RUBICON, NORTH FORK OF MIDDLE FORK

March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Meeting Notes

Rubicon River - Hell Hole Reservoir to Ellicott Bridge

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Hunter's trail off of Eleven Pines Road, Crystal Basin down to Parsley Bar, Parsley Bar Trail does not exist anymore, the Deer Creek Trail - 13N24 (no trailhead sign- have to know where it is and it is hard to find) but is in good shape, a hunter's trail that goes along the south side (Rubicon Trail) but has missing segments - parts are still available. Also from Crystal Basin you can go down to the South Fork Rubicon Trail. Potential conflicts with motorized trail use on Hunter's Trail and on the Deer Creek Trail.
Public or private access	Various sections of private property? (previously) No current problems.
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Fish and Game Angler Survey Box, undeveloped parking for access to hunter's trail
Adequacy of support facilities	Parking area to access hunter's trail needs restroom facilities (used by backpackers). Majority of people are using trail for day use along the stream for the first segment (lots of families)- refer to Bill's comments about the recreation management plan. Used to have problems under bridge along camping area but it is currently blocked off
Typical season of use	Limited by snow (usually about middle of May- later on higher access points until the first impassable snow)

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All types of gear
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Basically all wading
Target species	Trout (brown and rainbow)
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	Most are small (6-12 inches); might occasionally find bigger. They are smaller than they historically have been (in the last 15 years, haven't seen "big" fish)
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	Highly variable, seasonal, but less than it used to be (steady decline over the years)

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	See above
Variety of fishing areas	Great variety, "classic"
Variety of fish species	What you would expect, but population of brown trout seems to be declining (variety contributes to overall fishing experience)
Size of fish	See above
Road access to fishing location	Satisfactory
Trail access to fishing location	In good shape, pending motorcycle conflicts. Some places are unstable and could use a little bit of work.
Overall fishing experience	Satisfactory, anglers will pass to future generations. Didymo algae ranges from Parsley Bar to the bridge. It is especially bad from Parsley's Bar to Hale's Crossing. Algae affects insects and anglers cannot fish in that area (little insect life and gear becomes covered, also difficult to wade)

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Haven't seen high water in this area - typically by the time the area is accessible, the flows are low enough to have adequate fishing areas
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	When the area is accessible, the flows are fishable
Ability to fish from streambank	Excessive riparian vegetation constrains ability to fish from streambank and could also be a safety issue
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	See above, riparian vegetation makes walking along the shoreline extremely difficult (another safety issue)
Ability to stand/wade in stream	Pretty good (as long as you can get to it) - described above
Ability to cross the stream	Can safely get across in a lot of places, satisfactory
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Good flows typically occur early to mid June (would be the preferred flow)
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	No reference available

Other Information	
Safety concerns	See stream-side vegetation, didymo, some portions of trail could be dangerous
Conflicts with other users	Historical long term camping use associated with Ellicott's Bridge caused undesirable issues. Closure of this area has helped to clean it up and there is less trash now.
Comparable regional fishing streams	Unique stream (wild trout) and should be "highlighted"

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	Angler Box from DFG

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in	0

Rubicon River - Ellicott Bridge to Ralston Afterbay

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Eleven Pines Road (see Bill C's document and previous focus group comments)
Public or private access	Public, but access to Nevada Point Trail goes through subdivision and is not obvious
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Fish and Game Angler Survey Box, undeveloped parking for access to hunter's trail
Adequacy of support facilities	Parking area to access hunter's trail needs restroom facilities (used by backpackers). Majority of people using trail for day use along the stream for the first segment (lots of families)- refer to Bill C's comments about the recreation management plan. Used to have problems under bridge along camping area but it is currently blocked off
Typical season of use	Limited by snow (usually about middle of May- later on higher access points until the first impassable snow). Nevada Point Trail is potentially seasonally closed, typically is could be used to access by April 1. Buckeye Flat off of Ralston Ridge Road.

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All types of gear
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Basically all wading
Target species	Trout (brown and rainbow)
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	Most are small (6-12 inches) but might occasionally find bigger. They are smaller than they historically have been (in the last 15 years, haven't seen "big" fish)
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	Highly variable, seasonal, but less than it used to be (steady decline over the years)

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	See above
Variety of fishing areas	Great variety, "classic"
Variety of fish species	What you would expect, but population of brown trout seems to be declining (variety contributes to overall fishing experience). Reported potential spawning migration from Ralston Afterbay in spring.
Size of fish	See above
Road access to fishing location	Mostly satisfactory but better signage needed (for Nevada Point Trail access)
Trail access to fishing location	Trails get little to no maintenance and are quite steep.
Overall fishing experience	Concerning reach above powerhouse up to confluence of Long Canyon Creek - fallen off in quality in the last 20 years (more so than above). Fishing success rate in 3-3.5 miles has decreased greatly. From Nevada Point Trail - about mid-season (mid-July) the water temperature is up (~70 degrees) and fishing quality drops off.

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Typically by the time the area is accessible, the flows are low enough to have adequate fishing areas. Springtime has higher flows.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	When the area is accessible, the flows are fishable
Ability to fish from streambank	Excessive riparian vegetation constrains ability to fish from streambank and could also be a safety issue
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	See above, riparian vegetation makes walking along the shoreline extremely difficult (another safety issue)
Ability to stand/wade in stream	Pretty good (as long as you can get to it) - described above
Ability to cross the stream	Can safely get across in a lot of places, satisfactory
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Good flows typically occur early to mid June (would be the preferred flow)
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	No reference available
Other Information	
Safety concerns	See stream-side vegetation, some portions of the trail could be dangerous
Conflicts with other users	Historical long term camping use associated with Ellicott's Bridge caused undesirable issues. Closure of this area has helped to clean and there is less trash now. At the bottom of Buckeye Trail access, there are no facilities but the "leftover" from other users is left behind. Miners have gotten aggressive (weapons conflict).
Comparable regional fishing streams	Unique stream (wild trout) and should be "highlighted"

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	Angler Box from DFG

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in	0

Middle Fork American River - French Meadows Dam to Middle Fork Interbay

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Referenced in earlier meeting
Public or private access	Public
Support facilities available at this fishing location	None
Adequacy of support facilities	Not needed
Typical season of use	Constrained by access

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All types of gear
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Wading
Target species	Rainbow and brown trout
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	Not enough information to say
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Not enough current information to say
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	
Trail access to fishing location	Middle Fork Powerhouse facility limits access to the upstream region
Overall fishing experience	In the past, maybe 4-6 fish on a good day, but currently 0 (Bill C doesn't go there anymore)

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	Below the powerhouse is good; areas that are accessible are good.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Not enough current information to say
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	No comment
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	NA

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only	0

Middle Fork American River - Middle Fork Interbay to Ralston Afterbay

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Reference previous meeting comments. An access trail is located midway between the Afterbay and Interbay (Mosquito Ridge Trail). Only 2 points of access aside from the Interbay.
Public or private access	No comment
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Bathrooms and tables at picnic area
Adequacy of support facilities	Adequate
Typical season of use	Year round

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All gear
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Wading
Target species	Brown and rainbow trout
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	Not big
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	Haven't caught more than 3-4 in a day

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	Satisfactory
Variety of fish species	Satisfactory
Size of fish	Unsatisfactory
Road access to fishing location	Good
Trail access to fishing location	Limited (only 2 access points)
Overall fishing experience	Has become a hard place to fish due to overgrown vegetation.

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	More water would greatly improve conditions
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Current flows are below minimum for good fishing
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Unknown

Other Information	
Safety concerns	None
Conflicts with other users	None
Comparable regional fishing streams	NA

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	NA

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0

Duncan Creek

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Refer to previous meeting comments
Public or private access	Public
Support facilities available at this fishing location	No comment
Adequacy of support facilities	
Typical season of use	

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	No comment
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	
Target species	Above the diversion facilities - the fishing is excellent.
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	No comment
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	No comment
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	
Trail access to fishing location	
Overall fishing experience	At base of the dam, a pool provides good fishing until the water warms up in the late part of the season (mid-July-Sept). Down from there to the gauging station, there are fewer fish than in previous years. More rainbows than browns. From the gauging station down to the FS road, conditions are the same as from the pool to the gauging station. In the section below from the road on down, farther downstream towards the confluence the access becomes more dangerous. Characterized as a "great little stream." Won't go in (above or below diversion) after the end of July (fish are present but stressed).
Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	More water would improve fishing (year round). Wouldn't need a great amount for improvement.
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	No comment
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	None
Conflicts with other users	Messy campers (no direct conflicts with users, but items are left behind)
Comparable regional fishing streams	NA

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	NA

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in	0

Long Canyon

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Refer to previous meeting comments
Public or private access	Public (FS)
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Primitive and formal campgrounds
Adequacy of support facilities	Lack of facilities to support camping and parking (ex. Ramsey Crossing)
Typical season of use	Same as Rubicon River

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All types of gear
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	Wading
Target species	Rainbow trout
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	Small (4-8 inches) with occasional 10 inches
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	Varies (but pretty good)

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location	
Number of fish caught	Satisfactory
Variety of fishing areas	Satisfactory
Variety of fish species	One species
Size of fish	See above
Road access to fishing location	Ramsey Crossing is adequate, but the access above the North Fork diversion needs work.
Trail access to fishing location	Adequate (more signage would be nice)
Overall fishing experience	Good

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	If the area is accessible, then the stream is fishable
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	Late in the summer is difficult; not enough water to support anything
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	NA

Other Information	
Safety concerns	None
Conflicts with other users	Messy campers
Comparable regional fishing streams	NA

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	NA

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in	0

Middle Fork American River - Oxbow to Ruck-a-Chucky

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	Refer to previous meeting comments
Public or private access	Both
Support facilities available at this fishing location	Paved parking, restrooms at Indian Bar, chemical toilets at Tunnel Chute, 3 first aid stations located on Horseshoe Bar Preserve, extraction equipment at Tunnel Chute
Adequacy of support facilities	Adequate
Typical season of use	Year round

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	All gear types - Horseshoe Bar Preserve fly fishing only, catch and release
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat	Bank, wading, flow tubes behind tunnel, and boats
Target species	Trout (rainbow and brown)
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	5% are below 12 inches, 65% are 12-14 inches, 25% are 16-18 inches, and about 5% are 18-22 inches. The average is approximately 12-16 inches.
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	Approx. 5-6 on average (anywhere from 2-15)

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	Good or better than average
Variety of fishing areas	Wide variety when the flows are low, definitely depends on flows (during high flows there is less variety/access. For example, at 1,000 cfs - can't fish it and it is more dangerous.) Access to multiple fishing areas can be hindered during high flows. And anglers can be stranded on the wrong side until the flow subsides.
Variety of fish species	Good variety
Size of fish	Good
Road access to fishing location	Good
Trail access to fishing location	Good
Overall fishing experience	Depends upon flows; can be very good or can be very bad (fishing is better at lower flows, during higher flows people are compacted in smaller areas but during low flows people can spread out and fishing is then better).

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	See above (fishing is depressed during ramping periods and for some period afterwards; between 1-2 hours)
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	See above
Ability to fish from streambank	800-1,000 cfs most factors decrease and fishing becomes dangerous, not good for fishing success
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	400 cfs is about max for crossing

Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs	300 cfs
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	600 cfs for all types of anglers, fishable flows may increase in magnitude as fishermen are more skilled and experienced/athletic (1,000 cfs max)

Other Information	
Safety concerns	See above, also fast ramping with no warning and no consistency - get surprised and can get stuck on the other side of the stream for hours
Conflicts with other users	None
Comparable regional fishing streams	NA

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	Horseshoe Bar website, CDEC site, other anglers

2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations

American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos

Open Season	Bag Limit
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April.	0

Middle Fork American River - Ruck-a-Chucky to Oregon Bar

NO COMMENT

Fishing Location and Access Points	
Road or trail used to access fishing location	
Public or private access	
Support facilities available at this fishing location	
Adequacy of support facilities	
Typical season of use	

Fishing Characterization and Quality	
Typical fishing gear used at this location	
Typical method used to fish this location (bank, wading, boat)	
Target species	
Average size of fish typically caught at this location	
Approximate number of fish typically caught per day	

Fishing Experience	
Rate your satisfaction with the following factors as they relate to this location:	
Number of fish caught	
Variety of fishing areas	
Variety of fish species	
Size of fish	
Road access to fishing location	
Trail access to fishing location	
Overall fishing experience	

Flow Related Effects on Fishibility	
How does flow affect:	
Availability of usable instream fishing area	
Variety of useable instream fishing areas	
Ability to fish from streambank	
Ability to walk shoreline/bank	
Ability to stand/wade in stream	
Ability to cross the stream	
Flow Estimates	
Minimum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	
Maximum flow at which you would fish at this location (in cfs)	

Other Information	
Safety concerns	
Conflicts with other users	
Comparable regional fishing streams	

Sources of Other Pertinent Information	
Sources of other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites):	

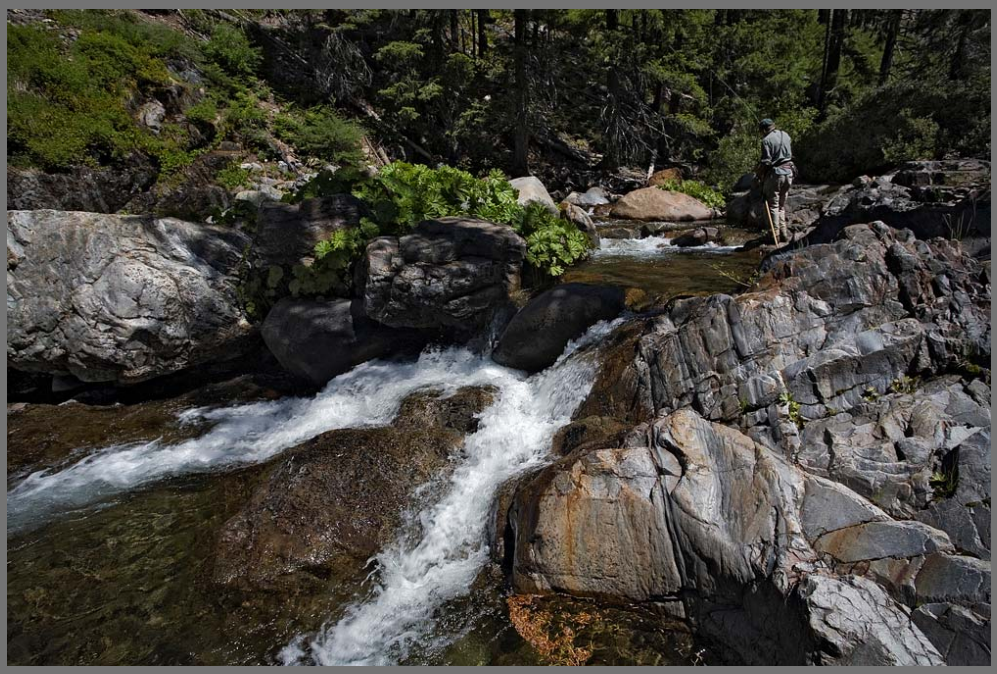
2008-2009 Freshwater Sportfishing Regulations	
American River, North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and their tributaries w/in the Sierra District (Placer, Eldorado, Amador, and Alpine cos.)	
Open Season	**Bag Limit**
Last Saturday in April through November 15	5 per day 10 in possession
November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only	0

March 4, 2010 Angler Focus Group Meeting
Stakeholder Comments

2010

BYPASS REACH ANGLERS COMMENTS FOR ANGLER FOCUS GROUP MEETING MARCH 4, 2010

Joint comments of Bill Carnazzo, Bill Templin, Monte Hendricks, and Ed Wahl, on the subject of angling quality, and related issues, on the "bypass reach" streams of the Middle Fork American River Project: The Rubicon River, the Middle Fork American, Duncan Creek, and Long Canyon Creek



Bill Carnazzo
Spring Creek Guide Service
Representing: Northern California Council
of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Upper American
River Foundation, Granite Bay Flycasters, and others

ANGLER FOCUS GROUP MEETING

MARCH 4, 2010

JOINT COMMENTS OF ANGLERS EXPERIENCED ON THE BYPASS REACHES

(Bill Carnazzo, Bill Templin, Monte Hendricks, Ed Wahl)

Document Written By Bill Carnazzo

I. Bill Carnazzo

A. Contact information:

Bill Carnazzo
Spring Creek Guide Service
5209 Crestline Drive
Foresthill CA 95631
(530) 367-5209 (H)
(916) 295-9353 (C)
www.billcarnazzo.com
bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net

B. Background and general comments applicable to all bypass reaches.

I am a licensed guide (and have been for 20 years) with over 50 years of fly fishing experience. In these proceedings, I represent myself and my guide service, as well as the following: Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers (I have assumed this function in place of Gary Flanagan); the Upper American River Foundation, a California Non-Profit Corporation; Granite Bay Flycasters; and a host of other fly fishing groups and clubs.

I have been fishing the streams found in the Middle Fork drainage for over 40 years, and have extensive experience on all of them, including the Rubicon River, the Middle Fork American both above and below French Meadows Reservoir, the main Long Canyon Creek as well as its two main forks, Duncan Creek both above and below PCWA's diversion facilities, Wallace Creek, and other small streams. I am familiar with the type, numbers, size, and health of the fish, as well as the BMI populations that form a major part of the food source for the fishery, based on personal observation and angling experience.

I am very appreciative of PCWA's willingness to now hold this additional angler focus group meeting to gather more information on angling in the bypass reaches. That said, I noted on the agenda for this meeting that "project nexus" is an issue to be discussed. Unless this is a

typographical error, I believe that the nexus issue is inappropriate for purposes of this focus group meeting. Because nexus is a complex legal/factual issue involving questions of qualitative and quantitative relationship to the project's improvements and operations, it could consume the entire short time allotted for this meeting—and then some. For example, a potential component of a nexus analysis is the need for mitigation for adverse project impacts caused by nearly 50 years of operation. In other words, the "nexus" concept is broader than **current** direct (or indirect) connections between a particular adverse impact and project facilities/operations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the nexus issue be deferred to a later time when it is more relevant.

Over the past 15-20 years I have noticed a significant general decline in the quality of the fisheries in most of the streams mentioned above; i.e., the numbers and size of fish have both been significantly adversely impacted. It has been my view for many years that the decline is due to many factors, some of which may possibly be unrelated to PCWA facilities. However, some significant adverse impacts on fish, as well as the benthic macroinvertebrates ("BMIs") population and diversity, together with the aquatic habitat and streamside vegetation that are essential to a healthy fishery, can be traced directly to PCWA's operation of its facilities in the watershed. Additionally, before getting to some specific comments on each of the bypass reaches, I offer the following general comments, some of which will be familiar because they were presented in a different context; they are included again here solely for the purpose of general bypass reach angling information:

1. From the angler's perspective, wild trout require three things: food, oxygen, and cover (i.e., protection from predators). If you add "cold water," there are four important factors. Of these, experience has taught me that in general cover trumps the others. During periods when flows are high but it is still safe to fish (which does not necessarily mean that wading must be possible), all of these ingredients are present. High flows cause turbidity, which in turn provides cover for trout. Fishing can be good with some turbidity; as turbidity renders the water essentially opaque, however, success rates fall off (but don't necessarily zero out). Higher flows naturally also increase available oxygen content in the water. Food availability is increased dramatically, with entrained aquatic insects and terrestrials (worms, ants, beetles, etc.) washed into the flow from the watershed. And, of course, water temperatures are lower. Thus, all of the essential ingredients for increased success are present during higher flows.
2. During the summer months when flows are low aquatic insect activity decreases in frequency and tempo, flows are lower, the water warms significantly thereby reducing dissolved oxygen content, and all-important cover is dramatically reduced

due to reduced flows and accordingly habitat. These factors operate to reduce fish activity, and negatively affect angling success. In other words, the essential ingredients for angling success, mentioned above, are either lacking or significantly attenuated.

3. The fall months are generally characterized by low flows, at least until the arrival of the rainy season. Nevertheless, as air and water temperatures moderate, insect hatch activity (at least among certain mayfly and stonefly species) becomes more frequent and regular. Cooler water holds more oxygen, and shade, cloud cover, and inclement weather provide cover. The river bottom is also littered with foliage that has fallen from trees and shrubs, increasing available cover and camouflage for trout. With rain, fog, and cold air temperatures, fall fishing improves. In addition, there is the trout's increased instinctive push to feed in advance of winter. Accordingly, despite low water conditions, fall fishing can be excellent.
4. The chart set forth below is intended to be an informational summary, representing a very general array of MFP bypass stream fishing conditions under the different broad flow categories as noted on the left side, from an angler's perspective, vs. five general angler success levels arrayed across the top of the chart. The success assignments ("X") for the flow types assume a competent, experienced angler familiar with fishing techniques appropriate to each of the 6 broad flow categories.

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Difficult or Dangerous	Poor or Unethical
Very High Flow/Heavy Turbidity				X	
High Flow, Some Turbidity		X			
High Flow, Clear Water		X			
Medium Flow, Clear Water	X				
Low Flow, Clear Water			X		
Very Low Flow, Clear Water					X

C. Specific comments on the quality of the angling experience in the bypass reaches.

The quality of the angling experience in the bypass reaches is affected by many factors; the main factors are listed below. I base the following comments on my own personal experience plus the views, expressed to me, of the many clients that I have introduced to the MFA drainage through my guide service, as well as friends and acquaintances who have accompanied me on fishing trips into the canyons. Comments on specific bypass reaches will be dealt with in subsection D below.

1. Fishery health. Fisheries such as those of the bypass streams, where there has been a steady decline in both numbers and size of catchable trout (rainbows and browns) cannot be deemed "healthy." The fact that young-of-the-year and fry are present does not end the "health" inquiry; rather, the real questions are related to survival

rates of these young fish and their ability to mature in sufficient numbers to a size that will provide a reasonably good angling experience. In turn, survival rates depend on the presence or absence of many converging factors, including available habitat, cover and protection from predators, adequate ability to migrate upstream and downstream, food availability in sufficient quantity, appropriate water temperatures, beneficial flow rates, and sufficient oxygen content in the water column. All of these factors have been adversely affected by the MFA project's disturbance of the historical unimpaired seasonal hydrograph that governed the adaptive life cycles of native rainbow and brown trout, and around which their genetic patterns (including survival techniques) evolved.

2. Fish numbers. As mentioned earlier, fish numbers have declined to an extent that, at times, renders the angling experience poor in quality. Catch rates twenty years ago in bypass reaches, for reasonably capable anglers, could easily exceed ten to fifteen fish caught and released. The current catch rate under ideal conditions often does not approach that number. Brown trout have always been scarcer than rainbows, but under present conditions it is rare to catch one where one or two might have been caught at the same location in past years.
3. Fish size. As also mentioned earlier, average fish size has grown continuously smaller. Twenty or more years ago, it was not unusual to catch at least one or two fish in excess of 14 inches; under present conditions, such a fish would be a rarity. The current average fish caught is between six and eight inches. Many anglers find this to present a poor angling experience.
4. Food production. Trout feed on both aquatic and terrestrial (grasshoppers, ants, beetles, etc.) insects. Based on my personal observations and experience, most of a trout's diet will consist of aquatic insects, where they are available in sufficient abundance. The available numbers and diversity of BMIs in the MFA drainage has decreased dramatically.Terrestrial insects that are only available by happenstance, sporadically and in unreliable numbers, cannot sustain a viable trout population in the MFA drainage. My observations regarding numbers and diversity of BMIs are based on constantly searching for aquatic insects by using seine nets, turning over rocks, and shaking streamside vegetation; I do this, in part, to aid in fly selection for myself and my clients—all as part of the quality of the angling experience. I also do it because I have an intense interest in stream entomology and collection of representative specimens. My conclusions are as follows: (a) Most of the larger mayfly species that were previously found in these streams have either been extirpated or are on the verge of extirpation; smaller species, such as *baetis* mayflies, are still present but their numbers are reduced. (b) The larger stoneflies,

such as Pteronarcys ("Salmon Fly") have all but disappeared; Golden Stoneflies still exist, but in reduced numbers; (c) Caddis flies have fared better, but are not abundant or diverse. Because food availability obviously affects fish numbers and size, the reduction in BMIs has degraded the angling experience in the bypass reaches.

5. Riparian vegetation. Enormous floods that periodically occur in the MFA drainage scour sediments out of deep holes, creating cold water refugia for summer habitat, but are insufficient by themselves to remedy streamside vegetation problems. In fact, they make the angling experience worse by virtue of debris piles that are difficult or impossible to avoid, and laid-down willows and alders that impede access and create serious streamside hiking and wading safety issues. Normal spring flushing flows that characterize a natural hydrograph tend to minimize these problems by keeping streamside vegetation pared back so that streamside hiking and wading during later months is much safer. Without adequate flushing flows, the angling experience is degraded by having fewer deep, cold water pools for fish to survive in during hot summers and by reducing both convenience of access and safety .
6. Inadequate flow conditions. The consultant's studies have shown that the project, at times (summer and early fall), delivers more water to the bypass reaches than would normally be available under the unimpaired hydrograph. Nevertheless, the disturbance of the natural hydrograph at other times (winter and spring) causes irremediable damage that is not mitigated by the slight benefit of increased summer flows. While flows are addressed elsewhere, it is worth mentioning here that the current minimum flows in the bypass reaches during summer and fall seasons are woefully inadequate in terms fishery life cycles and therefore for the angling experience. The effect of inadequate flows on the fishery is devastating not only because of the factors mentioned above, but also because of water temperature increases that accompany low flows. In order to address quality of the angling experience, it is essential that flows in the bypass reaches be increased, to provide cooler temperatures and increased fish/BMI habitat during the critical summer and fall months.
7. Access issues. We will present extensive comments on this issue in our recreation plan comments. For purposes of this document, adequate access is essential for a high quality angling experience in the bypass reaches. At present, there are access barriers that, if removed, would increase the quality of angling experience.

D. Comments relating to specific bypass reaches.

Each bypass reach is unique in myriad ways. Nonetheless, they have common characteristics (pocket water, pools, riffles, side channels, etc.) that form the basis for the general comments mentioned above. Another commonality is that each stream has remote, nearly inaccessible reaches, as well as areas where access is reasonable (although it could be improved in order to increase the quality of the angling experience). Where there are differences from an angling standpoint, they are addressed below.

1. **Rubicon River**.

    a. **River above Ellicott's Bridge**. The most convenient access to this reach is via the Hunter Trail, which for the most part is relatively high above the river on river-right (north side). From the Hunter Trail there are two main trails down to the river (other points do exist, but they involve some relatively steep and potentially hazardous traverses): one at the confluence of the South Fork Rubicon/Main Rubicon (approximately 1.5 miles above the bridge), and another at Hale's Crossing (approximately 5 miles above the bridge). From the south side of the river there is access to Parsley Bar from the Crystal Basin area via USFS roads. Water temperatures in this reach increase over the ten miles between Hell Hole dam and the confluence. In July, August, and September, assuming minimum flow conditions, the water at the confluence is far too warm to ethically fish because the fish are already stressed and even if caught and quickly released, there will be significant hooking mortality. In order to improve the quality of the angling experience in this reach from July through September, there needs to be higher minimum flows for all of the reasons set forth above. Angling at the South Fork confluence area, during ideal angling conditions as described above, can be characterized as mediocre compared to (for example) 20 years ago. While there is a fair population of rainbows, 95% of them are in the 6-8" range; the largest specimen I have seen in many years was 13". Browns are so scarce that they are nearly nonexistent in this area. Between the confluence and Hale's Crossing there are obstacles that make streamside travel difficult at times, but not impossible. The angling in this reach is, compared to 20 or 25 years ago, also mediocre for the same reasons although in some places the fish are slightly larger but not more plentiful. Between Hale's Crossing and Hell Hole (Parsley Bar, for example), the angling is slightly better for larger (10-12") rainbows, with a few browns mixed in. Still, the numbers are quite low. Angling near the bridge is characterized by small fish in low numbers.

b. **River between Ellicott's Bridge and Long Canyon Creek Confluence**. From Ellicott's Bridge down to the confluence of Long Canyon Creek/Main Rubicon, access is difficult. There are several trails that meet the river a few miles downstream of the bridge (e.g., Lawyer Trail, Slide Point Trail, and Nevada Point Trail). Angling here has, at times been somewhat better than above the bridge, but again can be described as mediocre compared to 20-25 years ago. There is a road at Pennsylvania Point which reaches the river near a footbridge. Angling here in the summer months is poor due to excessive water temperatures and inadequate flow. At other times more fish can be caught but they are very small, and most likely are fish that have migrated downstream from Long Canyon Creek. No temperature assistance is provided by Long Canyon Creek because it too is overheated at the confluence.

c. **River between Long Canyon Creek Confluence and Ralston Powerhouse**. The canyon along this stretch is very steep; the best access is hiking up from Ralston Powerhouse. Angling from the powerhouse upstream to the first major pool (approximately 150-200 yards) consists of a series of pools and pockets. While a few fish in the 12-14" range can be found here in the spring, most are in the 6-10" range; the numbers are low for all sizes. Once the water warms above 60 degrees, virtually all fish move either upstream or down below the powerhouse. This can occur as early as late June; temperatures after that can reach 70 degrees, resulting in a negative angling experience. The area above the first large pool consists mainly of pocket water, plunge pools, and a variety of riffles and runs with some larger, deeper pools mixed in. During early spring, larger rainbow trout enter this section of the river, apparently from Oxbow, to spawn. Access to these spring fish is not possible without crossing the river at the base of the first large pool above the powerhouse because there is a bedrock face on the north side (river right) that is extremely slick at this time of year and very dangerous to try to cross (there is a gaging station on this rock face). A slip by an angler wearing waders could be fatal because he/she would end up sliding down the face into the large pool (possibly with injuries from the fall) which is over 10 feet in depth in places and the water will be cold. Prior to 1997 (I believe that is the correct year), this bedrock face had areas covered with soil, which made it relatively safe to traverse in order to get to the water above the pool. High flows and heavy rains removed virtually all of the soil that provided the necessary footholds for safety. Since the water level at the base of the pool is too high at this time of year to cross safely (without being

swept into the fast water below the pool), the spring fish are now inaccessible in all but the most dry years. Once the flow is reduced enough to safely cross at the base of the pool, access to the river above the pool is relatively easy and safe, although there are areas where anglers must climb around obstacles. However, by the time that the water level has dropped sufficiently for safe crossing, the spawners have returned to Oxbow. Compared to 20-25 years ago, angling in this reach during this time, all the way up to the Long Canyon Creek footbridge, is at best fair in quality, due to the small size and sparse number of fish available.

2. **Middle Fork American**

   a. **Middle Fork Below French Meadows, to Interbay powerhouse**. The stretch below French Meadows Res. can be reached from the USFS road and overland hiking. Beyond a mile or so below the dam the terrain becomes difficult and dangerous to attempt. Down to that point, the angling 20-25 years ago, and earlier, was reasonably good for fair sized (12-14" with occasional larger specimens) rainbows and a very few browns, especially in the spring (when road access opened). Since then there are so few fish in this reach that it is hardly worth the effort, even in the spring. Access to the river below Interbay is very limited due to the steep terrain. Above the powerhouse, angling has now been blocked off completely by PCWA. Prior to that, during the spring and early summer angling was fair for small fish; in earlier years angling success was much better. There are some sizeable trout (wild browns and rainbows) in the stream as it exits the powerhouse and enters the afterbay—and in the afterbay itself, but they are limited in number. It is my belief (backed by physical evidence and observations by me and by other anglers) that they feed on entrained and damaged fish and perhaps other aquatic species that are in the water exiting the powerhouse.

   b. **Middle Fork from Interbay to Ralston Picnic Area**. There is apparently a trail from Mosquito Ridge Road down to the Middle Fork. I have not found it yet, and therefore have not personally used this trail, but intend to do so this spring in order to assess the angling quality in this area. The Middle Fork is safely accessible from the Ralston picnic area, where there is a short trail leading upstream. Beyond a mile or so above the picnic area, the terrain becomes very steep and difficult to access. Impaired spring flows here are insufficient to flush gravels and other material out of what would otherwise

be clean, deeper, and cooler holes, and clean the stream of accumulated detritus, mosses, algae, weeds, and riparian overgrowth. This makes this reach difficult to fish at all times, but especially so in the summer and early fall. There are some rainbows that remain in this stretch, but they are quite small with the exception of a few larger specimens. I personally have not caught brown trout here (nor have my clients), but I have heard of others who in years past have. Again, 20-25 years ago the fishing here was easier due to less vegetation and in-stream materials, and more available (albeit small) fish.

3. **Duncan Creek**. In general, this little creek was a back-country angler's dream—full of eager rainbows and browns in the 6-10" category. The creek above the diversion facility still can be categorized in that manner, at least until late summer and early fall when flows are very low and the fish are extremely shy. The creek below the diversion facility is but a shadow of its former self, with far fewer fish.

    a. **Duncan Creek above the Diversion Facility.** As stated above, this part of the creek remains relatively pristine, characterized by some boulderous pockets above and below the PCWA bridge, with mostly bedrock riffles, runs, and plunge pools above the informal "campground" area. The fish are small (6-8") but numerous, and readily take well-presented dry flies and small nymphs. They are mostly rainbows, with an occasional brown mixed in.

    b. **Duncan Creek at the Diversion Facility.** There are some fish that inhabit the small pond above the dam; the pond is shallow and very clear, which makes fishing it during summer months extremely challenging. During the spring months (assuming road access is available) anglers fishing the pond can have some success. The fish here tend to be a bit larger (6-10"). It is my belief that a large number of fish from the upper creek become entrained in the diversion tunnel; at one point I saw a very large brown trout swimming just beyond the trash barrier. It could have come up through the tunnel—I have no way of knowing that.

    c. **Duncan Creek pool just below the dam.** At the base of the dam there is a pool that supports a fair fishery. During spring and early summer the fish swim throughout this pool; in later months they locate themselves up near the minimum flow pipe. Angling is generally good here until August when the water is too warm and the water is very clear. The fish are mostly rainbows although I and some of my clients have caught a few browns here.

d. **Duncan Creek below the dam and pool down to the gaging station.** The fishing in this freestone reach, down to the gaging station, has deteriorated over the years. There are still a fair number of fish, but they are virtually all small rainbows with a very sparse number of browns. Access is somewhat difficult due to excessive riparian vegetation overgrowth caused by insufficient flushing flows. This, combined with the relative paucity of the fish population, impairs the quality of the angling experience.

e. **Duncan Creek below the gaging station down to the USFS road bridge.** The fishing in this reach is very similar to that found above the gaging station. My experience here is that there are a few more fish in this stretch.

f. **Duncan Creek below the USFS road bridge.** This stretch is accessible for a relatively short distance before the terrain begins to steepen sufficiently, making access difficult. In the distant past, brown trout of surprisingly large size were found in this area—but that is no longer the case due to lack of sufficient spawning and rearing habitat in the fall. The rainbow population is similar to that found above the bridge, and is subject to the same problems inherent in that fishery. Further downstream, a dirt road along the eastern side of the creek provides additional access opportunities to less heavily fished reaches where bigger and more fish may still exist; the area downstream from the terminus of this road probably receives even less angling pressure.

4. **<u>Long Canyon Creek.</u>**

a. **North and South Forks above Diversion Facilities.** While the North Fork has somewhat less water available, the two forks are similar in their stream character, and in the number and size of fish. In spring the fishing can be fairly good (assuming road access is open) for small rainbows. Due to excessive erosion (from poorly maintained culverts and range cattle destruction of vegetation) along the paved road to Hell Hole Res. (along the north side of the South Fork) and debris flows in this reach, much of the water goes underground as the flows decrease in the summer, leaving wild rainbows stranded in small pools to die of exposure or from predation. It is my view that the diversion facilities entrain a large number of these fish, with a resulting adverse impact on the downstream fishery (due also in part to the lack of ability for fish to migrate downstream because of the type of dam

structures that exist). There are a number of available access points to this area.

b. **North and South Forks at Diversion Facilities.** Once the flows drop the pools above the dam become shallow and clear and difficult to fish. During spring small rainbows can be caught in the inflow area. The diversion facility on the South Fork requires frequent sediment removal because of the highly erosive materials upstream and the land use impacts of roads and cattle. Some anglers and researchers believe that the reach above the South Fork diversion is the primary source of sediments entering the Rubicon River below its confluence with Long Canyon Creek and into the Ralston Afterbay Reservoir (Oxbow).

c. **North and South Forks below Diversion Facilities to Confluence.** The angling here, on both forks, is similar in quality to that available in Duncan Creek below the pool beneath the dam. The fish are uniformly rainbows of small size.

d. **Long Canyon Creek below Confluence, down to Ramsey Crossing.** The terrain here is difficult to hike and wade, but there is reasonable access upstream from Ramsey Crossing. The fishing near the bridge at Ramsey Crossing is reasonably good for small fish in the spring as access becomes available, but tapers off steeply as the water level lowers, clarity increases, and temperatures rise.

e. **Long Canyon Creek below Ramsey Crossing down to Rubicon Confluence.** There is reasonable access from the bridge to downstream areas for a relatively short distance. There are also trails down to the creek via Wallace Creek and from the USFS road. This area is populated by a relatively large number of very small fish that have migrated upstream from the Rubicon River. Again, in the summer and early fall, fishing here is poor due to low, warm flows and crystal clear water.

7430 Morningside Dr
Granite Bay, CA 95746
Ph: 916-205-6073
E-mail: hbp@surewest.net
http://horseshoebarpreserve.com/

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 use and activities *should be* included in the Recreational Studies.

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 Schaeffer bs@sotewest.net
2. Nick Strelchuk strelch@aol.com
3. Hans Geyer hansgeyer@hotmail.com
4. Frank Rinella Sierraguide@SBCglobal.net
5. Joe Byrne JWBYRNE@BYRNECOMPANIES.COM
6. Bill Carnazzo billcarnazzo bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net

(over)

7. R. Heath Wakelee R. H. Wakelee hwakelee@gmail.com
8. Daniel A. Street [illegible] dstreet@saclawyers.com

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	Marin: 20
San Mateo: 40	San Francisco: 80
Sacramento: 300	Nevada: 150
Placer: 530	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:	100%	
Access to stream/river:	100%	
Cost of facility access fee	100%	
Presence of onsite mgr/host:		30%
Lack of Crowding	100%	

14. How important are each of the flowing 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	60%	40%

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" to18" 25%: 18" to 22" 5%