

July 16, 2008

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: Jean McCue
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Support for Revocation of Auburn Dam Water Rights Permits

Ms. Doduc,

As professional river outfitters we have first hand knowledge, on the most intimate level, of the value that the North and Middle Forks of the American River canyons represent. And whilst we welcome a robust debate on the future of these, and other, rivers in our state, we also recognize that it is important that the state of California uphold its laws, rules and regulations as regards water rights issues. We support the Water Board's proposed revocation of the water rights permits held by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Auburn Dam Project. Revoking these permits will allow the water to be put to true beneficial use and will help ensure that the outstanding natural resources of the North and Middle Fork American Rivers are protected for the future. Revocation will also help bring existing allocations in line with existing uses.

A large multi-use dam on the American River would drown two large canyons that are treasured by Californians for their rich environmental and cultural resources as well as their extensive recreational opportunities. These water permits have been held by the Bureau for over 35 years without action. Auburn Dam continues to have no financial support, insufficient legislative support, and because of environmental concerns and inflating costs, is certainly not supported by most Californians. By finally revoking the unused water rights permits associated with this project, we can finally move on to using this water for truly beneficial purposes.

Once again, we support the proposed revocation of permits 16209, 16210, 16211, and 16212 currently held by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is an action that is long overdue.

Respectfully,

Nathan Rangel
President
Adventure Connection

Scott Underwood
President
Mother Lode River Center

Don Hill
President
American River Rec.

Don Koolmes
President
Whitewater Connection

Jerry Ashburn
President
Earthtrek Expeditions

Roger Lee
President
Wilderness Adventures

Scott Armstrong
President
All Outdoors

Bill McGinnis
President
Whitewater Voyages

Norm Schoenhoff
President
Whitewater Excitement

Steve Liles
President
WET River Trips

Donna Hunter
President
Mariah Wilderness Expeditions

Mike Doyle
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Beyond Limits

George Wendt
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Oars, Inc.

Jon Osgood
President
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