

Regional Parks Department
Jeffrey R. Leatherman, Director



Divisions
Administration
Golf
Leisure Services
Maintenance
Rangers
Therapeutic Recreation Services

County of Sacramento

November 5, 2013

*Received
11/7/2013*

Mrs. Betsy Weiland
Save the American River Association
4441 Auburn Blvd., Suite H
Sacramento CA 95841

Re: Permit for Gold Country Orienteers Special Event on the American River Parkway and Regional Parks Permitting Process Defects

Mrs. Weiland,

This letter is provided in response to your letter dated September 24, 2013 regarding the permit issued to the Gold Country Orienteers for an orienteering event on the American River Parkway. For at least 20 years the Gold Country Orienteers have hosted events for the orienteering community on the American River Parkway. Table 3.2 of the American River Parkway Plan (Parkway Plan) identifies orienteering as an existing and recognized activity in the River Bend Park, Effie Yeaw Interpretive Center, Rossmoor Bar, and Upper Sunrise/ Lower Sunrise land use areas. Additionally, the Parkway Plan allows for "special events that may occasionally attract larger groups within the Protected Area of the Parkway."

The Department reviews the applications for each special event carefully and has determined that the limited duration, size and frequency of the orienteering events allow for the special event to occur while minimizing the impacts to the Parkway's natural setting and the other Parkway visitors. During our review of the application the Department has determined that the level of detail provided within the application was adequate to permit the event. Items such as a parking plan, restrooms, fencing, food services, and dumpsters are traditionally not required for an event of 90-125 participants as our existing facilities are more than adequate to accommodate a group of this size.

While the timing aspect of an orienteering event is one component the Department considers in our review, the Parkway Plan does not place limitations on complete events with the exception of events occurring on the bike trail. Additionally, each participant or group is able to choose their own route to the destinations causing participants to spread out in the Parkway which minimizes congestion on trails, impacts to users and impacts to the environment.

Should you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Leatherman
Director, Department of Regional Parks

cc: Board of Supervisors

Mr. Bradley J. Hudson, Sacramento County Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Robert B. Leonard, Chief Deputy County Executive

Ms. Cindy Lee, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Mr. Clyde Macdonald, SARA President

American River Parkway Foundation

American River Natural History Association

Gold Country Orienteers

Recreation and Park Commission

American River Parkway Advisory Committee