



Save the American River Association

4441 Auburn Blvd., Suite H • Sacramento, CA 95841-4139

916-482-2551 • E-mail: info@SARAriverwatch.org • www.SARAriverwatch.org

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September 24, 2013

Board of Supervisors
Sacramento County
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Peters and Board Members:

Your Board is identified in the American River Parkway Plan 2008 as the final authority regarding permits issued by your Regional Parks Department for special events and group activities on the American River Parkway. Accordingly, we are informing you of (1) our objection to the permit issued by your Regional Parks Department on March 7, 2013, allowing an "orienteering meet" to occur on the Parkway on September 15, 2013, and (2) our continuing objection to defects in the Regional Parks permitting process that has previously been described to you and your staff.

Attached are the results of our review of the subject permit and event. SARA became aware of this event after it happened and was contacted with a firsthand observation of the event in progress. Based on the firsthand account and subsequent review of the American River Parkway Plan 2008, the Findings in the attached conclude that the County violated state law by issuing a special event permit that is not consistent with the American River Parkway Plan 2008.

Regarding defects in the Regional Parks permitting process that we believe need to be remedied, please refer to our letter to you dated August 20, 2013.

The American River Parkway Plan 2008 requires the County to manage the Parkway to "ensure the protection of the Parkway resources, its environmental quality, and natural values." The County cannot meet this requirement without the mandated Resource Impact Monitoring Program. Furthermore, the County does not have the ability to issue a host of permits that are consistent with the American River Parkway Plan 2008 without the above mentioned mandated program because without adequate current knowledge of the natural resources it cannot determine that impacts from users and activities on the Parkway's "environmental quality" and "natural values" will be minimal.

Guardians of the American River and Parkway since 1961

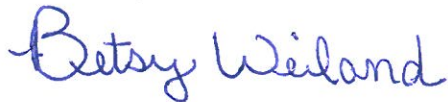
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The American River Parkway belongs to the people and is held in trust for the public by the County. The public is entitled to meaningful opportunities to participate in decision making regarding the uses in the Parkway. Until the American River Parkway Plan 2008 is amended by means of the public process laid out in the Plan, the public has a right to expect the County will, in all respects, reasonably interpret and apply the American River Parkway Plan 2008.

SARA stands ready to support you in any way we can to address these significant matters.

Sincerely,



Betsy Weiland
Land Use Chairperson
Save the American River Association

Attachment

Cc: SARA Board and Advisory Council
Mr. Bradley J. Hudson, Sacramento County Executive
Ms. Cindy Lee, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert B. Leonard, Chief Deputy County Executive – Municipal Services
Jeffrey R. Leatherman, Director Regional Parks – Municipal Services
American River Parkway Foundation
American River Natural History Association
Mr. Don Mooney, Esq.