

January 6, 2004

The Honorable Sue Horne  
Chairwoman,  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: **Agenda #31 – Receipt of \$60,000 for South Yuba River Plan maps  
and website - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Horne and Members of the Board:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the CABPRO members who live, work, own property, recreate, or otherwise use lands in the area covered by the South Yuba River Comprehensive Management Plan. Our members consist of both public land users and private property owners. As a staff person, I have offered to proof the Community Binder that will be assembled as background information for this plan. I have submitted additional materials for group review. I have looked at some of the recreational data/surveys done in the river corridor. I have participated in the meetings to develop this plan, as has our Chairman of the Board, Simi Lyss, and various members.

One of the expected outcomes of this plan is to protect private property owners from negative public land impacts (trash, fire danger, trespass, etc.) Another outcome is the coordinated management of the public lands themselves, so users are not dealing with three plans (Forest Service, BLM, State Parks). We recognize that this plan does not address short term needs which may come up as the plan is being prepared. In the MOU, you as the County, in my opinion, have the power to request that some short term solutions be provided where appropriate.

In the strongest possible terms, we urge the County to remain as a signer on this MOU. We urge the County to exercise its role as the people's voice, the safety net, if need be. The County is the closest level of government to the people and as such, deserves a seat at the planning table. In counties across California, cooperative agreements with the feds are being negotiated. Classes are held to teach counties how to effectively deal with federal planning efforts. The MOU is a good starting point to build this relationship. The MOU expires on December 31 of this year. If, in your deliberation today, you see need to add or change language in the MOU, make that part of your action to accept this \$60,000. Use your power in a positive fashion.

I have been extremely disappointed that the County has not delivered on its work product as a partner in the South Yuba planning process. We have been waiting several months now for a correct map showing private and public parcels. We have been waiting for a full service website as an information clearinghouse. At this point in time, I don't care who completes the maps or creates the website. If you do accept this money, you may want to request quarterly reports back from your Planning and GIS Departments as to the progress of the maps and website. If you do not accept this money, I will be politely reminding State Parks, the Forest Service, and BLM that we are waiting, and have been waiting, for those items since the summer.

In closing, I restate for the record: we did not support the Forest Service and BLM recommendation in 1999 for federal designation of the South Yuba as a Wild and Scenic River. We did not support the California legislature's action in 1999 to designate the South Yuba as a state Wild and Scenic River. But those things did happen. We will stay involved for those private property owners and public land users who deserve a balanced and reasonable plan. We are committed to insuring that the best possible decision comes out of this comprehensive management plan, and we hope you feel the same.

Please contact me at 582-4051 or [davison@sierra.net](mailto:davison@sierra.net) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Davison  
Field Director