



July 16, 2016

Mr. Jason DeWall
Gold Fields District Superintendent
CA Department of Parks and Recreation
7806 Folsom Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630

Mr. Drew Lessard
Area Manager
United States Bureau of Reclamation
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630

Re: China Bar Bridge and Auburn to Cool Connector Trail - Support

Dear Messrs. DeWall and Lessard:

The Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC) and the Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association (LBHA) strongly support expansion of the current multiuse trail system and construction of a bridge in the vicinity of China Bar. We believe these actions should be implemented by California State Parks, and supported by the Bureau of Reclamation expeditiously; and FATRAC and LBHA pledge our support to reach this goal.

FATRAC and LBHA have already conducted several meetings with Protect American River Canyons (PARC) to develop a proposal to better define trail routes to meet the needs of all user groups within the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA). The China Bar Bridge would be a critical component to build trail capacity, connectivity and safety. The greatest value of the bridge is dependent on the trail system it connects. At present, bikers cannot access Cool or the Confluence from Auburn Overlook. This results in safety concerns due to sporadic use of old, existing horse/hiker trails in the area. It is imperative that a well designed multiuse and/or parallel trail system be developed that connects the Auburn Overlook, the Confluence and Cool to better serve all trail users and meet current and future State Recreation Area goals.

FATRAC and LBHA intend to continue support for this important project throughout the planning and development phases, through construction and into the future as the trails and bridge are monitored and maintained in the coming years.

FATRAC and LBHA are separate non-profit, volunteer based trail advocacy organizations, founded in 1988 and 1984 respectively. Both organizations have been instrumental in developing and maintaining trails in the greater Sacramento area and ASRA and FLSRA specifically. While FATRAC will continue to support mountain biking interests and LBHA will continue to support equestrian interests, both organizations realize the importance of working

collaboratively to reach the mutual goal of improving our State Parks, increasing trail safety, capacity and connectivity, and developing partnerships to manage ASRA and FLSRA with constructive community input.

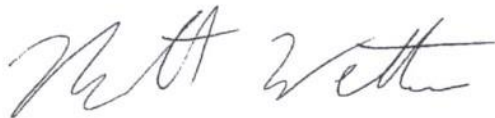
To that end, both FATRAC and LBHA urge State Parks to consider moving forward with both the trail expansion and bridge construction projects expeditiously. These projects:

- would be supported by nearly all user groups;
- would alleviate congestion on other trails, and increase trail safety and overall capacity of the ASRA and FLSRA;
- was suggested as part of the Auburn to Cool trail mitigation measures in the 2002 Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the American River Pump Station;
- was already evaluated in a 2007 Feasibility Study by State Parks;
- is in line with the existing 1992 Resource Management Plan;
- is in line with the Final FLSRA General Plan;
- will be in line with the overall goals of any reasonably foreseeable version of the Final ASRA General Plan.

As such, FATRAC and LBHA reiterate our request that State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation take measurable actions towards implementation of a project to construct a multi-use (equestrian, mountain bike and pedestrian) trail bridge in the vicinity of the China Bar in conjunction with development and construction of a multi-use trail network that connects the Auburn Overlook, the Confluence and Cool. In support of this request, FATRAC and LBHA pledge our support to assist the ASRA and FLSRA community with planning, fundraising, building and maintaining the associated trail network and bridge.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience to discuss this exciting new partnership opportunity. Feel free to contact Matt Wetter, President of FATRAC, at matt.wetter@fatrac.org or 916-201-8337; or Patricia Gibbs, LBHA trails coordinator, at trish@landmapper.net or (916) 765-3006.

Sincerely,



Matt Wetter, FATRAC President



Patricia Gibbs, LBHA Trails Coordinator

cc:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate;
The Honorable Tom McClintock, U.S. House of Representatives, 4th District of CA;
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, CA Senate, Senate District 4;
The Honorable Ted Gaines, CA Senate, Senate District 1;
The Honorable Beth Gaines, CA Assembly, Assembly District 6;
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, CA Assembly, Assembly District 5;
Placer County Board of Supervisors (via e-mail);
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors;
Auburn Endurance Capital Committee;
Protect American River Canyon (via e-mail)
Alexandra Stehl, Mike Schneider, and Rich Preston, of California State Parks (via e-mail)