



**Initial Interest Statements  
PCWA Middle Fork Project Relicensing**

June 5, 2006

Dear Stakeholders in the Middle Fork American Relicensing Process,

In response to PCWA’s request for initial interest statements from the stakeholders, the Foothills Water Network Middle Fork Working Group would like to submit the enclosed interests on behalf of its member groups. While every member may not endorse each interest listed, this list provides a snapshot of the range of interests our members have discussed over the last months.

The following interest statements are presented as a way to develop a preliminary understanding of stakeholder interests at the beginning of the MFP relicensing process. These statements are in no way presented as absolute or definitive representations/policies/positions of any individuals/organizations/agencies interests. It is recognized that as the MFP is studied and better understood, stakeholder interests will change or be refined.

**INITIAL INTERESTS**

<b><u>CUMULATIVE EFFECT</u></b>
Healthy functioning Rubicon and Middle Fork American watersheds including the waterway, riparian corridor, and uplands.
Preservation of wild and scenic values in Rubicon River
Watershed management process that is flexible in its capacity to respond to changing conditions over the course of the license period and still meet the balanced objectives of stakeholders.
Consistency between hydropower operations and the Forest Plan, BLM Plan and with the reasonable protection of other beneficial uses of water as identified in the Basin Plan.
Ability to evaluate compliance and resource responses to changes in streamflows.
<b><u>GEOLOGICAL AND SOIL RESOURCES</u></b>
Channel maintenance, flexibility, stability, and upland slope integrity
Suitable levels of sedimentation for ecosystem and hydrologic functioning

**WATER/AQUATIC RESOURCES**

Populations of native aquatic biota, including fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and riparian species are viable with adequate habitat consistent with species' needs. All life stages of native aquatic species are maintained or enhanced.

Flows are protective of the designated beneficial uses of cold freshwater habitat and warm freshwater habitat as appropriate, and do not adversely affect water temperatures for local aquatic- and riparian-dependent species assemblages.

Minimization of the effects of stream diversions or other flow modifications from hydroelectric projects on threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Protection and enhancement of ecological diversity to preserve and foster the biological resiliency of the system.

Good water quality - fishable, swimmable, drinkable;

Minimization of hazardous material in watershed and channel.

Maintenance of reservoir levels sufficient to ensure that aesthetic, recreational, ecological needs are addressed.

**FISHERY RESOURCES**

Favorable conditions for all life stages of fisheries

Protection and Enhancement of designated wild trout streams on the Rubicon River

Healthy populations of wild trout and their habitat

Healthy anadromous fisheries and trout fisheries and habitat in Western Placer Creeks including: Dry Creek, Coon Creek, Pleasant Grove, Curry Creek, and Auburn Ravine

**TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES**

Existing roads, trails, and access points to the Middle Fork American canyon are well-maintained

Ability for public to access public and waterways for multiple uses

**SHORELINE MANAGEMENT**

Healthy and functioning native riparian vegetative communities on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers

Healthy native bird population

**RECREATION**

Streamflow regime that optimizes recreational opportunities, including stream angling, swimming, waterplay, boating, and other recreational beneficial uses that are consistent with ecosystem capabilities; that minimize user and ecological conflicts; and that maintain a high degree of user satisfaction, with due consideration for lake levels and levels of quality lake-based recreation.

Financially sound and economically beneficial commercial, instructional, and private kayaking and rafting industry combined with recreation management that offer the public safe and fun access to public waterways.

Range of angling opportunities for fishermen

Preservation of fishability values ie. isolation; wilderness experience; accessibility; health of the watershed.
Protection and enhancement of lake-fishing opportunities consistent with overall lake-based recreation
Safe and reliable existing access points in the Midde Fork American and Rubicon watersheds
Well-kept existing campgrounds for recreational enjoyment
Both opportunities for wilderness experience as well as opportunities for well-maintained accessible public access points
Increased public awareness of recreational, ecological, cultural, historical and economic values to increase public stewardship and investment in the health of the watersheds and natural resources
Provision of quality day use and overnight recreation opportunities associated with the Project that do not adversely impact natural resources.
Visual quality meets appropriate management area direction.
<b><u>ECONOMICS</u></b>
Ongoing investment in the American and Rubicon watersheds as well as good stewardship to protect and enhance the health of the watersheds for generations to come.
<b><u>CULTURAL</u></b>
Protection of cultural, historic, and archaeological resources
Interpretation of cultural, historic, and archaeological resources for public education, recreation, increased stewardship

In Appendix A, we have included a diagram of Indicators of Watershed Health developed by the EPA to demonstrate all the components of watershed health. This particular framework for watershed indicators is gaining traction with the state resources agencies in response to the Governor’s Initiative on Watershed Health as his State of the state in January 2005.

Thank you for the opportunity for submitting our initial interest statements.

Sincerely,

Nate Rangel California Outdoors  
Monte Hendricks, Rubicon River Angler  
Larry Goodell, Auburn Flycasters  
Bill Templin American River Watershed Group  
Dan Crandall Current Adventures  
Terry Davis, Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club  
Marilyn Jasper, Clover Valley Foundation and Placer Group Sierra Club  
Julie Leimbach, Foothills Water Network

Appendix A: Indicators of Watershed Health, EPA

