

Peter Bross, CABIN JOHN, MD.

Dear Secretary Bose,

For many years, I have been an enthusiastic paddler of the Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River. I have kayaked rivers around the world and I think the main Tuolumne is one of the greatest wild and scenic recreational experiences anywhere on the planet.

I am writing to oppose the FERC DEIS Staff Alternative for the Don Pedro Project. Specifically, in the alternative, FERC staff does not recommend the installation of a whitewater boating take-out facility upstream of Ward's Ferry because they mistakenly believe there is no impact on recreation caused by the Don Pedro Project.

The impacts to the Tuolumne River shoreline at Ward's Ferry bridge are caused entirely by the fluctuating reservoir levels controlled by the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project. Boaters in need of terrain and space to stage equipment have long been forced to the Ward's Ferry Bridge road by the utter lack of adequate shoreline boating facilities that can withstand the constant scouring of Don Pedro Reservoir levels.

Tuolumne River stakeholders have repeatedly provided improvements within their budget at Ward's Ferry Bridge that have been washed away by the Don Pedro Project. This includes trail improvements coordinated by the Tuolumne River Trust, USFS and Commercial Outfitters.

Whitewater flows from CCSF's Holm Powerhouse, U.S. Forest Service boating permits and Tuolumne County Road management have no discernible effect on Tuolumne River shoreline at the Ward's Ferry Bridge take-out. The lake levels are determined entirely by the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project. Whitewater boating facilities are clearly impacted by the Don Pedro project and should be addressed in the new hydropower license.

As such, I fully support the Bureau of Land Management's mandatory 4(e) conditions that outline whitewater boating facility improvements at Ward's Ferry Bridge as mitigation for the impacts of the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project. These conditions provide long needed upgrades at Ward's Ferry Bridge for the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River. In addition these conditions were drawn up by BLM with a wide range of stakeholder input from American Whitewater, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Tuolumne County, Tuolumne River Trust and Tuolumne River Outfitters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Bross, MD

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