

APPENDIX B
SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

SYAR INSTREAM MINING - ALEXANDER VALLEY PROJECT

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

received through May 17, 2006

State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit, Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento - April 18, 2006

- Clearinghouse received Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Syar Instream - Alexander Valley Project.
- Clearinghouse responsible for forwarding any comments received to the County.

State Department of Fish and Game, Yountville - April 21, 2006 and May 2, 2006

- DFG review indicates that the project may result in changes to the fish and wildlife resources, therefore a *de minimis* determination is not appropriate.
- Provide a complete assessment of habitats, flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area. Include reasonable foreseeable direct or indirect changes.
- DFG recommends reviewing the survey and monitoring protocols and guidelines.
- CESA Permit must be obtained if the project has the potential to result in the take of a listed endangered species.
- Activities that will divert or obstruct the natural flow of water may require a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Bill Thompson, Geyserville - May 9, 2006

- Property owner in Alexander Valley.
- 192 daily truck trips must be considered with the River Rock Casino daily and weekend vehicle trips.
- Casino expansion should be considered.
- Consider the impacts to wildlife and salmon.
- Impacts from noise, pollution and traffic will erode the peace and quiet enjoyment of the area and should be considered in the EIR.

David Loop, Geyserville

- Member of the Geyserville Planning Committee.
- Gravel is a great renewable resource.
- Mining the bars is a good idea.
- Consider using rail to haul mined material.
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Wes Brubacher (written statement read by Johanna Vanoni at Scoping Meeting), Geyserville

- Geyserville bridge was damaged by misdirected water caused by the gravel bar.
- Recommends lowering the gravel bars to the level of the river bed.
- There is a lot of erosion of agricultural land and thus siltation downstream.
- Lowering gravel bars would control erosion and therefore siltation.

- Erosion is undermining roadways, River Road and River Lane.
- Poor water quality in the middle and lower reaches of the river caused by siltation.

Edward McCutchan, Geyserville (Also submitted oral statement)

- Bank erosion is occurring.
- Need to remove gravel to lower the buildup of “load accumulation” so there is more room for water in the river.
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Don McEnhill, Healdsburg (Also presented a oral statement at the Scoping Meeting and this written statement contained a CD with two documents, [1] An Evaluation of Regulations, Effects, and Management of Aggregation Mining in Northern and Central Coastal California, Laird, A., et.al., NMFS, September, 2000 and [2] Hungry Water: Effects of Dams and Gravel Mining on River Channels, Kondolf, G.M., 1997)

- Represents Russian Riverkeeper
- Sees no acknowledgment or mitigations proposed for the basic impacts of gravel mining - creating a bedload trap and increasing the sediment deficit in the Russian River.
- Achieving flood control or bank stability through gravel mining is transitory and any benefits may be reversed without continued mining.
- In addition to an ARM Plan amendment, feels that the General Plan needs to be amended.
- Environmental review necessary to address views of property owner, it should be clearly noted that farming occurs in the floodplain and that a floodplain receives and spreads out peak flow.
- EIR should acknowledge that severe channel degradation occurs in all reaches of the Russian River, and that only a small portion of degradation is due to Lake Mendicino but the primary reason for degradation is gravel mining.
- Riparian forest, that would normally protect vineyards are gone because of past mining activities.
- Cumulative impacts must include upstream and Alexander Valley extraction areas, including Ukiah Valley, Shamrock and Syar/Dewitt.
- Thorough cumulative impact review and discussion of impacts, including measuring cross-sections, thalweg, a safe yield, and future years of mining.
- Applaud adaptive management but won't know if there are impacts until the next high-flow period, too many uncertainties.
- With adaptive management, the public will not have the opportunity to comment on changes.
- Identifies deficiencies in the ARM Plan.

Harry Black, Geyserville

- Has been farming for 25 years, family in valley for 5 generations and has witnessed flood damage.
- Installations of the dams created an artificial river, running consistently, at higher levels for longer periods of time, with more eroded banks and building up of gravel.
- Cannot afford to leave the river alone, must remove gravel.
- Geyserville Bridge damaged because of buildup of gravel.
- Support removal of gravel.

Brian Hines, Santa Rosa (also spoke at the Scoping Meeting)

- Represents Trout Unlimited.
- Provided a website for the Russian River Watershed Council, .

Larry Cadd, Geyserville (also spoke at the Scoping Meeting)

- Lived in area 57 years, combine family acreage appx. 350 acres on both sides of the river.
- Survival of families farm is threatened by flooding. Added burden placed on river when dams constructed.
- No project alternative should consider impacts to farms and agricultural values.
- Hydrology in Alexander Valley different than other parts of the river.
- Studies should undergo peer review to reach a consensus based on sound science.
- Damage and economic loss from flooding can be staggering, provides examples.
- Evaluate both the views of those directly impacted by the flooding and those who experience no direct loss.
- Supports use of adaptive management for channel maintenance and resource use.

David Fanucchi, Geyserville (Also spoke at Scoping Meeting and submitted additional photo's with written statement)

- Submitting photos of the December 2005 New Years eve flood event.
- Mining during the 1970's through part of the 1990's stopped the pouring of sand and gravel into the fields.
- Back to where the flooding was in the 1950's and 1960's when mining did not occur, high bars and vegetation choking the river flow.
- Review the cross-sections to see if they indicate elevation in the level of the bars.
- River replenishes itself.
- Bar skimming ma save riparian and agricultural lands.
- Supports project.