1 WHEN WE MOVE INTO THIS COMMENT PERIOD, THIS IS
2 MORE FORMAL HEARING-TYPE ENVIRONMENT, AND SO WE'RE GOING
3 TO BE -- NOT RESPONDING TO YOUR COMMENTS, BUT WE ARE
4 HAVING THEM RECORDED HERE. MARY BARDELLINI WILL BE
5 PRODUCING A REPORT VERBATIM FOR WHAT IS SAID, AND I DO
6 ASK THAT YOU TAKE A MICROPHONE. TAMMY HAS A MICROPHONE
7 HERE, AND THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OVER HERE. IF SOMEBODY
8 WANTS TO STAND AT THE PODIUM, YOU CAN DO THAT TOO.
9 I WILL BE CALLING EACH PERSON. PROBABLY WHAT
10 I'LL DO, I'LL CALL ONE PERSON AND THEN THE NEXT. SO,
11 YOU CAN RAISE YOUR HAND AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU GIVE
12 TAMMY SOME TIME TO GET A MIKE TO YOU.
13 I AM GOING TO ASK THAT YOU INITIALLY LIMIT
14 YOUR COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES. WE'VE GOT SUFFICIENT
15 PEOPLE HERE TO KEEP US BUSY WELL OVER AN HOUR AT THREE
16 MINUTES EACH. AND IF YOU HAVE MORE EXTENSIVE COMMENTS,
17 WE ASK THAT YOU SUMMARIZE THEM AND PROVIDE US THE MORE
18 DETAILED COMMENTS IN WRITING.
19 AFTER WE GO THROUGH ALL THE CARDS, IF SOMEBODY
20 WANTS TO ADD SOME FURTHER COMMENT, THAT'S FINE, BUT YOU
21 DO HAVE TO FILL OUT ENOUGH SPEAKER CARDS SO I KNOW
22 YOU'RE WANTING TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS.
T-1 23 OKAY. WITH THAT, THE FIRST SPEAKER WOULD BE
24 BILL MICHEL, FOLLOWED BY MARY ABBOTT.
25 MR. MICHEL: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS BILL

Beginning of formal hearing and speaker comment session.

T-1.A

MICHEL. I'M A 15-YEAR RESIDENT OF AUBURN. I'VE BEEN A PADDLER SINCE 1974, AND I'M HERE TONIGHT TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE PLAN, THE MID-CHANNEL DIVERSION PROJECTS.

I ACTUALLY FEEL VERY JOYFUL TO BE STANDING HERE TONIGHT. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS IN PARTICULAR TO PARC, PROTECT AMERICAN RIVER CANYONS, TO ALL THE FOLKS WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO BRING US TO THIS POINT, INCLUDING THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE LATE FRANK ULRICH.

WHILE I'M VERY HAPPY FOR PCWA THAT YOU'RE GETTING WHAT YOU WANT IN TERMS OF THE PUMPING STATION, WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO TONIGHT IS ADDRESS THE RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN, PARTICULARLY THE RECREATION OF A NATURALLY APPEARING AND FUNCTIONING RIVER BED.

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE'RE NOT THE FIRST COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAS DECIDED TO RESTORE THEIR RIVER. THIS SHOULD GIVE US SOME COMFORT. IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE, BUT PERHAPS NEVER ON SUCH A GRAND SCALE.

ABOUT 14 YEARS AGO, WHEN I BEGAN TO FIRST LOOK INTO THIS SUBJECT, I WAS FOND OF CARRYING AROUND THIS ARTICLE. APPEARED IN THE MAY 1977 OF RIVER RUNNER MAGAZINE, AND THEY HAD AN ARTICLE IN THIS MAGAZINE THAT DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS OF CITIES WHO HAD RESTORED THEIR RIVERS AND CREATED MANMADE WATER COURSES. THE ARTICLE

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A. Project support noted.

1 MENTIONS SOUTH BEND AND WAUSAU, WISCONSIN, AS EXAMPLES.
2 AND SINCE THEN, OTHER COMMUNITIES, LARGE AND
3 SMALL, HAVE -- DENVER, COLORADO, WAS MENTIONED,
4 MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK. THESE
5 CITIES HAVE LOOKED INTO THE IDEA OF CREATING WATER
6 PARKS. ALL THE PROPOSED PARKS, ALL THE PROJECTS WERE
7 DIFFERENT, BUT IN EACH CASE EMPHASIS WAS PUT ON CREATING
8 WATER COURSES THAT WERE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING, EXCITING
9 TO THE PUBLIC, AND SAFE.
10 NOW, IN OUR BACK YARD WE HAVE A LOT OF ROCK TO
11 REMOVE TO GET DOWN TO WHERE THE RIVER WILL ACTUALLY FLOW
12 DOWNSTREAM, AND A PROJECT LIKE THIS NEEDS A GENERAL.
13 AND THIS IS THE MAIN POINT THAT I WANT TO MAKE.
14 PERHAPS THE MOST ENJOYABLE, SATISFYING DAY
15 THAT I HAVE SPENT IN MY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS STRUGGLE
16 CAME ON A SUNNY DAY IN EARLY 1997, -- NOVEMBER OF 1997,
17 I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD JOHN ANDERSON AND A GROUP
18 OF PADDLERS, SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IN THIS ROOM,
19 DOWN THE AUBURN DAM RUN.
20 AND I'M VERY GRATIFIED THAT BOTH THE BUREAU
21 AND PCWA ARE UTILIZING THE SERVICES OF JOHN ANDERSON.
22 JOHN, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW THIS, DEVELOPED THE WHITE
23 WATER COURSE ON THE OCOEE RIVER FOR THE 1997 OLYMPICS,
24 AND HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING, AND I APPLAUD THE EFFORTS
25 TO UTILIZE HIS TALENTS.

WITH THE VOLUME OF ROCK THAT NEEDS TO BE REMOVED TO CREATE A MANDATE OF A FUNCTIONING RIVER BED, IT'S CRITICAL THAT WE HAVE THE INPUT OF AN EXPERT AND A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT HOW MUCH THIS IS GOING TO COST. JOHN IS SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP US GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT AND SAVE US MONEY.

IN CLOSING I'D LIKE TO SAY THE RESTORATION OF THE RIVER CHANNEL IS REALLY ONLY A BEGINNING. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE IN THE AUBURN AREA TO PUT THEIR FULL WEIGHT BEHIND THIS PROJECT. IF YOU'VE BEEN ON THE TRUCKEE RIVER AT NORTH LAKE TAHOE OR DOWN THE LOWER AMERICAN IN SACRAMENTO, YOU CAN GET A FEEL FOR HOW POPULAR OUR AUBURN DAM RUN WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME.

WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR OWN BACK YARD IS POTENTIALLY ONE OF THE GREATEST PARKS IN THE NATION. WHETHER WE CALL IT AMERICAN RIVER CONFLUENCE PARKWAY OR ARC PARK OR FRANK ULRICH MEMORIAL PARK OR THE AUBURN GOLD RUSH PARK, IT NEEDS AN OFFICIAL NAME.

THERE ARE A LOT OF VARIOUS IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN FLOATED AROUND ABOUT, YOU KNOW, WHAT WE CAN DO TO RESTORE OUR PARK. I REMEMBER GEORGE BELAND YEARS AGO MENTIONED PUTTING A TRAM ACROSS THE CANYON. IMAGINE THE FESTIVALS THAT COULD BE HELD DOWN IN THE CANYON INSTEAD OF THE OVERLOOK. THERE WERE TERRACES CUT DURING

1 CONSTRUCTION COULD BE USED AS PARKING AREAS. ROADS
2 COULD BE IMPROVED.
3 I'M NOT HERE TO ENDORSE ANY PARTICULAR IDEA OR
4 CONCEPT. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR OUR
5 ARC PARK IS IMMENSE, AND -- I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THIS,
6 NOW WE ARE FREED FROM THE FALSE VISION OF AN AUBURN
7 DAM -- WE CAN BEGIN TO CONCENTRATE ON IDEAS FOR
8 RESTORING THE CANYON.
9 BUT IT ALL STARTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CANYON
10 WITH THE RESTORATION OF THE CHANNEL, AND I ENCOURAGE THE
11 BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GET BEHIND THIS PLAN, AND I
12 APPLAUD THE BUREAU AND PCWA TO UTILIZE JOHN ANDERSON'S
13 SERVICES.
14 MR. HALL: THANK YOU. MARY ABBOTT AND
15 FOLLOWED BY STEVEN PROE.
16 BY THE WAY, WHEN YOUR THREE MINUTES IS
17 EXPIRED, I'LL STAND. I ASK IF YOU MIGHT SUMMARIZE AT
18 THAT POINT.
T-2 19 MS. ABBOTT: I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO GO UP TO
20 THAT PODIUM BECAUSE I'LL PROBABLY FALL DOWN FROM
21 SHAKING.
22 FIRST OF ALL, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M MARY
23 ABBOTT. I'VE LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR NINE YEARS. BUT I
24 FIRST CAME TO THE AUBURN AREA 1979, WHEN I CAME THROUGH
25 HERE ON MY WAY TO WHITE WATER SCHOOL ON THE SOUTH FORK

OF THE AMERICAN RIVER IN THE STANISLAUS RIVER CANYONS.

I ACTUALLY WAS ALSO THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE NORTH COAST CHAPTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE RIVER FOR SIX YEARS IN THE MID-'80S, BUT NOW I AM HERE TODAY TO SPEAK AS AN EQUESTRIAN. AND I AM NOT -- AND I AM TOTALLY -- I THINK MOST OF MY EQUESTRIAN FRIENDS ARE FOR THE RESTORATION OF AN ALL NATURAL, FREE-FLOWING RIVER THROUGH THIS SECTION.

AND TO ADDRESS THE WOMAN'S STATEMENT OVER THERE ABOUT NOT WASTING 31 MILLION DOLLARS -- I SAY FILL

T-2.A THAT TUNNEL. YOU KNOW, LET'S JUST FILL IT IN AND MAKE SURE THAT IT DOESN'T GET USED AGAIN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FAUX AUBURN DAM.

NEXT, I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO READ THE EIR. I'M HERE BECAUSE I READ SOMETHING IN THE NEWSPAPER ABOUT, NO, OUR MINIMAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH THE CLOSING OF THE AUBURN-TO-COOL TRAIL. I DON'T KNOW HOW THOROUGH A STUDY THEY DID ON THIS -- STOP SHAKING -- BUT I WANT TO DO MY OWN LITTLE SURVEY HERE. HOW MANY PEOPLE THINK IT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO CLOSE THE AUBURN-TO-COOL TRAIL?

T-2.B (PEOPLE RAISE THEIR HANDS.)

MS. ABBOTT: 85 PERCENT AT LEAST. THEY COULDN'T HEAR YOU -- BEFORE THE TAPE. SO, RETAKE THAT VOTE, AND ON THE COUNT OF THREE, IF YOU THINK THERE'S

A. Please refer to Master Response 3.1.4, Auburn Dam Construction Bypass Tunnel.

B. Please refer to Master Response 3.1.1, Auburn-to-Cool Trail.

GOING TO BE AN IMPACT WITH THE CLOSURE OF THAT TRAIL FROM AUBURN-TO-COOL, GIVE ME A NICE LOUD YES.

(AUDIENCE RESPONDS.)

MS. ABBOTT: THAT MAKES MY POINT WHY I'M HERE, AND I PLAN TO STUDY THE EIR MORE. I THANK -- HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK HERE TODAY. I CERTAINLY HOPE THE FINAL EIR WILL CONSIDER A BRIDGE SO THAT RUNNERS, HIKERS EQUESTRIANS, WHO HAVE USED THAT TRAIL FOR YEARS, CAN CONTINUE TO UTILIZE THAT TRAIL, AND THAT LITTLE PIZZA PLACE IN COOL CAN STILL GET MY BUSINESS WHEN I PARK AT THE OVERLOOK.

SO, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT. ALSO, I NOTICED IN YOUR NICE VISUALS OF RESTORING THE RIVER CANYON, I DID NOT SEE A TRAIL WITH SOME SWITCHBACKS UP THAT SIDE LEADING TO COOL. IF THAT BRIDGE CANNOT BE BUILT THE FIRST GO-AROUND, PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE A NICE WIDE SECTION WHERE HORSES COULD CROSS MOST OF THE YEAR. BUT TO ME THAT'S JUST TEMPORARY. WE NEED A BRIDGE, AND WE NEED TO HAVE THAT TRAIL MAINTAINED TO COOL, ALONG WITH A FREE-FLOWING RIVER.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

MR. HALL: THANKS, MARY.

NEXT SPEAKER IS STEVEN PROE, FOLLOWED BY BOB DHONDT.

T-3

MR. PROE: I AGREE WITH THE LADY PREVIOUSLY. I FIRST COMMENTED ON THIS PROJECT AND SENT IN WRITTEN RESPONSES. AT THAT TIME WHEN WE DISCUSSED THE POTENTIAL FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT, THERE WAS A BRIDGE INCLUDED,

T-3.A

AND SOMEHOW IT DISAPPEARED, AND THEN IT CAME UP AS INSIGNIFICANT. AND YET THE DOCUMENTS THAT WERE PRESENTED TODAY SHOWED IT AS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. SO, YOU HAVE AN INCONSISTENCY IN YOUR OWN DOCUMENTS.

NOT ONLY DO I BELIEVE THAT IT IS MORE THAN AN INSIGNIFICANT IMPACT, IT WOULD ALSO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE EL DORADO COUNTY TRAILS, HIKING, AND EQUESTRIAN, AND

T-3.B

BICYCLE TRAILS PLAN, WHICH CALLS FOR LINKS AND LOOPS ON ANY TRAILS IN EXISTENCE SHOULD STAY IN EXISTENCE.

I'VE ALSO BEEN APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RECREATION DEPARTMENT SO WE CAN RETAIN OUR EXISTING TRAILS, AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE COOL TO AUBURN TRAIL. I THINK IT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IF IT DISAPPEARED.

ONE OF THE OTHER ISSUES IS IN REGARDS TO THE TRAILS THAT ARE THERE IS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE TRAILS ALSO, BESIDES THE BRIDGE, SO WE COULD HOOK UP TO DIFFERENT AREAS SO WE DON'T IMPACT ONE PARTICULAR SECTION OF TRAIL.

WE HAVE TRAILS COMING DOWN FROM COOL. WE HAVE TRAILS COMING UP FROM FOLSOM. WE HAVE TRAILS COMING

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A. Reclamation and CDPR through the Auburn State Recreation Area Interim Resource Management Plan (ASRA IRMP 1992) considered future development of a bridge near the ruins of the Greenwood Bridge, which was washed out in 1964 when the uncompleted Hell Hole Dam failed and caused a wall of water to surge through the canyon. Today, the Ruck-a-Chucky Campground borders the river where the bridge used to stand (ASRA IRMP 1992) and the intent of the proposed bridge reconstruction project was to provide hikers, bikers and equestrians access at the Greenwood crossing. Construction of a bridge across the North Fork American River near Auburn has not been part of the planning for the American River Pump Station Project. Please see Master Response 3.1.1, Auburn-to-Cool Trail.

B. Please refer to Response L-28.J.