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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

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Oakland, CA 94618

JOHN PAPINI
Tel 510-655-1406
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June 12, 2003

Trinity River Restoration Program
PO Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Hand Delivered and Hard Copy Mailed

RE: Proposed Trinity River Bridges Project --- Salt Flat Bridge – Planning Commission Hearing

Dear Sirs:

My wife and I own and live on a fifteen acre property upstream from Salt Flat (just downstream from Rush Creek) at 2240 Goose Ranch Rd. I was told just recently by my neighbor about a public hearing before the Planning Commission as part of the Draft EIR review process. I would have thought that as a neighboring property owner, I would have received notice of this public hearing. Unfortunately, I will be away when the Planning Commission hearing occurs. In lieu of my attendance, I am writing this letter to you regarding our strong feelings about this matter. I am asking Nancy Tennyson to hand-deliver this to you in my absence. a.

Although we are very much in favor of most of what the Trinity River Restoration Project is trying to accomplish, particularly the higher river flows that would necessitate the raising of a number of bridges (e.g. the Salt Flat Bridge), we strongly object to the proposed Alternative 2 (Replacement Upstream, Public Ownership).

The raising and relocation of the Salt Flat Bridge should not give rise to the creation of a "recreation/ river access point" for the general public at the bridge site. Our objection to this recreational access point is based on the following:

- Public access points already exist short distances both upstream and downstream (i.e. Rush Creek Camp Ground and the Bucktail Fishing Access). b.
- During the salmon spawning runs, significant numbers of fishermen of all kinds, fly, bait, and spin fishermen, will impact the areas around such a public access (e.g. the Cemetery Hole and the Bucktail Access).
- The impacts on the surrounding areas include the accumulation of debris, ruination of vegetation and fish habitat (including spawning redds).
- Public access and parking areas also create the opportunity for increased foot traffic over adjacent private property, i.e. trespassing.

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The notion that such a public access would only result in usage by a handful of fly fishermen is at best naïve and at worst, negligent. Why create a situation where more habitat and vegetation is impacted on both public and private property just for the sake of adding one more public access point to the river, when two major access points already exist nearby?

Please do not approve such a needless addition to what otherwise would be a long term restoration of the Trinity River. You would not want to create a maintenance problem and other problems that would result from trespassers over private property.

I would also ask that I be included in the mailing list for these matters in the future (please use my office address indicated above). C.

Yours truly,

John Papini

CC: Planning Commission, Trinity County.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 15

John Papini

15-a: Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted, and will be transmitted to the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and federal officials for their consideration in connection with the merits of the proposed project. No further response is required.

15-b: Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted, and will be transmitted to the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and federal officials for their consideration in connection with the merits of the proposed project. No further response is required.

You will be added to the mailing list for this project.