

June 17, 2003 Trinity County Planning Commission
Salt Flat Bridge Issue: Public- vs- Private

In view of the Interior Departments decision to raise the water levels of the Trinity River, it seems we are simply feeling the trickle down effects of the industrial complex society at a local level and problems that arise after years of not having a long term plan for our communities. Yet the real issue isn't about us, our community, or our bridge. It's about the health of a River and all that has been overlooked for the past 50 years. Unfortunately this situation now forces us to ask, "Should the Salt Flat Bridge become owned by the public or remain private as it is?"

As a resident of Salt Flat, I am directly effected by anything that happens to the Trinity River, the surrounding area, and especially the access bridge, but it really doesn't matter either way if the ownership of Salt Flat Bridge becomes public, or remains private as I would wish it to remain. What worries me are my Rights being infringed upon. Will my privacy be violated, as it already has? And is this good for our community?

I believe my inalienable Rights are to enjoy the land that I have lawfully obtained with all its encumbrances and right of ways; to enjoy my privacy in peace without the threat of intimidation by others desiring to trespass or tread on that which I own; and to live without the disturbance of my peace by those with or without good intentions. That's not asking for much. After all it is much less than that which was asked for 225 years ago. So how could the Salt Flat Bridge become a public site without violating basic common laws?

It would appear that it can only be done by either a condemnation and/or by immanent domain, which would prove to be very expensive for Trinity County by the increased costs for Litigation to obtain such, the manpower for long term maintenance, and of course law enforcement; by having to respond to citizen arrest calls for trespassing and whatever else that could derive from making a bridge to nowhere.

A Bridge to Nowhere, because the properties on the westside of the river will still be private lands and trespassers will still be prosecuted and the courts and law enforcement agencies will continue to pay for making a bridge to nowhere. Not to mention the political fallout that would ensue when the monies set aside for the replacement have all gone to lawyers and not to the safe perpetuation of the Trinity River and all that it does for everyone.

Finally, the many plans that have been laid before us are all so very complicated, controversial and injected with the agendas of many parties. Some large such as B.L.M and some small, but not forgotten. And there's more, however, the bottom line is that the community known as Salt Flat, who legally built the existing bridge and who own it's land, have united together unanimously and consistently to simply say, "Do as you must, but NO B.L.M. and NO PUBLIC ACCESS!"

Sincerely,
Jay Bevard
Lewiston, CA

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 34

Jay Bevard

34-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.