To: Trinity County Planning Department Board, *June 12, 2003*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
I am Sandy Evans, & have been collecting information, maps & going to meetings for a year or so regarding the plans for the Salt Flat bridge.

JUN 0 4 2003

Jim & I live in the last house (south) along the Trinity River from our Salt Flat bridge.
We have hosted some of the surveyors, engineers, Ed Solbos and Walter Irish, taking them on a hike going south beyond our property to the bend in the river. We've shown them our pre-dam photos & our aireal photo poster of our property/river taken many years ago which is on our wall.
I have spoken with Ed Solbos, Scott McBain, Scott Kennedy, engineer, Paul Uncapher, and Chuck Schultz, BLM Area Mngr. They've all been very polite and interesting.

We are now being told that the window of time for the grant is coming to an end.

We wish to cooperate with the Government plan.

There is one area I want to make an issue of today: ..Due to the fact:

IT IS THE FEDERAL AGENCIES wanting the bridge...*see text box

*To quote: Trinity River Restoration Program in the *Trinity Journal May 14,2003* "The purpose of the proposed Tr. River Bridges Project is to modify or replace the existing Salt Flat...(etc.) bridges across the Trinity River in order to accommodate possible future operational changes to the Tr. River Division of the Central Valley Project. This action stems from the need to provide safe/reasonable year-round access to the parcels of land served by the bridges& to allow dam operators maximum flexibility to provide instream flow releases from Lewiston Dam adequate to meet the fishery & geomorphic flow

Salt Flat Homeowners need to press the point: a.
when asked, they have stated over & over for two years that they only want to stay private.

*....we hear that there are community factions saying
that since the government is paying for the bridge,
it should be public.*

The damage to the riparian area and the adjacent areas to the river would be:

There would be boaters & floaters putting in at the river, disturbing the fragile gravel bars.

There absolutely would be TRASH left around,

CANS, BOTTLES, FISHING LINES & HOOKS, CIGARETTE BUTTS, PLASTIC BAGS, FILM CARTRIDGES, REFUSE, EVEN HUMAN WASTE, etc.

Some of these are items that the Lewiston DeLitter Bugs pick up regularly from public areas.
(I have watched from our deck as rafters beach their crafts, walk out on our island in the middle of the river and go potty in the willows. I have told them: "stop, we drink out of the River...."
After several had used the bushes, they stopped.

I have neighbors who told me that they have cleaned up several public areas along the road in Lewiston historic district and wouldn't believe the amount of trash left by the public.

(I have friends on Steel Bridge Rd Douglas City, Jack & Candy Hood who have a home with a lovely river frontage. People used their river access & left such disgusting trash that Jack complained.
The B.L.M. made a public access out of part of what had been his private river access.)

(Lastly)

There would be people trampling the Indian burial area, which is quiet & secure now.

*In a peaceful area north of the bridge on the Salt Flat side
is a little pond with beaver and wood ducks. It is an enjoyable sight and very
accessible for families as it is now. It looks totally undisturbed. We like it a lot.*

Salt Flat Residents say..

STAYING PRIVATE WILL PROTECT THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT.

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Alternatiives clarified & why Proposed Alternative is Best:

. *Mostly my comments come from pages 3.2-25 and 3.2-26.*

BASICALLY we say that if there is a significant unmitigable (SU) impact – to a proposed action under CEQA (the California Environmental Quality Act) only when we cannot find a way to lessen the impacts via mitigation. In the entire document, the only action that would involve SU (significant unavoidable) impacts would be moving the Salt Flat bridge upstream and making it public. This would:

* Result in land uses that are incompatible with existing and planned land uses adjacent to project facilities – i.e. garbage and increased usage (see page 3.2-22)

Below FROM page 3.2-25 - is Key. You agree with this analysis (upstream public – causes human-induced damages, see below).

Impact 3.2-2: Future operation of the proposed Trinity River Bridges Project could disrupt existing land uses adjacent to the project site. No Impact for the No-Action Alternative; Less than Significant Impact for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1; Significant Unavoidable Impact for Alternative 2.

No-Action Alternative
Since a new bridge would not be constructed at the Salt Flat site under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no long-term disruption to existing land uses within or adjacent to the site due to operation of a new bridge.
Proposed Action (Replacement Downstream, Private Ownership)
The operation of a new downstream bridge (Proposed Action) would not result in land uses that are in conflict with existing or planned land uses. Operation of the replacement bridge structure would not significantly change or disrupt existing land uses adjacent to the project site since the new bridge would remain under private ownership. The project site currently supports an existing one-lane gravel road and bridge crossing over the Trinity River, and the new structure would be compatible with the adjacent land uses.

Alternative 1 (Replacement Upstream, Private Ownership)
The operation of a new upstream bridge under Alternative 1 would not result in land uses that are in conflict with existing or planned land uses. Operation of the replacement bridge structure would not significantly change or disrupt existing land uses adjacent to the project site since the new bridge under Alternative 1 would remain under private ownership. The project site currently supports an existing one-lane gravel road and bridge crossing over the Trinity River, and the new structure would be compatible with the adjacent land uses.

Alternative 2 (Replacement Upstream, Public Ownership)

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Implementation of Alternative 2 would involve the operation of a new upstream bridge under public ownership, instead of private ownership. If the County were to take over ownership of a new bridge, the development of a turn around for emergency vehicles on the west (right) side of the river would be required. In addition, public ownership of the new bridge could accommodate the eventual development of a recreation/river access point at the site. There are no current plans to develop the site as a public recreation point at this time; however, the 1986 Trinity River Access Plan (Lewiston Community Plan [County 1986]) identifies the location as a potential public access point. Even if improved pubic access is not developed at the Salt Flat site, there is potential for increased public usage along the Trinity River since the new bridge and roadway approaches would be publicly-owned. Increased public usage could result in associated increases in human-induced noise disturbances, unauthorized public parking adjacent to the new bridge, trespassing on private property, and increased litter/waste, all of which would adversely affect the existing rural residential land uses in the area.

Mitigation Measures
No-Action Alternative, Proposed Action, Alternative 1
Since no significant impact was identified for these alternatives, no mitigation is required.
Significance after Mitigation: N/A.

Alternative 2
SF-2a: Following construction of the new bridge, the BOR, in coordination with the BLM and the County, shall post signs on both sides of the bridge that prohibit parking along the bridge and roadway on private lands.
SF-2b: Following construction of the new bridge, the BOR, in coordination with the BLM and the County, shall develop a facility to accommodate increased public access. At a minimum, a public restroom, parking, and trash collection facility will be installed.

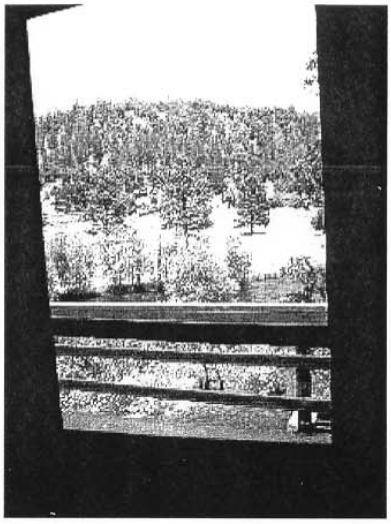
Based on the CEQA significance threshold, as set forth on page 3.2-23, stating that impacts would be significant if they "[r]esult in land uses that are incompatible with existing and planned land uses adjacent to project facilities," it is concluded that the increased presence of members of the public in a heretofore secluded private area would lead to significant effects in the form of increased litter, noise, and similar nuisance-like impacts. The threshold for significant impacts under NEPA, however, requires an intensity and extent that is greater in scope than that required under CEQA. Under NEPA, escalated public presence in the area might lead to increased noise levels, litter, and some loss of privacy for existing residents, but such changes by themselves do not rise to the level of significant environmental effects. Envisioned increases in local public use would likely be sporadic in nature, and would not necessarily involve significant numbers of public visitors at any one time. The posting of signs, as

required by Mitigation Measure SF-2a, should discourage concentrations of members of the public immediately near the new bridge structure. The development of public facilities, as required by Mitigation Measure SF-2b, would diminish impacts on the environment from increased public usage. Neither mitigation measure nor their combination, however, would completely mitigate CEQA defined public usage impacts on the Salt Flat community, which has clearly expressed their intention to retain control over Salt Flat Bridge ownership and access.
Significance after Mitigation: Significant Unavoidable for CEQA purposes, Less than Significant for NEPA purposes

Below from page 3.2-33 explains why Alt 2 a public bridge is not the proposed action. The government has no desire to exercise eminent domain and the project would likely not happen if ALT 2 was proposed.

Alternative 2 (Replacement Upstream, Public Ownership)
Salt Flat was identified as a potential future access point in the Trinity River Access Plan (Lewiston Community Plan [County 1986]). Development of future access points is dependent upon the ability of the responsible governmental agency to provide necessary improvements. Construction of the proposed Trinity River Bridges Project would accommodate and be compatible with these planned recreational uses since the bridge would be located on public land. However, Salt Flat homeowners would need to agree to have public access to their lands or eminent domain procedures would be necessary to implement.

The directly above in bold will not happen!

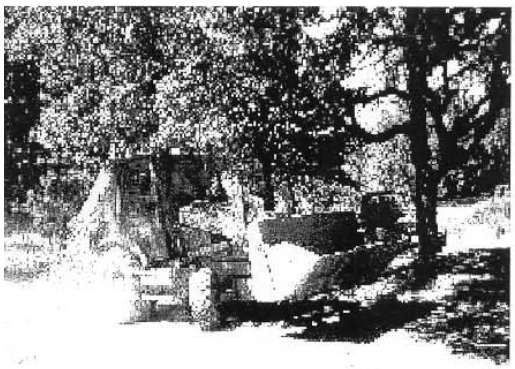


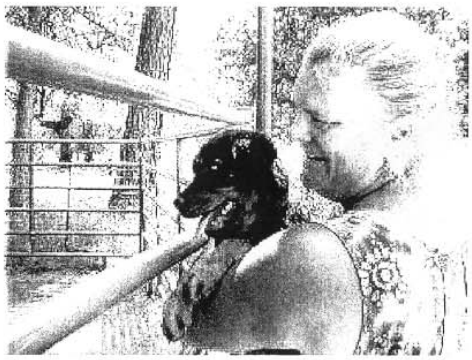
SALT FLAT

We maintain our roads: *

(Recent job approx. $1,600.)

Quiet peaceful life





1. Evans ... toward tailings
2. view downriver
3. view toward tailings. Evans
4. Barns visits: we pass their house

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 33

Sandy Evans

33-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.