

Anna Wagner, Underwood, WA.

Dear Secretary Bose,

I am a devoted paddler of the Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River. As a river guide on the "T" for 5 years, I ended my work day at the Wards Ferry Bridge with a dangerous scramble from the riverbank to the road. As a young person, I was able to make the ascent easier than most of our clientele, who kicked loose rocks and rubble from the eroding stream bank. Because no parking spaces or turnarounds exist on Wards Ferry road near the bridge, the large trucks that lift rafts from the reservoir crowded the small bridge. Customers had no where to wait while the guides organize the trips gear, so often were jostled by heavy equipment and passing cars. Rafts and camping gear hauled from the river risked being dropped onto the guides below from the bridge.

I am writing to oppose the FERC DEIS Staff Alternative for the Don Pedro Project. Specifically, in the alternative, FERC staff does not recommend the installation of a whitewater boating take-out facility upstream of Ward's Ferry because they believe there is no "nexus" or impacts caused by the Don Pedro Project.

I disagree! The impacts to the Tuolumne River shoreline at Ward's Ferry bridge are caused by the fluctuating reservoir levels controlled by the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project. Boaters in need of even terrain and the space to stage equipment are forced on to the Ward's Ferry Bridge road by the utter lack of adequate shoreline boating facilities that can withstand the constant scouring of Don Pedro Reservoir levels. For instance, Tuolumne River stakeholders have repeatedly provided improvements within their budget at Ward's Ferry Bridge that have been washed away by the Don Pedro Project. This includes trail improvements coordinated by the Tuolumne River Trust, USFS and Commercial Outfitters.

Neither the timing of whitewater flows from CCSF's Holm Powerhouse, nor the management of U.S. Forest Service boating permits nor the Tuolumne County Road management washes away or floods Tuolumne River shoreline at the Ward's Ferry Bridge take-out but the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project does! Whitewater boating facilities are indeed impacted by the Don Pedro project and should be addressed in the new hydropower license.

As such, I fully support the Bureau of Land Management's mandatory 4(e) conditions that outline whitewater boating facility improvements at Ward's Ferry Bridge as mitigation for the impacts of the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project. These conditions provide long needed upgrades at Ward's Ferry Bridge for the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River. In addition these conditions were drawn up by BLM with a wide range of stakeholder input from American Whitewater, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Tuolumne County, Tuolumne River Trust and Tuolumne River Outfitters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Anna Wagner

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