

Agenda of: June 13, 2013

Item No.: 4.c

Staff: Noah R. Triplett

**STAFF REPORT – 2012 ANNUAL REPORT on the RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**APPLICANT:** County of El Dorado, Environmental Management Department, River Program

**REQUEST:** Receive and file the 2012 Annual Report on the River Management Plan.

**LOCATION:** The project area is located in western El Dorado County, within the South Fork of the American River (South Fork) corridor, between Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road.

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) Approve 2012 Annual Report on implementation of the River Management Plan; and
- 2) Recommend continued implementation of the RMP as currently prescribed.

**BACKGROUND:**

The River Management Plan (Plan) requires an annual report to your Commission in order to ensure the Plan is accomplishing its goals. The Plan identifies important issues for annual review including: the results of river use monitoring; the effectiveness of the carrying capacity system; the compliance by Special Use Permit holders with their permit conditions; and the completeness of the CEQA mandated mitigation monitoring plan. The Plan also stresses the importance of community input on this report. This annual report fulfills these aspects by compiling the results of the County's monitoring programs with feedback from the public, the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and our agency partners on this year's river operations. A key issue from this past season to both the public and RMAC members was the enforcement of the Streams and Rivers Commercial Boating Ordinance (Chapter 5.48). The RMAC recommended approval of the Annual Report by staff at its April 11, 2013 meeting.

**PURPOSE:**

The annual review of the River Management Plan provides a process to evaluate and craft improvements to the County's management of whitewater recreation. The Annual Report provides your Commission an opportunity to consider the issues introduced above and the public's input to:

- Make recommendations regarding amendments to the River Management Plan;
- Evaluate River Management Plan elements that pertain to the carrying capacity system; and
- Make recommendations to improve the Plan's implementation

**REPORT ORGANIZATION:**

The 2012 Annual Report is organized into nine sections:

- The amount of whitewater recreation on the South Fork American River during 2012;
- A synopsis of how the RMP elements' were implemented during 2012;
- An update on the Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Appendix A);
- River Use Trends (Appendix B);
- Water Quality Monitoring Plan (Appendix C);
- El Dorado County Sheriff's Department Boating Safety Unity Summary (Appendix D);
- River Trust Fund Budget Summary (Appendix E);
- River Management Advisory Committee comments on the whitewater program made at the conclusion of the 2012 season (Appendix F);
- Public comments made at the conclusion of the 2012 season (Appendix G);
- South Fork American River release schedule below Chili Bar Dam;

**ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS:**

The annual review and reporting process includes:

- 1) River Program staff review
- 2) Public and RMAC comments and recommendations on the staff report; and
- 3) Planning Commission recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Planning Commission approve the 2012 Annual Report on the River Management Plan.

Your Commission recommends that staff continue implementation of the RMP as currently prescribed.