

Oral Scoping Comments of Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, on the revised Program EIR for EBMUD's Water Supply Management Plan. Jackson, CA, July 13, 2011.

My name is Chris Shutes. I'm with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

CSPA was one of the groups that sued on the first Program EIR. We're hoping to work with EBMUD this time around to achieve an outcome that works for everyone. Our beginning and ending points are that even a potential Pardee raise needs to find its way out of the mix and back down the road.

Much has been discussed about Middle Bar Bridge as the end of a boating run, and as a historic facility with cultural values that is important for public safety. I'd like to also state that it is a very important fishing opportunity for Amador and Calaveras counties.

Here's the bridge, and next a shot of the whitewater takeout as you're standing on the bridge looking upstream. Here's a photo of the sign for the whitewater takeout, that as I understand it was recently completed. Here's a local sharpie who's name I regret I've forgotten, but he caught three fish in about half an hour when I was down at the bridge this spring. They're pretty nice fish too.

This is an important local resource that is twenty minutes from town and usable during the high water season, when there are very few other places to fish.

I've looked at the Notice of Preparation for this revised Program EIR, and I'm concerned that EBMUD is going to do what it thinks is a minimum to pass legal muster. In particular, Los Vaqueros expansion should not be something to simply check off a list; it should be seen as a real opportunity to make EBMUD's stated conservation values consistent with its actions. EBMUD participation in a greater Los Vaqueros expansion would be an example to the rest of the state: to San Francisco, to San Joaquin Valley water users, and perhaps above all to the upcountry counties of origin, who up till now feel that they have been treated as a colony by Bay Area water interests.

We look forward to a productive dialogue with EBMUD as revisions to the WSMP alternatives are developed.