

Trails, Beaches, Watercraft Access – Map, maintain, replace

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To: ARCF_SEIS@usace.army.mil, PublicCommentARCF16@water.ca.gov

Cc: Liz Bellas, Director, Sacramento County Regional Parks; KC Sorgen, Sacramento County Regional Parks

Subject: Map, maintain, replace social trails and beaches, small watercraft put-in and take-out points, use only round cobble and gravel for these access points.

To Whom it May Concern:

The American River Parkway is replete with unofficial trails and beach access points.

These “social trails” are an essential aspect of the Recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) used to identify the Lower American River as a Wild and Scenic River by state and federal definitions. Not only are they protected under state and federal law but they are beloved by thousands of hikers, birders, and boaters who use them to launch small watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and paddle boards. They offer refuge and safety for wildlife and rest stops for countless tired rafters as well. The planned bank clearing, bulldozing and riprapping the river’s edge with launchable riprap toes will obliterate these trails, destroy access for countless hikers and ruin the possibility of safe access or egress from the river by swimmers or small watercraft.

In USACE Contracts 1 and 2 and 3A no attempt was made to replace the social trails that existed prior to project completion. We want to see something different in the area of Contract 3B. We want to see the social trails and beaches mapped out by Sacramento County Regional Parks and USACE so that they can either be protected during the project or carefully replaced and restored to functionality after the project. We ask that the beaches either be allowed to retain their natural character or be replaced with watercraft friendly and people friendly round cobble and round gravel. Trails should be walkable and retain their natural character or be replaced with some sort of hiker friendly material such as small sized gravel or decomposed granite.

By carefully surveying with GPS, American River Trees has created a Draft working map of the known social trails and river access points that will be impacted by the bank clearing and riprapping proposed by C3B. This map is geo referenced with GPS and can be used with tracking programs such as AvenzaMaps.

