

May 14, 2018

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow  
State Capitol, Suite #4158  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-  
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Re: Amador County Board of Supervisors Support for the Mokelumne River  
Wild and Scenic Designation Study pursuant to Assembly Bill 142  
(Bigelow, 2015)

Dear Assemblymember Bigelow:

The Amador County Board of Supervisors (Board) would like to acknowledge your efforts in carrying Assembly Bill 142 during the 2015-16 legislative session. The bill required that the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) develop a study to evaluate the suitability of designating five segments of the Mokelumne River, totaling approximately 37 miles, for inclusion into the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System, while also incorporating an analysis of the needs of affected communities within Amador and Calaveras Counties.

The Board appreciates the efforts by CNRA staff in developing the study per the mandate included in your legislation. The Board believes CNRA's willingness to meet with and receive input from the affected local water agencies regarding their water rights and regional long-term needs has been well handled. CNRA sought input from local communities and water agencies and, in its final report released on April 18, 2018, concluded that the designation of approximately 37 miles of the upper Mokelumne River watershed as "Wild and Scenic" was appropriate. Notably, the report also included recommendations for five special provisions specifically designed to ensure local water rights and water resource infrastructure are not in any way adversely impacted by this designation; and that we will have the ability to obtain additional water rights and construct new facilities necessary to meet the future needs of our local communities in both Amador and Calaveras Counties. One of the provisions provided protection for Roaring Camp, a recreational business which was a specific request from this Board. Further, these special provisions were developed through many hours with other stakeholders in the region in order to garner broad-based support for their inclusion.

It is only with these necessary special provisions that the Amador County Board of Supervisors eventually agreed to support the findings of the final study at its May 14, 2018 Special Meeting. It is imperative that the protections afforded under these special provisions be incorporated into any future legislation that implements a Wild and Scenic

designation of the proposed segments of the Mokelumne River. The Board is hopeful that with this support you would consider assisting us with pursuing a bill either as a sponsor or co-sponsor or any other backing you could provide.

Sincerely,

Lynn Morgan  
Chair  
Amador County Board of Supervisors

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