



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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MOTHER LODE CHAPTER

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July 14, 2008

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Auburn Dam Proposed Revocation Hearing

Dear Ms. Doduc,

The Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club supports the revocation of the water rights permits held by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Auburn Dam Project. It has been 37 years since permits were issued for water rights associated with the Auburn Dam project. The failure to construct this project reflects a failure to comply with the due diligence required under Water Code section 1410.

In the intervening 37 years since permits were issued, these water rights have been put to beneficial use to the benefit of downstream municipal, industrial and agricultural water users, recreationists and to maintain the fishery of the Lower American River. In fact nearly all the water intended for storage by the Auburn Dam is already allocated and available for diversion at Folsom and other downstream locations, so revoking the permits simply recognizes the reality that these water rights amount to little more than paper water.

At the time of the original issuance of the permits, the canyon lands upstream of the Auburn Dam site were rarely visited. Today, over one million recreationists a year enjoy the river and trails. The values associated with the river canyons outweigh the value of the actual usable water storage that the Dam would provide.

Please proceed with the revocation of permits 16209, 16210, 16211, and 16212 currently held by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sincerely,

Terry Davis
Conservation Program Coordinator