



The Business Alliance...Update is a bi-monthly publication of the El Dorado Business Alliance (BA).

The BA members are: El Dorado Builders' Exchange; El Dorado County Association of Realtors (EDCAR); Chambers of Commerce -- El Dorado County & Shingle Springs/Cameron Park; El Dorado Forum; North State Building Industry Association (NSBIA); Surveyors, Architects, Geologists and Engineers (SAGE).

Auburn Dam

Without Water, is there a Future for the Auburn Dam?

The Auburn Dam has long been considered the best solution for water storage, clean energy, and flood prevention, but on July 21, these valuable opportunities may be lost if we lose the water rights to fill it. The State has a use-it-or-lose-it water rights policy.

The State Water Resources Control Board will hold a hearing to receive evidence relevant to determining whether Permits assigned to the United States Bureau of Reclamation should be revoked. All four permits for the Auburn Dam Project require that "actual construction work shall begin on or before nine months from date of permit and shall thereafter be prosecuted with reasonable diligence, and if not so commenced and prosecuted this permit may be revoked."

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers, to increase water storage generate electricity and provide much needed flood protection to the Sacramento region, proposed the Auburn Dam. Construction on the dam site began in 1967, and all of the foundation work including canyon excavation, the American River Diversion Tunnel, and a highway bridge, was completed by 1979. However, due to growing opposition over the dam's location, the Federal Government removed the appropriation of the dam the same year, halting construction on the concrete structure.

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INRMP Luncheon

Will New Natural Resource Policies Cost you Money and Land?

El Dorado County is currently developing the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). If we don't pay attention to it's creation, rare plants and animals may cost you your land rights and substantial fees.

Policy 7.4.2.8 requires the County to develop and implement an INRMP that identifies important habitat in the County and establishes a program for effective habitat preservation and management. The INRMP shall include a "Habitat Inventory," which requires an inventory and mapping of important habitats in El Dorado County. The INRMP shall also include a "Habitat Protection Strategy." The goal of the strategy shall be to conserve and restore contiguous blocks of important habitat to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere in the county. When feasible, natural under crossings along proposed roadway alignments that could be utilized by terrestrial wildlife for movement will be preserved and enhanced.

Currently, three environmental groups are suing the County over a part of the INRMP known as the Oak Woodland Management Plan. Court documents state that the policy "will individually harm Petitioners' members who are beneficially interested in the aesthetic enjoyment and continued productivity of oak woodlands in the County,

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Ed Whoppa

Who is He & Why Does He Want Water?

Ed Whoppa is not a name, it is an acronym that stands for the **El Dorado Water And Power Authority (EDWAPA)**, a consortium of El Dorado County water agencies and purveyors which consists of elected officials from the El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, and Georgetown Divide Public Utility District.

"Over the years, as El Dorado County has grown and flourished, its need for a safe, adequate supply of water has only intensified — and will continue to do so, regardless of economic slowdowns," Supervisor Sweeney said. "The fact is, El Dorado County is a very desirable place to live, work and raise families — and people and businesses will continue to migrate here. We have to look to our future — because it's just around the corner."

In late 2005, EDWAPA members, recognizing that there were limited opportunities for the construction of new water storage locations within the county — as well as environmental concerns associated with such construction — secured diversion and storage rights in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's existing Upper American River Project (UARP) facilities. For more information contact Bill Hetland, Executive Director of EDWAPA, at 530.621.5392.

Auburn Dam Cont. ---

A full-scale Auburn Dam project will be able to generate more than 650 Megawatts of electricity. Building the Auburn Dam is also vital to securing the long-term flood protection needs of the Central Valley. Sacramento is one of the most flood-prone metropolitan areas in the United States. The Auburn Dam will give the Sacramento Region a minimum of 200-year flood protection. The dam will have the capability of stopping torrential flows of water down the American River, thus reducing the stress placed on Folsom Lake and the region's levee system during the worst of storms.

The reservoir behind the dam will be capable of storing over 2 Million Acre Feet of water. The size of the reservoir will provide enough water storage to prevent cutbacks and rationing during the worst of droughts, saving farmers, businesses and residents from potential disasters stemming from a major water shortage.

The Auburn Dam Reservoir will provide more reliable water flows for the American River and the Sacramento Delta. More water in the Delta on a continual basis will mean that fish and wildlife will no longer be threatened by tides carrying harmful saltwater from the San Francisco Bay in drought years when freshwater supplies are depleted. The reliable water source of the reservoir will help restore the Delta ecosystem to a more natural state.

The reservoir will provide a limitless recreational opportunity for Northern California residents that will relieve pressure on Folsom Lake. With the state's rapidly growing population, current recreational facilities are reaching their capacity. The Auburn Dam Reservoir will provide thousands of acres of water sports, hiking, wildlife viewing and other activities within the current Auburn State Recreation Area.

The trend of Global Warming, regardless of the cause, can only be mitigated with a dam. Predictions of the effects of

Global warming include both warmer temperatures and increased precipitation. The Sacramento region has the unusual distinction of suffering from both the threat of severe flooding and drought in the very same year. The Auburn Dam is the only alternative that solves both of these water management needs. Without it, Sacramento will inevitably suffer from catastrophic flooding, and our region will continue to be held victim to the effects of a depleting water supply.

U.S. Representative Doolittle and every member of the California Republican Delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger opposing a proposal to revoke the existing water rights held by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Auburn Dam.

"As recent conditions demonstrate, now is not the time for the State Water Resources Control Board to be using its resources to *decrease* potential water supply for the state," Doolittle wrote in the letter. "The existing water rights for the Auburn Dam would assist in our combined efforts to provide California's residents with adequate water supply."

"While construction of the Auburn Dam has been delayed, the existing water rights are a valuable potential source of much-needed water," Doolittle added, while citing the additional flood control, recreation, and environmental benefits the Auburn Dam would provide.

Local environmentalists oppose any dam on the river. They want 200-year flood protection achieved by raising and reinforcing levees, changing Folsom Dam operation to permanently provide for further draw-down of the reservoir, and changing the Dam's size and spillway. Their National counterparts will make it a national issue if Congress appears ready to fund a dam program.

The Public Hearing will commence on Monday July 21, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the Coastal Hearing Room Joe Serna, Jr./Cal EPA Building 1001 I Street, Second Floor Sacramento, CA

INRMP Cont. --- Petitioners' members have a fundamental interest in living in a high quality environment with wildlife species preserved ... and Petitioners' members gain aesthetic enjoyment and spiritual sustenance from living in a world where natural values are respected and preserved." The complaint also alleges harm, "by failing to accurately describe the environmental setting, including but not limited to the importance of oak woodland habitat within the vicinity of the Highway 50 corridor for wildlife corridors and oak woodland connectivity. ... The (Plan) and ordinance also do not ensure oak woodland connectivity and protection ... including corridor habitat around and adjacent to Highway 50."

Without doubt, environmental groups intend to exert a large degree of control over privately owned lands, particularly in the Hwy 50 corridor between EDHs and Placerville. Many land owners in the Cameron Park/Rescue/Shingle Springs area already pay a tax to fund a rare plant preserve in the area. Now is the time to get informed and protect your property rights and your wallet.

An informational Luncheon explaining the INRMP and the potential effects on property in El Dorado County will be hosted by the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, the Shingle Springs / Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce, and the El Dorado Forum. Anyone is welcome to attend the upcoming luncheon.

"Bricks & Sticks and Bugs & Bunnies"

When: Wed. July 23th, 11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Cameron Park Country Club, 3201 Royal Drive, Cameron Park

Cost: \$18 for members; \$23 for non
RSVP by Friday, **July 18th @ noon**

(530) 677-8000

The El Dorado Business Alliance Developing Mutual Support on Community-Wide Issues

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