

Feather River Watershed

Comment	Commenter	Edit to Vol II Made	Response
FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED			
Oroville Planning Unit			
<p>First, the parcel of most value to enhance the existing recreation operations at the Lake Oroville Marina (SBE# 135-4-71-5), a valuable potential addition to the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA), is contemplated within the draft LCP for support of "youth program opportunities." Elsewhere within the draft LCP, the Stewardship Council demonstrates an awareness of the Department's Oroville Facilities' recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing and related draft Recreation Management Plan (RMP). It is our observation that development of "youth activities" at this site ("Parish Camp") is inconsistent with the vision developed in our RMP, and we urge you to give enhancement of Marina and other LOSRA operations the highest priority in the final version of the LCP and in any subsequent planning effort. Please be aware that interpretive and other activities targeting youth are extensively addressed by other programs at the Oroville Facilities and LOSRA, and the RMP includes a long-term commitment to continue and expand these programs.</p>	DWR	No	<p>Comment noted. For the Parish Camp parcel, the Recreation Management Plan (RMP) of the Oroville Project Settlement Agreement states: "Construct approximately 60 additional new Boat Ramp/marina Parking Spaces (vehicle with trailer) near the existing parking lot where feasible. The adjacent vacated PG&E parcel may potentially be transferred to DWR/DPR for site expansion purposes and this option will be continued to be explored."</p> <p>The Supporting Analysis for Recommendations states that: "The Stewardship Council recommends assessing the site for potential uses, including youth program opportunities, <u>and recreation uses that could complement existing uses on adjacent land</u>. Providing for recreation or youth program use at Parish Camp potentially could require the removal of any remaining cabins and other facilities." The potential measures are intended to be illustrative in nature, not prescriptive, and will be amended, deleted, or augmented over time in coordination with future landowners, conservation easement holders, and land managers to best meet the objectives for this planning unit.</p> <p>The Stewardship Council is committed to identifying opportunities for synergies between the Land Conservation Program and the Youth Investment Program. These opportunities will be identified on a parcel by parcel basis, as to what is appropriate in each case, and in collaboration with stakeholders.</p>

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<p>Secondly, as you are likely aware, most of the other parcels within the Oroville Planning Unit are adjacent to existing State lands and could be valuable and appropriate additions to LOSRA. The draft LCP illustrates this and acknowledges the potential and related recreation value in this context. However, we are concerned about the potential outcomes of the Stewardship Council's approach to the "Property Tax Neutrality" requirement. It is conceivable that any new and inflexible (ongoing) financial obligation created by acquiring these lands may realistically preclude acquisition by our State agencies. We hope that the Stewardship Council recognizes the special value of public lands in the Oroville Planning Unit and will keep this in mind as you "work with [Butte County] to evaluate the most appropriate approach, or combination of approaches, to achieve property tax neutrality."</p>	DWR	No	<p>Comment noted. As per the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation the implementation of the LCP is required to be "tax neutral" to the affected counties. In cases where public entities may be selected as donees of fee simple on particular parcels, the Stewardship Council recognizes that those public entities may elect, as a matter of law, to not pay the property taxes. As such, it remains the Stewardship Council's responsibility to assure that the affected county(ies) are made whole. The LCP outlines several broad potential approaches to achieving this end; however, the Stewardship Council also recognizes that tax neutrality will be addressed on a county-by-county basis as to what is most appropriate and acceptable to the parties in each case.</p>
<p>We appreciate the acknowledgement in the draft LCP of the suitability of a trail easement through parcels SBE# 135-4-65E-1 through -6 (on the south side of the Thermalito Diversion Pool). DWR would like to develop this idea further, through completion of a Feasibility Study, as described in the aforementioned RMP.</p>	DWR	No	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>With the exception of the Parish and southern-shoreline Diversion Pool parcels specifically mentioned above, we are of the opinion that DPR (rather than DWR) may be the most appropriate donee for many of the remaining Oroville Planning Unit parcels. We would fully support DPR acquisition of these parcels, plus the "Big Bend" area parcels in your North Fork Feather River Planning Unit, as they are contiguous with LOSRA. We understand that DPR intends to join your Interested Donee Registry soon, if they have not done so already. Additionally, we have been in periodic discussions with local Native American Tribes and recognize that some parcels may be relevant to preservation of their heritage. We would likely also support respective Tribes' request(s), if such disposition were consistent with Stewardship Council policies and goals.</p>	DWR	No	<p>Comment noted. The Stewardship Council is developing an explicit set of criteria that will be used to determine which potential donees are qualified to participate in the disposition process. Qualified conservation easement and fee simple donees will be determined during the disposition process (Volume III). There will be opportunities for the public and stakeholders to engage with the Stewardship Council and other stakeholders on this topic as well as other topics related to the disposition and future management and stewardship of the lands. The Stewardship Council will provide public notice and encourage participation in meetings, workshops, and other appropriate methods of participation in the planning process.</p>
<p>We commend Stewardship Council staff on the development of this detailed draft LCP, which clearly advocates concepts that are in the public interest. We are hopeful of a future relationship with the Stewardship Council as a successful and cooperative donee.</p>	DWR	No	<p>Comment noted.</p>

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<p>Preservation of PG&E lands located downstream of Oroville Dam and upstream of the Diversion Dam would ensure public enjoyment of the currently wild and undeveloped river corridor between Oroville Dam and the City of Oroville. The land could be acquired by the City of Oroville or by State Parks. The State, City or Feather River Parks and Recreation District could manage the lands. Public access and limited development for facilitation of wildland oriented outdoor recreation is essential. The land cannot be lost to private commercial development.</p>	<p>Mike Taylor</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Conservation easements will be developed as part of the disposition process and will be included in the Disposition Packages (Volume IIIs). The easements will describe all prohibited uses including the level of uses allowed. There will be opportunities for the public and stakeholders to engage with the Stewardship Council and other stakeholders on this topic as well as other topics related to the disposition and future management and stewardship of the lands. The Stewardship Council will provide public notice and encourage participation in meetings, workshops, and other appropriate methods of participation in the planning process.</p>