



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093  
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

NC-152

August 30, 2021

Mr. Tim Kasper  
Weaverville Community Services District  
P.O. Box 1510  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Kasper,

I am writing regarding the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the East Weaver Creek Dam Removal and Intake Relocation Project, SCH #2021080288. The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) vigorously supports the implementation of the selected alternative discussed therein.

The proposed action appears to be a quintessential win-win for all parties. As you are aware, this project promises to remove a full barrier to fish passage, which will open up approximately 2.5 miles of perennial cold-water habitat for steelhead, federal and state-listed SONCC coho salmon, and countless other species of wildlife that use this stream. Further, it will mitigate a major impediment to sediment transport. The archaic dam which will be removed in this proposal currently traps gravels which would naturally route through the system. This has resulted in the channel below the dam incising down to bedrock in many places and leaving only the coarsest sediment fractions in others, substantially degrading the habitat condition of a long stretch of channel downstream of the dam.

Beyond its benefit to wildlife and its habitat, implementation of this project also promises to make the Weaverville Community Services District (CSD)'s water system more reliable in the future. The diversion monitoring that will be associated with the new intake will help affirm the CSD's water right. Having better control of required bypass flow will also reduce the risk of the State requiring that the diversion be curtailed in major drought events, and of the CSD being found in violation of state or federal law regarding downstream flows and/or Endangered Species Act-protected species.

The TRRP is a major funder of the planning and implementation of this project. We believe that restoring the ecological integrity of the Weaver Creek watershed, including East Weaver Creek, is absolutely essential to us meeting our broader restoration objectives for steelhead and coho salmon in the Trinity River. As such, the TRRP happily offers to provide further biological, physical, or engineering technical assistance that may be required to move this project forward to

a successful completion. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have regarding this in the future. I can be reached at [mdixon@usbr.gov](mailto:mdixon@usbr.gov) or (530) 351-4760.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dixon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Dixon" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Dixon, Ph.D.  
Executive Director