



Save the American River Association

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February 10, 2011

Mr. John Engstrom
Division of Management Services
CA Dept. of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 942836-0001

COPY

Re Scoping Comments, Joint Operations Center Relocation Project

Dear Mr. Engstrom:

Construction of office buildings immediately adjacent to the American River Parkway violates the spirit of the 2009 American River Parkway Plan. That plan was codified into state law by legislation sponsored by then Assembly member Dave Jones.

The Nimbus site -- the "preferred site" for construction of the Dept. of Water Resources/Bureau of Reclamation Joint Operations Center (JOC) -- is immediately adjacent to the Parkway. In fact, the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bicycle Trail runs through the Nimbus site property.

The Nimbus site is in the flood plain. Vital flood protection work is performed at the JOC. A breach at Folsom Dam or Nimbus Dam would flood the Nimbus Site and render the JOC inoperable.

Office construction at the Nimbus site also would create significant visual blight immediately adjacent to the American River Parkway. In addition to the buildings towering over the Parkway and the river, the facilities would require multiple and redundant sources of power. That would require aerial wires and cables in addition to tower and dish facilities atop the buildings. Also required are redundant communications facilities, creating even greater visual blight.

The comings and goings of 600 JOC employees at the Nimbus site also would increase air pollution and traffic congestion in the Parkway and nearby environs. The lack of transit options on Hazel Avenue will force many employees to use personal vehicles for their commute to work.

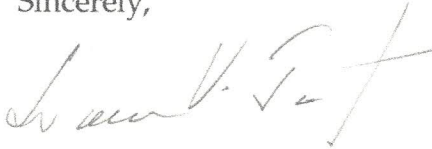
The construction phase and the permanent buildings also would negatively impact the homes and property values immediately south of the Nimbus site in Gold River.

Guardians of the American River and Parkway since 1961

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The Department of Water Resources is not likely to win the looming battle over construction on the Nimbus site. Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation officials should stop wasting time and public money on an EIS/EIR process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Warren V. Truitt".

Warren V. Truitt
President, SARA

c: SARA Board of Directors