

January 7, 2008

Supervisor Don Nottoli
County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Markis Use Permit, Control #02-UPP-PSS-PMR-EXR-0841**

Dear Supervisor Nottoli:

As you are likely aware, Save the American River Association (SARA) has appealed to the County Supervisors, the November 2007 decision by the Planning Commissioners to approve the Markis/Lien Project (Markis Use Permit) in the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone. The property is in Erosion Zone 2 of the PCCZ and requires a 70-foot setback. In 2004, both you and Illa Collin supported County Planning Staff's recommendation calling for a 50-foot setback for the Markis/Lien houses on the Riverwood bluff in Carmichael. Supervisors Niello and Johnson supported a 27-foot setback. The ultimate decision was made based on Supervisor Dickinson's call for a 35-foot setback. SARA challenged the decision in court, and Judge Judy Herscher ruled that the County vacate its action and prepare an EIR.

The EIR was completed and the Markis/Lien Project was heard before the Planning Commissioners in November of 2007. Once again, a 35-foot setback was approved. SARA knows that this approval continues to violate the spirit and intent of the PCCZ and the American River Parkway Plan. Our Appeal to the Supervisors cost \$5,000, a very large sum of money for a small non-profit dedicated, since 1961, to safeguarding the region's premier natural and recreational resource. The \$5,000 comes from community contributions to SARA's Parkway Defense Fund.

SARA requests your support, to assist us to investigate the possibility of calling up this Planning Commission decision and waiving the fee to SARA. We feel that this charge is inappropriately large for citizens to pay for access to their County decision-makers, and elected Parkway stewards, on a very important issue of great public interest. You can see by **the attached list** the many issues SARA addressed in 2007 alone on behalf of the American River Parkway. We hope you will agree that the ultimate consequences of the Markis/Lien Project are important enough that the Supervisors should be willing to hear the community's concerns without the citizenry having to expend such a large sum of publicly-donated funds.

Thank you for your time and efforts on our behalf. We look forward to hearing from you regarding our request. Thank you also for your support, both future and past, of the American River and Parkway.

Sincerely,

Warren V. Truitt, President
Save the American River Association (SARA)

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION (SARA) 2007 ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY

- AB 951 Alcohol Ban
- American River Parkway Annual Budget
- American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan
- American River Parkway Plan Update
- ARP Benefit Assessment District/Joint Powers Authority – serve on JPA Steering Committee
- BRECA/Mayhew Levee Project - Rancho Cordova
- Deterding/Oat Hill Project - Ancil Hoffman Park
- California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) Project
- Flow Standard - Lower American River
- Markis/Lien Project – Carmichael river bluff
- Relicensing Upper American River Project - SMUD
- Township 9 Development – Richards Boulevard
- Waste water discharges - Cities of Folsom, Colfax

OUTREACH

- American River Parkway Advisory Committee
- American River Parkway Coalition
- American River Watershed Conference
- Earth Day 2007 – Sponsor, tabled by SARA members
- Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)
- ECOS Environmentalist of the Year (Sponsor)
- Habitat 2020
- Lower American River Task Force
- Salmon Festival – Sponsor, tabled by SARA members
- Water Forum

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attained 501c3 status/Matching Funds Campaign
- Board of Directors/Advisory Council Retreat
- Chroma Art Gallery sponsored fundraiser for SARA
- Established SARA Advisory Council
- Established SARA Archives, California State University, Sacramento
- Sponsored student intern (Chelsea MacDaniel, McClatchy High School)