F. D. Pursell, Civil Engineering Services, 220 Hillcrest Ave., Oroville, CA 95966 (530) 589-3123

November 16, 2001
Oroville, CA 95966

Mr. Len Marino
California Department of Water Resources
State Water Project Analysis Office
1416 Ninth Street
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Oroville Facilities Relicensing - Comment submittal

Dear Sir:

I wish to submit the following comments for inclusion in the Scoping Document for the subject relicensing.

My concerns involve the volume of traffic which the Lake Oroville Facilities generates and the routes by which users have access.

I note from page 207 of the IPP that a large portion of total visitors to the project would most likely use State Highway 162 to arrive at their destinations which include Bidwell Canyon, Loafer Creek, Stringtown, Enterprise and Foreman Creek. In addition, a considerable number would also utilize Hwy 162 to get to Spillway. I live near these routes and am familiar with the visitor traffic and the under-utilization of the alternate routes proposed below.

I enclose a map showing alternate routes to these locations which routes would help alleviate congestion on Hwy 162. Observe that:

1- Spillway visitors from the north could use Garden Drive, Nelson Ave. or Montgomery St. offramps to Oro Dam Blvd. along the river for direct access.

2- Spillway visitors from the south could use Hwy 162 - Oro Dam Blvd. along the river.

3- All other above mentioned destinations could also be reached from the north via Hwy 162 alone.

4- The same destinations as in 3- above could be reached from the south via Ophir Rd,, Wyandotte Rd. and Miner's Ranch Rd. to Hwy 162, thence to the various final locations.

Some of these routes avoid places of business which visitors may choose to frequent and therefor would find alternate routes inadvisable. Those wishing to go direct may find the alternates preferable. Use of alternate routes could have signficant effect on use of Hwy 162, an increasingly heavily used arterial under normal conditions from local traffic alone.

I request that DWR study the aspect of access to the Project and coordinate with Caltrans and Butte County Public Works Departments to make best utilization of available routes for maximum reduction of impact on Hwy 162. At the vary least, the Relicensing effort should include thorough signing on all alternate routes and an organized effort to inform and encourage the visitiors with their options for access.

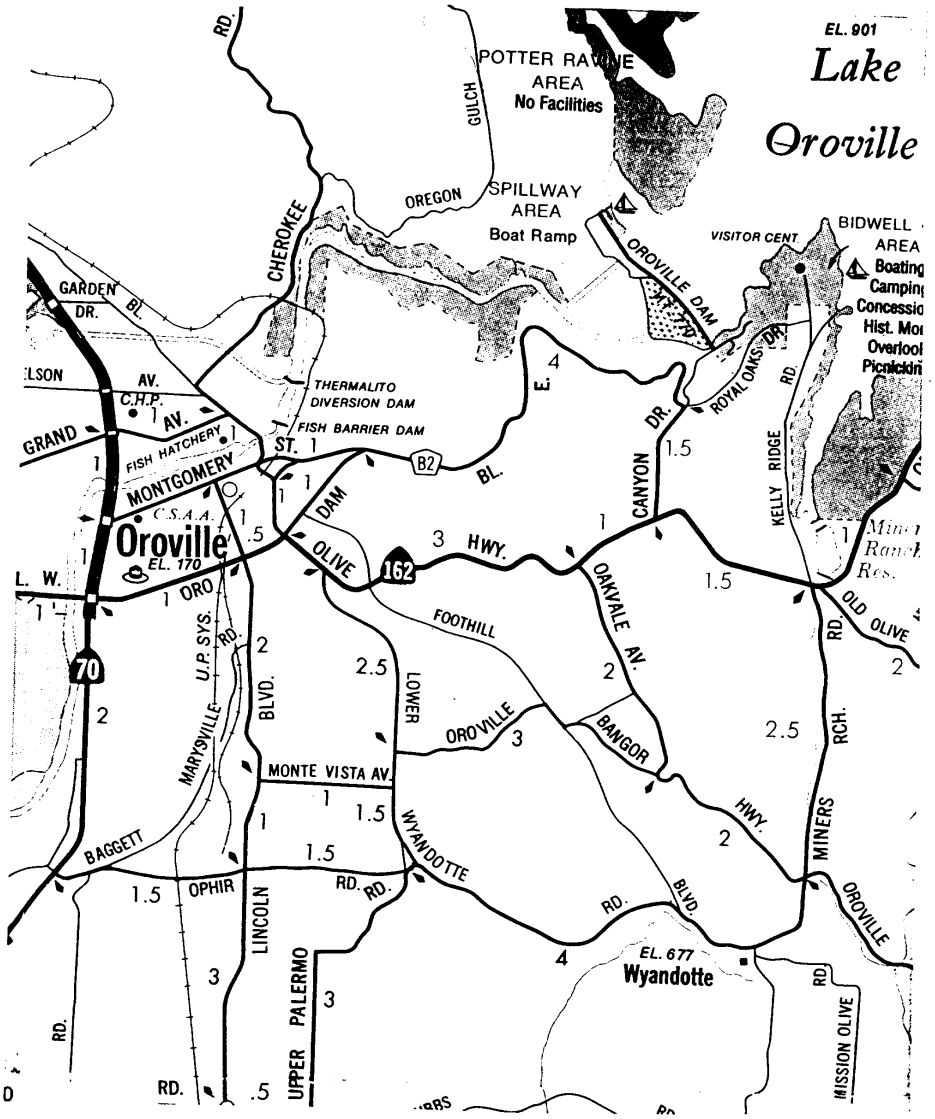
I am informed that the Recreation Working Group is the most applicable forum in which I should pursue recognition of this matter, as there is a study of vehicular access within their scope. I plan to attend the December 6th meeting of that group. I am interested in use of Hwy 162 as it relates to local development, as well, and hope to contribute to Oroville's obligations thereto.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

F. D. Pursell, P. E.

Enclosure:



ALTERNATE ROUTES TO LAKE OROVILLE FROM HWY 70