KERN RIVER BOATERS

KR3 RECREATION TWIG

APRIL 29, 2021

RECORD SUPPLEMENT

1. "Chamise Six 2016" by TeamSoCal

View/Download at: https://vimeo.com/teamsocal/chamisesix2016

This video was created to celebrate the fun the participants had paddling the Chamise Gorge section of the North Fork Kern River.

The clips in the video were captured in 2016 on February 18, April 09, May 05 & 06, and June 26. (Attachment A.)

TeamSoCal's vimeo page states that flows depicted are in the 225 to 325 cfs range. That is consistent with the data from the United States Geological Survey ("USGS"), which shows the mean flow on those days ranged from 174 to 301 cfs:

February 18:	**174 cfs**
April 09:	**301 cfs**
May 05:	**280 cfs**
May 06:	**281 cfs**
June 26:	**231 cfs**

(Attachment B.)

The boaters who participated in this video include:

Liz Duxbury
Brett Duxbury
Anthea Raymond
Jonathan Cizmar
Brian Burton
Peter Wiechers
Geno Hacker
Brian Burton

Bob Nash
Jonah Grubb
Tiem Cui
Travis Collins
Jeremy Snyder

TeamSoCal is unaware of anyone who did not enjoy boating these days. Every boater listed has returned to paddle this section at similar flows.

2. "February 27, 2021" by Geno Hacker

View/Download at:
https://www.fb.com/groups/kernriverboaters/permalink/2905553486390382/

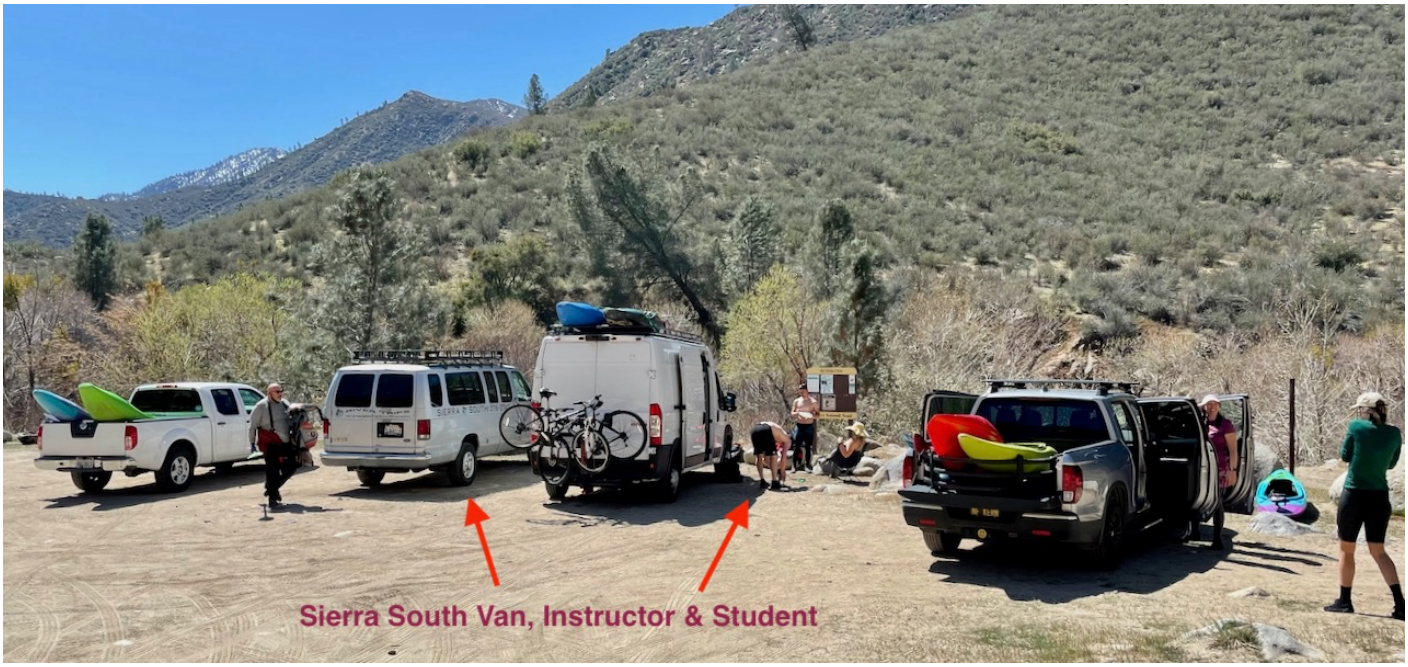
"It is amazing how much fun 200 cfs can be," Hacker says. (Attachment C.)

3. "March 27, 2021" by Brett Duxbury

View/Download at: https://www.facebook.com/kernville/posts/10222298608832299

Just after noon on March 27, 2021, Kern River Boaters members Liz Duxbury, Brett Duxbury, Ellen Kenney, Rick Norman, and Dale Murphy traveled to Calkins Flat on the dewatered reach of the North Fork Kern to paddle the Chamise section. KR3 was down for repairs and offline.

The group arrived to discover a Sierra South van and two boaters: a Sierra South kayak instructor and his kayak student.

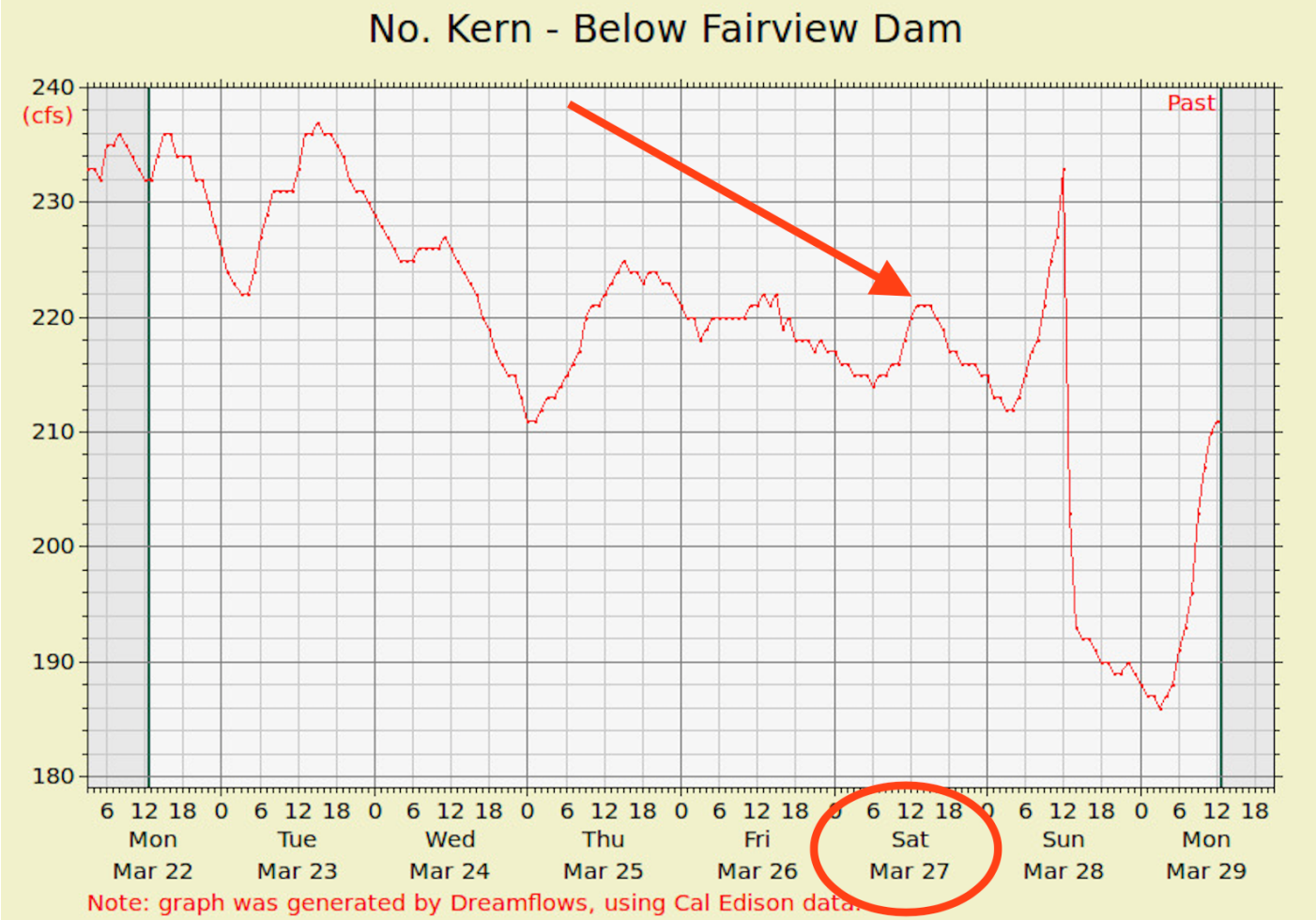


Chamise put-in, 12:41 p.m., March 27, 2021.

The Sierra South instructor informed the Kern River Boaters group that he and his student had completed two runs of the Chamise section, they had a great time on both, and they were excited to begin their third run down that stretch that day.

The KRB group was surprised that Sierra South was conducting business on this section at this level, given recent statements[1] by Sierra South owner Tom Moore and others involved in the commercial rafting business that 550 cfs was the *minimum* required flow on the Chamise section for an enjoyable experience.

On the day in question, there was about 220 cfs in the riverbed.



A video memorializing that day is here:

https://www.facebook.com/kernville/posts/10222298608832299

[1] SCE relicensing meeting, February 10, 2021.

Stills from 27MAR21 video

4. American Whitewater / Kern River Outfitters

American Whitewater analyzed the 1994 Boater Study and concluded, "whitewater recreation is **enhanced on the Kern at flows above 200 to 250 cfs**" — and advocated that **all flows from "200** to 1,400 cfs" should be left in the river to "enhance" recreation in the dewatered reach. (Attachment D & I.)

5. Chuck Richards / Kern River Outfitters

AW's conclusions were seconded by local outfitter Chuck Richards, adding that kayakers could "have **fun**" on the dewatered reach at only 200-250 cfs. (Attachment E.)

6. Tom Moore / Sierra South

Owner of Sierra South Tom Moore used to support protection of flows below 700 cfs — and even below 550 cfs — in KR3's dewatered reach. In 1996 — well after the completion of the boater study — Moore argued, "When the river rises to 300 cfs, it should be retained in the riverbed . . . ." Why 300? "Many active Kern Boaters

***know* the levels that we need** to boat in this 15-mile reach of the diversion, [and they] **actively start boating** when the river rises to 300 cfs." (Attachment F.)

Earlier, Moore argued to "return flow to the river from March through August whenever the available flow is 300 to 1,100 cfs," and to do so every day. Moore supported his conclusion with an observation that flows starting at 300 cfs (and continuing to 1,100) would "make a **much more enjoyable river experience and useage**." (Attachment G & H.)

7. Katharine Haines

Katharine Haines asked the managing agencies to "respect the public interest by making the highest use of the river by reserving the first 1,400 cfs for public use." (Attachment I.)

8. Gary Valle

Gary Valley supported "the AWA and KRO recommended flow releases of all natural flow between 200 cfs and 1,400, year round." (Attachment J.)

9. Chris Brown / Whitewater Voyages

On May 30, 2020, Whitewater Voyages' co-owner Chris Brown is seen in the following screenshot running a company raft down Chamise at 625 cfs, which is well below the 900 cfs "minimum enjoyable" level set by the 1994 study.

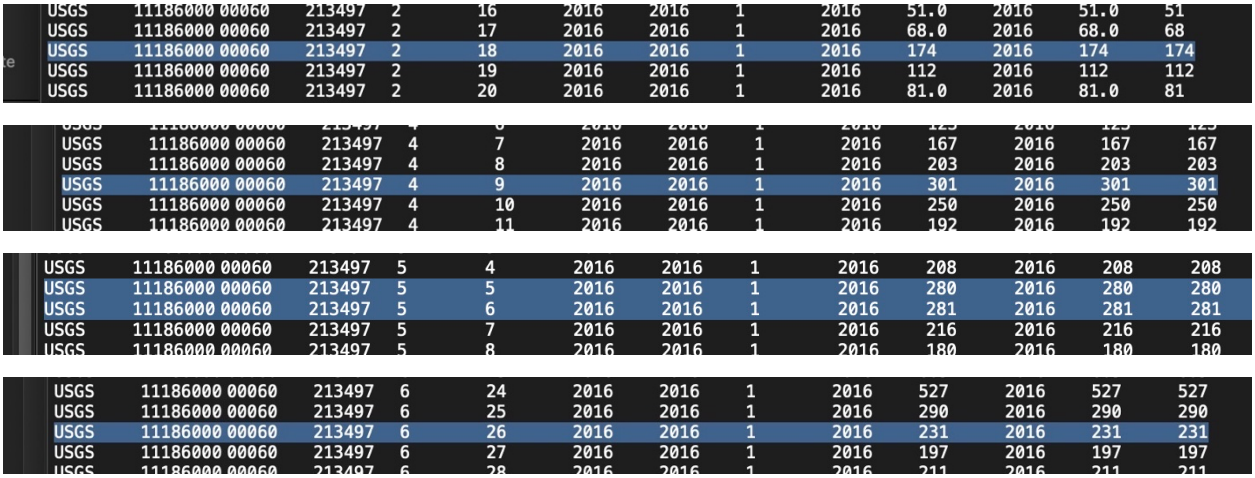
Brown guiding a Voyages' raft on Chamise at about 625 cfs

ATTACHMENT A

SCREENSHOT OF FILES USED TO COMPOSE “CHAMISE SIX 2016”

ATTACHMENT B

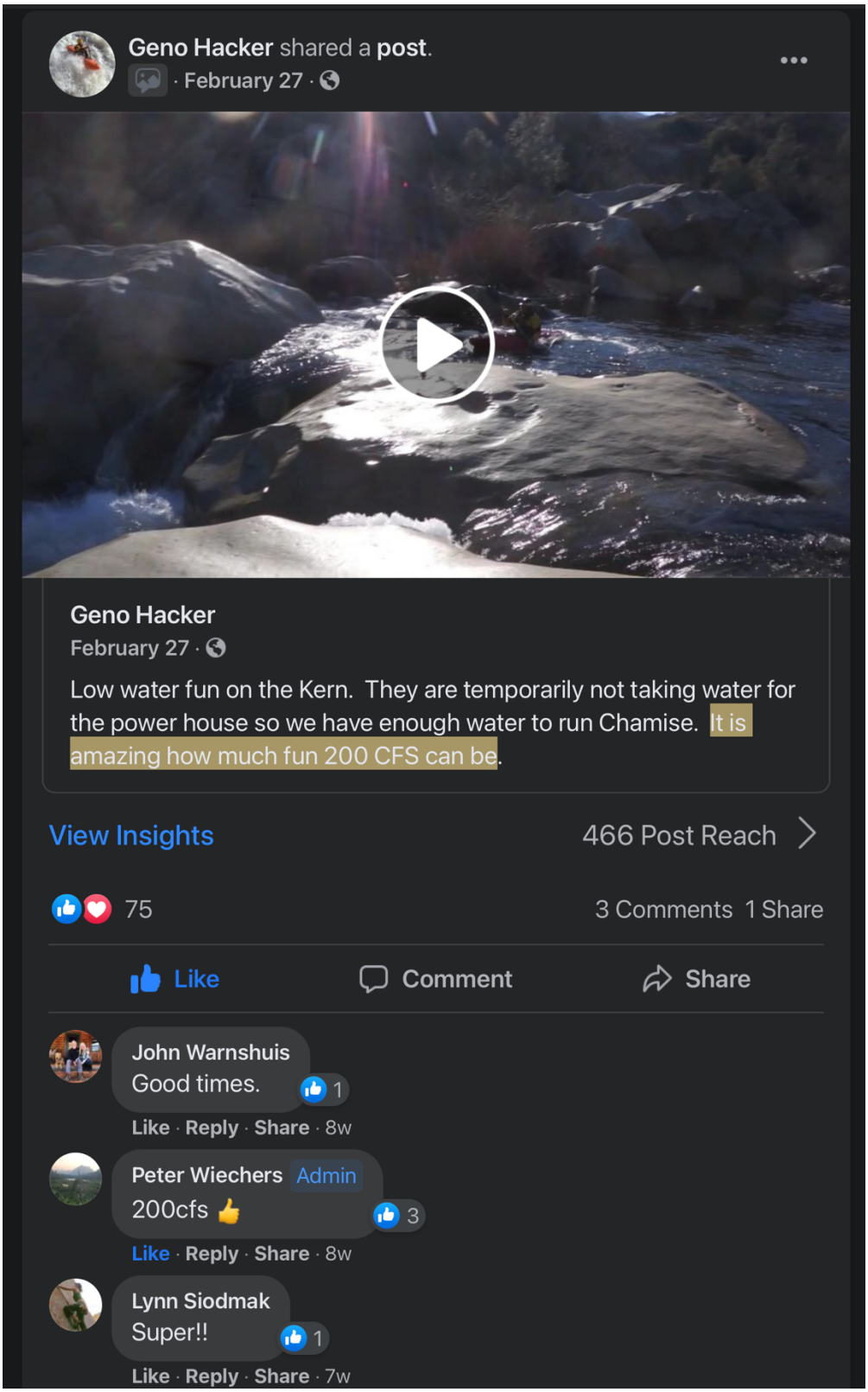
SCREENSHOTS OF USGS GAUGE DATA FOR KR3 DEWATERED REACH



USGS	11186000	00060	213497	2	16	2016	2016	1	2016	51.0	2016	51.0	51
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	2	17	2016	2016	1	2016	68.0	2016	68.0	68
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	2	18	2016	2016	1	2016	174	2016	174	174
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	2	19	2016	2016	1	2016	112	2016	112	112
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	2	20	2016	2016	1	2016	81.0	2016	81.0	81
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	4	7	2016	2016	1	2016	167	2016	167	167
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	4	8	2016	2016	1	2016	203	2016	203	203
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	4	9	2016	2016	1	2016	301	2016	301	301
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	4	10	2016	2016	1	2016	250	2016	250	250
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	4	11	2016	2016	1	2016	192	2016	192	192
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	5	4	2016	2016	1	2016	208	2016	208	208
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	5	5	2016	2016	1	2016	280	2016	280	280
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	5	6	2016	2016	1	2016	281	2016	281	281
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	5	7	2016	2016	1	2016	216	2016	216	216
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	5	8	2016	2016	1	2016	180	2016	180	180
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	6	24	2016	2016	1	2016	527	2016	527	527
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	6	25	2016	2016	1	2016	290	2016	290	290
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	6	26	2016	2016	1	2016	231	2016	231	231
USGS	11186000	00060	213497	6	27	2016	2016	1	2016	197	2016	197	197

ATTACHMENT C

SCREENSHOT OF GENO HACKER'S "February 27, 2021"



ATTACHMENT D

COMMENTS OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19941011-0107, at p. 5

19941011-0107(3181).PDF

Table II-7, Whitewater Flow Suitability, attempts to determine this lower end of recreational flows. However, the conclusions drawn from this data are invalid because many of these figures were determined through video review only, and contradicted the surveyed results of the participants.

What the boating representatives have learned from this study is that whitewater recreation is enhanced on the Kern at all flows above 200 to 250 cfs, and that private boaters can (and do) scrape down at even less. Rafting is possible between 550 and 700 cfs, and flows reach optimal (boaters' determination of optimal) for recreation on the upper half at 1050 cfs, and in the lower half at 1400 cfs (see Appendix B).

In order to maximize future whitewater recreation on the Kern we suggest that the current flow management scenario, in which SCE takes the first 600 cfs after minimum fishery flows, be reversed.

-Below 200 cfs there appears to be little opportunity for paddling on any section. SCE could use all natural flow (except for minimum instream flow for fish and aesthetics) below this for power production.

-Above 200 cfs SCE could not divert <u>any water</u> until the natural flow exceeded 1,400 cfs (optimum for raft passage and most suitable to create repeat commercial customers).

-Above 1,400 cfs SCE could divert all excess flow.

ATTACHMENT E

COMMENTS OF CHUCK RICHARDS / KERN RIVER OUTFITTERS

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19941011-0107, at "Appendix B"

Appendix B

Document Accession #: 19941011-0107 Filed Date: 10/03/1994

Chuck Richards' Whitewater, Inc.

Box W.W. Whitewater, Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(619) 379-4685
(619) 379-4444

June 30, 1994

Steve Nachtman
Stone & Webster
7677 E. Berry
Englewood CO 80111

Regarding: Kern River #3

Steve. . .

Here's a summation of my results with the Edison water flow testing in the bypassed 15 miles.

Kayaks, canoes, etc. can have fun at 200-250 cfs (& scrape down even lower).
Rafts can have fun at 700 cfs and scrape down possibly at 550.
Rafts reach optimum (in the upper half) by 1050 cfs
Rafts reach optimum in the lower half by 1400 cfs

We were lucky beyond expectation with the water flows. A hand from above seemed to provide just what we needed (in ascending volume) on *exactly* the three days which we worked with Bill Taggart. In the end, it was not necessary for Edison to add to the flows (from the aqueduct).

We were *not* lucky with the lengthy questionnaire (as you know). Five pages to complete for *each* of the six sections of river (as Bill had divided the 15 miles into), resulted in 30 pages per day, per person of paperwork. Since this length may have inhibited many individuals, while providing more information than you needed, I thought to send the above thoughts of mine.

ATTACHMENT F

COMMENTS OF TOM MOORE / SIERRA SOUTH

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 1996-1127-0288, at p. 2

SIERRA SOUTH
INCORPORATED

Many active Kern boaters know the levels that we need to boat in this 15-mile reach of the diversion. Kayakers, canoeists, and inflatable kayakers actively start boating when the river rises to 300cfs. Unfortunately, 1100cfs is not enough water for the majority of rafts to negotiate the run. For all types of rivercraft both commercial and private to begin to have a quality run, the reach needs 1400cfs.

ATTACHMENT G

COMMENTS OF KATHARINE HAINES

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19950518-0066, at p. 7

Document Accession #: 19950518-0066 Filed Date: 05/15/1995

videotape prepared by the USFS in 1994 that shows boaters having no difficulty negotiating these two rapids. Fairview Dam, not the difficulty of the two rapids, "Sidewinder" and "Bombs-Away," prevents rafters from running the two rapids.

These two rapids immediately below Fairview Dam are similar in challenge to difficulty many rapids on the Kern: Class IV-V depending on the water level. Guidebooks and maps of the river do not include descriptions of these two rapids because Fairview Dam creates an impassable obstacle that inhibits public access to them.

Failure to add the Dam portage divides the North Fork of the Kern River run into five parts: 1) boating the present 2.4 mile run that ends at Willow Point beach 100 yards upstream of Fairview Dam, 2) placing boats and people on a car or bus and trailer, 3) shuttling boats and people 600 yards downstream, 4) unloading the boats and people down the cliff back to the water, 5) running the next 5 miles of river.

Add parking spaces at Willow Point to increase public access and public safety

The take out at Willow Point and the put in at Chamise Flats are also popular among fishermen, campers and picnickers because both spots offer shade and a sandy beach, a rare combination on this crowded river. This creates extreme competition for the 8-10 available parking spaces above both beaches, and crowds on the beaches and in the water. A portage bypass around the dam would benefit each user group by reducing this competition for space. A Dam portage would enhance recreational opportunities, reduce congestion and increase safety for all user groups.

A portage bypass and adequate parking spaces around the Dam will grant the public access to a full day river run of 8 miles, reduce traffic and congestion in and near Willow Point, increase public safety, and reduce the time, money and effort required to run that section of river.

f. Respect the public interest by making the highest use of the river by reserving the first 1400 cfs for public use

The public would best be served by reserving the first 1400 cfs in the river for recreational use and environmental enhancement. This would provide sufficient water to access all sections of the river by boat, improve fish habitat significantly and draw significantly more tourists and income to the Kern River. This would be the first and best step to using this river as a regional and national resource. It would also follow the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Do not decrease water release levels

The USFS recommendation on page 8 of the draft EA to provide less water in the years 11-20 and even less years 21-30 is arbitrary and capricious. Apparently it is based on the notion that since whitewater boating equipment in general improved a great deal in the last 20 years it will improve more in the future. This generalization does not apply to minimum water necessary to run a river, short of adding wheels to the bottom of boats. It is illogical and should be dismissed outright.

ATTACHMENT H

COMMENTS OF TOM MOORE / SIERRA SOUTH

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19940802-0010, at p. 127

3. Further his flow augmentation proposal is to return flow to river from March through August whenever the available flow is 300 to 1100 cfs, otherwise the available flow up to 600 cfs could go to the plant. He felt that this would make a much more "enjoyable river experience and usage," that dollars of economics is not the entire justification. I pointed out that this would gut the heart of generation capacity, and that a much more narrow upper band that provided for the greatest number and type of boaters would have better economic justification potential. Also I asked if he was talking weekends or all the time. He answered all the time. I indicated that this was unrealistic.

4. Also discussed ideas on flow information system. He appreciated getting the data this year, but would like to see improvements in the future. Agreed that knowing the river flows below the dam for previous and current day was valuable.

5. He would be willing to receive data and give general boating advisories, but not specific flow predictions.

6. If there is water they (the boaters) come.

ATTACHMENT I

COMMENTS OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19950516-0150, at p. 11

the DEA recommends flows of 700 to only 1100 cfs at all times. These figures are incorrect, and an EIS will need to examine how addressing a broader flow scenario could improve or change the determinations of this DEA.

Lower flow releases (down to 250 cfs.) and a wider range of flows would significantly improve weekday recreation, early season recreation, and late summer recreation. They would also significantly improve the overall dollar value of whitewater recreation on the Kern. Unfortunately, rather than research this information, the DEA settles for a "flow schedule (which) would substantially enhance whitewater boating opportunities with minimal impacts to other resources and power generation." (page 62)

ATTACHMENT J

COMMENTS OF GARY VALLE / KERN RIVER ALLIANCE

FERC E-LIBRARY No. 19961127-0296, at p. 3

Document Accession #: 19961127-0296 Filed Date: 11/25/1996

To more closely reflect the unimpeded natural flow of the NFKR and realize the ecological benefits of a more natural flow regime, and protect established recreational opportunities on a Wild and Scenic River, the FERC and the Forest Service should adopt the AWA and KRO recommended flow releases of all natural flow between 200 cfs and 1400 cfs, year round.

In support of its "weekends and holidays" only flow release schedule, the FERC on page D-75 of the EA, states that its schedule would "enhance whitewater boating opportunities with minimal impacts to other resources and power generation."

FERC is mandated to "balance" the use of the water resource. If there is to be "balance" then necessarily there will be an impact on the production of power by the Kern River No. 3 project.

Sincerely,

Gary Valle