

Move that the Proposed Action and Alternative One of the Salt Flat Bridge replacement be modified to include administrative access for Bureau of Land Management personnel.

June 12, 2003

Trinity River Restoration Program

RE: Draft EA/EIR Trinity River Bridges Project  
Salt Flat Bridge Replacement

The "Proposed Action" and "Alternative One" do not provide administrative access across the new Salt Flat Bridge for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) will have administrative access to their timberlands across the new bridge while BLM is being denied administrative access to their lands.

The Bureau of Land Management is the Federal Co-Lead Agency. BLM is providing construction easements, contractor staging and storage areas, permanent easements, right of way easements and private use of BLM lands for the benefit of the Salt Flat property owners. BLM should share in the benefits of this new million dollar bridge build with public funds.

The new bridge would enable BLM to access previously inaccessible Wild and Scenic River corridor lands. Access would facilitate implementation of the BLM Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

The BLM lands contain a Native American Indian Cultural complex and attendant natural resources. The Bureau of Land Management has a memorandum of understanding with the Nor El Muk Wintu for stewardship of the Salt Flat Ethnohistoric Complex (CA-TRI-862). Under Executive Order 13007 it is required to accommodate access to Indian sacred sites on Federal lands.

The new Salt Flat Bridge provides an exceptional opportunity for BLM to meet these goals and mandates.