



Mokelumne River Wild and Scenic Designation Overview

In 2015, AB 142 (Bigelow) was approved by the State Legislature and Governor, which tasked the California State Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) with studying 37 miles of the upper Mokelumne River to determine suitability for designation into the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System while considering the water supply needs of local communities. Special focus was given to the impacts such a designation would have on local water districts that divert water from the river, which include Amador Water Agency, Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Calaveras Public Utility District and Calaveras County Water District (the Agencies).

The Agencies and local environmental groups provided detailed input to CNRA staff to help inform the study's composition. The [final report](#) was released on April 18, 2018, and it found that all five segments of the Mokelumne River that were studied are suitable for state wild and scenic designation, subject to certain express conditions designed to meet the current and future water supply needs of local communities served by the Agencies. Within the study are five special provisions that protect the water rights and water supply infrastructure of the Agencies and the people they serve. The language in these provisions was agreed upon in a collaborative effort between the Agencies, environmental groups, including the Foothill Conservancy and Friends of the River, and the CNRA. The Agencies are grateful to Assemblyman Bigelow for his leadership with AB 142, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the staff at CNRA for their hard work on the report and attention to the issues of concern to the Agencies and other stakeholders.

Summary of Special Provisions

Special Provision 1: Ensures that the wild and scenic designation will not impact the Agencies' existing water rights or water supply infrastructure.

Special Provision 2: Provides a pathway for the Agencies to obtain new water rights as needed in the future.

Special Provision 3: Ensures the designation will not interfere with PG&E's hydropower project or the Roaring Camp Mining Company's operations.

Special Provision 4: Prevents the State of California from seeking a federal wild and scenic designation for the 37-mile section of the Mokelumne, which could substantially enlarge the footprint of the designated area.

Special Provision 5: Ensures if there is any conflict with other provisions in the State Wild and Scenic Act, these special provisions shall control.

To read the full text of the special provisions, go to page 224 and 225 of the final CNRA report [here](http://resources.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WS-Final-Report_033018.pdf): (http://resources.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WS-Final-Report_033018.pdf).

Next steps

The Agencies will work with local stakeholders to identify a member of the State Assembly or Senate to introduce a bill that would designate the 37-mile section of the Mokelumne River as wild and scenic and include all five special provisions to protect local water rights and water systems that have received broad-based, regional support.

Contact

For more information, contact the following stakeholders:

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