

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 9
500 SOUTH MAIN STREET
BISHOP, CA 93514
PHONE (760) 872-0785
FAX (760) 872-0678
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

September 17, 2020

Mr. Adam Barnett
Inyo National Forest Service
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514

File: Mno-395-33.9
RFC
SCH #: none

Upper Owens River Wild and Scenic River - Comprehensive Management Plan #57325

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for notifying the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 about the upcoming Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Management Plan. The Upper Owens River crosses under the State highway at Mono US 395 postmile 33.9.

In the vicinity of US 395, human activities are visually evident, and the drainage culvert directs the river flow, so it is not truly free flowing. These two characteristics seem to contradict WSR criteria. It would have been optimal if the Upper Owens WSR corridor was originally described with the omission of at least the US 395 right-of-way (R/W) area.

Since the US 395 R/W area does not really belong in a WSR corridor, in the management plan, please formally excluded it in the boundary definition and hence, from any policies, goals, regulations, Section 4(f) analysis, etc. An aerial showing the US 395 R/W is enclosed. Caltrans already fulfills environmental requirements for its projects and maintenance activities, so additional WSR directives would be superfluous. As the steward of the State Highway System (SHS) Caltrans needs to efficiently provide unencumbered maintenance of the existing roadway and drainage facilities. Perhaps a phrase such as "excluding US 395 right-of-way" would suffice.

We value our cooperative working relationship with the Inyo National Forest regarding effects upon the state transportation system. For any questions, feel free to contact me at (760) 872-0785 or at gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle J. Rosander".

GAYLE J. ROSANDER
External Project Liaison

c: Mark Reistetter, Caltrans

Enclosure: US 395 R/W Aerial

US 395 Upper Owens River Caltrans Right-of-Way

Crestview Maintenance Station

Postmile 33.9
R/W approx. 310-ft



-  US 395
-  Wild and Scenic River
-  Caltrans Right-of-Way
-  1/4 mile Buffer of Wild and Scenic River

0 0.13 0.25 Mile

N

