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First name: Richard

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Supervisor Roman Torres

Angeles National Forest

701 North Santa Anita Avenue

Arcadia, CA 91006

Attn: Piru Creek CRMP

Dear Supervisor Torres:

Please accept my following comments and include them in this administrative record.

I grew up in southern California and I am familiar with Piru Creek. I want to see it protected in as natural a condition as possible. I know that western pond turtles and arroyo toads are declining throughout much of their historic range and they may be listed soon under the Endangered Species Act. I believe that increased protection for Piru Creek would benefit the conservation and recovery of these native species. Such increased protection is especially needed in light of the greater environmental stresses caused by climate change, drought, and more severe wildfires.

I greatly appreciate the proper determination in the Piru Creek Comprehensive River Management Plan that the designated segment of Piru Creek possesses outstanding scenery, fish, and geology values. However, I urge you to include the creek's rare and unique recreational opportunities as a specific outstandingly remarkable value protected in the Plan.

Piru Creek between Pyramid Dam and Piru Reservoir provides a rare opportunity for class III-IV whitewater kayaking in a truly wild setting, all just an hour drive from Los Angeles. Although boatable flows are only available during wet years, the new federal power license for Pyramid Dam will ensure that State Water Project water deliveries downstream will provide up to six weekend days of boatable flows in the winter.

In addition, the trackless Wild segment of Piru Creek offers a rare but easily accessible canyoneering experience, while Frenchman's Flat upstream is a popular family recreation destination for local communities of color to seek respite from the summer heat. A short segment of the creek is also one of only two catch and release trout streams in southern California and is popular with anglers.

I urge you to recognize Piru Creek's outstanding recreational value. I support and applaud the proposed and potential future management actions in the draft CRMP and urge the U.S. Forest Service to complete its visitor use capacity analysis as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for this important work and for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts
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