

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AFTER LEGAL ACTION, TRAILS IN LAKE OROVILLE SRA TO REMAIN HIKER/ EQUESTRIAN**

Oct. 8, 2018 Oroville, CA —The historic hiking and equestrian trails within the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA) were threatened once again by the CA Department of Water Resources (DRW) emergency action to convert trails to multiuse by adding bikes. Four equestrian groups in the Oroville vicinity took legal action to stop this wholesale conversion by demonstrating DWR's gross misrepresentation of 2006 Recreation Management Plan that, if approved, would have mandated multiuse trails throughout the park.

Attorney Bill Davis represented the equestrians and filed a Motion to Intervene into the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) application to immediately open all trails to bikes as an emergency measure to compensate the mountain biking community for a few miles of bike trails that were damaged by the Oroville Dam Spillway disaster last year.



Documents included in the equestrian's Oroville SRA Motion to Intervene corrected DWR's misrepresentation the status of the 2006 Recreation Management Plan (RMP) to the Oroville Recreation Advisory Group (ORAC), equestrians, city and county officials and the general public. For 12 years, DWR had erroneously asserted that the 2006 RMP had been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the governing body for the Oroville Dam Project, and that the trail conversion had been pre-approved. In fact, FERC gave DWR instructions to make specific changes to the 2006 Plan to protect the "equestrian experience" and safety. These changes were never made and the 2006 RMP never received FERC's approval.

Based on the revelations presented by the equestrian's Motion to Intervene, the Oroville Recreation Advisory Council (ORAC) withdrew their signatures from the unapproved 2006 Recreation Management Plan (RMP) and agreed with FERC that a new plan be generated. The Oroville equestrians are ready to participate in the development of a new, legitimate RMP and to stand firm on legal grounds that protect the safety of equestrian and hikers at Lake Oroville SRA.