

Letter seeking Oroville Dam licensing delay goes to FERC



Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce President-CEO Sandy Linville speaks during the July 27 meeting of the Oroville Recreation Advisory Committee. A letter spearheaded by the chamber asking for a delay in relicensing Oroville Dam has been sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Bill Husa — Enterprise-Record

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0 COMMENTS

Oroville >> Local politicians, municipalities and agencies have sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with this message: delay relicensing the Oroville Dam.

The groups want FERC to hold off on its decision to allow the state Department of Water Resources to continue to operate the dam for another 50 years. They are asking for a delay until [the independent forensic team](#), which is analyzing what caused the spillways to fail in February, releases its final report this fall.

“The entities request that the Commission delay relicensing until the parties and the licensee can better understand the causes of this incident and how it may change the underlying assumptions of the pending license,” the letter reads.

Of the 36 total parties in support, nine groups were signatories of [the settlement agreement](#) finalized in 2006, including: American Whitewater, Citizens for Fair and Equitable Recreation, Feather River Low Flow Alliance, Lake Oroville Bicyclists Organization, Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce, Oroville Downtown Business Association, Oroville Recreation Advisory Committee, Oroville Rotary Club and the Town of Paradise.

Local representatives Assemblyman James Gallagher, R-Yuba City, and Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber, and two of Oroville’s seven city councilors, Linda Draper and Janet Goodson also signed in support of the letter spearheaded by the Oroville Chamber of Commerce. Other individuals with names on the letter include Victoria Smith and Christopher Tellis.

Other local governments that offered support include the counties of Butte and Sutter and the cities of Marysville, Gridley, Wheatland, Yuba City, Live Oak and Biggs.

Noticeably absent is the city of Oroville. [The council decided](#) to leave it up to individual members to sign at a meeting July 11, as the council had another letter to FERC in the works. That letter has not been finalized yet.

The remaining groups that signed on include: Friends of the River, Norcal Fishing Guides and Sportsmen’s Association, California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance, Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corp.;

Oroville Association of Realtors, Sutter-Yuba Association of Realtors, Sacramento Valley Landowners’ Association, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Live Oak District Chamber of Commerce, South Yuba Citizens League, AquAlliance and Plumbers, Pipefitters and HVAC Local Union 228.

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