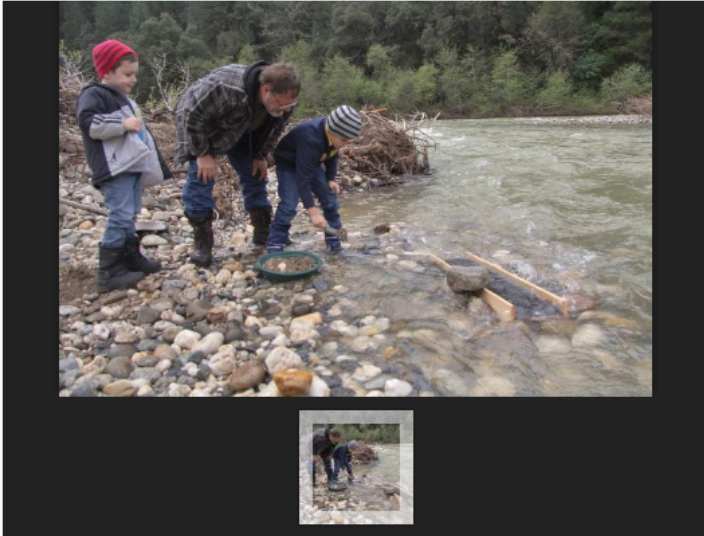


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Centennial Dam spending fixed at \$2M a year

Board will not halt work on project opposed by environmental group

By: Gus Thomson, Reporter/Columnist



Nevada Irrigation District plans to limit Centennial Dam spending to \$2 million annually.

The district board met in a special meeting Tuesday, voting to keep the proposed project in the Bear River canyon between Meadow Vista and Colfax as a potential water-supply option but to put a cap on yearly spending.

The meeting followed a request by the South Yuba River Citizens League to halt work on the project.

The district estimated more than 500 people turned out for the meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building in Grass Valley. The league estimated more than 700.

District General Manager Rem Scherzinger said the vote was essentially a decision by the board to limit some of its authority. It wasn't a unanimous decision, with directors Scott Miller, Nancy Weber and Nick Wilcox voting for the \$2 million limitation and John Drew and William Morebeck voting against it.

"As a nod to the league's request, the most important thing was the board voluntarily and independently chose to surrender some of its authority with regards to the Centennial budget," Scherzinger said. "The directors took away their ability to amend, add, contract over that \$2 million limit."

A motion to bring the citizens league request to a vote found no support. League Executive Director Melinda Booth said that her group was disappointed with the outcome and that it was no compromise. Instead, she said it was "status quo," with a proposed district budget already allocating \$2 million a year for Centennial Dam work through 2023.

"At NID, it's business as usual — putting the cart before the horse by wasting millions on Centennial Dam even when the state determined the project has no public benefit," Booth said.

