



KNIGHTS FERRY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 880, Knights Ferry, CA 95361

Special Meeting Minutes June 4, 2025

Members Present: Shavon Haskell, Eric Feichter, Denise Crom, Nancy Gardner-Heaven

At 7:00 PM the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Informational Discussion Items/Presentations

- 1) **Lower Stanislaus River Parks Master Plan Update Environmental Assessment, Stanislaus County:** Hillary Wright, District Natural Resource Specialist with USACE presented a Power Point Handout summarizing the Master Plan & Environmental Assessment, New Melones, Lower Stanislaus River Project. Original Lower SRP was published in 1977, updated January 30, 2013, and proposed an update on June 22, 2016 (10 years ago). Current MPU is available online for Public review and comment (over 188 pages long). Comment date extended to July 6, 2025, since this presentation only allowed 3 days to comment (Due June 7, 2025). Link to comments was written down and will be posted at the Knights Ferry Post Office.
- 2) **The Public questions included:**
 - a) **Fire Mitigation:** No part of the MPU allowed for addressing dry conditions, dead trees, and overgrown vegetation providing excessive fuels to the River Corridor managed by the USACE.
 - b) **Current Use of Camping without regulation:** Fire pits in areas not maintained. No Law Enforcement. Told to call 911, but slow response if any. No consideration for Private Property adjacent park areas and safety of Local Residences.
 - c) **Rafters:** Polluting, destroying, and total disregard for Private Property adjacent river
 - d) **Easement Enforcement:** Property Owner with Easement agreements, enforcement nonexistent. Reported complete removal of vegetation on one property but unable to remove fire hazards on adjacent property without violation. The situation was reported to Colonel Caldwell, USACE in Sacramento with no response. In contact with Hillary Wright, easements are for flood control to 8000 cfs.
 - e) **Historic Knights Ferry Bridge:** The bridge has been closed for over 5 years. This is a vital part of our Community. John Mueller, Operations Project Manager stated the USACE determined the Bridge was Structurally unsafe. He explained there are 3 phases:
 - i) Identify Historic Structure to be Restored
 - ii) Design Drawings
 - iii) Construction
 - He will update the Community on the Current Phase and timeline for Restoration
- 2) **Parking Charges:** \$10/car, due to this charge, the visitors park on the roadside and open lots in Knights Ferry. Excessive littering and congestion. Parking for local businesses is being impacted. No revenue earned is spent on local issues.
- 3) **EMS Services without Payment:** SRP emergencies are responded to by Local EMS. However, USACE/SRP does not pay taxes and does not reimburse the cost of services. This has created additional costs without reimbursement. No response to same.
- 4) **Past Operations Manager Heather Wright:** She requested the meeting address the Master Plan Update approval and be directed back to the issue at hand. Without MPU approval, no local issues can be addressed.

Council Comments:

1. Thank you for Community Involvement. Requested, John Mueller, Operations Project Manager attend the next KFMAC meeting to address Community Concerns.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shavon D. Haskell, Secretary**