

Hinton

SACRAMENTO RIVER PUBLIC RECREATION ACCESS STUDY

**Final draft
for Internal and Partner Review**

*Curtis Alling
Managing Principal
EDAW
Sacramento CA
916-414-5800
X5801*

alling@edaw.com

interest and opportunities for recreation use of this area will grow. While the various agencies and non-profit entities that own properties along the river have primarily acquired these lands for habitat conservation purposes, they recognize public recreation use as an important component of their conservation objectives.

Key Issues and Findings

The results of this study and analysis of previous studies indicate substantial public interest in natural areas. Potentially attractive recreation uses along the Sacramento River include: walking, visiting museums and historic site visits, beach activities, trail hiking, picnicking, camping, boating, attending outdoor cultural events, nature study, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing. Regional trends indicate a continued interest in the traditional recreation activities of boating, fishing, and hunting. Additionally, *non-consumptive* uses such as bird watching, wildlife viewing, nature observation, and hiking are expected to increase 65 percent over the next 40 years.

Some of the key suggestions and needs identified during the course of this study focused on the need to:

- improve the condition of boat ramps and other access points;
- provide more outreach, including handouts, kiosks, and visitor center;
- provide maps and signage to assist in finding river access and services and to reduce trespassing;
- increase the number of facilities and amenities such as trails, picnicking and camping facilities, especially in the southern portion of the study area;
- provide recreation opportunities for the diversity of ethnic groups (primarily Caucasian and Hispanic) and interests in the study area;
- minimize conflicts between different recreation uses (e.g., boating vs. bird watching, hunting vs. hiking or fishing);
- increase coordination among land managers to improve the value of the recreation opportunities within the study area by planning together and sharing resources and expertise;
- improve coordination among law enforcement and resource agencies to better provide for public safety, including coordination for large annual recreation events;