

6/24/91

Attn: Earl Balch, General Services Manager
Yolo County General Services
625 Court St. Room 303
Woodland CA 95695

Dear Sir:

In recent years, the boat ramp facility at Knights Landing has had an increase in use and activity. It is now in dire need of repairs and rebuilding. The ramp itself ends at the slough bank which drops straight off into deep water. At times of lower water levels in the Sacramento River, the County maintained boat ramp has had, and is still having, major problems. Severe damage has occurred from launching and/or loading a boat due to the short ramp. There is enough drop to totally disable a trailer with broken and /or bent axles. The County has dumped rock and cobbles at the end of the ramp, but this is only a temporary "stop-gap" at best. The cobbles are forced away and the drop off returns. This has forced people to use the center of the ramp, changing it from two (2) lanes to one (1) lane.

The small floating dock is totally inadequate. There is not enough room or dock length to handle more than one boat at a time. The "grid lock" at the ramp occurs frequently, and patience wear thin very quickly.

In addition; underwater obstacles have damaged boats. Many different types of submerged hazards lay in wait to destroy props, boat bottoms, and outdrives. Shallow water, gravel, trees, concrete, and other hazards are a constant danger in the slough the boat ramp occupies.

The solutions are simple:

Extend the concrete boat ramp itself, by any means possible, to sufficiently facilitate launching and loading of boats safely during lower water levels, which occurs frequently.

Lengthen and/or a re-configuration of the dock to facilitate more boats preparing to safely launch and/or load.

Dredge/clear the canal of all hazards, underwater and visible above.

As concerned citizens, taxpayers, and voters, we strongly request that action be taken to correct the problems. The liability factors and the dangers associated with this facility are tremendous. Injuries have and will continue to occur, you and your agency will be listed as responsible.

This action will enable State and County agencies (Fish & Game Research and Wardens, Sheriff, Emergency Services), access for response to emergencies on the river. Knights Landing is the only boat ramp facility available from Meridian/Tisdale to Verona. This will maintain a safe environment for all those who use the waterway for sport, work, and recreation.

We request a written reply within thirty (30) days. Petition with signatures to follow.

Sincerely,

Ken Brang
Name

6-24-91
Date

Joanne Brang
Name

6/24/91
Date

Bruce Minges
Name

6-24-91
Date

Deborah Minges
Name

6-24-91
Date

Petitioners and users of Knights Landing Fishing Access Facility.
1004 Carson St.
Woodland, Ca. 95695

cc: Yolo County Board of Supervisors
John Schmidt, State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board
Fred Meyer, State of California, Dept. of Fish and Game
Bill Curry, State of California, Dept. of Boating and Waterways
Bob Martinez, Yolo County Sheriff
Arthur Brandwood, Sutter County Sheriff