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United Auburn Indian Community
of the Auburn Rancheria

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Council Member

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Brian Dahle
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for removal of CalTrans State Route 49 Georgetown Bridge debris

I write today on behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), to express our strong support for the clean-up and removal of debris from the State Route 49 Georgetown Bridge.

Years ago, a winter flood blew out the partially constructed Hell Hole Dam in the upper American River watershed, sending a wall of water downstream that crested over the Highway 49 bridge known as the Georgetown Bridge. Under immense pressure, the bridge gave way, and its steel underpinnings, rails, and concrete decks swung to the right bank of the river.

That debris still remains along the bank just downstream of the confluence of the north and middle forks of the river in an area popular with the public. It is a hazard to the recreational public, and it dishonors this place that was home to the ancestors of the members of the UAIC

The UAIC believes it is long past time for the California Department of Transportation to remove the wreckage of the State Route 49 Georgetown Bridge and restore that stretch of the river.

Sincerely,

Gene Whitehouse
Chairman

cc: Matt Moore, UAIC Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Rebecca Allen, UAIC Tribal Historic Preservation Department Director