



# The Proposed Auburn to Cool Trail Bridge at China Bar



LINKING TRAILS, UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

## PURPOSE

The Auburn to Cool (ATC) Trail Bridge is a non-motorized, multi-use trail bridge proposed to be built over the North Fork of the American River at China Bar in the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA). Construction of the ATC trail bridge will restore the multi-use trail connectivity between Auburn trails and Cool trails that was eliminated when the Auburn Dam diversion tunnel was closed and the American River restored to its original channel as part of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Pump Station project completed in 2007.

## NEED

The ATC Trail Bridge will greatly expand route options for hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers and equestrians in what has become a very popular state park. Visitation to ASRA has surged in recent years, with approximately 1.5 million recreational users visiting the park on an annual basis. The Confluence area of the park has become overly congested, particularly on weekends, resulting in increased public safety hazards along what is a busy state highway. The ATC trail bridge will help provide relief to the Confluence by drawing some of those visitors to China Bar instead.

## BRIDGE COMMITMENTS

Construction of the trail bridge is called for in the general plans of both Auburn and Folsom Lake State Recreation Areas, with the bridge identified as a vital link in the proposed 360 degree trail around Folsom Lake. The state

of California has committed \$1 million toward bridge planning and construction, while PCWA has pledged another \$500,000. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which administers the federal land on which the bridge will be built, has pledged to cooperate with any State Parks-initiated planning and environmental review process for the proposed bridge. However, Reclamation has not yet provided permission to build the bridge at a site-specific location at China Bar.

## SUPPORT

Letters of support urging construction of the proposed ATC Trail Bridge have been submitted to BOR and State Parks by local, regional and citizen stakeholders, including the Placer County Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, Auburn City Council, Auburn Recreation District, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Placer Land Trust, Placer Community Foundation, recreational user groups and more than 3,000 individuals.

## NEXT STEPS

A renewed and amplified showing of public support for the bridge is needed to convince BOR to agree to a site-specific location at China Bar and to prompt State Parks to initiate a design and engineering study for the bridge at that location.

**Please email US Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Drew Lessard [dlessard@usbr.gov](mailto:dlessard@usbr.gov) and Gold Fields District Superintendent Steve Hilton [Steve.Hilton@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Hilton@parks.ca.gov) urging them to proceed with the necessary approvals and commitments to begin the ATC Trail Bridge project!**

For more ATC Trail Bridge information visit PARC's website [parc-auburn.org](http://parc-auburn.org)