

Public Law 102-432  
102d Congress

An Act

Oct. 23, 1992  
[H.R. 2431]

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating a segment of the Lower Merced River in California as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE LOWER MERCED RIVER FOR INCLUSION IN THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.**

16 USC 1274.

Section 3(a)(62) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(62)) is hereby amended—

(1) by striking “The main stem” and inserting in lieu thereof, “(A) The main stem”;

(2) by striking “paragraph” whenever it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “subparagraph”; and

(3) by adding the following new subparagraph at the end thereof:

“(B)(i) The main stem from a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek downstream to the normal maximum operating pool water surface level of Lake McClure (elevation 867 feet mean sea level) consisting of approximately 8 miles, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Merced Wild and Scenic River’, dated April, 1990. The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the segment as recreational, from a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek downstream to a point 300 feet west of the boundary of the Mountain King Mine, and as wild, from a point 300 feet west of the boundary of the Mountain King Mine to the normal maximum operating pool water surface level of Lake McClure. The requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall be fulfilled by the Secretary of the Interior through appropriate revisions to the Sierra Management Framework Plan for the Sierra Planning Area of the Folsom Resource Area, Bakersfield District, Bureau of Land Management. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subparagraph.

“(ii) To the extent permitted by, and in a manner consistent with section 7 of this Act (16 U.S.C. 1278), and in accordance with other applicable law, the Secretary of the Interior shall permit the construction and operation of such pumping facilities and associated pipelines as identified in the Bureau of Land Management right-of-way application CACA 26084, filed by the Mariposa County Water Agency on November 7, 1989, and known as the ‘Saxon Creek Project’, to assure an adequate supply of water from the Merced River to Mariposa County.

“(C) With respect to the segments of the main stem of the Merced River and the South Fork Merced River designated as recreational or scenic pursuant to this paragraph or by the appropriate agency pursuant to subsection (b), the minerals to Federal lands which constitute the bed or bank or are situated within

one-quarter mile of the bank are hereby withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing laws including, in both cases, amendments thereto.”

**SEC. 2. STUDY OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE MERCED RIVER.**

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)), is further amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

“( ) NORTH FORK MERCED, CALIFORNIA.—The segment from its headwaters to its confluence with the Merced River, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.”

**SEC. 3. NEW EXCHEQUER PROJECT.**

The designation of the river segments referred to in section 1 of this Act as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall not affect the continued operation and maintenance (including flood control operations) of the New Exchequer Project (Project No. 2179) as licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the date of enactment of this Act or the Commission's authority to issue a new license to the existing licensee for such project within the project boundaries set forth in the license on the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That if the Commission issues a new license to the existing licensee for such a project, the normal maximum operating pool water surface level authorized in the project's license shall not exceed elevation 867.0 mean sea level.

Approved October 23, 1992.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2431 (S. 549):**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 102-349 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 102-231 accompanying S. 549 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 137 (1991): Nov. 23, considered and passed House.

Vol. 138 (1992): Mar. 26, S. 549 considered and passed Senate.

Apr. 9, H.R. 2431 considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 29, House concurred in Senate amendment with an amendment.

Oct. 7, Senate concurred in House amendment.