



April 4, 2002

Mr. Ron Suter, Director County Parks  
County of Sacramento  
3711 Branch Center Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

**Re: American River Parkway Threat to Health & Safety of Residents**

Dear Mr. Suter:

After six months of patience for conditions to change, the Board of the North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce unanimously adopted a position of grave concern regarding the unsafe conditions in the American River Parkway at its March 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

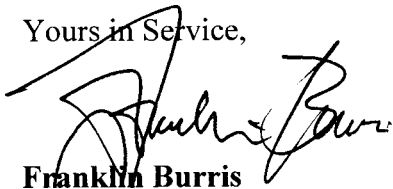
The Chamber's policy position is underpinned by environmental, recreational, and cost of business concerns, as expressed by parkway users, member businesses and Uptown Business Improvement District (BID) members.

Illegal dumping and camping along the northern side of the American parkway between Capitol City Freeway and the Highway 160 crossings is resulting in massive damage to once special habitat, deer foraging areas, and precious wildlife. Recreational and educational use of this portion of the parkway has ceased due to serious concerns for personal safety by bicyclists, joggers, walkers, and class tours. Businesses located in nearby Commerce Circle, Railroad Drive and lower Del Paso Boulevard have complained about increased vandalism, theft, and physical confrontations with illegal campers due to the activity allowed to continue in the parkway.

In discussions with representatives of the City, County, and Regional Transit, no one disputes the situation is alarming, but conditions seem to persist to the detriment of the parkway, the surrounding community and as a continuing financial burden to nearby businesses. This can not continue, and the risks to health and safety demand government intervention.

The Chamber urges you to make a strong stand to protect the parkway and restore it to the lawful and recreational uses that other affluent communities like Arden, Carmichael and Fair Oaks enjoy on their part of the parkway. Government must abide by its responsibility as steward of this public land to put a stop the current conditions.

Yours in Service,



**Franklin Burris**