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Subject: Redding Riverfront Specific Plan EIR Scoping Comments

Date: February 24, 2026

**Director Pagan,**

As a [REDACTED] resident of Redding, I am writing about the Environmental Impact Report for the **Redding Riverfront Specific Plan**. I applaud the City for soliciting feedback from the community.

In reflecting on past initiatives in our region, there is a long history of development around hospitality and tourism, with mixed results. Restaurants, hotels, and other businesses expressly designed for visitors run the risk of falling short of visitation goals, while compromising values and benefits to the community.

I'd like to speak particularly the vision elements (A) *for health vibrant environment* and (B) *for respecting the indigenous communities*, while acknowledging the importance of the other vision elements.

**It is critical that the EIR must clearly identify specifics of what is to be built, where, and what levels of use are to be permitted.** This is especially important for addressing potential impacts, analysis of alternatives and mitigation measures.

Furthermore, **the EIR must analyze environmental quality, including impacts to salmon, native plants, water quality, and habitat.** Over a century of development has compromised these values, with far-reaching environmental, economic and cultural impacts. The value of these resources and services, are illustrated during the Native, pre-settlement period when **this area supported some of the highest densities, and highest diversity, of Native people in North America.** This was especially true during the fall salmon run.

**The EIR must therefore ensure Indigenous communities, organizations and tribal members are guaranteed access and decision-making, as caretakers of the land.** Today tribal members, along with recreational and commercial fishing, boaters and others depend on the health of these

resources. Wildlife and birds are vital indicators of ecological health, and are dependent on healthy riparian and floodplain environments.

There is documentation that the stretch of the Sacramento River that is the focus of Specific Plan was home to as many as 10 Wintu villages as recently as the 1880s. Today, tribes across the state and beyond are reviving culture, language, ceremonies and traditional land use practices. This project therefore represents an opportunity redress some degree of past wrongs and to celebrate the past, present and future role that Indigenous people in our region.

Vision element (D) *appropriate scale and uses* should be a guiding principle throughout, to ensure that environmental and Indigenous values are maintained. **In keeping with EIR requirements, there must be also be alternatives that prioritize conservation and Indigenous access and use, over a focus on development of the Riverfront.**

Respectfully,

