

Opinion: Questioning billions of bucks for Placer County bridge retrofit

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the April 10, 2011, Auburn Journal.*

Congressman Tom McClintock believes an Auburn dam will be built and as the ranking member of the powerful water and power subcommittee he has considerable clout.

"I am still an Auburn dam supporter," McClintock said during a recent visit with the Journal editorial board. "The only question is whether it will be built before the city of Sacramento is destroyed or after."

When told that the Foresthill Bridge was undergoing a \$79 million earthquake retrofit and paint job, largely paid for by the federal government, McClintock seemed surprised.

"I would say that's not a good use of money," he said.

McClintock explained that the federal highway administration was in charge of bridges, and that money was probably allocated some time ago, before he took office

Spending \$70-million plus on the Foresthill Bridge when there are so many other much more worthy local projects in need of funding is a boondoggle. It's government waste.

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