

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

BOARD AGENDA # *B-2

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE August 3, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Letter of Support to the National Parks Service for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Proposal

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign and submit a letter of support to the National Parks Service for the support of the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Proposal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-499

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, DeMartini, and Chairman Grover

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Monteith

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:

Christine Ferraro
CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Approval for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Letter of Support to the National Parks Service for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Proposal

DISCUSSION:

Stanislaus County has received a request for a letter of support for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Proposal. The applicants are proposing to form a Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Committee in hopes of creating a River Trail from Knights Ferry west to the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers west of Caswell State Park. The total length of the proposed river trail is approximately 55.5 miles. The proposal is being submitted to the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The National Park Service provides the experience to facilitate outreach assistance with stakeholders and facilitates in the planning process.

This proposal is consistent with needs' expressed in the March 2006 California State Parks' Central Valley Vision. This vision document discussed the process the State used to gather information about the parks and recreational needs of the Central Valley. State Parks held 11 public meetings to gather concerns and recommendations from the public regarding parks and recreation services in the Central Valley. The first need listed in the State's report was: "Increase river access, including fishing areas, boat ramps, water trails, and entrance/egress areas for water recreation."

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors should determine if signing a letter of support to the National Park Service for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway Proposal is consistent with the Board's priorities of a healthy community, effective partnerships and a well-planned infrastructure system.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director of Parks and Recreation

Telephone: 209-525-6770



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William O'Brien, 1st District
Vito Chiesa, 2nd District
Jeff Grover, 3rd District
Dick Monteith, 4th District
Jim DeMartini, 5th District

1010 10th Street, Suite 6500, Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: 209.525.4494 Fax: 209.525.4410

July 28, 2010

Ms. Barbara Rice, RTCA Director
NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607

Subject: Support for the NPS' Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail and Greenway in Stanislaus County.

Dear Ms. Rice:

The rivers that course through the Central Valley are one of our most prized jewels. In addition to providing an invaluable resource to agricultural and environmental needs, they also provide a tremendous amount of scenic beauty to our residents and visitors. Unfortunately, due to the current inaccessibility of many of the sections of these rivers, this benefit is largely underutilized. In addition, California's Central Valley population is exploding and its residents are increasingly sedentary. In an area already underserved by parks, the need is critical for more water-based and pedestrian oriented recreation opportunities to serve today and tomorrow's Central Valley residents and visitors.

By planning now, government agencies and partners can improve recreation with the means available today, wisely use resources as they become available, and map a direction for those who come after us.

A river trail on the Lower Stanislaus River from Knights Ferry west to the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers, approximately 55.5 miles ending just past Caswell State Park, would provide many recreational opportunities for Central Valley residents and visitors. This future river trail would add to the water-based and pedestrian oriented recreation offerings to our residents, residents of the Central Valley, as well as visitors to the area.

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors supports the assistance of the RTCA program to begin the planning process for a River Trail on the Stanislaus River from Knights Ferry to the confluence of the San Joaquin River. Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department will provide support to the planning and outreach process with the RTCA and other partner agencies.

Stanislaus County will support a partnership role with NPS to advocate, support and participate to improve and enhance the river's educational, recreational, and stewardship opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Grover
Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

