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

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.15
AGENDA DATE: September 29, 2026

SUBJECT:
Approval of an Update in Accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22050 for the Emergency Repairs to Basso and Old La Grange Pedestrian Bridges

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS: **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0493**

On motion of Supervisor Withrow **Seconded by Supervisor** C. Condit
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman Chiesa
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X **Approved as recommended**
2) _____ **Denied**
3) _____ **Approved as amended**
4) _____ **Other:**

MOTION:

ATTEST: MARY E. HARTSFIELD, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors **File No.**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.15
AGENDA DATE: September 29, 2026

CONSENT: ☑

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: YES

SUBJECT:

Approval of an Update in Accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22050 for the Emergency Repairs to Basso and Old La Grange Pedestrian Bridges

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve an emergency update in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 22050 for emergency temporary repairs to Basso and Old La Grange Pedestrian Bridges.
2. Affirm by a 4/5 vote the emergency declaration remains necessary and authorize staff to proceed with needed repairs to Basso and Old La Grange Pedestrian Bridges.
3. Authorize the Director of Public Works to take any appropriate action necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of these recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) manages and maintains pedestrian bridges including Basso Bridge and Old La Grange Bridge. These bridges are located on the eastern side of the County and span the Tuolumne River.

Basso Bridge was built in 1911 and was retired from vehicular traffic and converted to a pedestrian-only bridge in 1987. It is located off Highway 132, west of the town of La Grange, along the upper reach of the Tuolumne River. The river access area encompasses approximately two acres and features a parking lot, restroom facilities, an informal boat launch, a gravel beach area suitable for swimming, trails and pathways, picnic tables, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible amenities. Fishing is permitted from January 1 through October 31.

Old La Grange Bridge was built around 1914 and served as a vehicular crossing over the Tuolumne River until 1989 when it was converted to pedestrian-only use. The surrounding area has been the focus of habitat restoration efforts aimed at improving spawning conditions for native trout and salmon. These projects have enhanced portions of the river ecosystem, making the site especially appealing to nature enthusiasts.

There is also informal river access around the Old La Grange Bridge area and downstream at Basso Bridge, where local anglers fish for trout and salmon during designated seasons. Paddlers may use these access points for casual float trips, depending on river conditions.

The Department contracted with Interwest Consulting Group in July 2024 to oversee the assessment of both pedestrian bridges. The bridge inspections were conducted by Consor, a professional infrastructure firm, in November 2024. The final inspection report was completed and submitted to the Parks Department in April 2025.

The report identified repair and maintenance recommendations for both bridges, organized into three categories: near-term, medium-term, and long-term. Recommended repairs include items such as replacing railings, bollards/posts, deteriorated stringers, and other structural and safety-related components.

In July 2025, the use of Building Community Services Investment (BCSI) funds was identified and approved for the maintenance and critical repairs of the bridges. The Department contacted the Department of Public Works project team to review the inspection reports and provide project management services over the necessary bridge repairs. Upon review of the findings, Public Works staff determined that the scope and urgency of the required repairs warrant a declaration of emergency due to the critical structural deficiencies identified.

Old La Grange Bridge (560 feet long, 14 spans)

- The substructure received a rating of 4 (Poor) under the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS), reflecting heavy deterioration of the timber columns and bent caps.
- The timber cap at Bent 10 has fully failed, and several timber columns show advanced decay and measurable section loss, creating a risk of sudden structural failure.
- The bridge railing is rated Poor, with missing rails and posts that present a significant fall hazard to pedestrians.

Basso Bridge (357 feet long, 4 spans)

- The timber stringers in Spans 2–4 are rated 4 (Poor) under NBIS; Stringer 14 has fully failed and no longer provides any load-carrying capacity.
- The bearing areas at the East Abutment and Pier 2 exhibit noticeable sagging, and the timber bents demonstrate advanced rot and structural deterioration.
- The bridge railing is likewise rated 4 (Poor) under NBIS, presenting an elevated safety risk to pedestrians.

Given the documented structural failures and the potential risk to public safety, immediate action is necessary to prevent further deterioration and mitigate the possibility of partial or full structural collapse. The bridges were closed to the public on February 24, 2026, and will remain closed until the appropriate repairs are completed.

Update

Myers & Sons, the contractor for the bridge repair project, has replaced two deteriorated wooden bridge spans on the east approach. Concrete deck placement is scheduled for the week of September 21, followed by final paving the week of September 28. Repairs to the wooden handrail at Basso Bridge have also been completed.

Upon completion of the Basso Bridge repairs, the contractor will begin work on the Old La Grange Bridge. All work on both bridges is anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

As required by Public Contract Code (PCC) 22050(c)(1), staff will return to the Board of Supervisors and report on the status of the emergency repair project at the meeting on October 13, 2026, and every 14 days thereafter.

POLICY ISSUE:

PCC Section 22050(a)(1) states, “In the case of an emergency, a public agency, pursuant to a four-fifths vote of its governing body, may repair or replace a public facility, take any directly related and immediate action required by that emergency, and procure the necessary equipment, services, and supplies for those purposes, without giving notice for bids to let contracts.” Further, PCC Section 22050(c)(1) requires staff to return before the Board at every regularly scheduled meeting thereafter, or every 14 days, to determine by four-fifths vote that there is a need to continue the action until the emergency is terminated.

It is important to note that following emergency procedures will still require prevailing wage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The available funding for the repairs is $600,000 and is funded with Building Community Services Investment funds approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2025. To date, approximately $320,000 out of the available $600,000 has been expended on construction costs for the project.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ PRIORITY:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Board of Supervisors’ priority of *Enhancing Community Infrastructure* by ensuring County Parks have safe, accessible outdoor space to support public recreation in Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works will oversee the successful delivery of this repair project.

CONTACT PERSON:

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