

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

PETE HEIMBIGNER, Director
Public Works/Transportation

25 Sus Ranch
2021/31

County of Lassen



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February 5, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors
Agenda Date: February 16, 2021

FROM: Department of Public Works/Transportation

RE: Grant Application to California State Parks for Acquisition of Land for
Addition to Susanville Ranch Park and Ballfield Renovations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a resolution, approving the application for grant funds for California State Parks "Statewide Park Program (SPP)", for acquisition of land for addition to Susanville Ranch Park and Ballfield Renovations.

DISCUSSION

This department is in the process of completing an application to the California State Parks "Statewide Park Program (SPP)" to acquire property adjacent to the north and east boundaries of the Susanville Ranch Park. In addition to acquisition, the proposed grant project includes constructing additional trails on the land and renovations to the Susanville Ranch Park ballfields. The full application is due no later than March 12, 2021 and the grant review process is competitive.

The grant application proposes that an appraisal, acquisition, trail layout, due diligence and trail construction activities be made concerning approximately 865 acres of land managed by W.M. Beaty and Associates (Beaty) for Red River Forests. Interest in selling certain parcels adjacent to Susanville Ranch Park has been expressed by Beaty and their clients. The grant funding if awarded would be used to complete the project from acquisition to on the ground trail construction. Additional activities proposed under the grant include renovations to the ballfields at Susanville Ranch Park focusing on accessibility and drainage concerns.

The Lassen County General Plan - 2000 states the following:

The Recreation Resources Element of the General Plan States:

GOAL N-18: An expanded range of outdoor recreation resources, facilities and opportunities.

NR65 POLICY: The County encourages the development of public recreation facilities subject to the determination of appropriateness and adequacy of specific sites and the mitigation of major land use conflicts and/or significant environmental impacts.

The Open Space Element of the General Plan States:

GOAL O-4: To encourage the establishment and maintenance of open space areas for outdoor recreation, including recreational trails, and, when appropriate, the development of related recreational facilities.

OS11 POLICY: The County supports the development of trails and bicycle routes and the integration of those trails and routes into regional and state systems provided that such uses are planned and developed with the cooperation and agreement of adjacent land owners and affected agencies, utilize public right-of-ways and negotiated easements, satisfactorily mitigate potential trespass and liability issues to the satisfaction of affected private property owners, resolve potential resource management conflicts with affected agricultural and timber production land uses, and must have resolved the legal question as to who has the reversionary interest in the property.

Implementation Measures:

OS-F The County will work with other agencies, interest groups, and affected property owners in the consideration of trail master plans, trail routes and trail oriented recreational uses and in consideration of the feasibility of integrating trail routes in Lassen County with other routes in the region.

OS15 POLICY: The County does not favor the acquisition or taking of private property for public access across private lands for public recreation purposes unless development of the access is approved by and acceptable to the property owner.

GOAL O-6: To support the protection of the public from natural hazards and from threats to health and safety which could result from damage to or contamination of public resources.

The *Susanville Ranch Regional Recreation Area Master Plan* states the following:

Opportunities and Constraints/Policy – Bagwell Creek.

POLICY: Protect and enhance the scenic value of the creek.

Opportunities and Constraints/Policy – Surrounding lands owned by timber companies.

- Potential for recreation and consolidation of park site.
- Acquisition would improve management of riparian zone.

POLICY: Consolidate park site.

Acquire or exchange lands where required for protection of resources in perpetuity.

Opportunities and Constraints/Policy – Hiking/bicycle use.

- Existing use with demand for additional trails.
- Potential for increased utilization and expansion into regional trail system.

POLICY: Expand and improve existing trails.

Design and redirect routes as required for development of system.

Opportunities and Constraints/Policy – Management of adjacent parcels.

- Recreational use restricted.

POLICY: Consolidate park site.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2012 states the following:

4.2 Goal Setting

Visitor-Serving Market – GOAL: Magnet to Draw Visitors

- Aspirational Goal: One of the Top 15 Mountain Biking Destination in the US.
- Draw visitors and strengthen tourism and recreational activities.
- Comprehensive trail system.
- Bicycling facilities, trails, promotions.
- Effective management and preservation of natural resources to enable continued use by residents and visitors.

Attracting Visitors Priority 1 Action – Package and Promote

- Bike Trails – Bike trails and the outdoors are Lassen County's strongest asset and best icons for attracting visitors. To reach the aspirational goal of one of the Top 15 Mountain Biking trails in the US, continuous development must occur to improve, extend, and enhance the experience for avid mountain bikers to earn such a reputation.

ALTERNATIVE: Not Approve.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Match: None. Additional trail mileage and associated seasonal maintenance. Ballfield renovations would alleviate some seasonal maintenance resulting from damage due to improper drainage. Accessibility related renovations would limit the amount of maintenance throughout the summer due to improved user access.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: California State Parks

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL: 

REVIEWED FOR AGENDA: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF COUNTY OF LASSEN
Approving the Application for
STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION
PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen hereby:

APPROVES THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE SUSANVILLE RANCH PARK EXPANSION AND BALLFIELD RENOVATIONS; AND

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project if the grant is awarded; and
2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to Director of Public Works/Transportation to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8 A-G).

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Lassen, State of California, held on the _____ day of _____, 20____ by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:
JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Clerk of the Board

BY: _____
MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

I, MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____, 20____.
