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2019/194

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July 23, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Public Works

RE: Grant Application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy to Consider Possible Acquisition of Land for Addition to Susanville Ranch Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a resolution, approving the application for grant funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Strategic Land Conservation Grant Program 2019, to consider possible acquisition of land for addition to Susanville Ranch Park.

DISCUSSION

This department submitted a pre-application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program Strategic Land Conservation Grant Program to determine the feasibility of acquiring property adjacent to the north and east boundaries of the Susanville Ranch Park. Based on the pre-application, notification was received in late June, that the department could submit a full application. The full application is due no later than July 29, 2019 and the grant review process is competitive.

The grant application proposes that an appraisal and other due diligence inquires 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 conduct an appraisal of the property and make other inquiries concerning any constraints to acquisition.

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 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: Positive revenue, some of which may be used to offset staff time.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL:  _____

REVIEWED FOR AGENDA:  _____

RESOLUTION No. _____

A resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Strategic Land Conservation Grant Program 2019 under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the County has identified the Susanville Ranch Park Expansion Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen, State of California, that this Board:

Approves the submittal of an application for the Susanville Ranch Park Expansion Project; and

Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and

Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and

Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and

Appoints the Director of Public Works/Transportation, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen does hereby authorize Director of Public Works/Transportation to sign any documents required to apply for and accept these subject funds on behalf of the County of Lassen.

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen, State of California held in Susanville on the 23rd day of July, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

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 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 23rd day of July, 2019.

Deputy Clerk of the County of Lassen