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BGC1
2019/266

October 15, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Public Works

RE: Letter of Support request by Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship for a Grant Application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Development of a Regional Connected Communities – Trails Master Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

- 1) Consider approving the attached letter of support; 2) authorize Chairman to sign.

DISCUSSION

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is requesting a letter of support for their grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program to develop a regional Connected Communities Trails Master Plan (grant application attached).

The project summary of the grant application states the following:

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is proposing to develop a regional Connected Communities – Trails Master Plan that will plan, construct and maintain a multiple use trail system to connect the northern Sierra communities of: City of Loyalton, Sierraville, Sierra City, Downieville, Quincy, Graeagle, City of Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chester, Westwood and City of Susanville.

Establishment of Connected Community Trail Master Plans will provide a basis for severely disadvantaged communities located throughout Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties to collaboratively envision, create and maintain a vibrant outdoor recreation economy by providing world-class multiple use trail opportunities on surrounding public lands. In addition to planning the linear trails that will connect the communities to one another, the Trails

Master Plan (TMP) will identify areas within communities where trail access would create additional benefit. Areas such as schools, neighborhoods, campgrounds, parks, retail centers and trailheads (new and existing) will be identified and as part of the trail plans. Trail systems are often most frequently used by residents as part of daily routines and can attract talented individuals and families looking for a lifestyle tied to the outdoors. Having these trail systems connected to "Main Street" is ideal, as it brings visitors into town for restaurants, accommodations and services, and allows convenient access to public lands for residents.

Support of the grant application consistent with the following policy documents:

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.

OS13: The County supports utilization trails within public right-of-ways where those right-of-ways can serve as part of interconnected

trail systems (e.g., public highway corridors and abandoned railroad grades.)

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.

Lassen County Bikeway Master Plan 1999 states the following:

Proposed System Development:

Off Street Bikeways – Where feasible, Class I bike paths on grade separated rights-of-way should be implemented. These bikeways provide a higher degrees of safety and recreational benefit than bikeways located on streets. They can also become linear parks, adding to the range of amenities for local communities. In many areas of Lassen County, the cost of constructing off-street bikeways may be competitive with that for on street facilities due to physical characteristics of the existing roadway system.

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

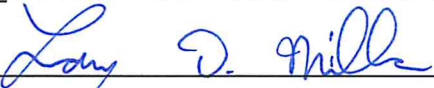
- Bike Trails – Bike trails and the outdoors are Lassen County's strongest asset and best icons for attracting visitors. To reach the aspirational goal of one of the Top 15 Mountain Biking trails in the US, continuous development must occur to improve, extend, and enhance the experience for avid mountain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

ALTERNATIVE: Not Approve.


FINANCIAL IMPACT: No impact.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL:



REVIEWED FOR AGENDA:



BOS Letter Head

October 15, 2019

Greg Williams
Executive Director
Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
550 Crescent Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Subject: Letter of Support for Grant Application by Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship to Develop a Regional Connected Communities Trails Master Plan

Dear Mr. Williams:

Please consider this letter as our support of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's grant application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

We understand The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is proposing to develop a regional Connected Communities – Trails Master Plan that will plan, construct and maintain a multiple use trail system to connect the northern Sierra communities of: City of Loyalton, Sierraville, Sierra City, Downieville, Quincy, Graeagle, City of Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chester, Westwood and City of Susanville.

Additionally the Trail Master Plan would engage severely disadvantaged communities across the Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests to incorporate local community input in the development of world-class multi-use trail networks (motorcycles, mountain bikes, ebikes, hikers, equestrians) which would connect communities throughout the region. Establishing a Trails Master Plan is an integral part of creating community partnerships for land stewardship and is identified in the U.S. Forest Service, National Strategy for Sustainable Trail Systems.

The Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship interest in developing a regional Connected Communities – Trails Master Plan as proposed is consistent with Lassen County's General Plan - 2000, Bikeway Master Plan – 1999 and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2012.

In closing the Lassen County Board of Supervisors is supportive of multi-use sustainable public land management practices that are beneficial to local economies such as the proposed Connected Communities – Trails Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hemphill, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors