

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **AUGUST 26, 2008**

From:  **JAMES DURFEE / ALBERT RICHIE** 

Subject: **NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER TRAIL PLAN, PROJECT NO. 4753**

ACTION REQUESTED/RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Resolution approving the North Fork American River Trail Plan, February 2008 (Trail Plan).

BACKGROUND: The North Fork American River Trail is a proposed multi-use trail within the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) beginning near the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and proceeding 14.2 miles along the south side of the North Fork American River Canyon to the Ponderosa Crossing near Weimar. A previous item before your Board today requested certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the North Fork American River Trail Project, and adoption of Findings of Facts in support thereof.

Planning efforts began in 2002 with the formation of a twelve member Trail Advisory Group (TAG) made up of representatives of each of the user groups including hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers along with State Parks Staff. The Trail Plan was produced by North Fork Associates of Auburn under guidance from the TAG, County staff, environmental input from EDAW, Inc. of Sacramento, and engineered trail construction details supplied by geotechnical consultant, Blackburn Consulting of Auburn. The Trail plan contains trail alignment data collected electronically in the field during trail corridor layout and environmental review operations. The intent of the Trail plan is to serve as a construction document for County staff, contractors, and volunteers in construction of the trail and associated amenities. The Trail Plan, dated February 2008, has been reviewed for consistency with the Final Environmental Impact Report for the North Fork American River Trail Project.

A copy of the Trail Plan is available for review at the Clerk of the Board's Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: A request to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopt the associated Findings of Fact was presented to your Board earlier today. Certification of the Final EIR and adoption of the Findings of Fact fulfills the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Since the proposed trail is to be constructed primarily on federally owned land, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has taken the role as lead agency for review under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines. Reclamation has advised staff that they will consider the adoption of a Finding of No Significant Impact if your Board approves the EIR before you today.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total anticipated project cost, including planning and design costs expended to date, construction costs, and the costs to implement mitigation measures defined in the Final EIR, is expected to be just over \$2,000,000. The current funding for this project includes \$1,500,000 in committed Proposition 40 grant funds, \$400,000 in County General Fund dollars from trail funds previously appropriated in the Parks and Grounds budget specifically allocated for expansion of trails in the County, and \$100,000 from Recreation Area #5 (Auburn/Meadow Vista Area) Park Dedication Fees. In addition, the Placer County Parks Commission has earmarked \$150,000 in Park Dedication Fees from three benefit areas adjacent to this project (\$50,000/each). Also, once the environmental review process is completed, this project will be eligible for various grant opportunities to fund additional improvements if needed. It is staff's intent to construct the project in phases as funding permits and return to your Board for budget augmentation from other sources should the need arise. The construction costs of this project are not anticipated to have any additional impact on the County General Fund.

Ongoing maintenance of the trail will have a small general fund component that is expected to be between \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually. However, it is staff's intent to rely heavily on organized volunteer groups and utilize resources such as inmate labor, contract agreements with the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp and contracts with the California Conservation Corp when it is advantageous to the County to do so.

AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD'S OFFICE: TRAIL PLAN

ATTACHMENT: RESOLUTION

cc: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: A Resolution
Approving the North Fork American River
Trail Plan, Revised February, 2008

Resolution No. _____

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, 2008, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:

Board of Supervisors

Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the North Fork American River Trail Project (Project) is a proposal by the County of Placer to develop a 14.2-mile multiple-use natural surface trail and two staging termini.

WHEREAS, the Project is described in that certain North Fork American River Trail Plan, February 2008 (Trail Plan), a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

WHEREAS, the Project has been analyzed in the Project's draft environmental impact report (DEIR) and final environmental impact report (FEIR).

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2008, the Placer County Board of Supervisors certified the Project's FEIR and adopted Findings of Fact in support thereof.

WHEREAS, the Trail Plan is consistent with the FEIR and the Findings of Fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, that the County hereby approves the Trail Plan and authorizes construction of the Project in accordance therewith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Facility Services is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the Trail Plan consistent with the approval contained herein.

