

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

To: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: FEBRUARY 10, 2009

From:  JAMES DURFEE / ALBERT RICHIE 

Subject: SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 GRANT –
OVERLAND EMIGRANT TRAIL

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Department of Facility Services to submit an application for grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Proposition 84 Grants Program funded by the Safe Drinking Water and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 and if successful, designate the Director of Facility Services as agent of the County to execute necessary documents to study re-establishing the Overland Emigrant Trail.

BACKGROUND: In November 2006, California voters approved Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 84). The SNC was allocated a total of \$17 Million in Prop 84 funds for the current fiscal year grant program and has approved grant guidelines and an application process for public agencies to follow in applying for this funding. While the funding for the grant is currently suspended, the SNC is still accepting applications in anticipation of funding being available in the future.

The historic Overland Emigrant Trail (OET) is generally identified as traveling between Independence, Missouri and Sacramento, California. It was the main route to the west in the mid-1800's. The portion of the trail located within Placer County was used by thousands of parties during that time period. In 1852 alone, the number of emigrants that used this route was estimated at over 50,000. The Placer County section of the trail is the most difficult, most scenic, and most note worthy portion.

The goal of this project is to re-establish an approximate 17-mile portion of the trail as an easily useable route from the mouth of Cold Stream Canyon at Donner State Park to the Kingvale area. Where the original route is too steep or where development has occurred, alternate routes will be selected to make the trail more accessible and to minimize impacts on residents, water resources and archeological areas. The project supports a defined Placer Legacy goal to protect remaining sections of the OET.

Placer County is seeking to identify funding sources to preserve and re-establish this historic trail. A successful grant application will help to fund the pre-acquisition studies necessary for the project to proceed. To achieve this goal, a variety of environmental, engineering and other studies are necessary to identify the following: the original trail and alternate trail alignments, waterway protection measures, location of bridges and staging areas and develop necessary data in support of Placer County easement negotiation efforts. This grant award in combination with Park Dedication Fees generated from this

area will finance these necessary study activities. To apply, accept and administer this grant requires your Board's adoption of the attached Resolution.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: Adoption of this Resolution by definition does not constitute a project as defined by Section 15378(b)(4&5) of the Public Resource Code.

FISCAL IMPACT: This initial project will provide various biological and cultural studies along with necessary surveying, engineering and easement appraisals. The cost of this initial phase is estimated to be \$350,000. The proposed funding includes \$200,000 from this SNC grant program and \$150,000 from Park Dedication Fees generated in the area of the trail. Adoption of this Resolution to apply and accept grant funds awarded under the SNC Prop 84 Grant Program will have no impact on the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENT: RESOLUTION

JD/AR/VK/DB

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FUNDS FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT PROGRAM GRANT
PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE SAFE DRINKING
WATER AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL,
RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF
2006 FOR PRE-ACQUISITION STUDIES TO RE-ESTABLISH
THE HISTORIC EMIGRANT TRAIL.

Resol. No: _____
Ord No: _____
First Reading: _____

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, 2009 by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Prop 84 program; 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 SNC 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 of Placer Board of Supervisors has identified Re-establishment of the Overland Emigrant Trail as valuable toward its mission and goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the Re-establishment of the Overland Emigrant Trail Project; and
2. Certifies that the County of Placer understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that the County of Placer 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
4. Certifies that the County of Placer will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints the Director, Department of Facility Services, 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.