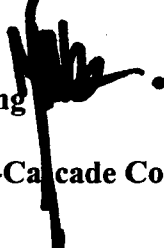


**BOARD TRANSMITTAL
MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: Michael J. Johnson, Director of Planning 

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant for the Kirk Ranch

DATE: April 25, 2006

SUMMARY: The Planning Department is asking that the Board approve a resolution endorsing an application for grant funds to the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program. The funds would be used to secure an easement for the 290-acre Kirk Ranch along the Bear River. The approval of the resolution will allow the County to apply for State grant funds.

BACKGROUND: On September 29, 2003, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that acknowledged the importance of oak woodland protection and adopted the Placer County Oak Woodland Management Plan. In addition, the Board has directed the Planning Department to prepare language for the purpose of standardizing mitigation requirements associated with land development effects on Placer County's woodland resources. An essential component of this directive to protect the County's oak woodland resources is leveraging County and not-for-profit resources with State and Federal grant funds. Moreover, Counties seeking funding from the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant, under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), are required to pass a supporting resolution before submittal of a full grant application. Before the Board is a supporting resolution necessary to apply for State of California monies to conserve oak woodland habitat found on the Kirk Ranch.

John Kirk contacted Placer County with an interest in establishing a conservation easement on his and family member's properties. The inquiry from Mr. Kirk was a result of the joint Planning Department and Agricultural Commission letter to landowners (March 2002) seeking landowners interested in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

The Kirk Property is located at 9711 McCourtney Road, near Sheridan. In October 2002, Planning Department staff determined that the property met Placer Legacy objectives for an agricultural easement. It was also determined that the property meets multiple goals and objectives of the Placer Legacy Program:

- A. Woodland – To conserve the unfragmented blue oak woodland, and maintain viable natural habitat for wildlife through its protection.
- B. Rangeland – To maintain large tracts of land in contiguous ownership, in order to preserve this property's long-standing ranching activities, use, utility, and traditions.
- C. Open Space and Scenic Values – To retain the long-standing character of this region by preserving the scenic corridor along McCourtney Road.

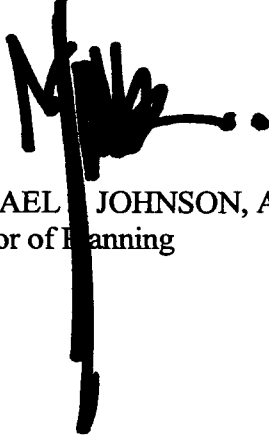
- D. Soil and Water Quality – To minimize soil erosion and the resultant impacts to water quality, thru stewardship and sound management of the property.

FISCAL IMPACT: The land acquisition costs associated with oak woodland conservation are a part of the Placer Legacy program and its associated budget (Open Space Trust Fund Account). Pursuant to direction from the Board, staff has sought out a variety of public/private funding resources to assist with the acquisition of a conservation easement under the assumption that the County would provide a portion of the match funding. Likewise, monitoring program funding will be dependent on Open Space Trust Funds or other funding sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Planning Department respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Approve the attached Board of Supervisors resolution (Attachment A) approving the application for grant funds for the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to secure an easement for the Kirk Ranch.
2. Authorize staff to apply for grant funds available through the State of California Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program to conclude the sale of a conservation easement for the 290-acre Kirk Ranch along the Bear River.

Respectfully Submitted,



MICHAEL JOHNSON, AICP
Director of Planning

MJJ/eps

Ref. T:\crd\pln\Edmund\Kirk\BOS Memo_Prop Res Kirk2

Attachment A

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

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA-CASCADE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2002 - (Proposition 50)

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

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

**Attest:
Clerk of said Board**

Ann Holman

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

WHEREAS, the Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Acquisition

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Placer

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1. Approves the filing of an application for the Kirk family;
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Resource(s) consistent with the long-term management proposal submitted in support of this application; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that the Applicant will comply, if applicable, with the provisions of Section 1771.8 of the State Labor Code regarding payment of prevailing wages on Projects awarded Proposition 50 Funds, and
5. Appoints the (designate position, not person occupying position) Jim Durfee, Facility Services Director, 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 Acquisition(s).