



M E M O R A N D U M
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PARKS DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 21, 2020

FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
By: Andy Fisher, Parks Administrator

SUBJECT: Parks / Budget Amendment / Approval and Appropriation of Park Dedication Fees / Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$745,000 from the North Lake Tahoe Transient Occupancy Tax Capital Investment account to the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Capital Project No. PJ00092.

Approve the use of Park Dedication Fees in the amount of \$125,000 from Park Dedication Fee Area #16, Serene Lakes Area, for the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Capital Project, and approve a budget amendment appropriating those funds to the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Capital Project No. PJ00092.

BACKGROUND

The Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail (MOET) is a five-phase, multi-agency project with the goal of creating more than 17 miles of dirt trail from Donner Memorial State Park to Kingvale over Donner Summit. The MOET is envisioned as a multi-use trail for the enjoyment of hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. The MOET generally follows the historic wagon route but avoids the original trail's remnants to preserve historical artifacts and provide a sustainable trail alignment. The portion of the MOET located south of Donner Lake will share its alignment with the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

Phase 1, a three-mile segment through Royal Gorge, was completed in Fall 2019. Staff is currently working with other agencies to prepare environmental studies for Phase 2 through 4, including the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Sugar Bowl Ski Corporation, Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The environmental studies are anticipated to be completed by Fall of 2020. Phase 5 is in the preliminary planning/feasibility stage.

This action addresses required budget amendments and appropriations for Phases 2 through 4. On February 21, 2017, your Board approved a \$250,000 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Capital Investment Account expenditure for Phase 1 of the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail (MOET) project. On July 24, 2018, your Board approved \$495,000 in TOT funds for Phase 2 of the MOET. As part of these previous TOT authorizations by your Board, staff was directed to prepare budget amendments and return for final approval. This action completes that final approval in the budget process.

In addition, on May 16, 2019, the Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of \$125,000 in Park Dedication Fees (PDF) from Area #16, Serene Lakes Area, for the MOET Project. On September 20, 2019, the Placer County Parks Commission unanimously voted to support the recommendation.

The combined \$870,000 of TOT and PDF funds will support the completion of construction funding for Phase 1 and environmental review for Phases 2 through 4. Any remaining funds will be put towards construction of later phases, contingent upon environmental review.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Regarding Phase 1, a Notice of Exemption based on CEQA Guidelines section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) was posted with the Placer County Clerk on June 9, 2017. Regarding Phases 2 through 4, the

requested action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) (fiscal activities) and 15378(b)(5) (administrative activities), and the requested action is exempt under CEQA Guidelines sections 15262 (feasibility and planning studies) and 15061(b)(3) (no potential for causing significant effect).

FISCAL IMPACT

The total project cost of all five phases of the MOET, including contributions from other entities, is estimated at \$4,293,000. Current Project account funding totals \$400,000. This approval of \$745,000 in TOT funds and \$125,000 in PDF funds would increase the Project account to \$1,270,000. Staff will work through the normal budget process, coordinate with contributing partners, and continue to seek grant funding in order to complete the Project in phases.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Map – Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Phasing



