

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

December 19, 2014

To: American River Parkway Advisory Committee

From: Department of Regional Parks

Subject: American River Parkway Natural Resource Management Plan: Development Of A Revised Scope Of Work.

Supervisory
District: All

Contact: Jeffrey R. Leatherman 875-6132

Overview

In 2008, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, with the support of many individuals and stakeholder groups began a process to develop a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) to assist the department in managing the American River Parkway. The NRMP was postponed in 2010 due to funding constraints in the Department. During 2015 the Department intends to revive the work that began in 2008 by revising the scope of work for the NRMP through a stakeholder advisory process. The revised scope of work will be used to estimate the cost and timing for completion of the NRMP for the American River Parkway.

Recommendation

Receive and File

Measures/Evaluations:

The recommended action fits into the “Sustainable and Livable” County Strategic Objective and supports Regional Parks stated Performance Measure: to provide safe, accessible, and clean recreational facilities for Park users.

Fiscal Impact:

The Department has entered into an agreement with Mr. Chuck Watson to coordinate the stakeholder process which will revise scope of work for the NRMP for the American River Parkway. This agreement is funded through the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Parks Operations budget.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, with the support of many individuals and stakeholder groups began a process to develop a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) to assist the department in managing the American River Parkway. The NRMP is intended to fulfill several goals and policies described in the American River Parkway Plan. The NRMP was postponed in 2010 due to funding constraints in the Department. During 2015 the Department intends to revive the work that began in 2008 by revising the scope of work for the NRMP through a stakeholder advisory process. The work completed to date includes 1) finalized ecosystem maps of baseline natural resource data, including delineating ecosystem

types, evaluating current health, trends and threats, and 2) making preliminary recommendations, including identified opportunities and constraints for protecting high value resources as well as for creating desired habitat in degraded areas.

DISCUSSION

The work completed throughout 2008, 2009, and 2010 was coordinated by County Staff and supported by a variety of volunteers and stakeholders. The Department has gone through a variety of changes since 2010 which decreased the staffing capacity to continue this work in house. In December 2014, the Department contracted with Mr. Chuck Watson (brief biography is attached) to coordinate the stakeholder process which will revise scope of work for the NRMP for the American River Parkway.

In addition to the original intent of the NRMP, the Department will also be considering opportunities for the NRMP scope of work to include maintenance and operation elements that could be reviewed as part of a new permit application process that has been initiated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. This new permitting (Section 408 Permits) may be required for nearly all maintenance and construction activities on the American River Parkway. The requirements will likely place additional financial and planning obligations on the Department for routine maintenance and future construction projects.

Invitations for group representatives and individuals to participate in the development of the scope of work will be sent out in January 2015. The Department anticipates the NRMP scoping process will take about 6 months to complete. The time commitment will require approximately 6-8 two hour meetings and will be scheduled in advance of the invitation to participate. After the completion of the scope of work the Department will evaluate the feasibility of the project and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Leatherman

Attachments: (1) Brief Biography, Mr. Chuck Watson