



Contra
Costa
County

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor
Date: December 20, 2016

Subject: Allocation of Funds from the Livable Communities Trust to the Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Trail Study

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE the expenditure of up to \$250,000 from the Livable Communities Trust (District III Portion) for the Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study, as recommended by Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None to the General Fund. Up to \$250,000 from the Livable Communities Trust (District III portion) will be allocated toward the Study. As further described below, these funds would cover approximately half of the estimated \$500,000 cost of the feasibility study. An additional \$50,000 has already been committed from other sources. Other potential sources of funding, including additional contributions from other partner agencies, grants and additional contributions from the Livable Communities Trust, will continue to be explored.

BACKGROUND:

Marsh Creek Road is a major thoroughfare that connects Central and East County. Currently, a significant number of bicycle trips take place on Marsh Creek Road, despite of the lack of dedicated bicycle facilities. A new multi-use trail has been proposed along the Marsh Creek Corridor. The purpose of the trail would be to provide a new, major

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **12/20/2016** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I
Supervisor
Candace Andersen, District II
Supervisor
Mary N. Piepho, District III
Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV
Supervisor

ABSENT: Federal D. Glover, District V
Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: December 20, 2016

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Stephanie Mello, Deputy

Contact: TOMI RILEY,
925-252-4500

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

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non-motorized east-west thoroughfare that would expand commuting and recreational opportunities. Once this trail and adjacent paths are completed, there will be one continuous non-motorized trail from Downtown Concord to Oakley.

Construction of the trail could be incorporated into, and performed in conjunction with restoration activities along Marsh Creek as called for in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The intent is that the trail would be constructed in a sensitive manner that reflects the scenic and natural resources of the area.

On April 12, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2016/326, supporting exploration of the concept of the Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Trail and efforts to identify and secure funding for this project. Other project stakeholders have adopted or are in the process of adopting a resolution in support or a letter of support for this project.

The District III and IV Supervisors and their staff, along with staff from the Public Works and Conservation and Development Departments, have been holding meetings with the following interested organizations:

- City of Clayton
- City of Brentwood
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Save Mount Diablo
- Friends of the Marsh Creek Watershed

The meetings have focused on identifying existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities along the Marsh Creek Corridor, developing a scope-of-work for a potential feasibility study, and identifying potential funding sources for the feasibility study.

The next step in the exploration of the Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Trail is to develop a feasibility report. The County is proposed to be the lead agency to contract with a consultant to prepare a feasibility study. The feasibility analysis would include the following key steps:

- Further defining goals and objectives
- Data Collection and Base Mapping
- Public Outreach and Involvement
- Transportation Analysis
- Define Alternatives
- Alternatives Analysis
- Prepare Draft and Final Feasibility Report

The preliminary estimated cost for the feasibility study is \$500,000. The East Contra Costa

County Habitat Conservancy, a joint exercise of powers authority formed by the County and the Cities of Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley and Pittsburg, has agreed to contribute \$25,000 toward completing the study. The Public Works Department has agreed to contribute an additional \$25,000. The recommendation is to approve the expenditure of up to \$250,000 from the Livable Communities Trust Fund (District III portion) as a primary funding source. An additional \$250,000 still needs to be identified to close the estimated \$200,000 funding gap and provide a small contingency. Staff will work with the other project stakeholders to identify other potential funding sources for the feasibility study, including additional contributions from other partner agencies, grants and additional contributions from the Livable Communities Trust.

The Livable Communities Trust Fund (Fund) was established to implement the County's Smart Growth Action Plan. One goal of the Action Plan is to help fund transit and other transportation improvements that foster smart growth principles. In reviewing the purpose of the Fund, the Board of Supervisors determined on December 3, 2013 that "the goal shall be to spend the money equally among supervisorial districts." At build-out of the development projects contributing revenue to the Fund, deposits to the Fund will total \$8,448,000. The interest-bearing trust account has earned over \$300,000 in interest to date. So far, one expenditure has been made from the Fund (a \$250,000 expenditure approved on October 22, 2013 for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative) and another expenditure has been authorized (on June 14, 2016, with \$1,432,830 from the District I portion providing matching funds for the development of the Heritage Point affordable housing project in North Richmond). The Livable Communities Trust Fund balance is \$7,471,514.41 (as of December 8, 2016). The expenditure proposed here is consistent with the purpose of the Fund and with adopted Board policy.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the funding is not allocated to the Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Trail for feasibility studies, planning and project development activities will be delayed and a non-motorized facility gap along the Marsh Creek Corridor will continue to exist.