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DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND BUILDING

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

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SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2702

June 13, 2005

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Status Report on the American River Parkway Plan Update

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: The American River from confluence with Sacramento River to Folsom Dam – Districts 1, 2, 3 and 6

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for information only.

CONTACT PERSON: Robert G. Overstreet, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, 808-1190
Teresa Haenggi, Parks and Recreation Planner, 808-7554

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 28, 2005

SUMMARY:

In October of 2003, the City Council approved the update process for the American River Parkway Plan and approved the appointments for the Update Citizens Advisory Committee. Staff is returning to Council to provide a status report on the process.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

Staff will provide a similar status report to the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 7, 2005.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American River Parkway is approximately 29 miles from Folsom Dam to the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, totaling approximately 4,600 acres. Although a large portion of the American River Parkway is within City limits (approximately 1,400 acres), it is operated and maintained by the County of Sacramento. The 1985 American River Parkway Plan provides policy direction for the entire Parkway. Due to current budget constraints, the American River Parkway Plan (ARPP) Update has been limited in scope and integrated planning has been contained to the three area plans within the Parkway (Discovery Park, Woodlake and Cal Expo) (see Exhibit A). All of these Integrated Area Plan (IAP) areas are located within the limits of the City of Sacramento.

In October of 2003, the City Council approved the update process for the American River Parkway Plan as defined in the *Convening Report* and approved the establishment and membership of a 24-member Update Citizens Advisory Committee (UCAC). The members were appointed both by the City Council and the County of Sacramento's Board of Supervisors.

Since then, City staff from Parks and Recreation and Planning have been very involved in the update process which includes collaboration among the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), Water Forum, the City of Rancho Cordova, and California Exposition and State Fair. Staff from these entities comprise the Project Management Team (PMT) and have met regularly to discuss issues that pertain to recreation uses, flood control interests, natural resources, land use, and policy that effects the Parkway.

The City has fully participated in the update process in order to address the following issues of interest. The goals of City staff are as follows:

- Preserve the founding intent and resulting integrity of the Parkway Plan;
- Address safety and security of the Parkway and its users while acknowledging the Parkway Plan will not alone be the solution to this concern;
- Ensure increased access and connectivity to the river and to other water corridors;
- Incorporate the River Corridor Management Plan into the Parkway Plan to strengthen the role of habitat restoration and vegetation management;
- Explore how to develop a plan for governance and financing solutions/partnerships;
- Communicate, clarify and convey how the interface between the river and adjacent land within the City boundaries is different from the upper reaches of the river because of the City's urban context;
- Focus on activating designated areas where legitimate uses are appropriate and necessary, e.g. an amphitheater at Discovery Park or an interpretive center venue such as the California Indian Heritage Center; and,

- Accommodate flood control issues.

The Project Management Team meets regularly. Additionally, there have been 20 UCAC meetings and two community meetings. Most recently, the focus of discussion has been on the Integrated Planning Areas of Discovery Park, Woodlake, and Cal Expo. The County of Sacramento hired Moore-Iacofano-Goldsmith (MIG) to lead the community outreach and facilitate discussion among stakeholders. MIG's deliverables will be a report that reflects on the UCAC, staff and community input as well as a conceptual plan that will provide a visual representation of the locations for amenities that are determined appropriate in the American River Parkway. The conceptual plans will also map out areas of valuable natural resources as well as opportunities for habitat restoration projects. At this point, the three major unresolved issues within the integrated planning portion of this update are off-leash dogs, mountain biking, and the California Indian Heritage Center. A draft of the American River Parkway Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2005. In early 2006, the draft report will be presented to both the City Council and the Board of Supervisors for review and then again for adoption.

The update has prompted an unanticipated amount of interest and participation from the appointed UCAC members, regulatory agencies, safety personnel, and the community. Therefore, additional outreach is required to assure all feedback is collected and understood. Because the City has not provided monetary support up to this point, the Director of Parks and Recreation has authorized payment of \$50,000 to the project for additional community outreach for the integrated area planning portion of the update.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

No additional funding is requested with this item. The source of the City's contribution of up to \$50,000 is the Department's FY04-05 operating budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no environmental considerations associated with consideration of this information report. An updated American River Parkway Plan will undergo environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act as part of the City's consideration of adoption.

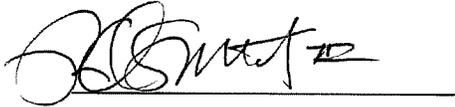
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This action is consistent with the City of Sacramento General Plan Conservation Element and Smart Growth Principles to preserve natural beauty, open space and critical environmental areas, promote livable communities, and cultivate recreation opportunities. Policy issues of the Update will include such topics as resource management, land use and recreational use.

ESBD EFFORTS:

No goods or services are being purchased in association with this report.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT G. OVERSTREET
Director of Parks and Recreation

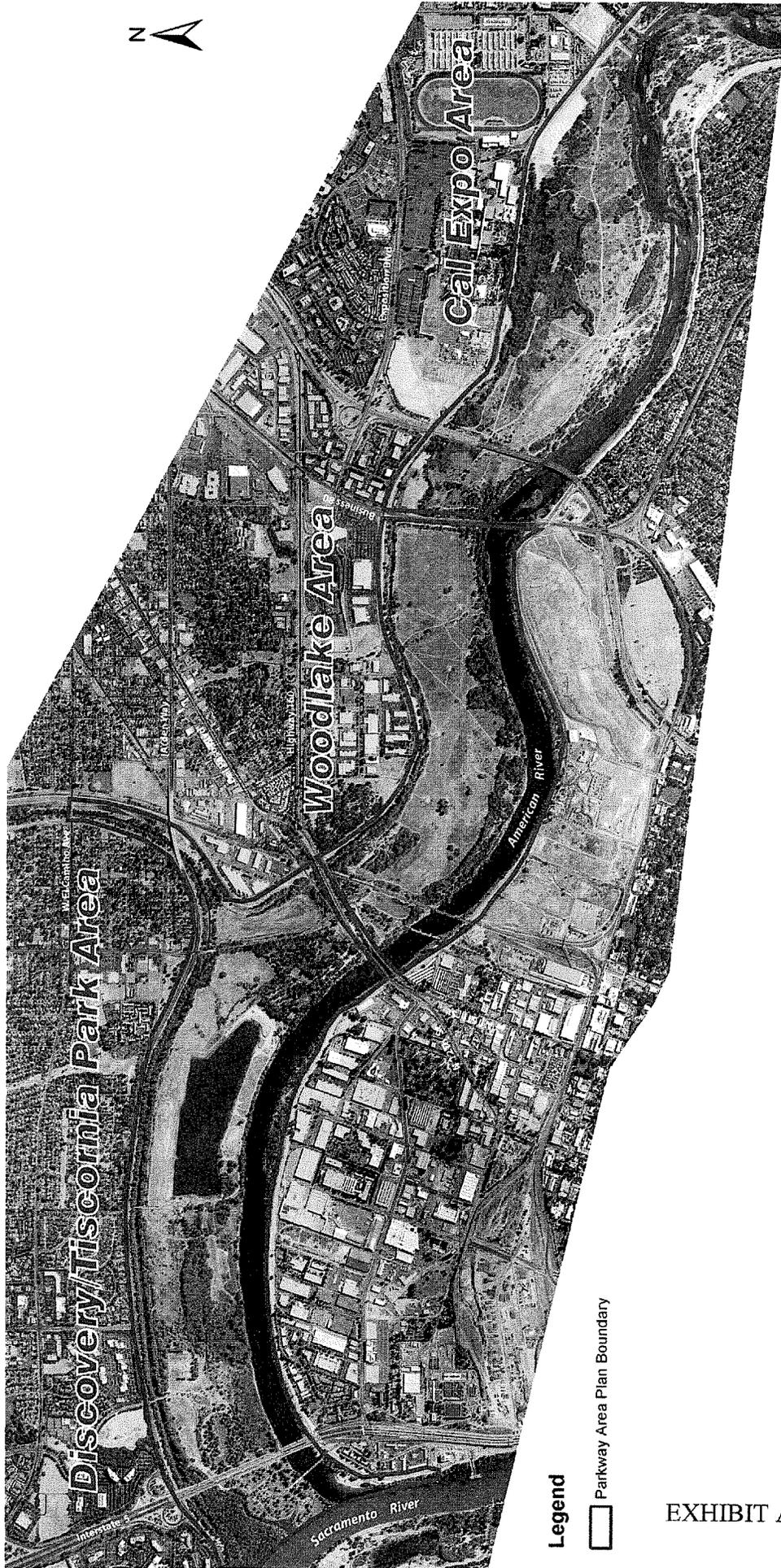
RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

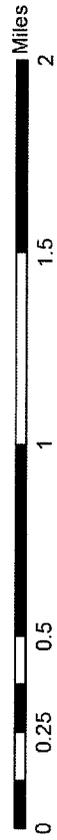
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Exhibit A: American River Parkway Plan Update Integrated Area Plan (IAP) Map



Legend

 Parkway Area Plan Boundary



Sacramento County Planning Department
January 21, 2005

EXHIBIT A

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