RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Grant Application to the Resources Agency Office of the Secretary (State of California), requesting $50,000 to extend the Mariposa Creek Parkway in an effort to mitigate safety concerns by providing safe pedestrian/bicycle passage in a separate natural setting. In order to pursue that effort, the County will obtain title reports and perform a topographical survey of the trail depicting various alternatives for right-of-way acquisition;

Approve Resolution – approving the application for grant funds for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highway Code for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension.

Approve County matching grant funds in the amount of $13,500, which is 27-percent of the amount of $50,000 toward the project cost; and

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The attached document is presented to the Board of Supervisors informing them of the grant application to the Resources Agency Office of the Secretary (State of California) requesting $50,000 to extend the Mariposa Creek Parkway in an effort to mitigate safety concerns by providing safe pedestrian/bicycle passage in a separate natural setting. In order to pursue that effort, the County will obtain title reports and perform a topographical survey of the trail depicting various alternatives for right-of-way acquisition.

Approve Resolution – approving the Application for grant funds from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highway Code for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension.

Approve County matching grant funds in the amount of $13,500, which is 27-percent of the amount of $50,000 toward the project cost.

The Mariposa Creek Parkway is consistent with the Mariposa County General Plan, Mariposa Town Planning Area and the draft Mariposa County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

This grant is the first of many measures that will be pursued in order to complete the 3.5-mile Mariposa Creek Parkway.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? (x) Yes( ) No Current FY Cost: $ Annual Recurring Cost: $
Budgeted In Current FY? (x) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $ Additional Funding Needed: $
Source:
Internal Transfer _____
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5’s vote
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5’s vote
Contingency _____ 4/5’s vote
( ) General ( ) Other

List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Cover letter, page 1
Application cover sheets, pages 2 - 3
Assurances, page 4
Resolution, pages 5 - 6
Table of Contents, pages 7 - 8
Grant Narrative, pages 9 - 24
Letter to Secretary for Resources, pages 12 - 17
Exhibits, pages 25 - 60

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: Ord. No. _____ Requested Action Recommended

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Revised Dec. 2002
Res. No.: 34-1481      Ord. No. ______
Vote – Ayes: 5     Noes: ______
Absent: ______
( ) Approved
( ) Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of
the original on file in this office.
Date: ______
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: ____________________________
   Deputy

( ) Requested Action Recommended
( ) No Action on
Comments: ______________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
CAO: __________________________

Revised Dec. 2002
RESOLUTION # 04-481

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM UNDER THE SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has enacted AB 471 (Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 1989), which is intended to provide $10 million annually for a period of 10 years for grant funds to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Resources Agency has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures and criteria established by the Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the applicant’s governing body before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the application contains assurances that the applicant must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the environmental enhancement and mitigation project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for grant assistance.

2. Certifies that said applicant will make adequate provisions for operation and maintenance of the project.

3. Allocates a matching fund of $13,500, which is 27-percent of the amount of $50,000 toward the project cost.

4. Appoints Marilyn Lidyoff, Business Development Coordinator, as the agent of the County of Mariposa to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents,
Resolution #_04-481_ (continued)

including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this ___9th___ day of ___October___, 2004___ by the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County by the following vote:

**AYES:** STETSON, BALMAIN, BIBBY, PARKER, PICKARD  
**NOES:** NONE  
**ABSENT:** NONE  
**ABSTAINED:** NONE

GARRY K. PARKER, Chairman  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

**ATTEST:**  
MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

THOMAS P. GUARINO, County Counsel
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

(Enter Grant Project Information under Section A and Transportation Project Information under Section B)

PROGRAM CATEGORY (check one category, only, below)
1. Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry
2. Resource Lands
3. Roadside Recreation

A. GRANT PROJECT (Name)
Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Surveys

(A.1) AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST $50,000

(A.2) ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST $63,500
(Grant, Donations, etc., excluding cost of the related Transportation Project)

(A.3) GRANT APPLICANT
(A.31) Agency Name
Mariposa County Administration

(A.32) Street Address
5100 Bullion Street

(A.33) P.O. Box, if any
P.O. Box 784

(A.34) ZIP Code
95338

(A.4) GRANT PROJECT LOCATION
(A.41) Nearest Cross Street
State Highways 49 & 140

(A.42) County
Mariposa

(A.43) Nearest City

(A.44) Senate District No.
10

(A.45) Assembly District No.
25

Grant Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution
Marilyn Lidyoff
Business Development Coordinator
(209) 966-3222

Email address: mlidyoff@mariposacounty.org

Person with day-to-day responsibility for grant project (if different than authorized representative)

Name:

Title:

Email address:

(A.5) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GRANT PROJECT (scope, location, purpose - not to exceed 60 words)
The emphasis of Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension is to mitigate safety concerns by providing safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. This is a separate facility for non-motorized travel, paralleling Highways 49 and 140, preserving and enhancing existing micro climate advantages of the Creek. The location route parallels both highways and link Fairgrounds at Ben Hur to Highway 49 near California Department of Forestry, Town of Mariposa.

(A.51) ANTICIPATED GRANT PROJECT START DATE: May 1, 2005

(A.52) ANTICIPATED GRANT COMPLETION DATE: June 2006

(A.6) ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR GRANT PROJECT (check proposed type and status)
(A.61) Type:
(A.611) Exempt
(A.612) Negative Declaration
(A.613) Categorical Exemption
(A.614) Environmental Impact Report

(A.62) Status:
(A.621) Complete
(A.622) In progress
(A.623) Not started

(A.63) Name of Lead Agency
County of Mariposa Administration

Note: Final environmental documents must be submitted to the CTC before being considered for funding

RA (9/03)
**B. RELATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(B.1) Transportation District</th>
<th>(B.2) City</th>
<th>(B.3) County</th>
<th>(B.4) Route Number / Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.M. 18.5 - 19.6 (10 - MPA - 49 -18.5/19.6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location**

Wide turn and construction of continuous left-turn lane

**Description of Related Transportation Project**

Caltrans

1997

**Date Construction Began or Scheduled**

**STIP**

**Name of Approved/Certified Capital Outlay Program for Related Transportation Project**

I certify that the information contained in this project application form, including required attachments, is accurate and that I have read and understand the Assurances which are a part of this application.

Signed: [Signature]  Date: 11/9/04

(Grant Applicant's Authorized Representative, as shown on the Resolution)

RA (9/03)  Page 2 of 3
C. ASSURANCES

Applicant possesses legal authority to apply for the grant and to finance, acquire, and construct the proposed project; and by formal action (i.e., a resolution) the applicant's governing body authorized the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and authorized the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

Applicant will manage and maintain into the future any property acquired, developed, rehabilitated, or restored with grant funds provided through this program. For property acquisition or conservation easement, applicant will sign, notarize, and record an Agreement Declaring Restrictive Covenant (ADRC) developed by the California Department of Transportation. With the granting agency's prior approval, the applicant or its successors in interest may transfer the management and maintenance responsibilities in the property. If the property is not managed and maintained for the purposes stated in the Agreement, the state shall be reimbursed an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant award or, for real property, the pro rata fair market value of the property, including improvements, at the time of sale, whichever is higher.

Applicant will give the state's authorized representative access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

Applicant will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the state that funds have been approved and that the project will be carried to completion with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to Caltrans by May 31, 2005, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to April 30, 2007, including but not limited to: project advertisement or firm advertisement schedule, entry into escrow for acquisitions, date project plans will be completed, anticipated date of receipt of other needed funds from specified entity, etc.

Applicant will comply where applicable with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Relocation Assistance Act and any other state, and/or local laws, rules and/or regulations.

Signed [Signature]
(Grant Applicant’s Authorized Representative)
Date 11-9-04
November 9, 2004

Dave Brubaker  
EEMP Coordinator  
California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension

Dear Mr. Brubaker:

Enclosed in an original and three copies of an application for Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program funds. The main emphasis of the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Survey is to mitigate safety concerns by providing for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. The next phase of the project requires the County to plan the entire trail, identify construction phases and acquire land. In order to accomplish this task, the County needs to complete a topographical survey of the trail depicting various alternatives for right-of-way acquisition.

Also enclosed is a Resolution that has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

If you have questions regarding this application, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 966-3222 or email at mlidyoff@mariposacounty.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Lidyoff  
Business Development Coordinator

Enclosures  
RC.ml.grant.EEMP.cvrtr
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3. Environmental Project Summary

a. Project Description/Scope

The main emphasis of the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Survey is to mitigate safety concerns by providing for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. This is a separate facility for non-motorized travel, paralleling the highways, and preserving and enhancing existing micro climate advantages of the Creek.

The County committed to the development of the 3.5-mile Mariposa Creek Parkway in 1987. While the County has completed only 0.7 mile of the 3.5-mile trail, the next phase of the project requires the County to plan the entire trail, identify construction phases and acquire land. In order to do this, the County will perform a topographical survey of the trail depicting various alternatives for right-of-way acquisition then obtain appraisals and title reports. Therefore, it is anticipated that the County will survey approximately 33.2 acres (a minimum of 100 feet wide-centered on the creek), in order to pursue the acquisition of easements and property. The acquisitions will preserve native vegetation, open space and wildlife habitat.

b. Project Location:

The 3.5 mile-non-motorized route will link the Mariposa County Fairgrounds near Ben Hur Road and State Highway 49 South to State Highway 49 North near the California Department of Forestry in the Town of Mariposa, Mariposa County, California, U.S.A. The south terminus is a state facility (Fairgrounds) currently housing the California State Mining and Mineral Museum. The north terminus will be the Mariposa County Regional Sports Complex, a multi-use recreational facility. The project also passes the newly constructed County Arts Park, County Amphitheater, County swimming pool and Skate Park.

c. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project is as follows:

i. Mitigate safety concerns, and provide for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. This includes providing a cooler summer route for seniors and youth to reach local destinations and needed services in town. This would mitigate the very severe summer heat in this region as well as separate the route entirely from the highways' hazardous conditions.
ii. Provide roadside recreational opportunities to over 1-million visitors annually, as they visit and/or pass through Mariposa on their way to Yosemite National Park and other recreational destinations.

iii. Enhance the contiguous wildlife habitat land that exists, as the County preserves and maintains the riparian habitat along the trail. Thus, environmental enhancement will be realized as the County preserves and maintains the trail.

d. Project Funding Request:

The amount requested in $50,000.

4. Agency Eligibility

a. Resolution

The Board of Supervisors approved the preparation of the Application for the EEMP Grant on November 9, 2004. Please see attached Resolution "iii".

b. Related Prior Experience

The Public Works Department Facilities Maintenance was created in 1958 and has successfully maintained facilities funded under state bond acts in 1964, 1974, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, as well as Historic Preservation, Trails and Special Appropriation Grants. Despite its small budget, the County has demonstrated its commitment to its recreational assets by continuously funding maintenance positions, facilities, and equipment despite economic setbacks related to fires, Yosemite National Park closures, and other disasters. The County currently has the staff, equipment and budgetary support to successfully manage and maintain the Mariposa Creek Parkway.

5. Related Transportation Project

a. Pedestrian Route:

The mitigative measures of the Mariposa Creek Parkway will provide a safe route for pedestrians and visitors, who typically utilize Highways 49 and/or 140 to arrive/depart Downtown Mariposa, without exposure to traffic, noise and danger of vehicular traffic. To accomplish this task, it is essential to conduct a route survey to determine which sides of the creek are most feasible with respect to acquisition of easements and
property. Upon completion of the survey, the acquisition phase will commence.

b. Recreational Opportunity:

Downtown Mariposa is visited by over 1 million tourists per year, with the potential of over 3-million visitors that pass through the County to visit Yosemite National Park and other recreational destinations. In addition to the 1-million visitors, local residents that currently walk/bicycle for exercise and recreation will also be served by the safe trail system. The trail will access the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, California State Mineral Exhibit, Mariposa County Park, Community Swimming Pool, Skatepark, Mariposa History Center and Historical Downtown. Later, it will connect to the Regional Sports Complex, Merced River Trail and Yosemite National Park.
November 9, 2004

Secretary for Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir or Madam:

The County of Mariposa is applying for a grant under the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project Program. According to the program guidelines, a letter addressing the following elements by a Transportation Agency representative needs to accompany the application package.

Title of Project

Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Surveys

Project Description

The main emphasis of the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Surveys are to mitigate safety concerns by providing safe pedestrian/bicycle passage in a separate natural setting.

The County adopted the Mariposa Creek Parkway in 1987 that is comprised of approximately a 3.5-mile trail. While the County has completed only 0.7 mile of the 3.5-mile trail, the next phase of the project requires the County to plan the entire trail and identify construction phases, and acquire land. In order to pursue that effort, the County will obtain title reports and perform topographical surveys of the trail depicting various alternatives for right-of-way acquisition. Therefore, it is anticipated that the County will survey approximately 33.2 acres (a minimum of 100 feet wide-centered on the creek), in order to pursue the acquisition of easement and property. The acquisitions will preserve native trees and open space plus provide a safe pedestrian corridor in the town.

Kind of Environmental document required

Categorical Exemption
Status of Environmental Document

Copy of the Categorical Exemption is enclosed.

List of the major environmental mitigation measures required for or expected to be required

The proposed project complies with the Mariposa Town Planning Area Plan and draft Mariposa Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Location

The 3.5-mile non-motorized route will link the Mariposa County Fairgrounds near Ben Hur Road and State Highway 49 South to State Highway 49 North near the California Department of Forestry in the Town of Mariposa, Mariposa County, California, U.S.A.

Construction Start Date

May 1, 2005

Required Information about the Proposed EEMP Project and the Related Transportation Project:

1. Does any part of the proposed EEMP project provide the same environmental mitigation or enhancement required of the transportation project?

   No

2. Is the proposed EEMP project compatible with the transportation facility, or does it interfere with the transportation facility operation or safety?

   The proposed EEMP project is compatible and will allow for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage on a non-motorized transportation system, as it will redirect pedestrian travel to the trail and remove them from dangerous Highway Corridors of 49 and 140.

   The project will be further enhanced due to a conservation endeavor, as it will preserve land for wildlife habitat land and open space. Another benefit of the proposed project and subsequent phases includes construction of the trail, interpretive signage and other amenities. Vehicular emissions into the atmosphere will be reduced in this area as well. Increased levels of air pollution throughout the Sierra's are a growing problem, and encouraging non-motorized travel is being proactive.
3. Does the proposed EEMP project limit or interfere with planned or anticipated future improvements to the transportation facility?

The proposed project neither limits nor interferes with anticipated future improvements to the transportation facility. In fact, the proposed project enhances the related transportation facility project, as it will provide safe pedestrian/bicycle passage on a non-motorized transportation route.

4. Describe any concerns about the proposed EEMP project (e.g., design, safety, tree density, other EEMP project previously undertaken to mitigate the impact of this transportation project, etc.)

Highways 49 and 140 are the only transportation routes available to pedestrians who want to access services in Downtown Mariposa. In order to reduce impacts to existing driveway grades, a design exception was allowed for portions of Highway 49 North, requiring only 4-foot wide paved shoulders in lieu of the standard 8-foot shoulders. Currently, the 4-foot shoulder is not adequate for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. The proposed project, however, will allow pedestrians to escape motorized hazards as they walk/bicycle safely to services in the downtown district.

In the area where the Highway 49 project was completed, there are apartments and senior housing. These residents tend to be more dependent on non-motorized forms of transportation and are limited to using the Highway to reach destinations. Without the grant the hazardous condition will remain.

An additional safety concern is the loss of shade for pedestrians. In this town where summers can be severe, the Highway 49 widening project removed several mature scenic shade trees. These trees were replaced with seedling trees, but they did not thrive. While this project includes conducting surveys with no tree planting aspect, the County will include with every future parkway expansion a tree component. Thus, the subsequent construction phasing of the project would preserve existing trees and riparian habitat plus allow new trees to be planted. This will provide a shaded, cooler, environment for seniors and others to reach their destinations safely.

Other

The trail project will become a complementary component of the County’s newly constructed Arts Park, Amphitheater and Skate Park.

The proposed project will ultimately connect to Yosemite National Park via Bear Creek, and the Merced River Trail. Yosemite National Park, Bureau of Land Management, Merced Irrigation District, U.S. Forest Service and Mariposa County staff have collaborated with respect to the Merced River Trail and have identified the Mariposa Creek Parkway Trail as a connecting route.
If you have questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at either (209) 966-5356 or e-mail dhertfelder@mariposacounty.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dana Hertfelder
Interim Director of Public Works
RC.ml.Grants.EEMP.Caltrans
Provide the following information on Transportation Agency Stationery

Send a letter addressed to:

Secretary for Resources  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT and MITIGATION PROJECT

The following information is provided regarding the construction of a new transportation facility, or the enhancement of an existing transportation facility, in order to assist in the review of a proposed Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP).

Title of the Proposed EEMP Project:

Required Information about the Related Transportation Project:

- Project description:
- Kind of environmental document required:
- Status of environmental document:
- List of the major environmental mitigation measures required for or expected to be required:
- Location:
- Construction start date:

Required Information about the Proposed EEMP Project and the Related Transportation Project:

1. Does any part of the proposed EEMP project provide the same environmental mitigation or enhancements required of the transportation project? (If "yes," please explain.)

2. Is the proposed EEMP project compatible with the transportation facility, or does it interfere with the transportation facility operation or safety? (If incompatible, please explain.)

3. Does the proposed EEMP project limit or interfere with planned or anticipated future improvements to the transportation facility? (If it interferes, please explain.)

4. Describe any concerns about the proposed EEMP project (e.g., design, safety, tree density, other EEMP project previously undertaken to mitigate the impact of this transportation project, etc.)

Signature: Transportation Agency Representative  
Dana Belfelder  
Interim Director of Public Works

Title

Mariposa County LTC  
Name of Transportation Agency
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk
    P. O. Box 247
    Mariposa, CA 95338

From: Mariposa County Dept. Public Works
    4639 Ben Hur Road
    Mariposa, CA 95338

County of Mariposa

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2004

MARIPOSA CO. CLERK

Project Title: Mariposa Creek Extension

Project Location-Specific: Town of Mariposa-Highway 49 North to Highway 49 South/Fairgrounds

Project Location-City: Mariposa
Project Location-County: Mariposa

Description of Project: Topographical and property survey and other activities related to determination of route feasibility and property acquisition.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: COUNTY OF MARIPosa

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mariposa Co. Dept. of Public Works

Exempt Status:

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3): 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☑ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: Basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Gwen Foster
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 966-5356

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes  No

Signed by Lead Agency:

Signature: Dana Hertfelder
Title: Interim Director of Public Works
Date: October 22, 2004

Signed by Applicant:  
Date received for filing at OPR: 10/27/04
6. General Criteria

a. Increased Mitigation and Enhancement

The proposed project will provide a significant elevated degree of mitigation and enhancement beyond CEQA criteria.

Currently, pedestrians and cyclists walk alongside the edge of Highways 49 and 140 to get to services offered in the downtown district. In order to reduce impacts to existing driveway grades, a design exception was allowed for portions of Highway 49 North, requiring only 4-foot wide paved shoulders in lieu of the standard 8-foot shoulders. The 4-foot shoulder is not adequate for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. The proposed project, however, will allow pedestrians to escape motorized hazards as they walk safely and directly to services in the downtown district.

An additional safety concern is the loss of shade for pedestrians. In this town where summers can be severe, the Highway 49 North Project [related transportation project] removed several mature scenic shade trees. These trees were replaced with seedling trees, but they did not thrive. While this project includes conducting surveys, followed by the commencement of easement and property acquisition, the County will include with every future parkway expansion, a tree component. Thus, the subsequent construction phasing of the project will preserve existing trees plus allow new trees to be planted. This will provide a shaded, cooler environment for seniors and others to reach their destinations safely.

The proposed Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension parallels both Highways 49 and 140 in the Town of Mariposa in a safe natural setting.

The use of the trail is directly proportional to the number of guests visiting Yosemite National Park (YNP), as Mariposa is home to YNP. As YNP increases its guest visitation, it is anticipated that the overflow of guests will be served by businesses located in downtown Mariposa. As guests lodge and utilize services in downtown, recreational opportunities shall become premium. Thus, it is prudent for the County to plan and provide safe pedestrian/bicycle passage. The trail project will become a complementary component of the County’s newly constructed Arts Park, Amphitheater and Skate Park.
The proposed project is also viewed as a conservation endeavor as it will preserve wildlife habitat land as well as integrate open space. Another benefit of the proposed project and subsequent phases, which includes construction of the trail, interpretive signage, and other amenities along the route, is the reduction of vehicular emissions into the atmosphere. With increase levels of air pollution throughout the Sierra's, non-motorized travel is an approach to being proactive.

b. Statewide Project Goals and Local Cash Contributions

The proposed project complies with the adopted plans and policies of the Mariposa Town Planning Area as well as the draft Mariposa Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The proposed project will ultimately connect to Yosemite National Park via Bear Creek, and the Merced River Trail. Yosemite National Park, Bureau of Land Management, Merced Irrigation District, U.S. Forest Service and Mariposa County staff have collaborated with respect to the Merced River Trail and have identified the Mariposa Creek Parkway Trail as a connecting route.

State Bond Funds, State Special Legislation, local property donations, citizens and volunteers funded the construction of the 0.7 mile-Mariposa Creek Parkway.

Statewide Resource Priorities

The habitat, wetlands and recreational access of the Mariposa Creek Parkway is consistent with the California Resources Agency priorities as identified in the Mariposa Town Planning Area.

Local Cash Contributions

Funding for the project in the amount of $13,500 (27 percent) has been identified from either the Tobacco Funds Account and/or General County Funds Account. A Resolution for the Application for Grant Funds for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code Funding has been approved by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

c. Project Readiness
i. Are Project Designs completed?

Yes, please see attached conceptual plan in the Exhibits Section of this document. An overall layout for the creek parkway has been completed, as best could be done without survey information.
The proposed project is also viewed as a conservation endeavor as it will preserve wildlife habitat land as well as integrate open space. Another benefit of the *proposed project and subsequent phases*, which includes construction of the trail, interpretive signage, and other amenities along the route, is the reduction of vehicular emissions into the atmosphere. With increase levels of air pollution throughout the Sierra's, non-motorized travel is an approach to being proactive.

b. Statewide Project Goals and Local Cash Contributions

The proposed project complies with the adopted plans and policies of the Mariposa Town Planning Area as well as the draft Mariposa Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The proposed project will ultimately connect to Yosemite National Park via Bear Creek, and the Merced River Trail. Yosemite National Park, Bureau of Land Management, Merced Irrigation District, U.S. Forest Service and Mariposa County staff have collaborated with respect to the Merced River Trail and have identified the Mariposa Creek Parkway Trail as a connecting route.

State Bond Funds, State Special Legislation, local property donations, citizens and volunteers funded the construction of the 0.7 mile-Mariposa Creek Parkway.

Statewide Resource Priorities

The habitat, wetlands and recreational access of the Mariposa Creek Parkway is consistent with the California Resources Agency priorities as identified in the Mariposa Town Planning Area.

Local Cash Contributions

Funding for the project in the amount of $13,500 (27 percent) has been identified from the Tobacco Funds Account. A Resolution for the Application for Grant Funds for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code Funding has been approved by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

c. Project Readiness

i. Are Project Designs completed?

Yes, please see attached conceptual plan in the Exhibits Section of this document. An overall layout for the creek parkway has been completed, as best could be done without survey information.
ii. Have funds been specifically appropriated for the related transportation facility?

Yes. CalTrans completed the related transportation-widening project on Highway 49 South.

iii. Are matching funds readily available?

Matching funds of $13,500, twenty-seven (27) percent, of the project cost has been approved by the Board of Supervisors (See adopted Resolution "iii").

iv. Will the proposed mitigation project require any permits or lengthy environmental clearance?

The survey will not require any permits. Therefore, the survey work will commence as soon as the project is funded.

v. Is the project consistent with state, regional and local plans?

**State Plans:** The California State Parks in reference to the California Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) recognizes the Mariposa Creek Parkway approach to local riparian areas. Walking for pleasure is the number one (No. #1) Recreational Activity identified by State Parks Planning staff. In addition, Mariposa County has been identified as the second most rapid growing small county.

**Regional Plans:** Mariposa County as a Region has adopted the Mariposa Creek Parkway Project by resolution. The Parkway is included in the Mariposa Town Plan, draft Recreational Master Plan, and draft Bike Plan.

**Local Plans:** The Mariposa Creek Parkway is consistent with the Mariposa Town Planning Area and the draft Mariposa County Master Plan.

vi. Is project scheduled to start before June 30, 2005?

The Project is estimated to commence on May 1, 2005.
7. Project Category Criteria
Roadside Recreational Projects

a. Need for the Project

**Safety concerns are high priority to the County of Mariposa.** The main emphasis of the Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension is to mitigate safety concerns, provide for safe pedestrian/bicycle passage in a safe natural setting. As a result of the State Highway North widening and continuous left-turn lane project, walking and bicycling of pedestrians was negatively impacted because we were left with a 4-foot shoulder for pedestrian passage, with reduced shade. This project resulted in pedestrians being forced to walk closer to moving traffic. Many of the residents in the area live in apartments, mobile homes, or condominiums. Many are seniors or low income households.

As previously mentioned, in this town where summers can be severe, the Highway 49 North Project (related transportation project) removed several mature scenic shade trees. These trees were replaced with seedling trees, but they did not thrive. Thus, the subsequent constructing phasing of the project will preserve existing trees plus allow new trees to be planted. This will provide a shaded, cooler environment for seniors and others to reach their destinations safely.

**Because there is a significant deficiency in pedestrian/bicycle passage** in Mariposa County, the proposed project and subsequent phases of extending the Mariposa Creek Parkway will positively impact the related transportation project.

**This particular project should be funded** because it will allow public access to the remaining sections of Mariposa Creek. Pedestrians will be able to walk from Highway 49 North through downtown to the fairgrounds on Highway 49 South in a safe natural setting.

**Despite the proximity to Yosemite, in the Town of Mariposa** the only similar opportunity to this proposed project is to walk along State Highway 49 and 140, and County roads. Many of these transporation systems do not have curbs to separate the motorized traffic from the pedestrians, andmost are unshaded during the summer. On Highway 49 North, several of the shade trees were removed as a result of anticipated construction.

**Recreational opportunities** for guests, as well as residents of the town and County, will use the project. Over 1 million visitors pass through the Town of Mariposa on their way to Yosemite. Many of these guests staying at local hotels seek walking as a recreational activity after spending hours in cars or
b. Suitability and Sustainability

The County has successfully maintained other portions of the project for several years. The downtown section, which is more developed, has seen extensive use by residents and visitors, with no major problems. Thus, the trail shall be maintained through collaborative efforts of the County’s Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Administration Departments that will include litter and weed abatement and general maintenance utilizing a combination of county staff and community involvement.

Further, as previously mentioned, the County has successfully maintained facilities funded under state bond acts in 1964, 1974, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988 as well as the Historic Preservation Trails and Special Appropriation Grants.

c. Other Benefits and Community Participation

The acquisition of easements and property along the Mariposa Creek parkway and development as a rustic trail will provide several benefits:

**Community Involvement:** The County’s youth have been responsible for beautifying and adding to the Creek, rather than detracting from it. High school shop classes have constructed benches for other sections of the Creek parkway, and teachers and scout leaders have indicated interest in using the Creek as a focus of their activities. Further community involvement in respect to litter abatement and general maintenance shall be scheduled on a quarterly basis.
Open sections of the Creek are available for special projects by the volunteer groups such as the Mariposa Creek Committee and the UCCE Mariposa County Master Gardeners*. Projects in the past have included event days for litter cleanup, development of designs for specific access points for the public, and a native plant garden. With easements open to public review and work, these groups will be able to proceed with various projects.

*The California Native Plant Garden has been established in a section of the Mariposa Creek Parkway. The garden was established by the UCCE Mariposa County Master Gardeners, which is a volunteer group under the guidance of the University of California Cooperative Extension Horticultural Advisor and certified by the University of California.

Many organizations and individuals have contributed to the success of the Mariposa Creek Parkway. They include, but are not limited to, the Heartland Opportunity Center, 4-H, Mariposa Department of Public Works, Mariposa Department of Planning, and the Mariposa Department of Parks and Recreation.

The local Audubon Society has conducted an annual bird sighting along the Creek.

The County Health Department uses the Creek Parkway for their annual “walk for health” days to encourage residents to exercise.

The Downtown Merchants collaborated to develop the Art Park in the Parkway as a venue for musical expression.

**Visitor experience.** Many international and urban visitors to the Town of Mariposa and Yosemite National Park are only acquainted with urban settings and High Sierra ecology. The visitor will be able to explore a section of the foothill “wilds” without straying far from their travel route. As interest in this activity grows, additional interpretive opportunities can be provided, beyond the initial signage.

**Self-guided nature walks:** Interpretive signs and displays along the project, as well as key viewing points will be installed along the trail in addition to the existing native plant display.
Costs and Accounting

a. Preliminary Project Costs
   $22,750

b. Personnel and Employee Services
   $5,000

c. Consultant Services
   $25,750

d. Construction Equipment
   None

e. Construction Costs
   None

f. Trees, Supplies and Materials
   None

g. Acquisition Costs
   $10,000
EXHIBITS
November 1, 2004

Mr. Dave Brubaker  
EEM Coordinator  
CA Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Survey

Dear Mr. Brubaker:

The Mariposa Creek Parkway is consistent with the draft Mariposa County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please refer to the attached document. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Begley  
Deputy Director
October 27, 2004

To: Whom It May Concern:

From: Richard Begley, Deputy Director

Re: EEMPT Grant
Mariposa Creek Parkway
Draft Mariposa Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Please be advised that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has not adopted the September 2001 Mariposa County Master Plan, not because of a lack of desire, but rather the General Plan Update was raising constructive comments on the Recreation Element that was comprised primarily of the 2001 Parks & Recreation Plan.

Since the public introduction of the plan, the Board of Supervisors has appropriated $500,000 as matching funds to a State Parks & Recreation, Robert- Zberg-Harris Non-Urban Grant of $500,000 to purchase a 52.2 acre Regional Recreation Complex and initiate development. The Regional Recreation Complex is listed on Page 25 of the September 2001 Mariposa County Parks & Recreation Master Plan as the #1 Priority on Projects of County Wide Interest. The Mariposa Creek Parkway is listed as the #2 project and is on Page 26 & 27 of the Plan.

Ironically the RRC has great potential in becoming the latest facility accessible by the Mariposa Creek Parkway. Current Public Facilities attached by the Parkway are the Art's Park a 1.3-acre visitor oriented Park Site on the South end of the existing Parkway, while the 14-acre Mariposa Park, with it's public Swimming Pool, Amphitheater that seats 280, Skate Park, Tennis Courts and Multiple Picnic areas is above the current southern entry point to the Parkway. Other potential facilities to be connected to the Parkway are the Mariposa Rest Area, a visitor service area, and the Mariposa County Museum and History Center. With Mariposa's 440 Hotel Rooms, visitors would much rather walk a creekside park than the State Highways. Local residents are also utilizing the .7 mile Parkway extremely well.

Attached are the pertinent portions of the Master Plan as they relate to the Mariposa Creek Parkway.
Mariposa County
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Patti Reiley, District 1  Garry Parker, District 4
Doug Balmain, District 2  Bob Pickard, District 5
Robert Stewart, District 3

Mariposa County Park and Recreation Commission
Ernie Correa  Rhonda Scherf
Becky Konrath  George W. Strathearn
Ort Holden  Leota Striplin
Audrey Noel

Prepared for:
Mariposa County
Division of Parks and Recreation
Rich Begley, Director

Department of Public Works
Jim Petropulos, Director

Prepared by:
Katherine S. Hutmacher, ASLA
Visalia, California

September 4, 2001
Introduction

Mariposa County is a blend of many populations. On one hand, the county is home to 17,000 residents who choose to live in Mariposa for the quality of life it offers them and their families. Mariposa County also plays host to well over three and a half million travelers every year. Skillful blending of the facilities and programs the county offers to these two groups is what will define the excellence of the parks program in Mariposa County.

The Mariposa County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is created to guide the allocation of precious resources - financial, human and land - as the county grows and matures into the 21st century. The original master plan, completed in February of 1992, has proved to be a helpful tool in evaluating proposed projects and budget decisions with an eye towards accomplishing the consensus goals of the community. This 2001 update is intended to take a fresh look at the goals and objectives expressed in the original document as they relate to the changing population of Mariposa county and to evaluate the status of the tasks assigned to the county to accommodate county growth.

Mariposa County is unique among California counties in that the county is the sole provider of local governmental services within the county limits. Traditionally, cities furnish the park, recreation and leisure services to the local population. Since there are no incorporated cities in Mariposa County, this responsibility falls to the county. In addition, the traditional role of the county is to provide facilities more regional in scope. Mariposa County must assume this role as well. This plan intends to look at the opportunities and constraints facing the county, list goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation program, and to innumerate the specific tasks that lay ahead as the county continually strives to provide suitable and stimulating recreational offerings.

How this Plan relates to other plans:

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan supplements several other plans previously completed or in progress at the county. These plans include:

- The 1992 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- The Master Trails and Bikeways Plan
- MPUD plans for corridor planning
- Land Use, Circulation and Open Space elements of the General Plan (under revision)
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- The Planning Process
- Concerns of the Staff and Supervisors

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- Park and Recreation Issues: Opportunities and Constraints
- Park and Recreation Facilities
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- Recommendations by Benefit District
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- Conclusion

## Part Four – Appendices
- Appendix One – Interview Participants and Questionnaire
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- Appendix Three – Funding Mechanisms for Park and Recreation Development
2. Other Programs and Policies:
   a. Design and implement an urban forestry/landscape corridors program connecting the various tourist and resident destinations in the community of Mariposa. These destinations could include the Courthouse campus, Mariposa High School, Mariposa Elementary School, Mariposa Creek Parkway, the History Center, downtown shops and various parking areas. The landscape corridors should also provide entrance elements at the north and south entrances to town.
   b. Work with civic and school groups to complete modest renovations to the outdoor theater in Mariposa Park. Link with another civic organization to provide sponsorship and booking services for community use of the facility.

3. Renovations and Repairs:
   a. Continue reorganization of the parking lot at Mariposa Park to control traffic and speed and to make the lot more aesthetically appealing. Investigate changes to the parking lot that would more fully utilize the space, such as for farmers markets. Additional curbs, trees and defined vehicle/pedestrian areas will add additional safety and attractiveness to this facility. As the number of facilities at Mariposa Park increases, the pressure on this parking lot and the number of children and adults walking in the area will increase as well. Renovations for safety and comfort will be a top priority.
   b. Provide bleachers at the Ball Fields at Mariposa High School.
   c. Continue efforts to modernize lighting at the Mariposa Ball Park to extend the playable day.
   d. In concert with the school district, provide a new restroom at the concession stand at Mariposa Ball Park.
   e. Pave the access roads to the group picnic shelter and the tennis courts at Mariposa Park.
Projects of County-Wide and Regional Interest

The following two parks would be of county-wide interest. The acreage required to accomplish these projects would exceed the acreage designated for any single district of the county, but as facilities with far-reaching utility and of potential economic benefit to the entire county, they would be an appropriate expenditure of additional public funds. While the facilities themselves will be located in one of the centrally-located Recreation Benefit Districts, it would be reasonable to expect that other Recreational Benefit Districts may “contribute” a portion of their acreage to these projects as an expression of the goal to locate expansive facilities of broad appeal centrally in the county.

1. Regional Sports Complex
Establishment of a mixed-use regional recreational complex in a central location in this district to serve the entire county would serve many needs and many populations in the county. This complex would be large enough to support several diamonds and the associated parking, concession areas and restrooms to allow for baseball, softball and soccer tournament play. In addition, this site would contain an aquatic center and mixed-use community center and other specialty recreation facilities. This splendid facility would ideally be built in cooperation with the Mariposa County Unified School District and other community organizations and would encourage use by the school community, the recreational community and other civic organizations.

The central location of this facility is critical to its success as a useful addition to the county, and the site selected would require, in addition to adequate level land, an adequate water supply and fairly direct access from a major roadway.

This facility would also be the best location for a revenue-producing facility such as a water park, driving range or skate park.

Exhibit “A-6”
The minimum size for a facility of this type would be 20 acres if level land of the right shape can be acquired. Odd shaped parcels and parcels with a significant slope or unbuildable land would require a larger site. Furthermore, it may be wise to acquire additional land to allow for future extensions of the facilities, additional parking or other related facilities. Below is a sketch of a typical layout of this sort of regional sports facility.

2. Mariposa Creek Parkway
Progress continues on the parkway along Mariposa Creek through Mariposa, and this plan encourages the building of the remainder of the trail, including a return loop up Stockton Creek and through town. This trail system would provide a valuable and unique recreational resource that would benefit the residents of the county as both a recreational pursuit and as a source of economic development as a tourist destination.

In association with this parkway, small activity nodes and connections to adjacent facilities and businesses would be appropriate. By connecting these areas to a ‘spine’ of parkway more and more people could enjoy the trail and the areas it connects.

A sketch of the concept of this regional creek parkway is shown in Figure 3.
Mariposa County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

September 2001

Figure 3: Mariposa Creek Parkway Regional Park
Mariposa Creek Park

Most of Mariposa Creek Park is still on the drawing boards, although the first section from 4th to 5th Street is complete and the next section from 5th to 8th Street is under construction. The park thus far has been built on existing county land and on recreation easements granted to the county by landowners bordering the creek. Ultimately it is hoped that the park will provide a landscaped pedestrian pathway from the Fairgrounds on the south to the California Department of Forestry offices on Highway 49 on the north and will serve both a recreational and functional role for both residents and tourists.

Another section of the park – 5 acres between Mariposa Creek and Miller Road south of the sewer treatment plant – was purchased in 1990. The site is quite narrow but wide enough in some parts to contain a future picnic area and perhaps a restroom. At this time the site remains undeveloped.
November 1, 2004

Mr. Dave Brubaker
EEM Coordinator
CA Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension Survey

Dear Mr. Brubaker:

Please be informed that the Mariposa Creek Parkway Project is consistent with the Mariposa County General Plan and the Mariposa Town Planning Area Specific Plan. In fact, the project is specifically described in Section 4 of the Specific Plan.

No permits are required for topographical and property surveys of the Creek alignment and needed property for the project.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this information. My direct line is (209) 742-1215.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Williams
Deputy Planning Director

Our Mission is to provide our clients with professional service and accurate information in a respectful, courteous, and enthusiastic manner resulting in a well-planned rural environment.
PROJECT COST ESTIMATE:

**PROJECT NAME:** Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension

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**TOTAL PROJECT COST** 63,500
### PROPOSED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

**PROJECT NAME:** Mariposa Creek Parkway Extension

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Exhibit "D"
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$63,500.00
MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY AT 8th STREET

VIEW: SOUTHERN DIRECTION

Exhibit "G"
NORTH VIEW AT 8th STREET

"WILD AREA" of interest from 8th Street to Joe Howard Road
1ST PHASE — CONSTRUCTED 1991
INCLUDES PATHWAY AND BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER, LIGHTING, SIGNAGE, PLANTING
HIGHWAY 140 TO 5TH STREET

2ND PHASE — CONSTRUCTED 2001
INCLUDES PATHWAY AND BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER, LIGHTING, ASPHALT PATH, OVERLOOKS, NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN AND SHADE TREES
5TH TO 8TH STREETS

ART PARK — CONSTRUCTED 2004
LANDSCAPING, PATH, STAGE FOR MUSICAL PERFORMANCES
On 4th between Parkway and Highway 140

FUTURE CONNECTION TO MARIPOSA PARK.
HIGHWAY 140 BRIDGE
SEWER TREATMENT FACILITY, POSSIBLE PARKING AND PICNIC AREAS ADJACENT.

FUTURE PHASE TO UNK
PARKWAY TO RESERVOIR
CREATED EVAN STOCKTON

ALTERNATE PATH ALONG HWY TO REMAIN, ADJACENT TO CREEK, A SAFE PATH WILL BE DIFFICULT

MARIPOSA PARK — 15 ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND — POOL, TENNIS, PICNIC, SKATE PARK, AMPHITHEATER

RICH HABITAT AREA. PATHWAY MORE NARROW, FEWER FACILITIES OR FURNISHINGS. PATH ONE SIDE ONLY.

HIGHWAY 49 NORTH (CONTINUOUS LEFT TURN LANE)
Cemetery
HISTORIC DISTRICT
PLANTS GARDEN
NATURAL HISTORY CENTER AND TOURIST REST AREA
CONNECT TO PARKWAY
FUTURE PICNIC
HQ
NORTH

11TH DEPT. FORESTRY OFFICE
CALIFORNIA HOTEL TO TRAIL-WIDE AND LEVEL
EXTG IMPOUNDMENT
FUTURE PICNIC NODE?
MAJOR ENTRY POINT
PARKING & CEMETERY, INTERPRETIVE PANELS, PARK SIGNAGE, BRIDGE TO SOUTH BANK

HIGHWAY 49 SOUTH
OLD HIGHWAY BRIDGE
ROAD TO MILLER STATE HWY PROJECT THIS LOCATION
LEFT TURN LAN SAND AND GRAVEL IMPOUNDMENT

CONNECTION HERE WILL BE IMPORTANT

ALT A — PATHWAY TO USE OLD HIGHWAY AND JOIN HWY 49 AT BEN HUR RD

ALT B — PATHWAY TO FOLLOW WEST BANK OF CREEK TO UNDERPASS AT FAIRGROUNDS

FAIRGROUNDS — SOUTHERNLY ANCHOR OF PARKWAY, MEETING POINT, STAGING AREAS, STATE HARRIS AND MINERAL MUSEUM — MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIR — YEAR-ROUND R.V. CAMPING

BROWNS BAR

BROWN
JASPER DEPT.

EXHIBIT 4

CONCEPT PLAN
MARIPOSA CREEK

DESIGN BY MARIPOSA PWD AND RECREATION DIVISION, MARIPOSA CAL
BY ENGINEERING & WILMINGTON, MARIPOSA, MARIPOSA, MARIPOSA CAL

UPDATED OCT 2004 — MARIPOSA PWD
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Description of plants found in the Mariposa Creek Parkway include but are not limited to the following: Please see ensuing pages.
Acknowledgments

The California Native Plant Demonstration Garden was made possible by a generous grant from the Elvenia J. Slosson Endowment Fund.

The Mariposa County University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners prepared this Garden Guide.

Thanks to the following persons for their input and review of this guide: Marilou Ellis, Joan Holmstrom and Betty Massey.

Special thanks to Lia Stalder for her design of the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden and to Jared Bauman, Joe Higuera, Bill King, Ann Mendershausen, Peggy Moore and Steve Moore for their input and special knowledge of California Native Plants.

Thanks also to the Mariposa Master Gardeners for all their hard work in the many phases of designing, planting and maintenance of the Garden and to Jim Johnson, Master Gardener, for construction and installation of the plant markers.

Many organizations and individuals have contributed to the success of this project. They include Heartland Opportunity Center, 4-H, the California Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society and the Mariposa Department of Public Works.

In addition, the following Mariposa businesses have been extremely helpful in establishing this public garden. They include Bloomer’s Nursery, Bootjack Equipment Rental and Feed, Mariposa Feed and Supply Company, Mariposa Tank, Moore California Natives, Sierra Boulders, and Sierra Custom Graphics.

A final note of appreciation to Gary W. Hickman and Wain Johnson for their guidance and encouragement in the creation and completion of the Mariposa Creek California Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

Lee Hanna, Project Coordinator

Plants in the Demonstration Garden

This information is organized alphabetically by common name for your convenience.

**Bigeelow’s Sneezeweed**, *Helenium bigelowii*
Plants are coarse looking but valuable for profuse late summer and autumn bloom. Does require regular moisture with good drainage. These plants grow from 2-3 ft tall and 1 ft. wide. Yellow blossoms are 2 1/2 in.

**Blue Rye**, *Leymus arenarius “glaucus”*

**Bush Anemone**, *Carpentaria californica*
Grows in a restricted area of foothills. It is a formal looking shrub which grows slowly to 4-6 ft tall and wide. The older bark is light colored and peeling; new shoots are purplish. In late spring and summer clusters of scented 1 1/2 -3 in. flowers bloom. It is resistant to oak root fungus and deer resistant.

**Bush Lupine**, *Lupinus albifrons*
This is a 3-5 ft perennial. The flowers are 3 in. blue spikes on a white-silver bush. It needs full sun, good drainage and will tolerate some water but best on the dry side. Deer avoid it but it is attractive to butterflies.

**Button Willow (Buttonbush)**
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
These deciduous plants are usually seen as 3 ft. bushes but can grow larger. They like full sun, water and tolerate most soils. Flowers are 1-2 in. creamy white in spherical clusters. Fall color is bright yellow with some orange. This is a good streamside plant.
CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL, *Umbellularia californica*
Along the windy foothill of the coast this plant is a huge gumdrop-shaped shrub. But in the forests it is a tree that grows from 75 ft. tall and 100 ft wide. Its leaves may be substituted for sweet bay leaves in cooking. They grow best in deep soil with regular water but tolerate many other conditions, including aridity. This plant is deer resistant.

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE, *Aesculus californica*
This is a deciduous, small tree, normally growing to 15 ft. The showy 6 in., creamy, scented flower spikes appear in April-May. It is native to the central coastal ranges and the Sierra in partial shade to full sun. It is tolerant to drought but needs regular water for the first few years. The pear-like fruits are poisonous and they were used as a fish poison by some Native Americans such as the Yana and Yokut (Kroeber, 1925). This tree goes deciduous early if allowed to get too dry.

CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT, *Eriogonum fascicolatum*
This shrub is native to the foothills and desert slopes of California. It has pinkish head-like clusters of flowers from March-October. Good for erosion control. It is drought tolerant and deer resistant.

CALIFORNIA FESCUE, *Festuca californica*
Native to the coastal ranges, it grows in a loose clump 2-3 ft high and 1-2 ft wide. It blooms in late spring and early summer. Long lived and does well in various soil types. Tolerates summer droughts in cooler climates. It is a good ground cover.

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA, *Zauschneria californica*
The California Fuchsia can be invasive, spreading by the roots and seeds. It is best in an informal area and looks good in summer. It is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Plants die back in winter but the rhizomes are hardy to 20°F and plant will re-emerge in spring. It has deep red long tubular flowers throughout the summer.

CALIFORNIA POPPY, *Eschscholzia californica*
The California Poppy grows well in gardens with dry soil and lots of sun. It is a perennial often grown as an annual. The flowers remain closed during wet or cloudy weather. Seedlings are somewhat difficult to transplant and self-seeded volunteers may be offset types of inferior quality. Direct seeding into the garden is preferred.

COFFEEBERRY, *Rhamnus californica*
This is an evergreen shrub that grows fast to 6-8 ft. It likes sun to part shade and has low water requirements. The berries turn red, then black. This plant is one of the most deer proof of all.

COYOTE BUSH, *Baccharis pilularis*
This California native is remarkably adaptable, thriving in almost any soil. It is a very dependable bank cover and requires minimum maintenance. Cut old branches and thin to rejuvenate growth. There are both male and female plants. Females produce cottony seeds that make a mess. Most nurseries sell male cutting-grown plants. Deer resistant.

CREEPING SAGE, *Salvia sonomensis*
This California native prefers dry foothills. It is a mat-forming creeper that grows 8-12 in. high and spreads 3-4 ft, rooting where branches touch soil. The sage is an evergreen and has lavender-blue flowers in late spring and early summer. It needs perfect drainage and gritty soil. Drought tolerant but generally requires a deep watering once a month during dry season.

DEER GRASS, *Muhlenbergia rigens*
Deer Grass is a significant basketry material to central and southern California Native Americans who utilize the flower stalks in the foundations of coiled baskets. Once established, Deer Grass is quite drought-tolerant. Contrary to its name, deer seem to avoid it.
FLANNEL BUSH, *Fremontodendron californicum*
This California native grows up to 20 ft. tall and 12 ft. wide. Its rich yellow flowers bloom in the spring and are 1-3 in. across. The plants are completely drought tolerant and will accept occasional moisture during their normally dry period in summer only if drainage is excellent, such as on a hillside. In most areas this plant is deer resistant.

IRIS, *Douglasiana “Pacific Coast Hybrid”*
This plant is widely used in the nursery trade, both as Douglas Iris and as a parent stock for many successful hybrids. It is a vigorous, highly successful iris, common and widespread in coastal areas.

LEOPARD LILY, *Lilium pardalinum*
This plant can reach 3 ft. tall and have flowers that are 3 in. across. Needs some sun and regular water. The leaves look like iris leaves. The flowers are usually spotted with a darker color.

MANZANITA, *Arctostaphylos “emerald carpet”*
This is one of the greenest and most uniform of ground cover Manzanitas. It forms a dense carpet 8-14 in tall and spreads about 5 ft. It needs deep irrigation every 2-3 weeks. It is considered to be a fire-safe Manzanita. It is also deer resistant.

MARIPOSA LILY
*Calochortus venustus*
The Mariposa Lily is native to central and southern California coastal ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills. Flowers are 3 - 3 1/2 in. wide, white or yellow to purple, dark red, often with peacock eye at the base of the petals. Stems are 10 in. or more. It blooms May-July. This corm requires moisture in spring and dry summers. Can be lifted during summer months to dry out. It can grow in pots.

MATILIJPA POPPY, *Romneya coulteri*
This perennial can grow to 8 ft. tall and has 4-6 in. flowers that are white with a yellow center. Some call it the “fried egg plant”. The plants can be difficult to start in heavy soil but thrive in sand. It spreads by rhizomes and in some places can get out of hand.

MOCK ORANGE, *Philadelphus lewisii*
This is a deciduous shrub. It has white flowers in late spring. Plants have a spreading habit and can grow to 6 ft. tall.

MONKEY FLOWER, *Mimulus aurantiacus*
This is a perennial often treated as annual. Takes lots of heat if given plenty of water. Does best next to a pond or pool. Good in pots with lots of drainage.

MOUNTAIN STRAWBERRY, *Fragaria virginiana*
This evergreen ground cover grows best in part shade. The leaves take on red tints in winter. It has large (1 in. wide) white flowers in spring and bright red seedy fruits in fall. Needs regular watering and is attractive to birds.

PENSTEMON
*Penstemon newberryi*
This native is also called “Mountain Pride”. It is perennial and has tubular flowers in bright reds and blues but also soft pinks through salmon, peach, deep rose, lilac, deep purple and white. Grows best in full sun. Needs fast drainage and grows best in loose, gravelly soil with infrequent watering.

PURPLE NEEDLE GRASS
*Nassella pulchra*
All needle grasses are clump formers characterized by long awns that are needlelike appendages that give a feathery look to the inflorescence. These are cool-season growers that go dormant during hot, dry summers, and revive in cooler autumn weather and rains. This classic native grows to 3 ft. with 4 in. awns and blooms in late winter and early spring.
**RABBITBRUSH, Chrysothamnus nauseosus**
This is an erect freely branching shrub. Grows to 6 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide. It blooms in late summer or fall. Leaves and stems are strongly aromatic. It is useful for roadside or natural plantings. Deer avoid it. Flowers are yellow.

**REDBUD, Cercis occidentalis**
The Western Redbud is native to California. It is most frequently found in our foothills below 4,000 ft. It is both a shrub and small tree that grows 10-18 ft. tall and wide. The magenta flowers bloom in spring before the blue-green leaves appear. The Redbud is very drought tolerant and is excellent for seldom-watered banks. Generally it is deer resistant.

**SAGE, Salvia chamaedryoides**
Grows to 1-2 ft. tall and spreads 2-3 ft. by underground runners. Has brilliant true blue 1 in. flowers that bloom in late spring and fall. Deadhead flowers to encourage re-bloom. Drought tolerant but blooms longer and better with more water.

**SHASTA SULPHUR FLOWER, Eriogonum umbellatum**
This plant forms a beautiful gray green mound, growing 1-1 1/2 ft. tall and about 3 ft. broad. It has many round heads of sulphur-yellow flowers in spring. May need some supplemental watering in hot summer areas.

**SIERRA CURRANT, Ribes nevadense**
The plants without spines are called currants and those with spines are known as gooseberries. The local plant grows erect to 4-8 ft tall and 6-10 ft. wide and has deep crimson flowers borne from winter to spring. The flowers are drooping and fuchsia-like, with long, protruding stamens. Excellent barrier. Needs no irrigation, but moderate water keeps it nearly evergreen. Deer resistant.

**SPICE BUSH, Calycanthus occidentalis**
This is a deciduous shrub with fragrant, reddish-brown flowers April-August. It likes sun to partial shade and looks good if given regular water. Cattle and deer do not like it.

**TOYON, Heteromeles arbutifolia**
This shrub is also called the Christmas Berry or California Holly.

It is an evergreen shrub native to Sierra Nevada foothills. It has small, whitish flowers in June-July and bright red berries from November-January and birds love them. This shrub is drought tolerant and deer resistant.

**WESTERN BLUE FLAX, Linum lewisii**
This plant is drought resistant and likes full sun and good drainage. It has erect branching stems and abundant 5-petal flowers blooming from late spring into summer or fall. Deer seem to avoid it.

**WESTERN COLUMBINE, Aquilegia formosa**
Plants are erect and grow up to 1 1/2 -3 ft tall and 1 1/2 ft wide. They have nodding red-and-yellow flowers which are 1 1/2-2 in. across, with stout, straight red spurs. Plants are not fussy about soil as long as it is well drained. These are short-lived plants and will need to be replaced every 3-4 years unless they have reseeded themselves. Bloom season comes in spring and early summer. Plants prefer light shade and are deer resistant.

**WESTERN DOGWOOD**
*Cornus nuttallii*
This deciduous tree can grow to 65 ft. with many branches giving it an irregular look. The flower is actually an inflorescence of many small flowers bordered by 4-7 large white bracts. The actual flower has petals that are about 2.5 mm long, whitish or greenish in color and often purple-tipped. The fruits are clusters of bright red berries (drupes), each of which is about 1/3 in. in diameter, usually bearing 2 seeds. The wood was considered good for bows, arrows, implement handles and clothing hooks. The bark has been boiled for a dark-brown dye.

**WILD LILAC, Ceanothus “dark star”**
In the wild, plants grow on rocky slopes. They need light, well-
drained soil. Some demand total dryness, but others need occasional summer water. *C. Dark Star* grows up to 5-6 ft. tall and 8-10 ft. wide. The flowers are dark cobalt blue in 1 1/2 in. clusters. Very deer resistant.

**Wild Rose**, *Rosa californica*
This is a 3 ft. deciduous shrub with 1-2 in. pink flowers. It has fragrant, red, smooth hips of good quality for tea. It likes shade to part shade in the interior but at high elevations (6000 ft.) or coastal areas it prefers full sun. It tolerates some drought but likes moisture. An upright grower, it forms thickets on north slopes and next to streams.

**Yarrow**, *Achillea “moonshine”*
This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds and is resistant to deer. It is drought tolerant and blooms profusely from early spring until hard frost.

---

**Glossary**

**Annual:** Living and growing for only one year or season.

**Deciduous:** Losing all its leaves at the end of the growing season, usually in the fall.

**Decompose:** Break down.

**Dioecious:** Having male and female flowers on separate plants.

**Drought:** A prolonged dry period without rain.

**Evergreen:** Having foliage that persists or remains green throughout the year.

**Fungi:** Molds, mildews, mushrooms, etc.

**Lichen:** A plant made of a fungus and algae.

**Lobe:** A rounded projection.

**Moss:** A spongy plant.

**Native:** Originating and occurring naturally in a particular region.

**Nutrient:** A nourishing substance.

**Perennial:** Having a life span of more than two years.

**Shoots:** New growth on a plant.
WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

In downtown Mariposa (Hwy 140 to 6th Street) there are concrete sidewalks, streetlights, benches, and other city type improvements. As you move away from the town center, there will be a more rural trail, either asphalt or treated native soil, to match the adjacent wild areas.

HOW IS IT FINANCED?

The project has used a combination of park bond act, State, Federal and private grant funds, and public participation. In the future it will seek bicycle commuter funds. Mariposa County adopted the project in 1989. Mariposa County Public Works maintains the improved facilities along the Parkway.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

The County recently acquired the lot north of 4th Street between the Parkway and Highway 140 to allow construction of a small “Park for the Arts” to house “Music on the Green” and other civic events. The next proposed stretch of trail is proposed to travel from 8th Street to Joe Howard Road.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Volunteer groups: The Master Gardeners of Mariposa installed the landscaping along Stroming Road between 6th and 8th Streets. The Arts Council held a benefit to raise money for the project. The High School shop classes built benches for the Phase I part of the project. The downtown came together to assist with the Arts Park.

There are lots of amenities that could still be added——and you could be a part of it!

Property owners: In phases I & II, from Highway 140 to 8th Street in the downtown, property owners along the project have donated open space easements to allow the project to be built.

The Mariposa Creek Parkway is a project to create a linear park the length of Mariposa Creek within the Town of Mariposa. The route will be a non-motorized (bike, hike) route for commuters and a recreational amenity for residents and visitors.

WHERE WILL IT GO?

The route will link the Mariposa County Fairgrounds near Ben Hur Road and State Highway 49 South to State Highway 49 North near the California Department of Forestry—the Town of Mariposa, Mariposa County, California, U.S.A.

Email: pwd@mariposacounty.org, call (209) 966-5356, or write: Mariposa County Public Works, 4639 Ben Hur Road, Mariposa, CA, 95338.
BIRDS SEEN IN THE MARIPOSA CREEK AREA

GREBES
  PIED-BILLED GREBE 1/97 1/98 8/99

HERONS
  GREEN BACKED HERON 8/99
  GREAT BLUE HERON 1/00

GEESE AND DUCKS
  MALLARD 5/91 1/97 3/97 5/97 1/98 10/98 1/00
  WOOD DUCK 5/91 1/97 3/97 1/98 10/98 1/00
  RING-NECKED DUCK 1/98
  COMMON MERGANSER 5/91

AMERICAN COOT
  1/97 3/97 1/98

KILLDEER
  1/97 5/97 10/98 8/99 1/00

VULTURES, EAGLES AND HAWKS
  TURKEY VULTURE 5/91 5/92 1/97 3/97 5/97
  GOLDEN EAGLE 1/97
  RED-SHOULDERED HAWK 1/97 12/99

GAME BIRDS
  WILD TURKEY 10/98

PIGEONS AND DOVES
  MOURNING DOVE 5/91 5/92 1/97 1/98 8/99 12/99 1/00

HUMMINGBIRDS
  ANNA'S 5/92 1/97 5/97 8/99

BELTED KINGFISHER
  1/97 8/99

WOODPECKERS
  NORTHERN FLICKER 1/97 1/98 10/98 12/99
  ACORN WOODPECKER 5/91 5/92 1/97 1/98 10/98 8/99 12/99 1/00
  RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER 1/00
  HAIRY WOODPECKER 1/97 5/97
  NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER 1/97 5/97 1/98 8/99 12/99

FLYCATCHERS
  WESTERN KINGBIRD 5/91 5/97 5/97
  ASH-THROATED 5/91 5/92 5/97
  WESTERN WOOD PEWEE 5/91 5/97
  PACIFIC-SLOPE 5/97
BLACK PHOEBE 1/9 5/97 5/98 10/98 12/99 1/00

SWALLOWS
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED 5/97
CLIFF SWALLOW 5/97
BARN SWALLOW 5/91

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES
STEELER’S JAY 1/00
COMMON RAVEN 5/91 1/97 1/00

WREN
5/92 1/97 5/97 5/97

PLAIN TITMOUSE 5/92 1/97 3/97 5/97 10/98 12/99 1/00

BUSHTIT
10/98 12/99

NUTHATCHES
WHITE-BREASTED 5/91 10/98 1/00

WRENS
HOUSE WREN 5/91 5/92 3/97 5/97
BEWICK’S WREN 1/97

KINGLETS

WESTERN BLUEBIRD
5/91 5/92 1/97 5/97 1/98 10/98

THRUSHES
HERMIT THRUSH 3/97 1/98 12/99


NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
1/98 1/98

AMERICAN DIPPER
1/97 1/98

CEDAR WAXWING
1/97 10/98

EUROPEAN STARLING
5/91 5/97 1/98 10/98 8/99

HUTTON’S VIREO
5/92

WARBLERS
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER 1/97

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT 5/92

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK
5/91 5/92 5/97

TOWHEES
CALIFORNIA 5/91 5/92 1/97 5/97 1/98

SPARROWS
SONG SPARROW 5/91 1/97 5/97
LARK SPARROW 5/91 1/97 10/98
CHIPPING SPARROW 5/91
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW 1/97 1/98 10/98 12/99 1/00
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW 1/98 10/98 1/00
FOX SPARROW 1/98
LINCOLN’S 10/98
DARK-EYED JUNCO
1/97 1/98 12/99
BLACKBIRDS
    RED-WINGED 5/91
    BREWER’S 5/91 5/92 1/97 5/97 1/98
    BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD 5/91 5/97
NORTHERN ORIOLE
    5/91 5/97
WEAVERS
    HOUSE SPARROW 5/91 5/92 1/97 5/97 10/98
FINCHES

Shirley Schmelzer
Yosemite Area Audubon
November 2000
(70 Species)
Master Gardeners receive grant for Parkway

The Mariposa County UC Master Gardeners have received a $16,000 grant from the Elvenia J. Stinson Endowment Fund of the University of California. The group is planning to use the money for the landscaping of the Mariposa Creek Parkway's newest area.

According to Master Gardener Lee Hanna, the leader of the project, the project will establish a demonstration garden with a self-guided tour that will be located near Storming Road where the Parkway is currently planned to expand. "It's primarily to demonstrate what native plants look like to residents and so visitors can see what is native to the area," Hanna explained.

The project has several partner groups in addition to the Master Gardeners, including the Mariposa County Parks and Recreation Department and the Native Plant Society. On Monday, the groups met to visit the site and officially begin the project. The grant year actually begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2020. Hanna expects that the project will be completed by the end of the grant cycle.

The award is somewhat unusual, as the University rarely funds volunteer groups like the Master Gardeners. There are five Master Gardeners involved in the project. They are Hanna, Marilou Ellis, Elizabeth Johnson, Sandy Wise, and Joe Higueras. There are also five interns involved, including Sonia Brazzel, Lynda and Richard Everman, Jim Johnson, and Betty Massey.

The Master Gardeners program operates under the auspices of the Mariposa County Farm Advisor. The Gardeners are trained and certified local volunteers, who assist the Farm Advisor in answering gardening related questions and providing Cooperative Extension materials and programs to the public.

Mariposa County has been part of the Master Gardeners program since 1995. In order to qualify as a Master Gardener, volunteers must apply and undergo an interview process. Each candidate spends four hours, once a week for 16 weeks.

See GARDENERS on Back Page

Sunny married by crashes at

By Jill Ballinger

The California High Patrol and Mariposa County have had a busy weekend responding to three serious motor vehicle crashes, one of which was in the death of Robert Lovell, 45, of Mariposa.

The beautiful, pre-storm weather made a day of bicycle riding seem like the right idea. However, on the evening of Sunday, the day turned gray on Mariposa area roads.

At 6:20 p.m., a 12-year-old Mariposa boy had been

MCHS completes high school

By Jill Ballinger

On March 13, 1977, the Mariposa County High School in Mariposa held its first Graduation Exit Exam (HIS) required at the state level.

The test will now be a requirement for graduation in high school. MCHS Counselor Sue Comer reported that the testing of the test was a success. "We had no complaints," she said. We had no problems. The students were cooperative," he said, "we didn't have any problems. The students were cooperative." He added that the students who needed to do extra work were able to do so, and that they were able to complete their homework.

River Canyon color

Travellers winding through the Merced River Canyon can strike gold visually this week. The hillsides are covered with California poppies, making the "Gold Country" name fitting of the area.
Planting for the future
Mariposa County’s Master Gardeners Lee Hanna, Mary Lou Ellis, Elizabeth Johnson, Sonita Wice and Joe Higuera, and interns Sonia Lynda and Richard Everman, Jim Johnson and Betty MSseye were joined by Rich Begley of Mariposa County Parks and Recreation, Mariposa County Farm Advisor Wain Johnson, and Green Foster of the Mariposa County Public Works Department for the planning of the landscaping project.

GARDNERS: Land Grant
Continued from Front Page
being introduced to diverse horticultural topics. Additional hours are spent “hands on” in many subject areas.

The Gardeners are certified after successfully completing the training program, passing an examination and completing 50 volunteer hours during the first year. To maintain that certification, volunteers must contribute a minimum of 25 volunteer hours to the community and 12 hours of continuing education in a horticulture related area.

MCTA: Requesting It
employees from the time of their retirement until they qualify for medicare.

In regard to working conditions, the teachers have specified several requests to the board. For example, the teachers wish to have 30 minutes between the dismissal of students and any scheduled meetings on pro-days. They have also included a clause for job sharing that allows a teacher to enter into a temporary, new job-sharing plan by resigning from his or her full-time assignment and being rehired as a half-time employee for a year. The governor was also temporary at the job she was doing.

If the new classroom is not ready in time, they want to be able to start at the beginning of the year. Classroom for complaining.

MCU: Valerie will now propose a new proposal to build a new classroom April.
Board of Supervisors
County of Mariposa
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Board of Supervisors:

This letter is written in support of the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program application from Mariposa County for the extension of the Mariposa Creek Parkway.

Yosemite National Park is comprised of over 761,000 acres, with a third of this land located within the County of Mariposa. The Park's mission is to provide recreational opportunity as well as preserve natural and cultural resources for future generations. As a part of the greater Yosemite region, we stand by the efforts of the County to provide for the same with this trail extension project.

Sincerely,

Michael Tollefson
Superintendent

cc:
Lee Stetson, Supervisor, First District
Doug Balmain, Supervisor, Second District
Janet Bibby, Supervisor, Third District
Garry Parker, Supervisor, Fourth District
Bob Pickard, Supervisor, Fifth District