RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-68

MEETING: February 5, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Cal Poly SLO Community Partnership for Merced River Trail

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Community Partner Agreement with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to Conduct Program Activities with Regard to the Merced River Trail Project; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement.

This partnership, through which landscape architecture students and faculty from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (SLO) will study and make recommendations that will advance planning and design of the Merced River Trail from Bagby to El Portal and into Yosemite National Park, is a significant component of the County’s implementation efforts for this transformative project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On November 13, 2018, the Local Transportation Commission (LTC) adopted LTC Resolution No. 2018-28 to direct the Chair to sign a letter of support; adopt a resolution authorizing the Planning Department to submit an application for Caltrans FY 2019-20 Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning grant to complete a master plan for the Merced River Trail; and authorize the Chair to sign the grant agreement if awarded (subject to approval as to form by county counsel).

On April 24, 2018, the Planning Department provided a memorandum to the Board of Supervisors outlining a strategy to advance and ultimately implement this important project.

On June 26, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2018-358, approving the submittal of an application to the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program to support the Merced River Trail Project and authorizing the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the grant agreement if awarded (subject to approval as to form by County Counsel). The application was successful.

On October 23, 2018, the Planning Department provided an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the RTCA opportunity and a partnership established between the Planning Department and the landscape architecture department at Cal Poly-SLO for continued study of the Merced River Trail through a studio course.
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ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Negative action will mean that the County will not enter into partnership with Cal Poly SLO Landscape Architecture professor Miran Day and her students.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None

ATTACHMENTS:
1 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey
EXCUSED: Merlin Jones