



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Planning · 209-966-5151



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-358**

MEETING: June 26, 2018  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director  
RE: Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

---

### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve the Submittal of an Application to the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to Support the Merced River Trail Project; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement if Awarded (Subject to Approval as to Form by County Counsel).

The proposed project will support continued initial planning efforts to formalize and expand access to the Merced River Trail. The opportunity would provide county planning staff with additional staff support from recreational planning experts from throughout the National Parks Service. If successful, county planning staff would oversee NPS staff in analyzing and resolving some of the technical and logistical issues that are anticipated in the project. Navigating the complex land ownership questions surrounding this project, from interagency coordination to private property issues to rail line easements, figures to be both a labyrinth of real estate problem solving and one of the most critical issues to resolve in achieving this project, and this opportunity would support county efforts to better understand these opportunities and constraints.

Additionally, this opportunity would support county planning staff efforts to craft an effective and strategic funding approach. Given the scope of the project and the anticipated capital costs of trail work such as bridges, culverts, and retaining walls, NPS staff would be instrumental in helping to navigate and secure funding for both the initial feasibility assessments and trail planning, as well as the technical engineering and construction elements of the project. Finally, NPS staff could provide advice on technical areas of trail planning and construction, including cost estimating, phasing and sequencing, and designing trails for multiple user groups. This expertise would equip the team with the knowledge necessary to produce an effective, implementable master plan deliverable.

Local partners for this project include the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Friends of the Merced River Trail, and others. If successful, work would commence shortly after grants are awarded in Fall 2018.

# Resolution - Action Requested 2018-358

## **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

This project, or elements of this project, are addressed in the following:

2006 - General Plan (Conservation Element and Regional Tourism Element)

2011 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan

2012 - Regional Transportation Plan

2017 - Economic Vitality Strategy

2018 - Strategic Framework

Additionally, this opportunity corresponds to the Board's discussion around Agenda Item 8139 on April 24, 2018: Discussion and Direction to Planning Department Regarding Planning Work for the Merced River Trail Between Bagby and Yosemite National Park.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:** Alternatives to this opportunity involve pursuing other external funding opportunities to advance the thinking necessary to envision and implement the Merced River Trail project.

Failure to approve this application will delay implementation of these recommendations, and limit the project's value to the community.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

**180620\_Resolution (DOCX)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

**AYES:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, Miles Menetrey

**EXCUSED:** Kevin Cann