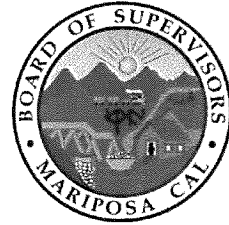




# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Planning · 209-966-5151



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-405**

MEETING: July 9, 2019  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director  
RE: Establish Merced River Trail Community Working Group

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Adopt a Resolution establishing the Merced River Trail Community Working Group.

Several of the county's transportation planning efforts, including Mariposa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2011), Regional Transportation Plan (2012), and SR-140 Route Concept Plan, recognize the Merced River Trail as a critical Class I multi-use active transportation resource for the community. The project is also recommended in the community development framework established by the Economic Vitality Strategy (2017).

Currently the County does not have a coordinated plan to achieve this transformative project.

The formation of a citizen's committee is an excellent way to initiate the development of such a plan, ensuring focused dialogue among key stakeholders with the expertise needed to develop an effective master plan and, ultimately, implement the Merced River Trail project. Though formal citizens groups typically serve advisory functions in Mariposa County, the Merced River Trail Community Working Group will be tasked with aiding in the production of content for the Merced River Trail Master Plan. The group's name reflects this distinction.

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

On June 26, 2018, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Planning Department to submit an application to the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. The purpose of this grant was to provide preliminary planning assistance that would support a future comprehensive master plan for the river corridor. This application was successful, and to date, the program has provided substantial assistance towards this goal.

On October 23, 2018, the Board of Supervisors received an update from the Planning Director on progress related to the Merced River Trail. This included a discussion of

## Resolution - Action Requested 2019-405

the importance of a coordinated master plan to guide future decisionmaking related to the Merced River Trail project.

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

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Negative action will result in less community dialogue in the future development of the Merced River Trail Master Plan, and will limit implementation of the Merced River Trail project.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**Direct financial impact on the General Fund is not anticipated as a result of the activities of this committee.**

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**190625 Draft Resolution (DOCX)**

**PUBLIC INPUT - Letter from Merced River Conservation Committee dated July 8, 2019 (PDF)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

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

**SECONDER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MARIPOSA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Resolution No. 19-405 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE MERCED RIVER TRAIL COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND GUIDANCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MERCED RIVER TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

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**WHEREAS**, the Merced River Trail has been recognized as a critical Class I multi-use active transportation resource in Mariposa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2011), Regional Transportation Plan (2012), and SR-140 Route Concept Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the project is also recommended in the community development framework established by the Economic Vitality Strategy (2017); and

**WHEREAS**, the county's participation in the National Parks Service's River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program has generated substantial content to support a comprehensive planning effort for the Merced River Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, a coordinated and focused strategy is needed to both articulate a shared community vision for the Merced River Trail, and grapple with a range of technical and logistical issues associated with the project; and

**WHEREAS**, dialogue between diverse community stakeholders and expertise from within our community is essential to shaping that community vision and solving complicated questions associated with project implementation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby establish the Merced River Trail Community Working Group as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors with purpose, functions, and procedures as described in *Exhibit A* attached hereto and incorporated herein.

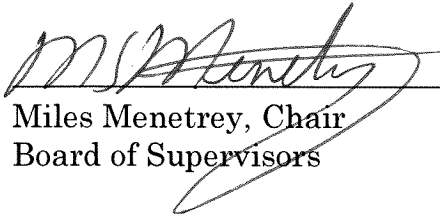
**ON MOTION BY** Supervisor Long, seconded by Supervisor Cann, this resolution is duly passed and adopted this 9th day of July, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, JONES, LONG, CANN, MENETREY

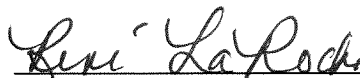
NOES: NONE

EXCUSED: NONE

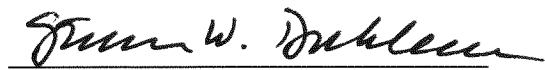
ABSTAIN: NONE

  
Miles Menetrey, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

  
René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel

## Exhibit A

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Resolution No. 19-405 Merced River Trail Community Working Group

#### 1. Purpose and Functions

The purpose and functions of the Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall be as follows:

- a. Formulate, design, implement and participate in a public stakeholder engagement program to ensure appropriate participation in the development of the Merced River Trail Master Plan;
- b. Provide technical expertise in topic areas germane to the Merced River Trail Master Plan, including but not limited to: the trail's regulatory context; trail construction and maintenance; existing trail conditions; right of way acquisition; environmental conservation, including wildlife habitat and water quality issues; public health advocacy and promotion; cultural interpretation and conservation; community design and aesthetics; and trail programming;
- c. Support the work of staff and consultants in the conduct of fact finding and data gathering necessary to identify and negotiate significant coordinative and logistical hurdles in achieving the trail; recommend projects, programs, and policies needed to efficiently implement the community's vision for the trail; and ultimately realize the recommendations contained in the Merced River Trail Master Plan; and
- d. Provide periodic assessment, evaluation of, and feedback to the Board of Supervisors regarding the success of the Merced River Trail Master Plan.

#### 2. Membership

The Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall be established with nine (9) voting members as follows:

- a. Representatives should be selected from or represent the following groups in Mariposa County:

- Bureau of Land Management
  - Yosemite National Park
  - US Forest Service
  - Merced Irrigation District
  - Upper Merced River Watershed Council
  - Sierra Foothill Conservancy
  - Creative Placemaking Strategy Advisory Committee
  - Historic Sites & Records Preservation Commission
  - Representatives of other organizations and the general public, including trail advocates and outdoor recreation enthusiasts
- b. Two (2) Ex-Officio (non-voting) members from the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and/or county staff as appropriate.

### **3. Term and Manner of Appointment**

Appointments to the Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall be made by the Board of Supervisors based on the recommendation of the Planning Director or designee.

Initial appointment of Committee members shall be as follows:

Four (4) members: three (3) year term

Three (3) members: four (4) year term

Two (2) members: five (5) year term

After the initial appointments, all terms will be for three (3) year periods.

The Board of Supervisors may remove at any time and without cause any member of the Merced River Trail Community Working Group. All terms shall expire upon the last day of July of the appropriate year.

### **4. Participation By Member Required, Vacancy**

If any member of the Advisory Committee is absent (unexcused) for two (2) consecutively scheduled meetings, then that member may be removed from the

Merced River Trail Community Working Group by the Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Supervisors shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

The Board of Supervisors shall fill any vacancy in the Merced River Trail Community Working Group membership for the unexpired term.

## **5. Selection of Officers**

At its first meeting, the Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall elect a Chair, Vice - Chair, and Secretary to serve a term of one (1) year or until the successor of each is appointed and qualified.

## **6. Duties of Officers**

The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Merced River Trail Community Working Group and shall perform all of the duties necessary or incidental to the office, including approval of the agenda topics for the meeting. The vice-chair is chair in the absence or inability of the chair to act. The secretary shall maintain notes and prepare minutes for the approval of the Merced River Trail Community Working Group.

## **7. Meetings and Quorum**

The Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall hold its first meeting at the call of the Planning Director or designee. The Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall establish a meeting schedule as appropriate to accomplish its purpose.

A quorum shall be a majority of those appointed as voting members. A quorum is required to transact any Merced River Trail Community Working Group business at a regular meeting or special meeting.

Notice of Merced River Trail Community Working Group meetings shall be posted and published not less than 72 hours prior to the date of the meeting at the following locations:

- a. Mariposa County Website locations: Planning; and

- b. The meeting location.

The Planning Director or designee may supplement required notification in any manner deemed appropriate for the content of the proposed agenda.

Meetings of the Merced River Trail Community Working Group shall be subject to the provisions of the California Open Meeting Law (Brown Act).

## **8. Administration and Support**

- a. County staff shall provide support to the Merced River Trail Community Working Group. The Planning Director or designee shall be the lead member of County staff responsible for supporting the Merced River Trail Community Working Group. The Planning Director or designee shall be empowered to call upon appropriate departments to provide information required to assist the Merced River Trail Community Working Group in carrying out its designated responsibilities.
- b. The Planning Director or designee shall be responsible for meeting notices, preparation and distribution of meeting support materials, and coordinating the meeting arrangements.
- c. In the event that the Merced River Trail Community Working Group does not appoint a secretary, the Planning Director or designee shall be responsible for audio recording the meetings, archival storage of electronic recordings, and preparation and publication of summary minutes for Merced River Trail Community Working Group approval.





Merced River  
Conservation Committee

July 8, 2019

Ms Rene La Roche, Clerk of the Board  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 784  
Mariposa, CA 95338

SUBJECT: Board Meeting 07-09-2019 Resolution "Establish Merced River Trail Community Working Group"

Dear Ms La Roche:

The Merced River Conservation Committee (MRCC) is a local volunteer organization of members interested in the Merced River watershed and its future, based in Mariposa County. Their principal interests are fisheries and aquatic habitat, trail and boating recreation, and historic sites. MRCC members enjoy fishing, rafting, and hiking on the Merced River and are interested in the long-term restoration and protection of the Merced River and its watershed. Their involvement has been and is with projects that protect and enhance the Merced River Watershed, from its headwaters to the Bay-Delta.

MRCC was established in 2006 in preparation and response to the Merced River Hydroelectric Projects' Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing process, initiated in 2008 by Merced Irrigation District and Pacific Gas and Electric projects. The Committee, and its members, have participated and intervened in the License proceedings on behalf of natural, recreational, and historical resources of the Merced River. It has collaborated in the FERC process with a large number of Relicensing Participants, with co-joining interests in Merced River resources, and other San Joaquin and Sacramento River watersheds, affected by hydropower facilities and operations.

We support the resolution and encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt the resolution and plan for ongoing efforts to move the Merced River Trail from a dream to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Martin, Ph.D., Director  
PO Box 2216  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
Email: [mmartin@sti.net](mailto:mmartin@sti.net)

Cc: Ralph Mendershausen, MRCC  
Jeff Gabe, MRCC  
Chairman, Board Miles Menetrey  
Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe  
Supervisor Kevin Cann  
Mikey Goralink