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DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
UTILITIES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

April 20, 2004

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER CORRIDOR FLOODWAY  
PLANNING FORUM'S PLANNING GOALS AND GUIDELINES RESOLUTION**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** City Wide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution and that staff be directed to develop applications for project permits from the California Reclamation Board based on the Riverfront Master Plan Implementation Work Program.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Dave Brent, Utilities, Engineering Services Manager, 264-1420  
Teresa Haenggi, Parks and Recreation, Planner, 264-7554

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** May 4, 2004

**SUMMARY:**

The Sacramento River Corridor Floodway Planning Forum (Forum) has completed the first phase report for the "Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum Planning Goals and Guidelines". A draft report was presented to the City Council on January 8, 2004, as an informational item. Staff is returning to recommend the adoption of the Forum's endorsement resolution and to seek direction to utilize the Guidelines to apply for permits for Riverfront projects.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

There has been no committee action for this item.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Forum was created in July 2002 by means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Reclamation Board, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and the counties of Sacramento, Yolo, and Sutter. The purpose of the Forum, as set forth in the MOU, is to develop a floodway management plan for the reach of the Sacramento River extending from the Fremont Weir to the town of Courtland (Attachment A).

The coincident timing of the Forum's efforts and the development of the Sacramento Riverfront Plan provided a coordination opportunity all participants agreed would benefit both efforts. For the Forum, working with the Master Plan provided a more practical scale and focus for development of an initial set of floodway guidelines. For the Master Plan, working with the Forum afforded an opportunity to have the key consideration of flood control and the riverfront permitting processes folded into the Master Plan itself. The floodway guidelines for this stretch of river have now been completed. This work, which is considered phase one of the Forum's efforts, covers the key elements of the Riverfront Master Plan except riverfront restaurants, which have been deferred to the second phase of the Forum's process.

The second phase of the Forum will also bring focus back to the remaining reach of the river corridor within the Forum's geographical scope. The Forum has agreed on the general outlines of the process for completing the floodway management plan. It will involve a preparatory phase aimed at engaging Forum members and stakeholders who did not participate actively in creating the Riverfront Master Plan guidelines.

Implementation Plan During the Second Phase

Given the informality of the process, the guidelines were not intended to be legally binding. Rather, they are designed to serve as a framework for permitting the riverfront development called for in the Riverfront Master Plan. The second phase of the Forum process provides the opportunity to apply the guidelines developed during the first phase in a more formal process. The City will partner with the City of West Sacramento to pursue a package of project-specific and general permits from the California Reclamation Board. Also, as part of the implementation plan for the Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan, the two Cities are exploring a programmatic environmental impact report on the Master Plan.

City staff will be working with the City of West Sacramento, the California Reclamation Board, and SAFCA to identify individual projects as well as projects that can be bundled for a general permit. The Forum's guidelines, along with CEQA requirements, will guide which projects are selected from the Riverfront Master Plan Implementation Work Program.

In summary, the development of the guidelines that focused on the Riverfront Master Plan constitute the Forum's first step toward completing a floodway management plan. During the second phase, the guidelines will continue to be developed to more fully address the remaining portion of the corridor and the unresolved issue of floating restaurants along the Riverfront. The second phase will also serve as an implementation step where the guidelines are put into practice

through applications of various permits and/or review through the California Reclamation Board. Permitting of projects that meet Forum Guidelines will confirm the efforts of the various agencies involved in Guideline development.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

There are no financial considerations at this time.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Environmental Services Manager has determined that the actions of approval to develop an application for project permits based on the Riverfront Master Plan Implementation Work Program do not require environmental evaluation at this time. Once appropriate analysis has been completed on individual projects as well as projects that can be bundled for a general permit, applicable environmental evaluations of the proposed project will be brought before Council for approval at a later date.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

This action is consistent with the following City's Strategic Plan goals: Establish and strengthen community and regional partnerships to enhance the quality of life; preserve and expand the arts culture, open space, urban forest, parks and recreation opportunities; and promote and support economic vitality.

**ESBD EFFORTS:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

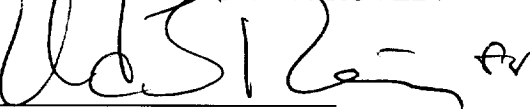


GARY A. REENTS,  
Director, Utilities



ROBERT G. OVERSTREET,  
Director, Parks and Recreation

**RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:**



ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

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# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

ON DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADOPTION OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER CORRIDOR FLOODWAY PLANNING FORUM PLANNING GOALS AND GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:**

1. The Council adopt the Sacramento River Corridor Floodway Planning Forum's Planning Goals and Guidelines Resolution, attached as Exhibit "B"; and
2. The Council direct staff to develop applications for project permits from the California Reclamation Board based on the Riverfront Master Plan Implementation Work Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

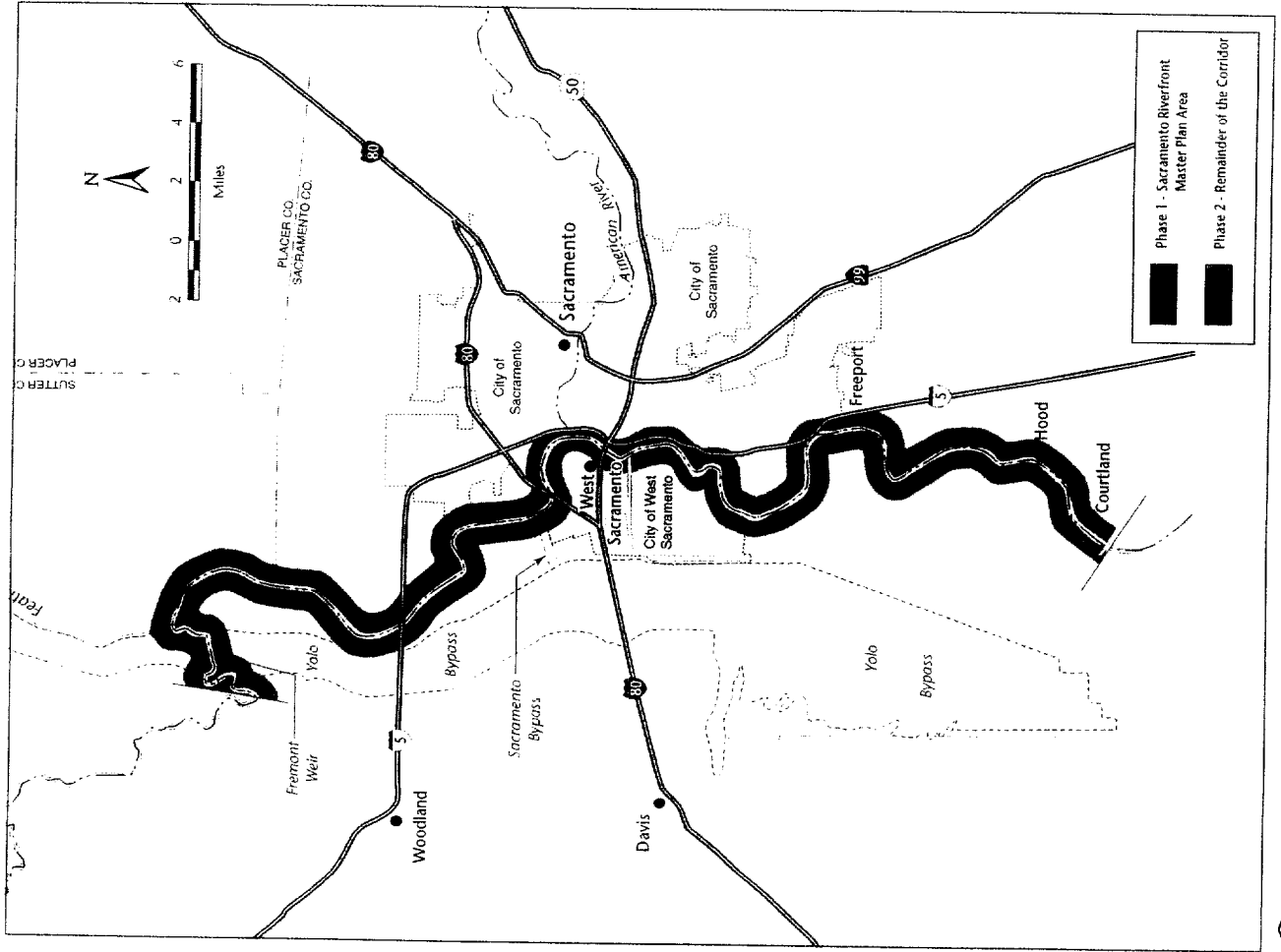
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
**FOR CITY COUNCIL USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTACHMENT A



**EXHIBIT "B"**

A JOINT STATEMENT BY

**THE COUNTY OF YOLO, THE COUNTY OF SUTTER, THE COUNTY OF  
SACRAMENTO, THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, THE CITY OF WEST  
SACRAMENTO, THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY, AND  
THE CALIFORNIA RECLAMATION BOARD**

**ENDORING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER CORRIDOR PLANNING FORUM  
PLANNING GOALS AND GUIDELINES REPORT**

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County, Sutter County, Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, City of West Sacramento, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and the California Reclamation Board ("the signatories") have jointly approved a memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to establish the Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum ("SRCPF") for the purpose of preparing a Floodway Management Plan ("FMP") for the reach of the Sacramento River Corridor ("Corridor") extending from the Fremont Weir to the town of Courtland; and

**WHEREAS**, an initial evaluation of the entire Corridor and development of the FMP exceeded the initial allocation of time and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, as a first step in the process of developing the FMP, the signatories and the other participants in the SRCPF have engaged in a consensus-based planning process focused on the 3-1/2 mile heavily urbanized segment of the Corridor adjacent to the downtown urban areas of Sacramento and West Sacramento between Discovery Park and Miller Park ("Plan Area"), which is the subject of the recently completed Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan ("SRMP"), a vision developed by the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento for linking the riverfront to the emerging downtown core areas on both sides of the river; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective of the FMP, at a minimum, is to identify goals and policies for sound floodplain management, flood conveyance, erosion control, levee stability, and levee maintenance, including guidelines for riparian habitat, public recreation, and riverfront development; and

**WHEREAS**, a purpose of the Forum included improving communication among signatory agencies, and

**WHEREAS**, through this collaborative planning process, the signatories and the other participants in the SRCPF have prepared a report entitled "Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum Planning Goals and Guidelines" ("Report") dated October 2003 in order to achieve the following purposes: (1) to identify the physical features of the SRMP that could affect the operation and maintenance of the flood control system in the Plan Area, (2) to facilitate implementation of the identified SRMP features in conformance with sound floodway management principles, (3) to outline a process for completing the FMP for the entire reach of the Corridor covered by the MOU approach that will serve as an informal framework for reviewing major projects outside the SRMP area; and (4) to identify a preliminary coordination methodology for projects in the reach of the Corridor outside the SRMP area pending completion of the FMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the signatories now wish to express their support for the purpose and concepts embodied in the Report;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOGNIZED** that the signatories affirm their ongoing support for the multi-agency collaboration of the SRCPF and continued participation in the consensus-based planning process until the goal of completing a comprehensive Floodway Management Plan for the reach of the Sacramento River between the town of Courtland and the Fremont Weir has been achieved.

**BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED** that the signatories:

- Believe the Report provides valuable information regarding riverfront development within the Corridor; and
- Believe the Report to be consistent with principles of sound floodway management, which should improve the performance and reliability of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project; and
- Agree that projects within the SRCPF Corridor are subject to other review and approval, including environmental analyses and regulatory approvals as may be required by CEQA, NEPA, etc.

**BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED** that the signatories agree:

- For the SRMP reach, this resolution does not constitute a final or binding approval of the SRMP or of any individual projects, guidelines or elements; and
- For the reach of the Corridor outside the SRMP reach, this resolution does not constitute initiating a project and does not trigger provisions of CEQA or other regulatory statutes; and
- For the SRMP reach, the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and the Reclamation Board intend to further explore the benefits of a Programmatic Permit; and
- In its second year of work, the Forum intends to address any unresolved issues for the SRMP reach concurrently with issues regarding the corridor outside the SRMP area; and
- The guidelines contained in the Report are not to be legally enforceable or intended to implement, interpret, or make specific the law enforced or administered by the Reclamation Board, or to govern the procedures of the Reclamation Board or any other signatory.

#### SIGNATURES

Steering Committee members on behalf of:

Sacramento County

Sutter County

Yolo County

City of Sacramento

City of West Sacramento

California Reclamation Board

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency