

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE

03-GPB-0332

Various

10-x.x New Developed Recreation uses should be exclusively related to an interpretive center or adjunct to current and proposed uses (i.e. farming operations and native plant nursery).

The Recreation and Park Commission also utilized comments made by the Coalition in their recommendation as follows:

Policy 10-x. No more than seven acres of the Developed Recreation uses may be permitted within the 10-acre Developed Recreation designation area west of Hagan Park, in the River Bend Park Area Plan Map and the General Land Use Map. Development of the remaining three acres shall be consistent with Limited Recreation designation regulations.

10-x.x Seven acres of Developed Recreation uses shall occur on one contiguous Developed Recreation land use designation.

10-x.x New Developed Recreation uses should be exclusively related to an interpretive center.

The County staff recommendation in Attachment "B" maintains the original Project Management Team language; however, the Board may wish to consider alternative language proposed by either of the Commissions. The joint staff report discusses the background to the issue at greater length.

Discovery Park Area Plan: The Draft Environmental Impact Report included a mitigation measure (LU-2) to remove the proposed bridge in the Highway 160 vicinity from the Discovery Park Area Plan. Mitigation Measure LU-2 seeks to avoid an impact to the Riverdale Mobil Home Park community, where the proposed bridge crosses. However, the Project Management Team staff determined that the Parkway Plan has existing policies that require acquisition of the mobile home park prior to the installation of the proposed bridge, and therefore resolves the issue of community displacement via policy. The joint staff report provides additional background on the issue. Again, County staff recommends the PMT agreement to keep the bridge and delete Mitigation Measure LU-2. Staff's recommendation can be found in both the joint staff report, and Attachment "B" of this report.

However, the Recreation and Park Commission, in agreement with the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, recommended removal of the Highway 160 vicinity bridge from local area plan map.

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE

03-GPB-0332

Various

II. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff has presented the American River Parkway Plan Update and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report to the Policy Planning Commission on April 22, 2008, and to Recreation and Park Commission on April 24, 2008. By unanimous action the Commissions forwarded the Plan to the Board of Supervisors for its final adoption. Summaries of the actions taken by the Commissions are included as Attachment "F", and note other recommendations and comments made by the Commissions and public comment received. Preparation of the Final EIR followed the April 25, 2008 close date of the Draft EIR public comment period, and includes responses to the comments received, as well as corrected Area Plan Maps. Staff is recommending **ADOPTION** of the American River Parkway Plan, with the incorporation of County staff's proposed modifications to the Cal Expo Area Plan, and the allowance of permanent restrooms in the Limited Recreation and Protected Area Land Uses; additionally, staff recommends inclusion of the modifications to the River Bend Park, Rossmoor Bar, and Discovery Park Local Area Plans, as outlined in the original joint staff report. A comprehensive list of staff recommendations on the final adoption of the Plan, from both this addendum and the joint staff report, are included as Attachment "B". The actions, findings, and conditions listed below reflect the current status of the Plan for final adoption.

A. Recommended Actions:

1. Environmental Documentation: Recognize the contents of the DEIR and all public comments received, determine that the DEIR was adequate and complete. Recognize the successive contents of the Final EIR.
2. Direct County Counsel to originate CEQA findings. Under the acknowledgment of mitigation measures, findings, and necessary statements of fact and overriding considerations, certify the Final EIR.
3. Tentatively adopt the Draft American River Parkway Plan (with modifications) as an Element of the Sacramento County General Plan, and continue for final adoption.
4. Direct staff to forward the adopted Plan to the City of Sacramento and the City of Rancho Cordova for their respective councils to take action on the Plan.
5. Direct staff to forward the Sacramento County Board adopted Plan to the State Legislature.

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE

03-GPB-0332

Various

- B. Recommended Findings: The staff recommendations are based upon the following considerations:
1. The American River Parkway Plan Update is consistent with the objectives and policies of the Sacramento County General Plan.
 2. The American River Parkway Plan Update, if adopted as an element to the General Plan will provide complimentary and enhanced policies on the preservation and recreational use of the American River Parkway resources.
 3. Policy consistency between the American River Parkway Plan and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act should be ensured with inclusion of a proposed implementation measure stating:

“Updates to the American River Parkway Plan and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act should be taken to the State Legislature concurrently to ensure policy consistency.”
 4. The American River Parkway Plan Update will not conflict with the Bushy Lake Preservation Act. If incongruous policies exist, those policies which are most stringent to the spirit of preservation within the Cal Expo floodplain will be honored until amendments to either document are made to establish policy consistency.
 5. The American River Parkway Plan Update process followed a method of consensus based decision making, and provided ample opportunities for the public to review and provide comments on the development of the Plan.
 6. The American River Parkway Plan Update is consistent with the Urban American River Parkway Preservation Act, Public Resources Code 5840.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Resolution of the Board of Supervisors
- B. Summative List of Recommendations
- C. Sacramento County Planning Department Memorandum re: Cal Expo dated July 17, 2008
- D. Sacramento County Regional Park Department Letter re: Restrooms dated August 4, 2008

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE

03-GPB-0332

Various

- E. Sunriver Neighborhood Association Letter re: Lower Sunrise Area Plan dated April 21, 2008
- F. Policy Planning Commission, and Recreation and Park Commission Hearing Summaries

IV. EXHIBITS

1. American River Parkway Plan 2006, Draft Plan located at
<http://www.planning.saccounty.net/american-river-parkway/docs/ARPP06-WEB.pdf>
2. Final Environmental Impact Report located at:
<http://www.dera.saccounty.net/PublicNotices/SQLView/ProjectDetails/tabid/71/Default.aspx?ProjectID=34835>

This addendum report was prepared on August 5, 2008.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ADOPTING THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN AS AN ELEMENT OF THE
COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

WHEREAS, the County of Sacramento and Cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova initiated an update of the American River Parkway Plan in the summer of 2003, and

WHEREAS, five tasks were proposed to be completed including: 1) involving a representative group of Parkway stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop advisory recommendations, 2) incorporating information from the River Corridor Management Plan, 3) conducting integrated area planning for the Cal Expo floodplain and areas west of Capital City Freeway, 4) considering refining Parkway-wide policies, and 5) exploring funding options and making recommendations on how to grow and sustain Parkway funding, and

WHEREAS, the Update Citizens Advisory Committee held 34 meetings over a two and one-half year period to provide consensus based recommendations for the 2008 American River Parkway Plan, as reflected in the 2006 American River Parkway Plan draft, and

WHEREAS, the Project Management Team consisting of staff representatives of the County of Sacramento Parks and Planning Departments, the City of Sacramento Parks and Planning Departments, the City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department, the Cordova Park and Recreation District, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), the Water Forum, and Cal Expo provided project management guidance to the process, and

WHEREAS, the 2008 American River Parkway Plan incorporates Project Management Team recommended modifications to the Update Citizens Advisory Committee's recommended 2006 American River Parkway Plan draft to resolve inconsistencies and maintain jurisdictional consensus, and

WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Report has been certified, and findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations have been adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento resolves that the 2008 American River Parkway Plan be adopted as an element of the Sacramento County General Plan and forwarded to the State Legislature for its approval pursuant to Public Resources Code section 5840.

On a motion by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, at a regular meeting thereof this _____ day of _____, 2008, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors:

NOES: Supervisors:

ABSENT: Supervisors:

ABSTAIN: Supervisors:

Chair, Board Of Supervisors

(SEAL)

ATTEST: _____
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Summative List of Recommendations:

1. River Bend Park Area Plan (formerly known as Goethe Park):

- **Revised Mapping:** Identify 10 acres of Developed Recreation on the land use diagrams (Area Plan Map and General Land Use Map) along with a policy limitation of seven acres of Developed Recreation uses.

- **New Policy:**

“No more than seven acres of the Developed Recreation uses may be permitted within the 10 acre Developed Recreation designation area west of Hagan Park, in the River Bend Park Area Plan Map and the General Land Use Map. Development of the remaining three acres shall be consistent with Limited Recreation designation regulations.”

2. Cal Expo Area Plan:

- **Revised Mapping:** On the Local Area Plan Map replace the notation “Temporary Exhibitor Parking (During the State Fair Only)” with the notation “Restricted Parking per Policy 10.18.5”.

- **Revised Policy 10.18.5:**

“Retain the 11 acre size and quality of the unsurfaced parking area in the Cal Expo floodplain and relocate it slightly to the east to buffer the proposed treatment wetlands.”

a) “This unpaved parking area is used by Cal Expo during the State Fair as allowed by the Bushy Lake Preservation Act. Cal Expo may utilize the area for parking of parkway related activities and for Cal Expo exhibitor parking related to agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway.”

b) “One acre of the existing unsurfaced 11 acre parking area should be open to parkway users for public access to include equestrian staging, connection to trails, and a new walk-in boat access point.”

- **New Implementation Measure:**

a) “The parkway access area designated for parkway users will not exceed one acre and should be delineated by appropriate fencing (e.g. post and cable). Other improvements to the one acre parking area may include *portable restrooms*, equestrian amenities and signage. The area shall be designed not to impede Cal Expo’s exclusive use only during the State Fair and other agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway.”

- b) "Updates to the American River Parkway Plan and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act should be taken to the State Legislature concurrently to ensure policy consistency."

- **New Narrative:**

"The Bushy Lake Preservation Act allows Cal Expo to use an area measuring approximately 11 acres in the northeastern portion of Cal Expo's property in the Parkway adjacent to the levee for parking use during the State Fair. The use of Parkway land as parking for outside users is not permissible in other areas of the Parkway. As an update to the 1985 Plan, the area has been designated Limited Recreation, and has been shifted slightly to the east to provide a buffer between parking and the proposed treatment wetland to its west. Policy 10.18.5 allows Cal Expo exhibitor parking related to agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway. Parkway user access and parking, including equestrian staging may occur within one acre of the 11 acres provided that Cal Expo's exclusive use for parking on the entire 11 acres during specified equestrian and agricultural events is not impeded. The coordination and management of parkway user access and parking and Cal Expo's periodic exclusive use of the 11-acre area may be addressed in a management agreement between the Parkway Manager and Cal Expo. Equestrian uses shall be consistent with Policy 5.14."

3. **Discovery Park Area Plan:**

- **Mapping:** Maintain proposed bridge crossing in the Highway 160 Vicinity on the Local Area Plan Map.
- **Policy:** Maintain Policy 10.8.4.
- **Mitigation Measure:** Make findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations related to Mitigation Measure LU-2, and subsequently delete LU-2.

4. **Rossmoor Bar Area Plan:**

- **Policy:** Include the following new policy:

"A sensory garden may be developed east of Hagan Park in the western reaches of the Rossmoor Bar Area Plan in the Limited Recreation area."

- a) "Plants in the sensory garden shall be consistent with Parkway Plan Policies and approved by the Parkway Manager in consultation with subject matter experts."

- b) "The sensory garden shall be specifically designed to serve persons with disabilities and used for general user education and interpretation of native plants and ecosystems in the Parkway."

5. **Limited Recreation and Protected Area Uses/Facilities:** **

- **Land Use Tables:** Allow permanent restrooms within Limited Recreation and Protected Area designations by indicating so with Land Use Table 7-2.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Inter-Departmental Correspondence

July 17, 2008

To: American River Parkway Advisory Committee;
Recreation and Parks Commission

From: Planning and Community Development
Regina Lugani, Project Manager, 916-874-4994, luganir@saccounty.net
Leighann Moffitt, Principal Planner, 916-874-5584, moffittl@saccounty.net

Subject: American River Parkway Plan Update; Cal Expo Area Plan

Introduction: The Cal Expo floodplain is regulated by the American River Parkway Plan land use designations and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act as adopted by the State Legislature. Portions of the Cal Expo Area are proposed to be redesignated from Protected Area and Nature Study to Limited Recreation on the Parkway-wide General Land Use Maps. In addition, there are Area Plan policies and maps within the Parkway Plan that may be amended through a local hearing process.

Questions arose at the Policy Planning Commission and the Recreation and Park Commission regarding the intended use of the parking area in the northeastern portion of the Cal Expo floodplain. Upon closer review of the issue, inconsistencies were found between Policy 10.18.5 of the Local Area Plan, the Area Plan Map, and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act. Therefore, staff proposes a change to Policy 10.18.5 and the Area Plan Map to resolve the internal inconsistency. In addition, a Parkway Plan implementation measure should be added to identify local and state level implementation actions.

Background: During the Integrated Area Planning (IAP) process, comments from the general public were made requesting greater access and connectivity to the Parkway within the Cal Expo area. In addition, Cal Expo desired greater flexibility regarding parking of the 11-acre unimproved area for special events and educational programs. Therefore, the IAP report recommended changes to the Cal Expo Area Plan including changing this portion of the area from Protected Area to Limited Recreation; adding an equestrian staging area; and allowing Cal Expo a longer timeframe for using the 11-acre unimproved parking area.

The resulting policy statement was taken through the Plan's update process (to the UCAC, PMT, and various hearing authorities) as follows:

10.18.5 *"The existing overflow parking area should remain the same size, approximately 11 acres unsurfaced, available for Cal Expo overflow events, and be moved slightly eastward to provide space for restrooms, horse trailer parking, and equestrian facilities and additional buffer area between the parking area and the proposed treatment wetland."*

The associated Area Plan Map includes a notation that was carried over from the 1985 Plan, which reiterates the existing limitation of parking only during the State Fair period. This area plan diagram also identifies and locates an equestrian staging area with informational signage pursuant to the Integrated Area Planning outcomes.

The Bushy Lake Preservation Act states:

Section 5833 *"...parking of public and private vehicles may be permitted only during the State Fair and only on the flood plain land abutting the riverside toe of the levee as it exists on January 1, 1977, beginning at least 400 feet east of the Bushy Lake area and extending not more than 1,500 feet along the toe of such levee eastward of the Bushy Lake area and extending not more than a distance of 300 feet riverward from such levee."*

Analysis: In order to address the identified internal inconsistency between Policy 10.18.5 and the Area Plan Map, Planning recommends that the notation on the map be removed. However, staff also recognizes that the text of draft Policy 10.18.5 may not be clear regarding the definition of "Cal Expo overflow events". Planning, Parks and Cal Expo staff have discussed the importance of clarifying that the term overflow parking does not mean general Cal Expo event parking or year round parking.

County Planning, Parks, and Environmental Review staff are working with Cal Expo staff to propose a revision to policy 10.18.5 to ensure that the policy is clear and not open to future misinterpretation. Cal Expo has clarified that their interest in this undeveloped and unpaved area is for special events specifically related to agricultural uses. The reasoning behind allowing parking for these special agricultural and equestrian events is that participants will benefit from the parking area's proximity and access to the Cal Expo livestock pavilion and equestrian arena, particularly when they have livestock, animals or exhibits that require this proximity. The 11-acre site affords them space to park their vehicles and associated trailers, with access to the livestock pavilion and equestrian arena over the levee.

In addition, the discussion around the intent of Policy 10.18.5 has raised issues of future operational management of public access parking for the equestrian staging area. If the area is to be opened for equestrian staging with removal of the existing gate, it may not be practically possible to limit users to only those with horses. However, alternatives for keeping the gate could be explored. Non-equestrian parkway users could continue to utilize the ample parking along Ethan Way. Whereas Cal Expo manages the parking area during their special events, the Parkway Manager will need to supervise the area to ensure equestrian access without misuse by

other parkway groups. The level of detail proposed in the draft Plan does not currently identify whether other programmatic components such as an entry kiosk or post and cables will be used to manage the 11-acre site. The management agreement between Regional Parks and Cal Expo should address these programmatic and funding details, and like all Parkway policies implementation should not occur without a long term funding maintenance plan in place.

In addition, Policy 10.18.5 suggests the installation of restrooms in the area, where permanent restrooms are only permitted in Developed Recreation areas. Portable restrooms are allowed in Limited Recreation, and the policy should be modified to either remove the proposal for restrooms or specify portable restrooms.

Conclusion:

Staff has reached out to the Parkway Coalition and the American River Parkway Advisory committee to vet proposed policy clarifications. Based on stakeholder comments, staff proposes that the following language is included in the American River Parkway Plan Update.

Proposed Policy 10.18.5 Revision:

Retain the 11 acre size and quality of the unsurfaced parking area in the Cal Expo floodplain and relocate it slightly to the east to buffer the proposed treatment wetlands.

- a) This unpaved parking area is used by Cal Expo during the State Fair as allowed by the Bushy Lake Preservation Act. Cal Expo may utilize the area for parking of parkway related activities and for Cal Expo exhibitor parking related to agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway.
- b) One acre of the existing unsurfaced 11 acre parking area should be open to parkway users for public access to include equestrian staging, connection to trails, and a new walk-in boat access point.

Proposed New Implementation Measure:

The parkway access area designated for parkway users will not exceed one acre and should be delineated by appropriate fencing (e.g. post and cable). Other improvements to the one acre parking area may include portable restrooms, equestrian amenities and signage. The area shall be designed not to impede Cal Expo's exclusive use only during the State Fair and other agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway.

Proposed New Implementation Measure:

Updates to the American River Parkway Plan and the Bushy Lake Preservation Act should be taken to the State Legislature concurrently to ensure policy consistency.

Narrative:

The Bushy Lake Preservation Act allows Cal Expo to use an area measuring approximately 11 acres in the northeastern portion of Cal Expo's property in the Parkway adjacent to the levee for parking use during the State Fair. The use of Parkway land as parking for outside users is not permissible in other areas of the Parkway. As an update to the 1985 Plan, the area has been designated Limited Recreation, and has been shifted slightly to the east to provide a buffer between parking and the proposed treatment wetland to its west. Policy 10.18.5 allows Cal Expo exhibitor parking related to agricultural and equestrian events taking place outside the parkway. Parkway user access and parking, including equestrian staging may occur within one acre of the 11 acres provided that Cal Expo's exclusive use for parking on the entire 11 acres during specified equestrian and agricultural events is not impeded. The coordination and management of parkway user access and parking and Cal Expo's periodic exclusive use of the 11-acre area may be addressed in a management agreement between the Parkway Manager and Cal Expo. Equestrian uses shall be consistent with Policy 5.14.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Department of Regional Parks

Inter-Department Correspondence

DATE: August 4, 2008

TO: Robert Sherry, Director
Department of Planning and Community Development

COPY: Paul Hahn, Agency Administrator
Municipal Services Agency

FROM: Jill Ritzman, Deputy Director 
Department of Regional Parks

SUBJECT: **American River Parkway Plan - Allowing Low Impact, Permanent Restroom Facilities Within The Limited Recreation and Protected Land Use Designations**

This memorandum is a revision to the memorandum sent to you on July 22, 2008. Department of Regional Parks (Parks) staff is recommending that in addition to the allowance of permanent restrooms in Limited Recreation Areas, low-impact permanent restrooms should also be allowed in Protected areas. If an existing restroom in a Limited Recreation or Protected area has utility lines, those utility lines could be maintained in restroom renovation or replacement projects.

Discussion

Planning staff have identified five restrooms in areas designated "Protected" under the Draft - American River Parkway Plan (Draft Plan) (Attachment A - List of Restrooms). Some of these restrooms were constructed prior to the 1985 Plan, and others such as the restroom at Woodlake was constructed just a few years ago. Under the 1985 Plan and the current Draft Plan, only portable restrooms are allowed in Limited Recreation and Protected areas. Under the Draft Plan, these restrooms would need to be phased out and removed over time. For example, if a restroom in a Protected area needed to be razed and re-built to meet Americans With Disabilities Act requirements, or if the structure and fixtures was of such a state that razing and re-building was required, under the Draft Plan, the restroom could not be re-built on the current site.

In 1985, portable restrooms were viewed as environmentally friendly and low impact, because portable restrooms did not require the construction of sewer, electrical and water lines. Constructing utility lines to support a restroom can be very invasive to the natural resources of a site. Since 1985, park restrooms have made great advances in design and engineering to service park users in remote areas with minimal impact to the environment. Permanent restrooms are able now to have a low impact on the environment with solar power and a vault, composting, or septic system design. These restrooms can be designed to blend with the environment, unlike portable restrooms.

Parks recommends that the Limited Recreation and Protected land use designations in the American River Parkway Plan be amended to allow permanent restroom facilities for the following reasons:

1. Permanent restrooms are more aesthetically pleasing, and can be designed in such a way to blend with the natural environment, whereas portable restrooms cannot. County Parks has received complaints from park users that portable restrooms disrupt their experience in an otherwise pristine place with views of the river and the natural surroundings. Park users prefer using permanent restrooms which can be cleaned and stocked routinely by Park Maintenance staff. The American River Parkway Plan, 1968 (page 8, section 4) stresses the importance of providing restrooms, fresh water, litter cans and other basic amenities at each parking-access facility, and these amenities "*be designed so as not to detract from the desired environment.*"
2. Permanent restrooms are more sanitary and environmentally friendly than portable restrooms. The Draft Plan permits portable restrooms in Limited Recreation, Protected and Nature Study areas, but not permanent restrooms. Portable restrooms are often knocked over by vandals, and on occasion have been thrown into the American River, causing raw sewage and chemicals to seep into the river and/or surrounding areas.
3. As per the Parkway Plan, "the predominant intended user group in these areas is the family...." Permanent restrooms offer better customer service to meet the needs and expectations of the family user group.

County Parks discussed restrooms within Limited Recreation area as an off-agenda item with the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, and discussed the proposal with two members of the Recreation and Park Commission who serve on American River Parkway advisory groups. While neither group could take formal action due to timing of their regular meetings, members of both groups feel that the ability to place permanent restrooms, not just portable restrooms, in Limited Recreation and Protected areas is necessary to meet the demands and expectations of park users.

Process for New Restrooms

While the Plan may allow permanent restrooms in Limited Recreation and Protected areas, Parks staff must follow a specific approval process before a restroom can be constructed. Restrooms are proposed in response to park user trends and demands, in a location that will provide a service to park users while having minimal impact on the environment. Trail heads, parking areas and picnicking sites are the most common areas for restrooms, when a park users' stay will be greater than two hours. All restrooms would be designed to blend with the environment.

CEQA review is required on all restroom renovation, reconstruction and construction projects. Construction of new restrooms is vetted with the American River Parkway Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Park Commission. The Board of Supervisors approves any new facility construction in the County park system.

Conclusion

Parks is recommending a revision to the Draft Plan which would allow permanent, as well as portable, restrooms in Limited Recreation and Protected areas. This recommendation will allow for the five existing, routinely used restrooms in Protected areas to remain, and the construction of new, low-impact restrooms in areas that would be beneficial to park users and the environment. The 1968 Plan stressed the importance of providing sanitation facilities at all trail heads and parking lots that blend with the environment. Advances in park restroom design and engineering now provides opportunities to construct low-impact, environmentally friendly permanent restrooms. Permanent restrooms that blend with the environment enhance park users experience in the American River Parkway.

Attachment

Distribution: Members, Recreation and Park Commission
Members, American River Parkway Advisory Committee
Steve Flannery, Chief of Rangers, Regional Parks
Liz Bellas, ASO II, Regional Parks
Leighann Moffitt, Principal Planner, Planning and Community Development
Regina Lugani, Planner II, Planning and Community Development

American River Parkway Plan
Restrooms in Protected Areas

1. Woodlake Recreation Area
2. Watt Avenue – North
3. River Bend Day Camp Area
4. Lower Sunrise Picnic Area
5. Rossmoor Bar

County Parks vetted this proposal as an off-agenda item with the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, and discussed the proposal with two members of the Recreation and Park Commission who serve on American River Parkway advisory groups. While neither group could take formal action due to timing of their regular meetings, members of both groups feel that the ability to place permanent restrooms, not just portable restrooms, in Limited Recreation areas is necessary to meet the demands and expectations of park users.

Distribution: Members, Recreation and Park Commission
Steve Flannery, Chief of Rangers, Regional Parks
Liz Bellas, ASO II, Regional Parks
Leighann Moffitt, Principal Planner, Planning and Community Development
Regina Lugani, Planner II, Planning and Community Development

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Department of Regional Parks

Inter-Department Correspondence

DATE: July 22, 2008

TO: Robert Sherry, Director
Department of Planning and Community Development

COPY: Paul Hahn, Agency Administrator
Municipal Services Agency

FROM: Jill Ritzman, Deputy Director
Department of Regional Parks

SUBJECT: American River Parkway Plan - Allowing Permanent Restroom Facilities
Within The Limited Recreation Land Use Designation

The County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks (County Parks) recommends that the "Limited Recreation" land use designation in the American River Parkway Plan be amended to allow permanent restroom facilities for the following reasons:

1. Permanent restrooms are more aesthetically pleasing, and can be designed in such a way to blend with the natural environment, whereas portable restrooms cannot. County Parks has received complaints from park users that portable restrooms disrupt their experience in an otherwise pristine place with views of the river and the natural surroundings. Park users prefer using permanent restrooms which can be cleaned and stocked routinely by Park Maintenance staff. The American River Parkway Plan, 1968 (page 8, section 4) stresses the importance of providing restrooms, fresh water, litter cans and other basic amenities at each parking-access facility, and these amenities "*be designed so as not to detract from the desired environment.*"
2. Permanent restrooms are more sanitary and environmentally friendly than portable restrooms. The draft American River Parkway Plan 2006 permits portable restrooms in "Limited Recreation" areas, but not permanent restrooms. Portable restrooms are often knocked over by vandals, and on occasion have been thrown into the American River, causing raw sewage and chemicals to seep into the river and/or surrounding areas.
3. As per the Parkway Plan, "the predominant intended user group in Limited Recreation areas is the family...." Permanent restrooms offer better customer service to meet the needs and expectations of the family user group.

Attachment "D"

92

From: Sunriver Neighborhood Association
To: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento County Recreation and Park Commission
Sacramento County Policy and Planning Commission
Date: April 21, 2008
Subject: American River Parkway Plan Update

Dear Public Officials:

With regard to the American River Parkway Plan Update process currently underway, the Sunriver Neighborhood Association respectfully submits a technical correction and proposed change, shown below. We recognize that the Draft EIR has been released, and we are requesting that the two items listed below be incorporated into the Plan Update prior to issuance of the Final EIR and subsequent approval of the Plan Update document by the Board of Supervisors.

The Sunriver Neighborhood Association is comprised of just over 1,000 homes in the Sunriver neighborhood – approximately 865 single-family homes, plus approximately 140 condominium units.

The Sunriver neighborhood is the only neighborhood bordering the Lower Sunrise Recreation Area. Our homes are the only ones directly affected by the usage of this portion of the Parkway. Many of us purchased our homes specifically because of the proximity to the river and the Parkway. In fact, the Parkway directly borders the individual residential lots of about a dozen Sunriver homes.

Technical Correction: The statement "...bordered on the landward side by Gold River..." actually refers to the Sunriver neighborhood, not Gold River. This was apparently an error in the 1985 version, which has yet to be corrected in the Update. It appears in the "Location and Description" of the Lower Sunrise Recreation Area, as shown on p. 10-44 (1985 Plan) and p. 192 (Update).

Proposed Change: We agree with the statement on pp. 10-44, which is kept in the Update, regarding the Lower Sunrise Recreation Area: "Additional facilities for picnickers could be provided, although the proximity of the park to residences precludes intensive development." Accordingly, we propose that one portion of land, current designated for developed recreation, remain as developed recreation for a certain part of it, but the remainder be limited recreation. This would be consistent with actual usage today and in the past, and consistent with the statement quoted above. **Specifically:** within the Lower Sunrise Recreation Area, as shown on p. 10-46 (1985 Plan), there is a plot designated "developed recreation" – roughly hourglass-shaped, with a large western lobe, a narrow neck, and a large eastern lobe. It's bordered by Sunrise Blvd. to the east, protected areas to the east and west, and residences to the south. We propose that the eastern lobe remain developed recreation, which contains a parking lot, beach, current equestrian area, access roads, etc. We propose that the neck and western lobe be limited recreation.

Our proposed change would not change any actual usage patterns from current usage, but would protect/preserve the affected area from further development. Please note that we are not proposing any change to the protected area to the southeast of the hourglass, bordering Sunrise Blvd., for cultural preservation.

Our proposed change does not prevent a raft concession from being added to the eastern lobe of the hourglass. However, it beneficially restricts development of current open space areas that immediately border the residential neighborhood.

Reasons for this proposed change in designation:

- Preserves current actual usage patterns
- Promotes continuation of this important open space
- Protects quality of life for residents, both current and future
- Protects parkway users (bicyclists, hikers, picnickers,...) from further development
- Preserves the natural beauty of the area
- Does not interfere with any existing or proposed use

To recap:

- The Sunriver neighborhood is the only neighborhood bordering the Lower Sunrise Recreation Area. Our homes are the only ones directly affected by the usage of this portion of the Parkway.
- Many of us purchased our homes specifically because of the proximity to the river and the Parkway.
- The section of land in question directly borders the individual residential lots of about a dozen Sunriver homes.

We respectfully ask that the County protect this beautiful natural area for years to come by making the technical correction and proposed designation change in the Plan Update document.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Craig Osborn, Sunriver Neighborhood Association, Chair of American River Parkway Task Force
Troy Konarski, Sunriver Neighborhood Association, Governmental Affairs Director
Ginger Enrico, Sunriver Neighborhood Association, American River Parkway Liaison

Ray Fox, Sunriver Neighborhood Association, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Jessica Ocenosak, Sunriver Neighborhood Association
Gail Osborn, Sunriver Neighborhood Association, American River Parkway Task Force Member

Nicki Batchelor, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Jeannie Boulden, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Mike Britton, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Doug Campbell, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Sydney Cooley, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Jerry Houston, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Lee Lundgren, American River Parkway Task Force Member

Dan Prosperi, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Dick Shultz, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Dave Smith, American River Parkway Task Force Member
Chris Wajda, American River Parkway Task Force Member