



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
August 29, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: California Indian Heritage Center Project Implementation

Location/Council District: Northgate Area of American River Parkway and Richards Boulevard Area, Council District 1

Recommendation: Direct City staff to take the following next steps in implementation of this important regional destination and cultural facility:

1. Lead development of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for proposed land acquisitions for the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) on both sides of the American River, with the City serving as lead agency in some of the necessary acquisitions.
2. Develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for adoption as follows:
 - a. "Master" agreement between City, County, State and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) as overall partners in project planning, design, construction and operation of the CIHC facility and land management.
 - b. American River Parkway land acquisition agreement between the City, County and SAFCA as partners in acquisition and restoration of property for the County upstream/east of Discovery Park on the north side of the American River, for addition to the American River Parkway and use as the significant outdoor and nature element of the CIHC, making use of a loan from the State Water Resources Control Board.
 - c. Richards Blvd. land acquisition agreement between the City and State as partners in acquisition of properties in the Richards Blvd. area as the site for the CIHC's "gateway" facilities, making use of City funds from the Community Reinvestment Bond Program (CRCIP) as a contribution.

Contact: J.P. Tindell, Interim Planning and Development Manager, 808-1955

Presenters: Bob Overstreet, Director of Parks and Recreation; J.P. Tindell, Interim Planning and Development Manager

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Park Planning, Design & Development

Organization No: 4727

Description/Analysis:

Issue: California's Indians have been seeking a Center and a location for approximately 40 years, for the purpose of honoring the diversity and history of California Indian people. The Center will make a significant economic and cultural contribution to the region and the State. The City has actively supported its location in Sacramento, and the critical next step is property acquisition. MOUs are the recommended tools to establish the commitments and obligations of all parties in several of the elements of project implementation that need to come next. Background information is provided in Attachment 1, pages 4 and 5.

Policy Considerations: This project is consistent with the City Council adopted Strategic Focus Area for 2007 to "provide and protect open space for its environmental, safety, agricultural and recreational values."

Committee/Commission Actions: The State CIHC Task Force is an appointed advisory group for the project which meets regularly. The State's project staff plans to provide informational presentations on the project starting in Fall 2006 and throughout the course of the project's planning and implementation phases to groups such as the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Neighborhood Leadership Groups (Downtown NAG), River District Board, County Board of Supervisors, County Recreation and Parks Commission, and SAFCA Board.

Environmental Considerations: The Environmental Services Manager has determined that land acquisition, land use changes, and subsequent design of the CIHC will be evaluated under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the City as Lead Agency. Once appropriate analysis and design has been completed on the proposed project, applicable environmental evaluation of the proposed project will be brought before Council for approval at a later date.

Rationale for Recommendation: A series of formal actions locally have contributed to the choice by the State's CIHC Task Force to continue the consideration of sites along the American River in Sacramento as their preferred location for the Center (see Attachment 2, page 6). In addition, it has been a shared goal of the State, City and County for at least two decades to acquire additional land for the American River Parkway. These agencies adopted the 1985 American River Parkway Plan which includes an implementation measure to "pursue land acquisition of privately owned lands within the Parkway."

Financial Considerations: A total of \$7.3 million has been allocated for the project in support of property acquisitions in the Richards Blvd. area: \$6.3M from the City's

Community Reinvestment Bond Program (CRCIP) and \$1.0M from the Richards Blvd. Redevelopment Area. Funding for administrative, legal and other costs associated with land acquisition are also included in this allocation.

Additional funding to acquire the American River Parkway land is anticipated to come from a loan from the State Water Resources Control Board. The City, in partnership with the County, will need to commit to a share of the loan repayment. Staff will return to Council for approval of the terms of this loan. City staff will also be exploring the potential for Regional Transit to participate by contributing funds towards the acquisition of properties for the American River Parkway, as required mitigation anticipated for the eventual crossing of the Parkway by the Downtown-Natomas-Airport light rail transit line.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased as a result of this report.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
ROBERT G. OVERSTREET II
Director of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation Approved:

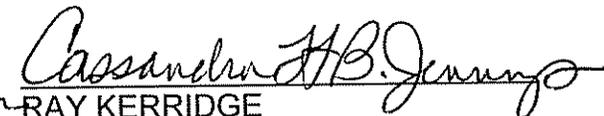

for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background Information – Project Description**

The purpose of the CIHC is to honor the diversity and history of California Indian people by preserving cultural and tribal traditions, nurturing contemporary expression, and facilitating research and education, for California, the nation, and the world. The Center will also house the state's extensive collection of Indian cultural objects.

The California Indian Heritage Center will fill a long-standing need in the state, serving the needs of both Native and non-Native citizens. It will replace the current State Indian Museum in Sacramento with a center where Indian people can come together, celebrate and preserve their past, and promote the continuation of their traditions. It will also be a place where California students, teachers, and families can learn about the history and heritage of California's indigenous people and contemporary Indian life. It will be a destination for tourists from around the world to learn about Native American culture in California.

Preliminary concepts for the facility include formal exhibit galleries for historic and contemporary exhibitions, a theater, outdoor village reconstructions, native plant gardens, and ceremonial areas. The total size of modern buildings is estimated to range from 80,000-120,000 square feet. In addition to gallery and programming spaces, one or more structures will contain curation facilities, a research center, meeting rooms, office and support areas, a shop, and possibly facilities for food service. The grounds will include areas for special events and traditional gatherings. Construction may take place in phases, but the vision for the completed center is for it to serve as the hub of cultural activities throughout the state by networking existing and emerging local, State, and tribal museums through electronic media, training programs, and shared exhibitions, and to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors of all kinds.

The geographic zone of interest recommended by the CIHC Task Force includes land in the American River Parkway between Discovery Park and Hwy. 160, and in the Richards Blvd. area between Richards Blvd., the River, N. 7th Street and Hwy. 160. Facilities will be located on both sides of the river. On the north side, the CIHC will be unique in its integration of both outdoor and indoor facilities into the natural setting. The majority of the built facilities for the CIHC will be located on the south side of the river. These facilities will serve as the "front door" of the CIHC. A bicycle/pedestrian bridge is proposed to connect facilities on both sides of the American River. Facilities in the Parkway must be in accordance with the adopted American River Parkway Plan.

Staff requests City Council direction to commence the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process for the project. Final project details will be subject to conditions and project modifications derived from the environmental review process, and all necessary property acquisitions by the City will not occur unless and until the EIR is certified unless an acquisition is exempted from CEQA review.

Background Information – Key Milestones/Local Actions in Project History

March 23, 2004: City Council adopted Resolution 2004-198 supporting the location of the new California Indian Cultural Center and Museum within the City of Sacramento at a possible site on the Lower American River between Cal Expo and confluence with the Sacramento River.

July 21, 2005: City Council adopted Resolution 2005-047 directing City evaluation of riverfront parcels located within the Richards Blvd. area in support of the proposed CIHC and allocating funds in support of property acquisitions.

December 12, 2005: Regional Transit Board approved inclusion of both Options D and E (2 sites on 12th St. between Sproule and Richards Boulevard, less than ½ mile from the River) as proposed locations for the Dos Rios Light Rail Station (goal of the CIHC is a location as close to the River as possible).

March 7, 2006: City Council adopted Resolution 2006-183 accepting the Gateway District Streetscape Master Plan for improvements to existing street amenities including curb, gutter, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping in the area bounded by North 12th St., North 16th St. and the Union Pacific/Amtrak Railroad lines south of A Street.

April 18, 2006: City Council approved addition of \$6.3M in Community Reinvestment Capital Improvement Program (CRCIP) as a contribution to land acquisition.

May 18, 2006: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Board adopted Resolution 06-053 supporting the establishment of the CIHC within the Richards Blvd. Redevelopment Area and the Lower Reach of the American River Parkway.

May 23, 2006: County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2006-0640 supporting the establishment of the CIHC within the Richards Boulevard Redevelopment Area and the Lower Reach of the American River Parkway where facilities and programming can be accommodated in a naturalistic setting consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

May 25, 2006: State CIHC Task Force reconfirmed commitment to split site in Sacramento along American River.

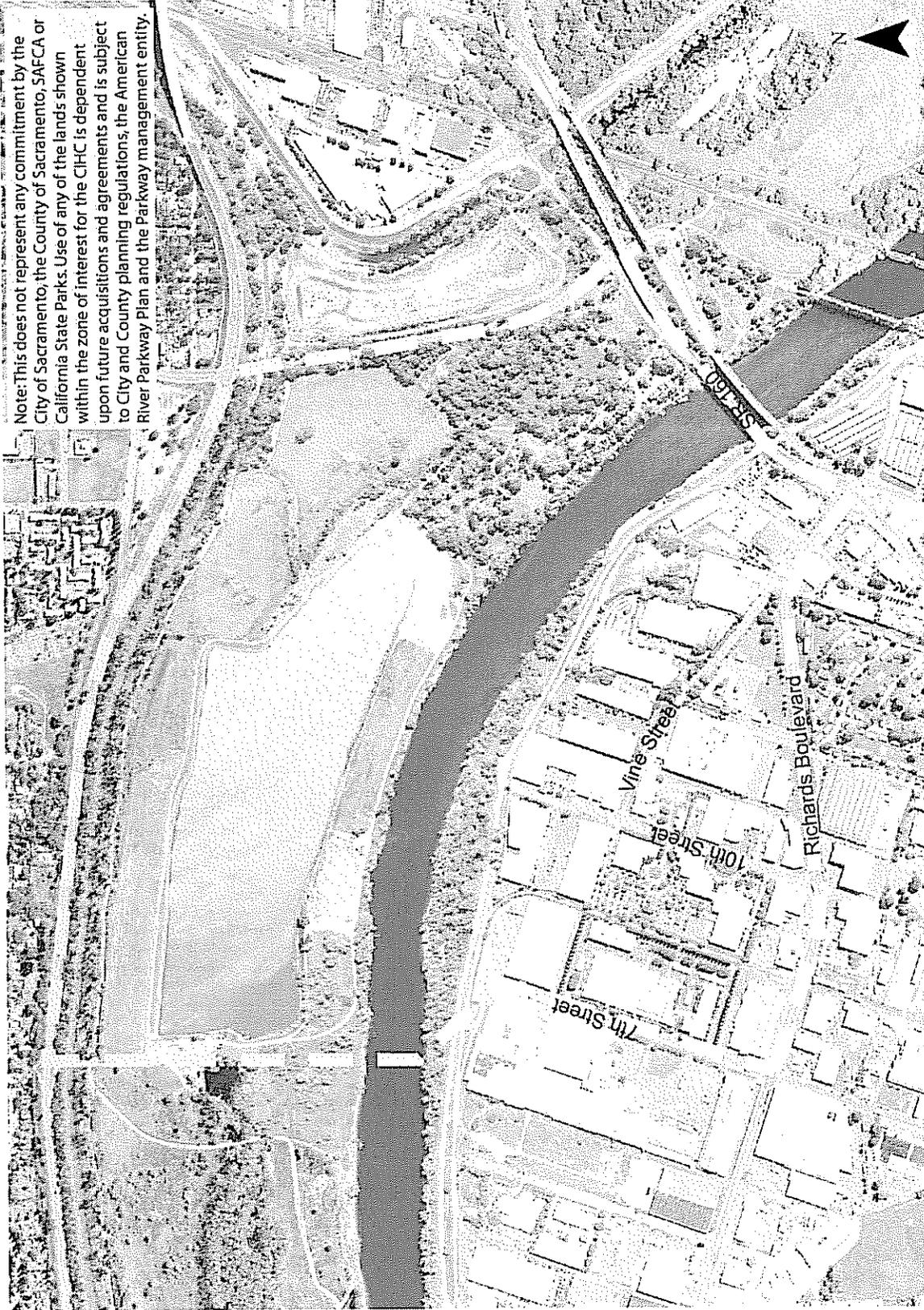
June 2006: Capitol Station District announced new name as River District; new "Vision for the Future" identified a Top Priority Action to "Plan and develop the California Indian Heritage Center" to meet their goal for "Enhanced Community Facilities and Amenities."

Summer 2006: County completed draft of American River Parkway Plan Update with Update Citizen Advisory Committee (UCAC), providing policy and guidelines for interpretive facilities and services in the Parkway which would allow for these in association with a facility such as the CIHC.

Proposed California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) Location Area

08/08/06

Note: This does not represent any commitment by the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, SAFCA or California State Parks. Use of any of the lands shown within the zone of interest for the CIHC is dependent upon future acquisitions and agreements and is subject to City and County planning regulations and is subject to River Parkway Plan and the Parkway management entity.



Attachment 3

Preliminary Schedule for Next Steps: Acquisitions

MOUs developed and approved	Fall 2006
Complete EIR	Summer 2007
Pursue acquisitions	Starting Summer 2007
Complete acquisitions	Spring 2008

Notes:

- 1) Land Use Changes in Richards Blvd. Area complementary to the CIHC: Will be pursued further in collaboration with area property owners, implementing the new River District "Vision for the Future".
- 2) Periodic status reports on this project will be provided by staff to City Council.