



July 21, 2015

Northern California RTCA, National Park Service
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Support for Southeast Greenway Grant Application

Dear Ms. Rice,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa to express support for the Southeast Greenway Campaign's grant application to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. In recent years, three Santa Rosa City Councils have expressed interest in taking advantage of the opportunity to acquire this two-mile stretch of vacant State right-of-way for community benefit. In 2014 the California Transportation Commission rescinded this portion of the freeway adoption for State Route 12, allowing Caltrans to dispose of these parcels of land. Our community knew that we had to act if we hoped to acquire the property.

To that end the City of Santa Rosa signed a Mutual Letter of Intent with the Southeast Greenway Campaign and other Community Partners regarding the acquisition, property transfer and land management of this two-mile stretch of land. The City intends to accept the land transfer from Caltrans for the portion of the property between Farmers Lane and Summerfield Road. The City intends to provide leadership regarding the general planning and future land uses on the entire length of the property between Farmers Lane and Spring Lake Park.

During the past year City Department staff have been working with the Greenway Campaign, Community Partners and Caltrans to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes guidelines for how we will work together to accomplish the transfer of this land to the City and County for public purposes. The Santa Rosa City Council recently approved the signing of this MOU, as have the other Community Partners. Additionally, the Department's planning staff are preparing a "Current Conditions, Opportunities and Constraints Analysis" that will be presented to City Council in October. This analysis provides a foundation for future planning work that will need to be completed before the City can accept the land transfer.

The City of Santa Rosa looks forward to continued work with the Southeast Greenway Campaign and Community Partners to secure this property for community benefit. To

JOHN SAWYER
Mayor

CHRIS COURSEY
Vice Mayor

ERIN CARLSTROM
JULIE COMBS
ERNESTO OLIVARES
TOM SCHWEDHELM
GARY WYSOCKY

accomplish this aim, we will have to meet several significant milestones in the year ahead. We, therefore, urge the National Park Service to approve the Greenway Campaign's application to the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Coursey", written in a cursive style.

CHRIS COURSEY
Vice Mayor

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