

RESOLUTION NO. 28666

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SONOMA LAND TRUST AND THE SOUTHEAST GREENWAY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, REGARDING A PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER RESCINDED STATE ROUTE 12 LAND FOR THE SANTA ROSA SOUTHEAST GREENWAY

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2011, the Santa Rosa City Council adopted Resolution No. 27995 which included Council Goal #4 – Strategic Objective #4: “Acknowledge Southeast Greenway community planning projects”; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Greenway Campaign is a community group established to develop an urban greenway on the approximately 52-acres of land acquired for State highway purposes over a twenty year period spanning the 1950s to the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the land is owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2013, the Council adopted Resolution No. 28266 reaffirming Council Goal #4 – Strategic Objective #3: “Support Efforts of Southeast Greenway Campaign by Monitoring and Providing Information”; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2014, the City of Santa Rosa executed a Mutual Letter of Intent and joined the Southeast Greenway Community Partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Mutual Letter of Intent outlines how the partners seek to work together to facilitate the future transfer of the Caltrans land to public ownership; and

WHEREAS, Community Development staff have been attending monthly meetings with the Partnership since June 2014; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2014, the California Transportation Commission adopted a resolution to rescind the freeway adoption due to lack of operational need, local support, and funding thus allowing the land to be transferred or sold by Caltrans; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding documents how Caltrans, City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Southeast Greenway Campaign, LandPaths, and the Sonoma Land Trust seek to work together to facilitate the transfer of the undeveloped highway land to public ownership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa directs the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Transportation, Sonoma Land Trust, and the Southeast Greenway Community Partnership to include the City of Santa Rosa in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and made part of the resolution.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 7th day of July, 2015.

AYES: (6) Vice Mayor Coursey, Council Members Carlstrom, Combs, Olivares, Schwedhelm, Wysocky

NOES: (0)

ABSENT/

RECUSED: (1) Mayor Sawyer

ABSTAIN: (0)

Attachment: Exhibit A – Memorandum of Understanding

## EXHIBIT A

### **Memorandum of Understanding Between the California Department of Transportation, Sonoma Land Trust and The Southeast Greenway Community Partnership Regarding a Proposal to Transfer Rescinded State Route 12 Land For the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway**

This is a Memorandum of Understanding dated as of July 7, 2015 between the City of Santa Rosa (“City”), Sonoma County Water Agency (“Water Agency”), the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, LandPaths, and the Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee (collectively, the “Partnership”), the California Department of Transportation (“the Department”), and Sonoma Land Trust (“SLT”).

#### **Purpose**

The Department, Partnership, and SLT are entering into this Memorandum of Understanding to document the Parties’ understandings, intentions and expectations with regard to transferring a 52-acre section of the rescinded State Route 12 land (“Southeast Greenway”) from the Department to the City of Santa Rosa (“City”) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (“Water Agency”).

#### **Background**

In 2009, the Southeast Greenway Campaign initiated a community effort to envision a vibrant urban greenway on the two-mile long, 52-acre section of rescinded State Route 12 land that links Farmers Lane to Spring Lake Park in Santa Rosa. Based on community input, the proposed Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway would feature bicycle and pedestrian paths, restored and protected open space, parks, community gardens, and other public uses.

In July 2014, the City of Santa Rosa, the Water Agency, the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, LandPaths, and the Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee (the Partnership) signed a Mutual Letter of Intent, which outlines each organization’s role and responsibilities in a collaborative effort to facilitate and achieve the transfer of the Southeast Greenway for public uses. The Partnership intends to work together to plan, develop and manage the proposed Greenway should the property be acquired.

In August 2014, the California Transportation Commission rescinded the property’s freeway designation, creating the opportunity for the Department to transfer the property for other public uses.

In late 2014, SLT joined with the Partnership to assist in completing transfer of the Southeast Greenway.

**The Partnership, the Department, and SLT agree as follows:**

1. The Partnership and SLT will collaborate with the Department toward development of an agreement to transfer the Southeast Greenway property with terms acceptable to all parties.
2. The Department will, if requested, offer the City of Santa Rosa and Water Agency first right of refusal to acquire the property prior to the land being offered on the open market.
3. The Department, the Partnership, and SLT will work together to determine the potential for environmental mitigation sites on the property.
4. The Department, the Partnership, and SLT will identify and agree on a process for establishing the property's value.
5. The Department will provide the Partnership and SLT adequate time, as periodically determined by mutual agreement of the parties, to perform due diligence, including a title review, Phase I and, if indicated, Phase II environmental assessment, environmental review, and appraisals of the property.
6. The Department will retain the Southeast Greenway property in its current and intact condition while the parties collaborate so that the following public uses of the land could be considered:
  - a. Bicycle and pedestrian paths as part of a regional trail network.
  - b. Restored and protected open space and natural habitat.
  - c. Parks and community gardens.
  - d. Water Agency water reliability pipeline.
  - e. Groundwater development and recharge.
7. The City of Santa Rosa will prepare a Current Conditions, Constraints and Opportunities Analysis of the property available for the consideration of all parties. The Analysis will:
  - a. Document the existing conditions on the property that are relevant to the use of the property.
  - b. Identify constraints and opportunities on the property resulting from existing adopted plans and policies.
8. The Department will cooperate with the Partnership and SLT to facilitate the preparation of the Current Conditions, Constraints and Opportunities Analysis by disclosing known liens,

easements, encumbrances, leases, and deed restrictions, and by granting reasonable access to the property.

9. The Department will provide adequate time, as periodically determined by mutual agreement of the parties, for the Partnership and SLT to complete the fundraising required for the proposed transfer of the property to the City and Water Agency.
10. The Department will consider granting the Partnership and SLT access to the property at mutually agreed upon times for public educational outings and fundraising events. This may be accomplished through short-term leases of the property or portions of the property to the Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee or to other Southeast Greenway Community Partners.
11. This MOU shall continue in effect until such time as the parties may enter into a more formal agreement or there is close of escrow for acquisition of the Southeast Greenway, but in no event longer than five (5) years, whichever is the earlier to occur, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

**California Department of Transportation,**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark L. Weaver

Its: Deputy District Director, Right of Way &  
Land Surveys

**City of Santa Rosa,**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sean McGlynn

Its: City Manager

**Sonoma County Water Agency,**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Davis

Its: General Manager

**Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee,**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Proulx

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thea Hensel

Its: Campaign Co-chairs

**LandPaths,**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Anderson

Its: Executive Director

**Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, a  
department of the County of Sonoma**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Caryl Hart

Its: Director

**The Sonoma Land Trust, a California nonprofit  
public benefit corporation**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Koehler

Its: Executive Director