



TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6D: Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Applications for Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant Funds for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail, Phase 1 and Adventure Center at Mary Laveroni Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

I move to adopt Resolution 29-2021 approving the Applications for Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant Funds for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail, Phase 1 and Adventure Center at Mary Laveroni Park.

BACKGROUND:

The District has been planning and engaging the community for nearly three years in the development and planning for major improvements to the local park facilities owned by GCSB. The District engaged the services of a professional landscape architect who specializes in public park facilities and trails, as well as related public input processes, grant applications, and project design in construction management. The Board reviewed the final park amenities plan and recommendations at their regular meeting on June 8, 2021. Since that time, district staff has been working with the consultant to finalize a project proposal that is prepared for the grant application process.

As previously discussed, in 2018 Proposition 68 was approved by the California voters and provided hundreds of millions of dollars for major capital improvements for parks; to develop new parks, to increase the amenities available at existing parks and other improvements with the goals of improving the physical and mental health of Californians by getting them outside to enjoy their environment. Proposition 68 also provided funding for projects in rural communities that provide opportunities to increase local recreation and tourism potential.

The California Department of Parks has recently opened its application for the Rural Recreation and Tourism Grant Program, with grant applications due on November 5, 2021. The District actively participated in review and comment on the draft guidelines prepared by the state for this Program in 2019 and in 2020, and it has been determined that the improvements planned for our local park system match nearly identically to the priorities and grant criteria for this particular grant program. The maximum grant allocation per project is \$3 million and the District is allowed to submit applications for multiple projects. This is a 100% grant program, as we have been determined to be a severely disadvantaged community.

District staff proposes to submit two separate applications of up to \$3 million each for the following projects. Please note that the listed project names/titles are preliminary for identification purposes only; pending additional public input:

1. Planning, design and construction of the main **Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail, Phase 1** segment from the Groveland Resilience Center through Mary Laveroni Park to Deer Flat Rd. There are **no** additional trail phases identified or planned to the northeast of the Resilience Center, however it is hopeful that the Phase II trail could extend to Big Oak Flat in the future. This is planned as a 12-foot wide paved multipurpose, non-motorized trail constructed to ADA standards. The trail will be designed for emergency use as an access/evacuation road bypassing Hwy 120 and the Ferretti Rd. intersection. The trail project also includes support amenities such as:
 - a. Benches and covered rest areas
 - b. Interpretive signage related to the railroad history, mining and California water development
 - c. Trailhead facilities, markers and signage/kiosk
 - d. Lighting and security
 - e. Trash receptacles
 - f. Linkage to downtown Groveland businesses and ADA access to Mary Laveroni Park
 - g. Development of a secondary and tertiary trails throughout the 280-acre GCSD property to provide miles of walkable and bikeable unpaved trails through varying terrain as well as for organized sporting events such as running, cyclocross and bicycle. The trails will provide access to premier bird watching areas.

The final project design and amenities will be determined following additional public engagement.

2. **Adventure Center at Mary Laveroni Park** –The proposed Adventure Center at Mary Laveroni Park includes:
 - a. The development of a natural amphitheater built into the slope between the upper and lower park and a stage area opposite of the amphitheater. This facility will serve concerts, interpretive presentations, performing arts, movies in the park, and many other community events
 - b. Fixed covered structure in the area of the current temporary shade sails/poles. This structure will provide all weather opportunities for events and gatherings.
 - c. Walking trails and accessible sidewalks linking major amenities
 - d. Yosemite Valley replica bouldering areas, climbing, nets and adventure structures, Creekside nature play area, native drought tolerant plantings/educational signage and feature pedestrian bridge spanning the “Yosemite Valley” area
 - e. Benches and table areas
 - f. Event support infrastructure and facilities for enhanced/additional community events, wedding rentals, etc.
 - g. 20-acre competitive Disc Golf course located between Mary Laveroni Park and the GCSD office

Staff is working with our consultant, WRT in preparation of the grant applications due November 5, 2021. To submit the grant applications, a Board Resolution is required.

There will be additional public engagement and outreach conducted to finalize the project design concepts in advance of the application. If awarded grant funds, the public and partners will be actively involved in additional community outreach, CEQA document preparation, final design and construction.

While District staff has been actively engaged with this process for nearly three years now and has engaged the community for participation and feedback throughout this process which has been reflected in the existing preliminary concept designs developed and presented, it is to be understood that all park recreational concepts are preliminary. As this process progresses to subsequent levels of implementation, it is to be expected that these initial plans will be subject to modifications based on feasibility, cost, grant guidelines, and other outside circumstances that would not be possibly known at this time.

The Board will recall that the [Park Amenities Plan](#) prepared by WRT includes a Groveland Sport Complex as well as the development of an RV Park. The sports complex at this time includes the baseball/softball field, relocated and improved skateboard park and basketball courts; and other options are being considered as presented by WRT. It has been determined that at this time, these two projects would not score highly for this grant as there is still much more needed evaluation and planning to be conducted. It is staff's intent to continue developing these projects to better plan with the community and prepare the final project for possible future rounds of this grant program or other recreational grant opportunities in the future; as these both contribute significantly to the District's overall park and recreational plans.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (hyperlink only) [Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant Funds Guidelines and Application](#)
- Resolution 29-2021

FISCAL IMPACT:

The consulting work necessary for the grant application process, public engagement and preliminary planning is included in the 2021/22 fiscal budget at not to exceed \$40,000.

RESOLUTION 29-2021

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL RECREATION AND TOURISM PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS FOR THE HETCH HETCHY RAILROAD TRAIL, PHASE 1 AND GROVELAND ADVENTURE CENTER AT MARY LAVERONI PARK

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Rural Recreation and Tourism Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREBY: APPROVES THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE HETCH HETCHY RAILROAD TRAIL, PHASE 1 AND GROVELAND ADVENTURE CENTER AT MARY LAVERONI PARK; AND

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and
2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to the General Manger to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8 A-G).

Approved and adopted the day of October 12, 2021

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number was duly adopted by the Groveland Community Services District Board of Directors following a roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary

Janice Kwiatkowski, President - Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, Rachel Pearlman, the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, do hereby declare that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, duly called and held on October 12, 2021.

DATED: _____