



Agenda Date: 4/25/2006
Agenda Placement: 6G

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Cathy Gruenhagen for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: John Woodbury, Principal Planner , 259-5933
SUBJECT: Approval of grant application for Bay Trail feasibility study

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a grant request in the amount of \$75,000 to the San Francisco Bay Trail Project and the State Coastal Conservancy, to undertake a feasibility analysis and preliminary engineering for a segment of the Bay Trail.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Airport Area Bicycle Master Plan accepted by the Board in December, 2005 identified a potential recreational route for the Bay Trail between the cities of American Canyon and Napa. There is strong interest in the proposed route both locally and regionally due to its exceptional scenic value. The Board is requested to approve submittal of a Bay Trail grant application to fund a detailed feasibility analysis for the proposed 8.5 mile route. This item is coming to the Board because the Coastal Conservancy, which must approve Bay Trail grants, requires approval by the applicant's governing board before they will consider a grant application.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Conservation, Development & Planning 06/07 FY budget
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This is the next logical step in implementing the recommendation of the Airport Area Bicycle Master Plan for a recreational route of the Bay Trail between the cities of American Canyon and Napa. The \$5,000 proposed to come from the County will leverage \$75,000 in grant funds.

Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	This is a one-time expense. Upon completion of this study, and assuming the route is determined to be feasible, the next steps will be to find funding to complete environmental review and then construction.
Consequences if not approved:	The Department of Fish and Game is currently finalizing wetland restoration plans for the salt plant southwest of the Napa airport. Failure to undertake the proposed trail study at this time could result in a restoration plan that precludes the trail. In addition, the City of American Canyon and the County Waste Management Authority are currently investigating options for public access to the shoreline as part of the closure of the landfill in American Canyon. The proposed study, if done now, would enable coordination with this investigation.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The recently completed Airport Area Bicycle Master Plan proposed a bicycle commuter route between the cities of American Canyon and Napa following existing and planned streets. The Plan also identified a potential recreational route that generally follows the edge of the Napa River and its associated wetlands utilizing public lands. The Bay Trail Project, which sponsors the San Francisco Bay Trail, participated in the preparation of the Plan, and is supportive of pursuing both routes. Since completion of the Plan, staff has undertaken further field investigation and met with staff from the major affected property owners (California Department of Fish and Game, Napa County Sanitation District, Napa County Airport, Napa County Waste Management Authority and City of American Canyon). This further investigation has resulted in the delineation of a route for a recreational trail which appears to be physically feasible, acceptable to the affected public agencies and most importantly, would provide a truly exceptional Bay Trail experience. At the southern end the trail would connect with existing Bay Trail in American Canyon, and at the northern end the trail would connect with a previously evaluated alignment that then connects to existing Bay Trail in Kennedy Park in the City of Napa.

The subject grant request is to support detailed feasibility analysis and preliminary engineering, including:

- | trail log identifying physical conditions and proposed trail cross-sections at representative locations along the length of the trail.
- | determination of property lines.
- | identification of permits needed, and preliminary evaluation of project consistency with permit criteria.
- | review of options with property owners and interested parties and selection of preferred alternative.
- | preparation of preliminary cost estimates.

Funding for the Bay Trail grant program comes from the Bay Area Conservancy Program administered by the Coastal Conservancy. The Conservancy requires approval of the applicant's governing board before it will consider the application.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Grant application cover letter
- B . Grant application

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey