

RESOLUTION NO. 04-286

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
APPROVING GRANT PARTICIPATION AND ACTION STEPS CONCERNING
THE SALINAS RIVER CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the General Plan established a need to “Create and adopt a Salinas River Corridor Plan to address such issues as recreation, conservation, use, public access, and educational outreach”; and

WHEREAS, in fall, 2003, the City received grant funding from the National Park Service (NPS) to begin exploring options for the Salinas River corridor; and

WHEREAS, the December 2003 earthquake and the loss of NPS funding interrupted this project; and

WHEREAS, in August, 2004, staff from the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) proposed that the city participate in a grant that could be used to enhance public access to and education about the river; and

WHEREAS, the California Resources Agency has indicated support for a project to emphasize public access to the river, and riparian habitat restoration beginning at Larry Moore Park and ending just north of the Niblick Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will join existing or planned portions of a multi-use trail, making an uninterrupted trail (1½ miles) between the southern border of the city and the northern end of the new residential development behind Albertson’s (see attachment 1). It will also include a trailhead parking area across from Larry Moore Park and barriers in the park to discourage off-road vehicles accessing the riverbed from this location; and

WHEREAS, this proposed trail will run parallel to a multi-use, paved trail that is already required to be installed by the developer of Phase III of the Woodland Plaza Center and the SLOCOG multi-use trail design that will extend north of the Veteran’s Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the River Trail will have a focus/emphasis on riparian habitat, historical, and conservation education; and

WHEREAS, the grant would be awarded to the Regional Conservation District in the amount of \$363,000 to accomplish the trail’s construction and the City’s participation cost would be equivalent to environmental permitting costs, on-going trail maintenance costs for a 20-year period, and contribution of staff time/resources to support the effort, and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to participate in this grant will close at the end of January 2005 if not acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and REC. Inc. have submitted letters of support for the project; and

WHEREAS, concurrently with the River Trail grant the National Park Service (NPS) has renewed funding for a broad visioning process for the Salinas River corridor; and

WHEREAS, NPS proposes to co-host an intensive, 3 day design workshop focusing on publicly owned lands that would result in an illustrative plan that identifies multi-use recreation trails, access options, and conceptual site designs for the Salinas corridor.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles authorizes the Mayor to send a letter to the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) indicating the City's willingness to operate and maintain the trail and habitat enhancements outlined in the grant proposal; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to a authorize city staff to work with National Park Service staff to co-host a design workshop that will produce a broad overall direction for the Salinas River corridor; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to appropriate \$32,500 to: a) accomplish the up-front environmental work towards the trail project (with the understanding that this cost may be off-set in the future by additional grants being pursued for that purposed) and, b) to accomplish the Salinas River corridor workshop with the help of NPS staff; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize staff to create a budget for routine annual maintenance at \$16,500 beginning July 1, 2006 and create a replacement fund at \$15,000 per year for total expense of \$31,500 annually; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to direct city staff to develop a strategy/proposal for creation of a Salinas River Corridor Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 21st day of December 2004 by the following vote:

AYES: Heggarty, Nemeth, and Mecham
NOES: Picanco and Strong
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk