

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar item No. 26  
was submitted for information  
only, no action thereon  
being necessary.

INFORMATIVE

CALENDAR ITEM

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SARAH COURT, AMERICAN RIVER  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

BACKGROUND

A small, county-owned access to the American River exists in the residential area of Sarah Court, Carmichael. Over the years, a variety of problems with traffic, a lack of parking, some disorderly activities, and questions of public and private boundaries, have created conflicts between users of the area and private land owners in the vicinity. The conflicts have also discouraged legitimate, positive public use of the American River.

A segment of State-owned public trust lands is situated between private and county-owned property. Staff believes that under existing law, the Commission is obligated to affirm and protect the public's rights to use the State-owned area. The area is now used regularly by local citizens. At the same time, the Commission recognizes that private property owners are unable to discourage trespass or other inappropriate activities due to imprecise boundaries.

This also creates problems for local law enforcement. Because some property is private, some is county park, and some is State-owned, a variety of rules and regulations exist for a small area, with no delineation of where each rule applies being evident.

CURRENT SITUATION

Staff wishes resolve public trust interests and State ownership in the American River in the vicinity of Sarah Court. Members of the public, and the private property owners at Sarah Court, need to know the extent of lands which are subject to the trust and thus open to public use for recreational purposes.

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The Parks and Recreation Department of Sacramento and the County Sheriff's office are also interested in clarifying the areas subject to trust uses, and possibly in adding State lands at this location to the County park system.

Commission staff, assisted by the staff of the Attorney General, have already conducted a series of meetings with affected land owners, representatives of user groups, the County Parks Department, and the Sheriff's Office. The goal of staff is to negotiate a suitable resolution of land title problems and to encourage positive uses of the Sarah Court area.

AB 884: N/A.

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