

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 3  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 2 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3  
to 0 at its 1/3/91  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

3

A 4, 8, 10

S 1, 5, 6

01/03/91  
W 30065 PRC 7486  
Bartoloni

AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE,  
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,  
A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH YOLO AND SACRAMENTO  
COUNTIES AND THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
ESTABLISHING A SACRAMENTO RIVER RIPARIAN PARKWAY

PARTY: State Lands Commission  
1807 - 13th Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

In July 1990, staff of the State Lands Commission met with Park Directors of Sacramento and Yolo counties and the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento to discuss the establishment of a proposed Sacramento River Riparian Parkway (Riparian Parkway). Based on their initial support, the staff of the Commission drafted and circulated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The MOU was summarily approved unanimously by the Sacramento City Council and the Yolo and Sacramento County Boards of Supervisors in the period August-September 1990.

The MOU and a letter of clarification, Exhibit "B", were considered by the West Sacramento City Council at its regular meeting of October 17, 1990, but the city declined to enter into the MOU as proposed.

The MOU establishes a multi-jurisdictional effort to prepare a management plan for the Riparian Parkway. As proposed, the Riparian Parkway incorporates 31 miles of the Sacramento River (River) and extends from the vicinity of the I-5 Bridge near the Sacramento Airport (River Mile 75.5) downstream to the Freeport area (River Mile 44.8). The Riparian Parkway extends laterally

from the landward side of levee top to levee top inclusive of the River. Where public ownership of parcels permits, or where significant riparian resources exist, the Riparian Parkway could extend beyond the River's levees.

Commission staff has mapped the proposed extent of the Riparian Parkway and identified parcels of public ownership that could be included within it. In addition, staff has begun to identify additional parcels within the boundaries of the Riparian Parkway which may be investigated for acquisition or for the acquisition of conservation easements.

Members of the planning team created under the provisions of the proposed MOU, specifically Commission staff and staff of the counties of Yolo and Sacramento and the City of Sacramento, have met with various other public entities with land or interests along the delineated Riparian Parkway to acquaint them with the project's extent, goals, and purpose. As a result of these discussions the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the State Reclamation Board, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento Metropolitan Airport, and the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District have expressed their willingness to cooperate with the establishment of the Riparian Parkway. For example, by correspondence dated November 19, 1990, the State Reclamation Board stated, "The Board is supportive of your proposal to develop such a parkway and would like to be involved whenever applicable."

Staff recommends that the Commission participate in the Sacramento River Riparian Parkway MOU for several reasons: 1) The Sacramento River Riparian Parkway is an opportunity to provide urban residents with natural and recreational amenities comparable to those furnished by the existing American River Parkway; 2) It will encourage comprehensive urban planning and development while encouraging the preservation and restoration of the riparian forest once established along the entirety of the Sacramento River; 3) The MOU establishes a framework for a cooperative intergovernmental planning process to address habitat restoration and preservation, recreational development, and access along the Sacramento River throughout the extent of the proposed Riparian Parkway.

AB 884: N/A.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061), the staff has determined that his activity is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA because the activity is not a "project" as defined by CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: P.R.C. 21065 and 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15378.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Sacramento River Riparian Parkway Memorandum of Understanding.
- B. Letter of Clarification, dated October 10, 1990.
- C. Communication from Mr. Ray Barsch, General Manager, State Reclamation Board.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY IS NOT A PROJECT AS DEFINED BY P.R.C. 21065 AND 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15378.
2. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH YOLO AND SACRAMENTO COUNTIES AND THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, EXHIBIT "B", ESTABLISHING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER RIPARIAN PARKWAY.

**SACRAMENTO RIVER RIPARIAN PARKWAY**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento River (River) is one of the major rivers in California stretching from its headwaters in Shasta County in the north to its confluence with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the south; and

**WHEREAS**, the River was once bordered by up to 500,000 acres of riparian forest which spread four to five miles from it; and

**WHEREAS**, in 150 years the riparian forest has been reduced by human activities and development to an area of less than five percent of its previous extent; and

**WHEREAS**, the River supports diverse populations of wildlife, including commercial species of salmon and steelhead, as well as a number of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals; and

**WHEREAS**, counties and cities have come to depend on the River for water, power, and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the River is the object of increasing development which is often not compatible with habitat preservation, public access, flood control and wildlife protection, and

**WHEREAS**, multiple jurisdictions, including the County of Yolo, the County of Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento, and the State Lands Commission, are involved in the regulation of land uses on and affecting the river;

Now **THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED**, by and between the parties hereto, as follows:

- L** The Counties of Yolo and Sacramento, the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and the State Lands Commission will form an interagency planning team to establish a Sacramento River Riparian Parkway within the bounds of River Mile 76.0, in the vicinity of the I-5 Bridge, on the north to River Mile 44.8, near Freeport, on the south which shall have conservation and recreation as its major goals ( See attached map ). The membership of the team will consist of the following individuals or their designees - the Director of the Yolo County Facilities Department, the Sacramento County Director of Parks and Recreation, the Sacramento City Director of Parks and Community Services, the Director of the

City of West Sacramento Department of Parks and Community Services, and the Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission.

2. A technical planning team, composed of at least one representative from each agency, will be established as working staff to the interagency planning committee. The technical team will be responsible for assembling and analyzing data, preparing reports and recommendations, and providing all other staff support requested by the planning committee. Under the direction of the planning committee, the technical team will be responsible for developing a schedule and a funding program to govern the preparation, review, and presentation of the draft Sacramento River Riparian Parkway Plan (Plan). The five agencies will jointly review and submit the final Plan to their decision-making bodies for adoption.
3. The Plan shall have the following objectives: a) to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore the riparian corridor and its associated ecosystems, and b) to design a system of controlled public access for active and passive recreational uses related to the River.
4. The Plan to be developed will consist of, but not be limited to: a) a delineation of the nature and extent of the area's natural resources and their condition, b) a description of the existing land use, facilities and activities which occur in the planning area, c) a summary of the physical, social, economic, resource, and political factors which influence the management, use and enjoyment of the planning area, d) management alternatives, e) an analysis of the physical, social, and economic effects associated with each alternative, and f) a preferred alternative with guidelines and standards for defining, implementing and managing the Parkway.
5. During the preparation of the Plan, each agency shall advise the others of new data, proposed projects or actions which may impact either the planning area or the development of the Parkway and shall take no action which is detrimental to the proposed Parkway or the provisions or intent of this agreement. Such matters may be discussed at the meetings of the planning team.
6. Following its adoption by each agency, the Plan shall be the governing factor in all subsequent management decisions.
7. This agreement may be amended with the consent of the parties and shall remain in force and effect until terminated by the parties or until the establishment of the Parkway, whichever occurs first.

Signed By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, County Facilities Department  
County of Yolo

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, County Parks and Recreation  
County of Sacramento

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Parks and Community Services  
City of Sacramento

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Parks and Community Services  
City of West Sacramento

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Officer  
State Lands Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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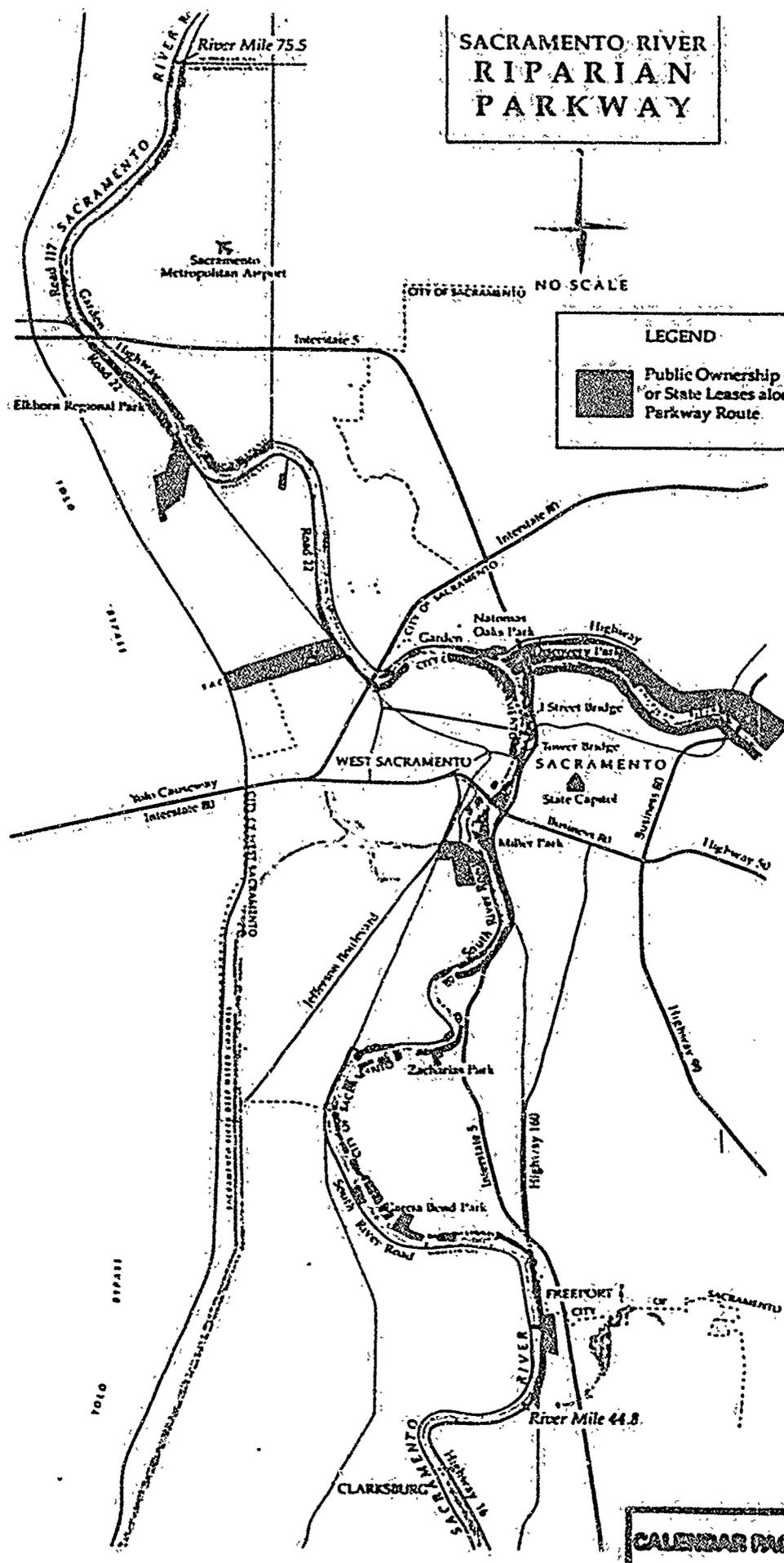
# SACRAMENTO RIVER RIPARIAN PARKWAY



NO SCALE

**LEGEND**

 Public Ownership or State Leases along Parkway Route



ADDED 01/02/91

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## STATE LANDS COMMISSION

LEO T. McCARTHY, Lieutenant Governor  
RAY DAVIS, Controller  
OSSE R. HUFF, Director of Finance

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
1807 - 13th Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
CHARLES WARREN  
Executive Officer  
(916) 322-4105

October 10, 1990

Val Toppenberg, Deputy Director  
West Sacramento Redevelopment Agency  
1102 Jefferson Blvd., Suite D  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Toppenberg:

Pursuant to our recent meeting regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State Lands Commission, the Cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento and Yolo and Sacramento Counties, we would like to clarify several points as delineated in the MOU.

First, with regard to your concern about the objective of the plan which includes the restoration of the riparian corridor and its associated ecosystems, it is not intended that this plan exclude access points to the River within the context of an urban setting. In other words, it is not intended that 100% of the riverfront be necessarily restored to its natural environmental condition. Indeed, it is recognized that urban and recreational development in certain areas of the waterfront may be appropriate and desirable.

In addition, when we discussed the concept of controlled public access for active and passive recreational uses related to the River, we also did not intend to preclude connections between urban areas and the waterfront which might allow access within a more formalized context, such as a pedestrian promenade.

You also had concerns about that portion of the agreement which provides that each agency shall take no action which is detrimental to the proposed parkway or the provisions or intent of this agreement. Again, this provision is not intended to preclude the City of West Sacramento from proceeding with the redevelopment of its waterfront. We are, however, interested in commenting on any plan which includes access to and proposed uses of the waterfront from the top of the levee to the waterline of the Sacramento River.

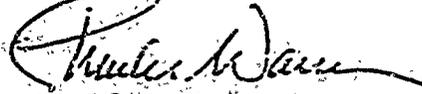
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Mr. Val Toppenberg  
October 10, 1990  
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Finally, we would like to address your concern about Item 6 of the proposed MOU which provides that the plan shall be the governing factor in all subsequent management decisions. We included this provision to encourage an understanding of cooperation between the State Lands Commission and the local jurisdictions that would be participating in this plan. It is not intended to preclude local agencies from exercising their discretionary authority over land use issues which are within their jurisdiction. For example, we recognize that no provision of the plan will apply to or control the regulations of land within the jurisdiction of West Sacramento without its approval and ratification by the West Sacramento City Council. The same holds true for other jurisdictions affected by the plan.

We hope that this clarification will assist you in obtaining approval of your City Council to execute the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

Sincerely,



Charles Warren  
Executive Officer

cc: Ed Quinn  
Bart Throop  
Walt Ueda  
Earl Balch  
Gene Andal

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## Memorandum

NOV 19 1990

To : B-5  
 Charles Warren  
 Executive Director  
 State Lands Commission  
 1807 - 13th Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

NOV 21 1990

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

From : THE RECLAMATION BOARD

Subject: Sacramento River Riparian Parkway

Your staff has briefed us on the Sacramento River Riparian Parkway and provided a copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding. Additionally, The Reclamation Board's program manager had an opportunity to hear your presentation in Berkeley on the same subject. Based upon conversations with your staff and your presentation, it appears that this proposal is consistent with flood control. The Board is supportive of your proposal to develop such a parkway and would like to be involved wherever applicable. The Board, similar to your agency, has a major interest in the Sacramento River.

You are aware of the Board's involvement with providing public safety from flooding. Our mission requires very close coordination with the State Lands Commission to assure that our activities are compatible and consistent, not only for public safety, but for the goals of the State Lands Commission. In order to assure that all the agencies' respective goals and missions are met and are compatible, we highly urge your technical planning team for the parkway program to involve our staff in any activities that may interrelate with providing public safety.

If our understanding of the riparian parkway is incorrect, or if you have any questions, please contact me at ATSS 445-9454 or have your staff contact Peter Rabbon at ATSS 445-8984.



RAYMOND E. BARSCH  
 General Manager

cc: David N. Kennedy, Director  
 Department of Water Resources  
 1416 Ninth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Copy forwarded to Manning, J. F., P. H., D. S., W. N., Kate E.	
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