

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER

FROM: JOHN FALKINSTIEN, ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: UPPER SALINAS RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL PLAN

DATE: MARCH 7, 2006

Needs: For the City Council to consider approval of the Upper Salinas River Parkway Trail Plan.

Facts:

1. This project is a joint trail improvement project between the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD), the City of Paso Robles, the California Conservation Corps, and the Planning and Conservation League Foundation.
2. The trail is to be designed and developed utilizing grant funding from the State of California Resources Agency.
3. The RCD is the primary project manager and the City of Paso Robles is the property owner and lead agency for the environmental document.
4. A public community workshop on the preliminary trail design was held in August 2005.
5. This trail segment is located within the Salinas River corridor, between Larry Moore Park and the Albertsons Shopping Center. The trail design includes construction of a 1.5 mile trail.
6. The plans being presented at this time are still at a fairly conceptual level. They contain enough detail to determine alignment, trail construction sections, locations of drainage crossings, and locations for passive rest areas (amenities). Final details for the character of the benches, tables and signs will be determined prior to construction. The intent is to coordinate their final design with the outcome of the "branding" that is part of the larger Salinas River Corridor Master plan effort.
7. The City of Paso Robles Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee considered the trail plan at their meeting on December 13, 2005, and recommended approval of the plan to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission considered the trail plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration on

January 10, 2006 and February 14, 2006. The Commission recommended approval of the trail plan to the City Council, and adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration at the Commission's meeting on February 14, 2006.

Analysis
and

Conclusion:

The RCD worked with the City Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Public Works and Police Departments to develop the trail design, environmental evaluation and long-term trail maintenance agreements.

Trail surfacing is to be decomposed granite. The trail also includes three wooden footbridges over drainages along the trail. A few segments of boardwalk are also proposed (approximately 200 ft.) in areas with steep topography. This trail will provide an important link in the development of a trail system along the length of the Salinas River within the City.

The project includes installing benches, picnic tables, informational signs, removal of non-native vegetation, and the planting of new native materials to restore the river channel banks. The trail is not intended for vehicle use and does not include evening lighting. A formal parking lot is not part of the project scope. It is anticipated that parking needs for the trail will be sufficiently served with existing on-street parking available in the area.

An environmental review was conducted for this project. The review concluded that the project will not result in negative impacts on the environment, but will likely result in several beneficial impacts. These include providing additional recreational opportunities and amenities for trail users, revegetation of degraded slopes for reduction in erosion, removal of invasive and non-native plants, establishment of new native plants, and potential reduced air pollution by residents that choose to walk instead of drive to shopping centers.

Policy

Reference:

City of Paso Robles General Plan Update and EIR, 2003, Zoning Ordinance, Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan and CEQA.

Fiscal

Impact:

Construction of the trail will be funded through a State Resources Agency grant. The City's obligation in partnering for this grant was to maintain the trail for a minimum of 20 years. The City's adopted budget includes resources for ongoing trail maintenance and "set aside funds" for trail repair starting in fiscal year 2007/08.

Options: After considering the public testimony received, the City Council will be asked to select one of the following options:

- a. Adopt the attached resolution approving the Salinas River Parkway Trail Plan design concept.
- b. Amend, modify or reject the noted option.

Attachments:

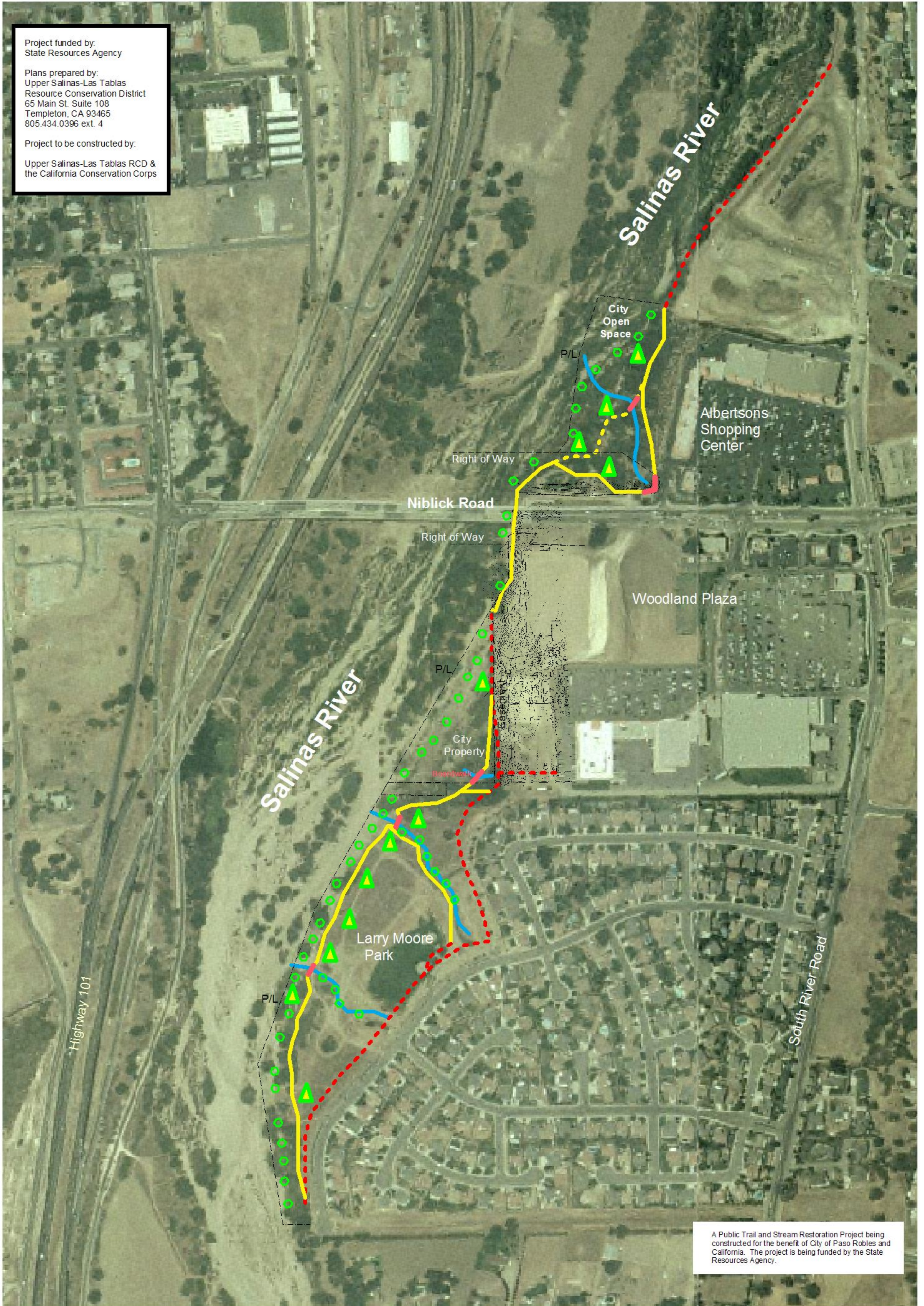
1. Salinas River Trail Project Location Map and Site Plan
2. Conceptual Trail Design Features
3. Resolution Approving the Salinas River Trail Plan

Paso Robles Trails and Creek Restoration Project

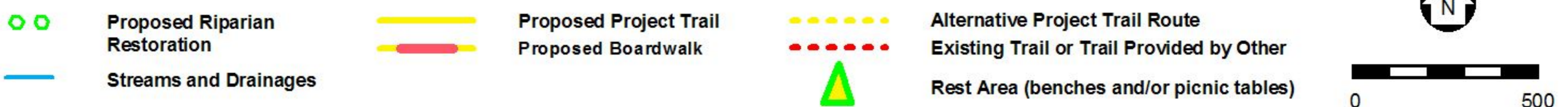
Project funded by:
State Resources Agency

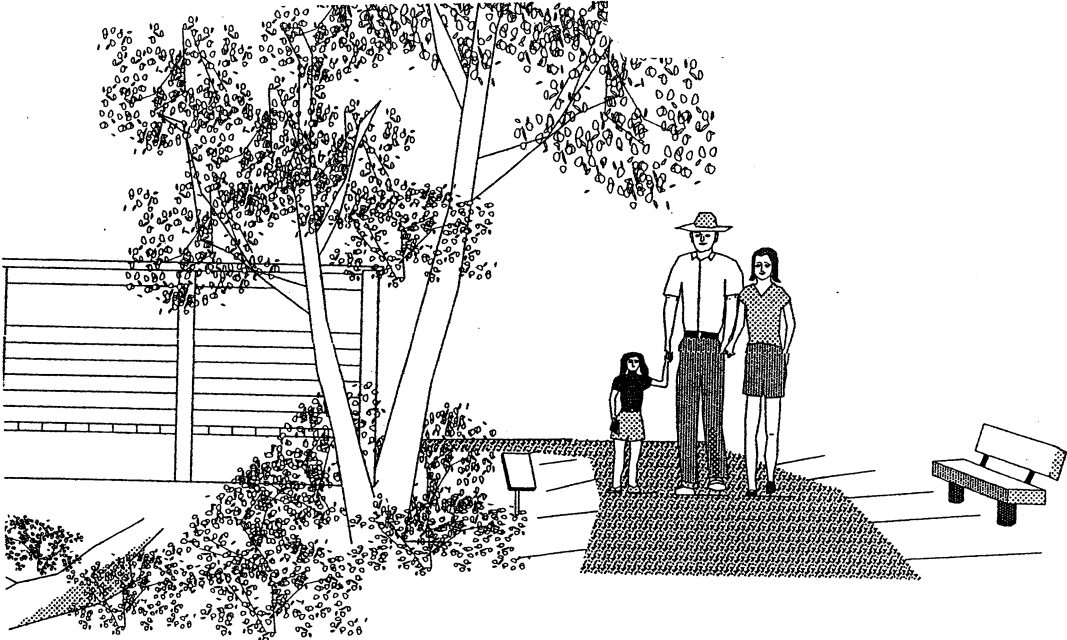
Plans prepared by:
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas
Resource Conservation District
65 Main St. Suite 108
Templeton, CA 93465
805.434.0396 ext. 4

Project to be constructed by:
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD &
the California Conservation Corps

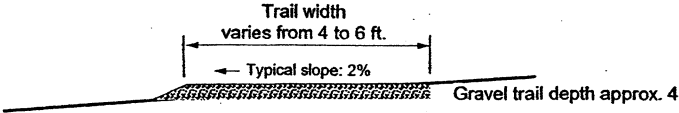


A Public Trail and Stream Restoration Project being constructed for the benefit of City of Paso Robles and California. The project is being funded by the State Resources Agency.

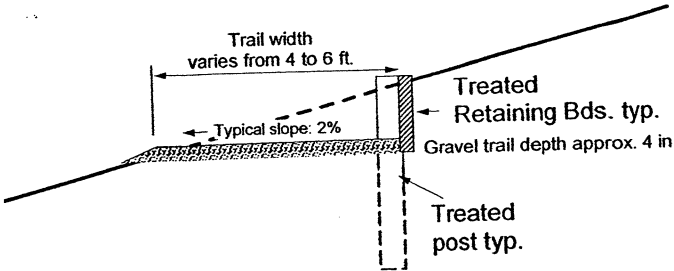




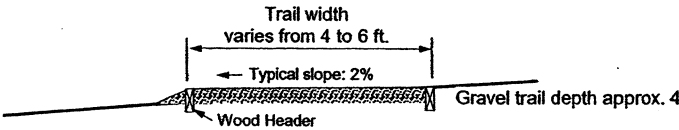
Typcial Pedestrian Trail



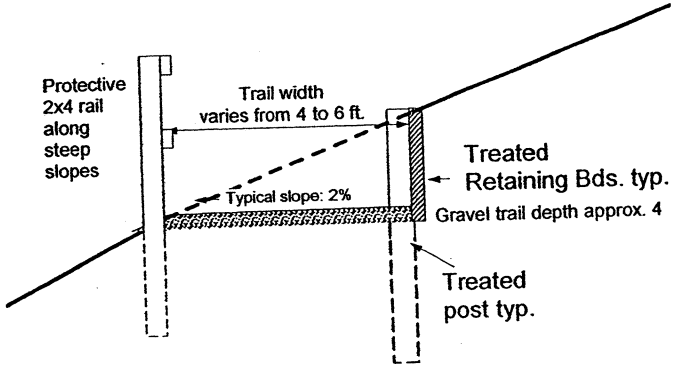
Typical Pedestrian Trail Section
1/2"=1'-0"



Typical Retaining Wall Section
1/2"=1'-0"

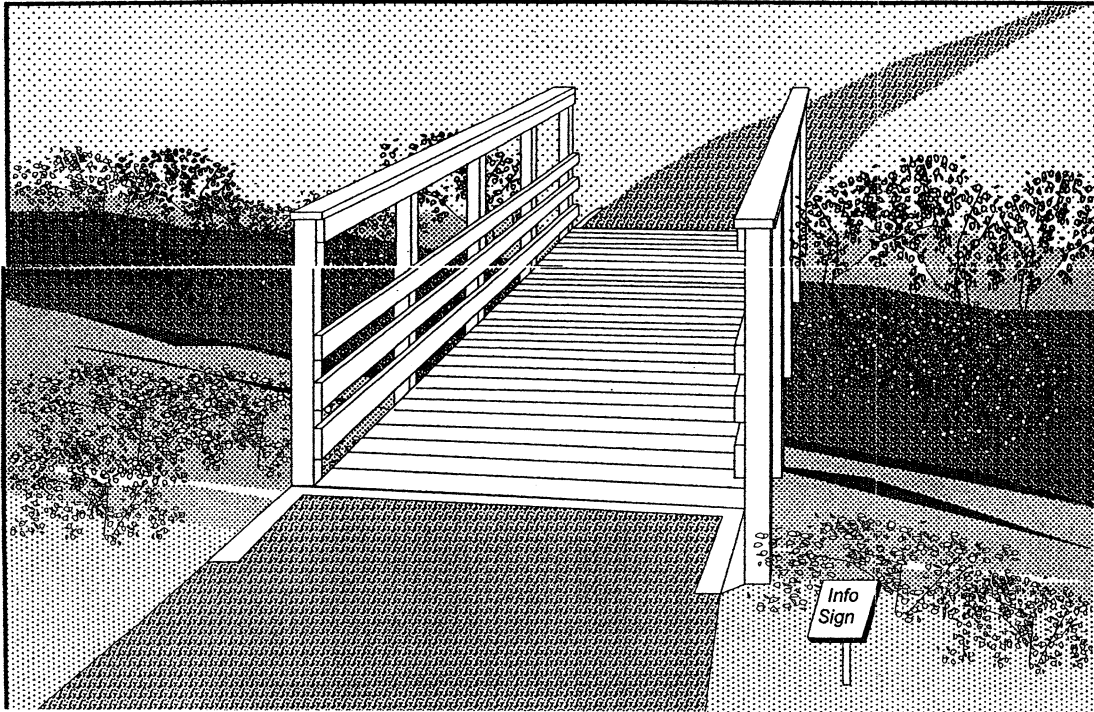


Typical Pedestrian Trail Section with Wood Headers
1/2"=1'-0"



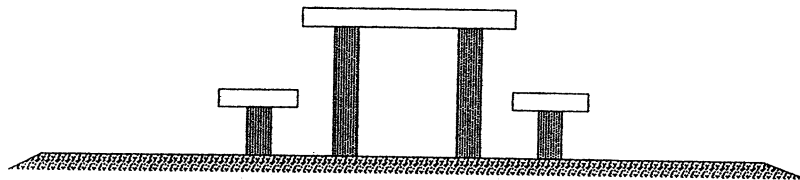
Typical Retaining Wall Section with Protective Handrail
1/2"=1'-0"

Typical Pedestrian Bridge



Picnic Area Amenity Example

(Type and Design to be selected by City)



Example of Picnic Table Section View
1/2"=1'-0"

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
APPROVING THE SALINAS RIVER TRAIL PLAN DESIGN
MISC. 05-008

WHEREAS, the Salinas River Trail Plan Design has been filed by the Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resources Conservation District, in partnership with the City of Paso Robles; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas River Trail Plan Design is a proposal for a pedestrian trail segment to be located in the Salinas river corridor between Larry Moore Park and the Albertsons Shopping Center; and

WHEREAS, the trail plan supports goals, policies and actions in the City of Paso Robles General Plan, including polices C-3B, C-5A, PR-1A, and PR-1B, and the Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Watershed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas River Trail Plan will provide a key trail linkage that will provide additional recreational opportunities for pedestrians to use the Salinas River corridor as a pedestrian amenity, and it will assist in connecting future trails within the Salinas River corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee considered this project on December 13, 2005, and recommended approval to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearings on January 10, 2006 and February 14, 2006 on this project to accept public testimony on the trail plan application, Misc. 05-008 and associated environmental review; and

WEHREAS, the Planning Commission adopted the Mitigate Negative Declaration for this project on February 14, 2006, and recommended approval of the Salinas River Trail Plan to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, based upon the facts and analysis presented in the staff report and the attachments thereto, the public testimony received, the City Council makes the following findings:

1. The project is consistent with the adopted codes, policies, standards and plans of the City; and
2. The proposed trail plan will not be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the residents and or businesses in the surrounding area, or be injurious or detrimental to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the City; and
3. The proposed trail plan accommodates the aesthetic quality of the City as a whole, especially where development will be visible from the gateways to the City, scenic corridors; and the public right-of-way; and

4. The proposed trail plan is compatible with, and is not detrimental to, surrounding land uses and improvements, provides an appropriate visual appearance, and contributes to the mitigation of any environmental and social impacts; and
5. The proposed trail plan is compatible with existing scenic and environmental resources such as hillsides, oak trees, vistas, etc.; and
6. The proposed trail plan contributes to the orderly development of the City as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby approve of the Salinas River Trail Plan Design (Misc. 05-008).

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th day of March, 2006 by the following Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

FRANK R. MECHAM, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CATHY DAVID, DEPUTY CITY CLERK