

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 21, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE ONLY

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 10:03 AM

Members Present: Wendy Brown, Jeff Gabe, Dean Bernacchi, Ralph Mendershausen, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Tony McDaniel

Members Absent: Art Baggett, Ben Goger, Michael Martin, Nick Ross-Rhudy, Jessica Thompson

Visitors: Tara Fouch-Moore

2. **ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AB361:**

The committee unanimously adopted the resolution related to its requirements under AB361, moved by Ralph Mendershausen and seconded by Wendy Brown.

3. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 8/19/21 AND THE 9/16/21 MEETING:**

The minutes from the September meeting was unanimously passed. There were not enough members who were present at the August meeting to vote on those minutes.

4. **CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF MARIPOSA TRAILS LETTER AND CLARIFICATION OF VISION PLAN DIRECTION:**

A discussion took place related to the letter received from Mariposa Trails regarding potential trail alignment and its relationship to the community's of El Portal and Foresta. Goralnik reiterated that the final vision plan will present all routes that have emerged and been discussed through the visioning process, and will include a discussion of the pros and cons of those routes as communicated through the surveys and other project input and engagement channels. Rather than identifying a preferred alternative among these route options, the vision plan will collect the input received on each alternative for future exploration and analysis in future, more technical planning efforts.

Possible routes to include: following the South Fork of the Merced River, following Foresta Road, following the Burma Grade, Old El Portal school house route, and through the Miller Gulch site. There was a recommendation to present these alternatives to the community and formally collect input on them, in particular the alternatives that have not been fully explored to this point in the visioning effort. Goralnik also reiterated that additional voices from the El Portal community on the Community Working Group would be beneficial to this discussion.

5. **UPDATE ON PROJECT ACTIONS SURVEY AND NEXT STEPS:**

Goralnik reminded CWG members that the survey on the draft project actions was released on September 8, and provided an update that so far 94 responses had been logged, with the last response on October 18. There was a recommendation to modify a typo in Goal 4, Action 4 of the survey ("non-motorized" should be "motorized") and to send a link to the survey to the Historic Sites and Records planning advisory committee.

6. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS WHILE STAFF IS NOT AVAILABLE:

Goralnik reminded the CWG that he anticipates being on leave for the months of December and January, and likely at points in spring 2022. While it is technically possible for the CWG to meet during this period, the Planning Department does not have sufficient personnel to staff the committee, so these responsibilities—including preparing the minutes, agenda, and meeting packet, properly noticing meetings, and managing meetings in real time—would be the obligation of a or some committee members.

If committee members are willing to volunteer for these responsibilities, Goralnik stated that he would work with County Counsel, the Clerk of the Board, and others at the County as needed to pursue this option for the months while he is on leave. There was not any indication that this path was desirable for the committee members, and several committee members shared that they were not concerned with the project losing momentum or progress while staff is out on leave.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Goralnik provided an update on the ongoing work with the EPA regarding the Miller Gulch site, including a potential expansion of the Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) to include the mine site, and an upcoming work session with EPA contractors to develop high-level design concepts ways of achieving the site's potential as a recreation, restoration, and resiliency asset for the county and watershed. He also reminded the members that the Board of Supervisors would discuss potential county actions for supporting acquisition of the site at the 10/26 Board meeting. These might include having the parcel appraised, which could support the pursuit of future grant funds for acquisition. Rosemarie Smallcombe encouraged CWG members to participate in the Board meeting by expressing their support for this action if they so chose.

8. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik