MARIPOSA COUNTY
Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES – FINAL
(approved 6/1/22)

DATE: **May 18, 2022**
TIME: **4:00 PM**
LOCATION: **TELECONFERENCE ONLY**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 4:03 PM

   Members Present: Art Baggett, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Jessica Thompson, Ralph Mendershausen, Susie Clark, Tony McDaniel, Michael Martin
   Members Absent: Tara Fouch-Moore
   Excused Absences: Wendy Brown
   Visitors:

2. **ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AB 361:**
   The group adopted a resolution in accordance with AB 361, authorizing them to meet virtually in compliance with the Brown Act.

3. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 4/4/22 MEETING:**
   The minutes were unanimously passed.

4. **DISCUSSION ON DRAFT VISION PLAN CHAPTERS:**
   Ralph Mendershausen suggested that it be made clear as to why the Planning Department took the lead on the project; Goralnik wondered if it might be effective to include that content in Chapter 1. Mendershausen suggested that both places could be appropriate to include that material.

   Sue Clark shared that she believes that the project's goals align with, and are not in conflict with, the legal requirements for the federal agencies vis a vis the Wild and Scenic River. Goralnik said he would share a draft outline of Chapter 1, where that background is anticipated to be included.

   Goralnik provided an overview on the contents of Chapter 1. Art Baggett suggested getting more language on the concepts of overuse from a current initiative in the Eastern Sierra. Michael Martin provided some guidance on how to make the review process easier, including clearer page numbering and other administrative considerations.

   Ralph Mendershausen suggested providing links to the agency Wild and Scenic Plans in the document. He also endorsed including the agency Wild and Scenic Plans in the appendix.

   Though the group did not vote to formally adopt the draft of Chapter 2 as completed, they agreed that the chapter was substantively complete, and that no additional work was needed on that chapter prior to submitting it to the Board of Supervisors with the rest of the document (when subsequent chapters are completed) for adoption. Staff indicated that they would turn their focus to producing drafts of the other chapters.

5. **UPDATE ON DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL UPSTREAM ROUTE ALTERNATIVES:**

Art Baggett indicated that he has significant buy-in from El Portal and Foresta communities on potential upstream alternatives that bypass El Portal and Foresta. Pending additional discussions, Art anticipates bringing additional alternatives to the CWG for further engagement.

6. **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON MILLER GULCH PROPERTY:**
This item was tabled for a later meeting.

7. **REVIEW AND RE-CONFIRM FUTURE MEETING DATES:**
The group confirmed the previously adopted meeting dates, and decided to schedule an additional hybrid style meeting for June 1 from 4-5:30, with the in-person component being in the Planning Department offices.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Goralnik reminded the committee that there is one vacancy on the committee. Similarly, Michael Martin noted that, with Tom Sweeney's retirement there is an additional ad hoc position on the committee.

   Michael Martin reminded the CWG members to participate in Mariposa County Trails Day, on June 4th at the Arts Park.

9. **ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned the meeting at 5:23 PM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik