



## City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Approval of Resolution No. 26-04 Support for a Potential Bear Yuba Land Trust Purchase of Land.

**CEQA:** Not a project

**Recommendation:** That Council approve Resolution No.26-04 supporting the Bear Yuba Land Trust's potential purchase of potential open space/recreational property.

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**Prepared by:** Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

**Council Meeting Date:** 03/10/2026

**Date Prepared:** 03/04/2026

**Agenda:** Consent

**Background Information:** The Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) has approached the City regarding a unique and time-sensitive opportunity to acquire approximately 135 acres of forested land containing streams, mature trees, and natural habitat for permanent preservation. Properties of this size and proximity to the City are rare, and acquisition would represent a significant long-term investment in open space conservation, recreational access, and wildfire resilience for the Grass Valley community.

Through discussions with BYLT staff, several shared goals have been identified for the property, including preservation of forested open space, expansion of passive recreational opportunities, and development of an interconnected trail system. The property presents a unique opportunity to expand and enhance the City's existing trail network, with the potential to create meaningful trail connections to Empire Mine State Park and other nearby recreational areas. These connections would improve public access to natural areas, promote healthy outdoor activity, and create long-term recreational benefits for residents and visitors.

In addition to its recreational and conservation value, the property offers important public safety benefits. The site could support development of a shaded fuel break between the Cedar Ridge neighborhood and the Bennett Street area, helping reduce wildfire risk approaching the City from the south. This type of strategic vegetation management can play a meaningful role in community wildfire protection. The effectiveness of this effort could potentially be expanded through future coordination with California State Parks to reduce fuel loading on adjacent Empire Mine State Park lands.

While BYLT will serve as the lead agency for acquisition, the property's location, wildfire protection value, and trail connectivity opportunities make this project of significant interest to the City. Preservation of this land would represent a lasting investment in the community's quality of life, environmental stewardship, and public safety – creating a legacy asset that future generations will benefit from and enjoy.

Staff is requesting City Council support through the attached resolution to assist BYLT in pursuing acquisition of the property. The resolution expresses the City's intent to partner with BYLT, as appropriate, by providing support services such as grant writing assistance, in-kind services including vegetation management and mastication, and other technical or operational assistance that may be beneficial during the acquisition and early stewardship phases.

Future City financial participation, if any, would depend on grant availability or other funding sources and would be subject to separate City Council review and approval. Adoption of the resolution does not commit the City to any specific financial obligation but demonstrates the City's support for preserving this important property and pursuing a rare opportunity to expand open space, enhance wildfire protection, and improve recreational connectivity within the community.

**Council Goals/Objectives:** This proposed action executes portions of the work tasks towards achieving / maintaining the Strategic Plan goal to improve the parks and trails systems.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no immediate fiscal impact with this proposed action.

**Funds Available:** N/A

**Account #:** N/A

**Reviewed by:** City Manager

**Attachments:**

- Map of the property
- Resolution No. 26-04

