



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Letter of Support - Letter of Support for Bear Yuba Land Trust's Acquisition of Cedar Ridge Preserve

CEQA: Not a Project.

Recommendation: That the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for Bear Yuba Land Trust's application to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program for the acquisition of the 140-acre Cedar Ridge Preserve.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: July 8, 2025

Date Prepared: July 2, 2025

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) is pursuing a grant through the State of California's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program to acquire and permanently protect the 140-acre Cedar Ridge Preserve, located directly adjacent to the Empire Mine State Historic Park. Empire Mine, located on the eastern edge of Grass Valley, is a popular 853-acre public park offering year-round recreational opportunities for hikers, bikers, equestrians, and runners. It also serves as critical open space and wildlife habitat in close proximity to Grass Valley neighborhoods.

The Cedar Ridge Preserve property provides a rare opportunity to expand this regional recreational and ecological resource. The site includes approximately 0.5 miles of South Wolf Creek, a tributary to the Bear River, and features diverse and sensitive habitats, including riparian corridors, black oak woodlands, and mixed-conifer forest.

BYLT's proposed acquisition would formalize and enhance existing community trail usage, expand regional trail connectivity, and permanently protect key wildlife corridors and watershed lands. It would also preserve open space that benefits the health and quality of life of local residents. BYLT has a strong record of successful land conservation in Nevada County, and their stewardship ensures both ecological preservation and public access. This acquisition aligns with the City's values of environmental sustainability, access to outdoor recreation, and regional collaboration.

Supporting BYLT's efforts through a formal letter of support strengthens their application for EEM Program funding and demonstrates the City's commitment to enhancing open space and quality of life for residents.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #5 - High Performance Government and Quality Service.

Fiscal Impact: At this time, there is no budgetary impact on the City's budget for this item.

Funds Available: N/A

Account #: N/A

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager

Attachments: Draft Letter of Support