



## CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

125 East Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tim Kiser, City Manager

### Council Members

Hilary Hodge, Mayor  
Haven Caravelli, Vice Mayor  
Jan Arbuckle  
Tom Ivy  
Joe Bonomolo

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July 8, 2025

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Letter of Support for Bear Yuba Land Trust's Acquisition of Cedar Ridge Preserve**

Dear EEMP Review Committee,

On behalf of City of Grass Valley, I am writing to express our strong support for Bear Yuba Land Trust's (BYLT) proposed acquisition of the 140-acre Cedar Ridge Preserve, with funding through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program.

This strategic acquisition represents a rare and critical opportunity to preserve land adjacent to Empire Mine State Historic Park—an 853-acre gem on the edge of Grass Valley that provides year-round public recreation for hikers, bikers, equestrians, and runners. In addition to its significant recreational value, Empire Mine serves as a vital refuge for wildlife and offers important trail connectivity between neighborhoods, open space, and public lands.

The Cedar Ridge Preserve lies directly adjacent to Empire Mine and would add essential habitat and recreational value to the park. The property includes approximately 0.5 miles of South Wolf Creek, a tributary to the Bear River, and protects diverse habitats including riparian corridors, black oak woodlands, and mixed-conifer forest. Securing this land in fee title would not only conserve sensitive ecosystems but also formalize existing community trail use and enhance long-term access for outdoor recreation.

We commend BYLT for their leadership and collaborative approach to land conservation in Nevada County. Their stewardship and commitment to public access make them an ideal organization to carry out this acquisition and manage the property for both ecological and community benefit.

The City of Grass Valley strongly supports this effort and urges full funding of this project through the EEM Program. Protecting Cedar Ridge Preserve is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand regional open space, safeguard wildlife habitat, and provide equitable access to nature for present and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hilary Hodge  
Mayor, City of Grass Valley  
On behalf of the Grass Valley City Council