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**SUBJECT: Request to Withdraw Grant for Folsom Promenade**

Dear Governor, Secretary, Directors & Chairs:

We respectfully request that the competitive grant [Project Reference Number R81765-0] awarded by the State Natural Resources Agency to the City of Folsom, for \$757,800, from Proposition 50, for a recreation trail along Lake Natoma, in Sacramento County, be withdrawn because the City's application included significant claims which were not true, giving this project an unfair advantage against other applicants.

The City of Folsom applied to the State Natural Resources Agency for a grant from the California River Parkway Grant Program in October, 2007. The originally proposed features included a 2600-foot long concrete pedestrian promenade, along the south side of Lake Natoma, from the Old Folsom Powerhouse to the Folsom Historic District, an access ramp to the lake, a floating dock, an overlook platform, tables and benches, and two interpretative kiosks. State Parks is the "recreation operator" on these federally-owned lands.

There are two major claims that are not true. First, the application claimed that it had the support of State Parks. A subsequent State Parks memo said that State Parks had declined to support the project because of serious concerns. Second, the application also claimed that a number of "interested" organizations had supported the project." Some of these organizations (1) had never been asked to support the project, and/or (2) had never agreed to support the project.

When the state makes competitive grants, it is essential that the process be as fair as possible, largely because requests typically far exceed the available funding and because the differences between successful and unsuccessful projects are usually small. Where an applicant makes claims that appear to be knowingly not true, the applicant should not be rewarded -- by being allowed to keep the grant.

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From: Save the American River Association (SARA)  
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To be fair, we should note that the Save the American River Association (SARA) is opposed to this project. In our fifty years of supporting and defending the American River and Parkway, we have endeavored to maintain the American River Parkway primarily for open-space and trails. This pedestrian promenade project would provide a more urban, city-oriented recreational experience within the Parkway. There are several other projects within the Parkway that we would support.

## CLAIMS THAT ARE UNTRUE

### CLAIMS RELATED TO STATE PARKS:

After the Folsom application was submitted, Scott Nakaji, Folsom Sector Superintendent for California State Parks, wrote a memo (attached) on the project and presented this memo the Folsom City Manager on January 3, 2008.

- (1) The grant application (attached, page 6) said that the State Parks had agreed to be a partner with the city on this project. State Parks did not so agree.
- (2) The application (attached, page 12) said that the City had "an agreement" with State Parks. According to the memo, "State Parks has made no commitments to the City to proceed with this project."
- (3) The application (attached, page 7) characterizes State Parks as "... one of the biggest supporters of the project." The application (attached, page 14) says that, "... State Parks ... (is) ... in support of the project." According to the memo, the department withheld providing a letter of support (requested by the city) because the department was 'not satisfied with the resolution of numerous issues.'
- (4) The application (attached, page 6) states that, "The City and California State Parks have been working together for many years to complete this segment of trail." According to the memo, this is not the segment of trail that the City and State Parks have been working together on for years."
- (5) The application (attached, page 8) said that the project's boat launch area "will provide a service that is not currently available on the south side of Lake Natoma." The memo says this is incorrect as State Parks operates the Willow Creek boat launch, which is located with the City on the south side of Lake Natoma.

### CLAIMS RELATED TO ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT:

- (1) The application (attached, page 6) stated that the Sacramento Tree Foundation had agreed to be one of two non-profit "partners" in the

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project and would be “providing a majority of the plant material needed for the habitat restoration/native plant re-establishment portion of the project. They will also be the lead in organizing the volunteer planting activities.”

According to Colleen Cadwaller, Development Services Director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, the foundation was not asked by the city to be a “partner” and did not agree to be the lead in organizing volunteer planting activities.

(2) The application (attached, page 7) says the following organizations support the project, but, in fact, these organizations did not act to support the project:

Sacramento Tree Foundation  
Colleen Cadwaller, Development Services Director: (916) 924-8733

California Native Plant Society  
Mary Maret: (916) 961-4057

Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates  
Lea Brooks, Immediate Past President: (916) 444-6600

Friends of the Folsom Powerhouse  
Don Thomas, President: (916) 984-3123

In conclusion, the City of Folsom made false claims in its application to this competitive state program, undoubtedly creating a significant advantage for its application over other applications. Had the Folsom application made known to the Natural Resources Agency that State Parks had declined to support the project in an area where State Parks is the operator, it is hard to imagine that this application would have been awarded a grant. Where it is determined that an applicant has made false claims, the applicant should not be rewarded by being allowed to keep the grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Warren V. Truitt, President  
Save the American River Association (SARA)

C: City of Folsom  
Sacramento Bee