



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Select Project Nominations for San Joaquin Council of Governments' One Voice Trip

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2008

PREPARED BY City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Select the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project and Interchange Reconstruction at State Route 99/Harney Lane as the City of Lodi's nominations for the San Joaquin Council of Governments' One Voice trip and authorize City Manager to submit Local Jurisdiction Endorsement Form.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The San Joaquin Council of Governments (COG) is developing regional priorities in preparation for the annual "One Voice" lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., from April 26-30, 2009. The One Voice trip is an opportunity for all jurisdictions in the county to work cooperatively to secure federal funds. There is no guarantee of success. Because of the Council reorganization meeting on December 3, this is the first opportunity staff has had to bring the recommended selection to the City Council before COG's December 18 nomination deadline. The invitation to nominate projects was not received by the City until November 21.

SJCOG invited the City to submit two projects for consideration: One regional transportation project and one local project, transportation or otherwise. The grant request is limited to \$5 million, as noted in the COG evaluation criteria checklist.

City staff recommends the City Council select the Interchange Reconstruction at Harney Lane and State Route **99** as its regional transportation project nomination and the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project as its local project nomination. Even if COG agrees with Lodi's nominations and pursues these projects, it may not result in funding.

The City Council has been aware of the eroding riverbank in the Nature Area near Pigs Lake. Preliminary estimates put the cost of a permanent repair at \$1,978,845, including the value of staff time. On Nov. 12, 2008, the City submitted a request to the State of California for \$1,861,970 in grant funding through the River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration programs. Public agencies and community groups submitted more than 100 applications for the \$40 million available statewide for those grants. Because the City has not identified any other funding source for the permanent repair, and because a riverbank failure would result in the **loss** of a highly valued City and regional resource, staff recommends the Council choose the Project as its top priority and request funding of \$1,861,970.

For the regional transportation project nomination, staff has selected reconstruction of the Hamey Lane interchange at State Route 99. Reconstruction of the interchange, which has an outdated design and

APPROVED: _____


Blair King, City Manager

poor operating conditions, is estimated to cost \$30 million. The interchange is important to the local and regional economy as critical linkage of the adjacent Blue Shield office complex and future retail commercial uses at Reynolds Ranch. Most of the required right-of-way has already been acquired, and design is scheduled to begin in 2009. A \$5 million grant from the federal government would be matched with \$25 million in local funding.

The City Council last year chose the interchange as its No. 2 priority project.

FISCAL IMPACT: Award of funding for the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project would protect the General Fund from being used to pay for future emergency repairs; award of funding for the Harney/99 interchange would free transportation funds for other needed projects.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Not applicable


Blair King
City Manager

Attachments: Applications.

2009 SJCOG "One Voice" Project Application

Please answer the questions below in as much detail as possible.

Requesting Entity: City of Lodi
221 W. Pine Street / P.O. Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95240

Contact Person: Blair King, City Manager, (209) 333-6700, bking@lodi.gov

Priority: ___1___ of ___2___ requests

Project Name: Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project

Project Location: 1101 W. Turner Road, Lodi, Calif.

Description of the Project:

A quickly eroding riverbank threatens to flood a 58-acre nature preserve that is one of the last of its kind: a riparian habitat within a Central Valley city's limits that provides a refuge for deer, migrating birds and the residents of the Lodi region who use the park for education, recreation and quiet contemplation.

At one point, a mere 16 feet of riverbank separates the Mokelumne River from Pigs Lake, a thriving shallow wetland in the low point in the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area. More than half the bank has eroded since tree logs and root wads were cabled and placed on the bank in a low-cost repair effort in 1994.

The Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project seeks to reinforce a 500-foot stretch of riverbank with 15,500 tons of rock fill and riprap, topped by a riverbank trail and native vegetation above the waterline. A new trail section, 300 feet long, would extend the Nature Area's existing 1.14-mile trail system to the new 500-foot riverbank trail, all of which would be handicap accessible.

The erosion is easily seen from a foot trail at the river's edge. Roots dangle through a slab of soil that extends over the water rippling below. Soon, that slab will join another chunk of dirt nearby that has fallen from the bank, its well-defined edges indicating its recent collapse. When the last sliver of bank fails, the Mokelumne River will flow into Pigs Lake and eventually reach a level that will leave much of the Nature Area covered with up to five feet of water, destroying the 58 acres' use not only for the public, but for wildlife and the plants that would not survive standing water.

Once funds are identified, construction is expected to begin in the winter of the following year, at the completion of the Woodbridge Irrigation District's seasonal irrigation needs. The District controls river levels in the area through its Woodbridge Dam. Construction is not expected to take more than three months.

Total Project Cost: \$1,978,845

Amount Requested: \$1,861,970

Matching Funds: The City has \$116,875 in matching funds and has requested \$1,861,970 in grant funding from the State of California through the Proposition 84 River Parkways and Urban

Streams Restoration grant programs. Because only \$40 million is available statewide, the City's chances of receiving its full grant request is remote. Grant awards through the Proposition 84 programs are expected to be announced in late spring 2009.

Prior Federal Funding History: This is the first attempt at federal funding for the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project.

Project Justification:

The Project will preserve recreation in a major portion of a City of Lodi park that receives more than 200,000 visitors a year, many of whom use the Nature Area for school field trips, interpretive tours, bird watching and other forms of recreation. A successful project would ensure the public will continue to have access to riparian habitat in a region where most riverfront is privately owned. The California State Parks Planning Division released a study on Oct. 28, 2008 stating, "Regrettably, Central Valley residents do not have the outdoor recreation opportunities that they deserve."

The Project has widespread community support, with letters endorsing the Project coming from the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee, the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District, the Sandhill Crane Festival, State Sen. Dave Cogdill, the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, Lodi Unified School District's science curriculum specialist, former State Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi, the San Joaquin Audubon Society, Tree Lodi, the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission, San Joaquin County Supervisor Ken Vogel and other citizens. They recognize that the loss of the Nature Area would be a blow to a rare recreational opportunity in this region.

Possible Funding Sources: Up to \$1,861,970 in State of California Proposition 84 bond funds requested.

Additional Documents List (If applicable): Letters of support, photographs of site conditions and uses.

Congressional District(s) and Member(s): District 11, U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney.

County or Counties: San Joaquin

LOWER
MOKELUMNE
RIVER WATERSHED
STEWARDSHIP
STEERING
COMMITTEE

November 6, 2008

Committee Members

*Lange Twins Estates
Vino Farms
Mohr-Fry Ranches
Rossini Farms
Lodi Lake Docents
Friends of Lodi Lake
Sierra Club
San Joaquin County
Resource Conservation
District
San Joaquin Farm Bureau
Federation
California Farm Bureau
Federation
Woodbridge Irrigation District
East Bay Municipal Utility
District
Lodi Woodbridge Winegrape
Commission
Western Ag Appraisals
Woodbridge Golf and Country
Club
U. C. Cooperative Extension
City of Lodi
City of Lodi Public Works
City of Lodi Parks and
Recreation
San Joaquin County Office of
Education
San Joaquin County
Agricultural Commissioner
San Joaquin County
Department of Public Works
San Joaquin County Mosquito
and Vector Control District
California Department of Fish
and Game*

Ad hoc Members

*Marden Wilbur
Murphy Creek Restoration
Project
California Native Plant
Society
Sloughhouse Resource
Conservation District/
Cosumnes River Task Force
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers*

*Choir: Brad Kissler
Vice-Chair: Aaron Lange*

*Watershed Coordinator:
John Brodie*

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee has been working to help the community improve the Watershed since 1999. The improvements proposed to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area are vital to the continued improvement to the watershed, and can be a critical educational tool for information about erosion control, non-native invasive species, and overall watershed stewardship.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments. Even more rare is that the area is open to the public.

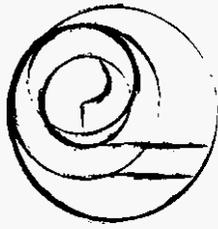
Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,



Brad Kissler,
Chair

3422 W. Hammer Lane, Ste. A
Stockton, CA 95219
www.sjcrd.org
Email: info@sjcrd.org



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION**
D I S T R I C T

3422 West Hammer Lane Suite A Stockton, CA 95219 (209) 472-7127 Ext. 125
WWW.SJCRCDD.ORG

November 6, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I **am** writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The San Joaquin county Resource Conservation District (SJCRCDD) oversees the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee. The Committee has been working to help the community improve the Watershed since 1999. The improvements proposed to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area are vital to the continued improvement of the watershed, and can be a critical educational tool regarding erosion control, non-native invasive species, and overall watershed stewardship.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the SJCRCDD urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

Bill Koster,
President

Officers and Directors

William Koster (President), Molly Watkins (Vice President), Jack Hamm (Treasurer),
Richard Rodriguez, John Thoming, Patrick Connolly, John Herrick, Diego Olagaray, Marden Wilber
Associate Directors Ralph Lucchetti, Rogene Reynolds, Brad Lange

November 3, 2008



Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the City of Lodi's application for California River Parkways and urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

Though writing on behalf of the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association, for which I volunteer as president of the board of directors, my concern for the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area touches on both my professional life and personal interests.

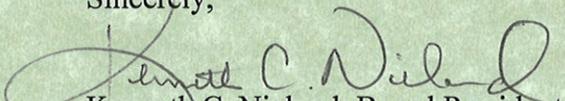
The Sandhill Crane Festival, now in its 12th year, provides tours of the riparian habitat of the Nature Area as part of its annual event. Each year, when visitors from other communities see the wonderful resource we have there, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to enjoy this special place for both people and wildlife.

As director of a public zoo serving the San Joaquin County area, I am strongly interested in promoting the stewardship of nature, whether locally, regionally or internationally. The Lodi Lake Park Nature Area provides experiences for area families and students that advance their knowledge of the world around us and, at the same time, encourage an environmental stewardship ethic. On a personal level, my wife and I enjoy walking in the Nature Area, canoeing along its banks and observing its rich diversity of plants and animals so very close to home.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Nieland, Board President
Lodi Sandhill Crane Association

Lodi Sandhill Crane Association Post Office Box 1616 Lodi, California 95241
www.cranefestival.com

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4014
FAX (916) 327.3523

SENATOR.COGDILL@SEN.CA.GOV
WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/COGDILL

California State Senate



DAVE COGDILL
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES

4974 E. CLINTON WAY, SUITE 100
FRESNO, CA 93727
TEL (559) 253-7122
FAX (559) 253-7127

1308 W. MAIN ST., SUITE C
RIPON, CA 95366
TEL (209) 599-8540
FAX (209) 599-8547

October 29, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants. These grants are vital to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The Lodi Lake Park Nature Area is an important resource not only to the people of my district but for many residents of the northern San Joaquin Valley because of its natural beauty and recreational value. With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity, a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, I urge the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project. If you have any questions about my support of this project, please call me or my Ripon Deputy District Director, Bob Wiedman, at 209-599-8540.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Cogdill".

Senator Dave Cogdill
Senator, 14th District

DEC:rlw



October 29,2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I **am** writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkway and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

My group, the Arbor Senior Apartments, has been enjoying the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area for many years. Our residents walk at the lake twice a week and look forward to the outing.

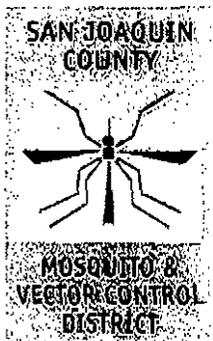
With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the Arbor Senior Apartments urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

Patricia Siegfried, Manager
Arbor Senior Apartments
115 Louie Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

October 29,2008



October 22, 2008

COPY

Resources Agency
 Bonds and Grants Unit
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
 Sacramento, CA 95614

JOHN R. STROH
 MANAGER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

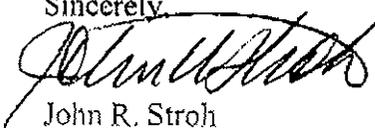
- MICHAEL MANNA
PRESIDENT
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
- FRANCIS CROEN
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SECRETARY
CITY OF ESCALON
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CITY OF LODI
- MARIO "MJ" GRAVINA
CITY OF LATHROP
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CITY OF TRACY
- JACK SNYDER
CITY OF MANTECA
- MARC WARMERDAM
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
- CHRISTOPHER K. ELEY
LEGAL ADVISOR

To whom it may concern,

The San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (the District) is writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from flooding.

The District has worked with the City of Lodi re: the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area for many years on several projects, including management of exotic weeds, performing mosquito control and prevention, and assisting the Nature Area Advisory Committee with environmental studies. Because of numerous existing aquatic sites within the nature area and park that produce disease-transmitting mosquitoes, we are quite concerned about conditions that could increase the amount of standing water and ultimately contribute to increased mosquito development. As the riverbank between the Mokelumne River and the nature area erodes, the threat of localized flooding becomes imminent. Localized flooding will undoubtedly contribute to seepage water entering low-lying lands within the forested area, creating stagnant water conditions that will produce mosquitoes, thus increasing the potential spread of West Nile virus and other endemic mosquito-borne diseases to residents, visitors and wildlife.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the District urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

 John R. Stroh
 Manager

LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Department
1305 E. Vine St.
Lodi, CA. 95242

October 22,2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter in strong support of the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from flooding.

Since 1986, Lodi Unified School District has worked in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department of Lodi to develop, manage, and educationally utilize the nature area connected to Lodi Lake Park along the Mokelumne River. Cooperative efforts have included formalization of a self-guided trail with 22 interpreted stops, organization of a docent program that has been in continuous service for the past 20+ years, production of a 105 page Nature Study Manual utilized by docents, teachers, and the general public, and assistance in the general management of the 58 acre nature area in the riparian corridor along the Mokelumne River.

In addition to its value educationally to the school districts in the surrounding area, and its educational and recreational value to the citizens in this part of the central valley, the Nature Area on the eastern side of Lodi Lake Park is vital to the wildlife of the area. It has been identified by the San Joaquin Audubon chapter as the premier area within the county to observe the widest range of birds and other wildlife. It is a part of the increasingly dwindling riparian corridor along which migratory animals travel between their breeding grounds and wintering grounds. And, the Lodi Lake Nature Area hosts a wide variety of habitats, including riverbank, meadow, thicket, streamside, riparian forest, and Pig's Lake - a vibrant pond and Wood Duck breeding area / nursery.

The integrity of Pig's Lake, and surrounding Nature Area, is in imminent danger of flooding due to increasing riverbank erosion. Local funding is not available for a long-term solution. I strongly urge the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Most sincerely,



Jay Bell
Science Curriculum Specialist
Lodi Unified School District
1305 E. Vine St.
Lodi, CA 95242
209.331.7019

VICE CHAIR:
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH

Assembly
California Legislature

ALAN NAKANISHI
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249.0010
(916) 319.2010
FAX (916) 319-2110
DISTRICT OFFICE
218 WEST PINE STREET
LODI, CA 95240
(209) 333-5330
FAX (209) 333-5333

October 21, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The Lodi Lake Park Nature Area is an important resource not only to the people of my district, but for many residents of the northern San Joaquin Valley. I know this first-hand as a Lodi resident and the city's former mayor.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, I urge the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan S. Nakanishi".

ALAN NAKANISHI
Assemblyman, 10th District



SAN JOAQUIN
AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O.Box 7755 • Stockton, CA 95267
www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

November 11, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkway and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

My group, the San Joaquin Audubon Society, has been enjoying the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area for 40 years. Our club has beginning birding trips to the Nature Area monthly. We also do bird surveys in the area including Christmas bird counts.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the San Joaquin Audubon Society urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerre Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jerre Murphy, President
San Joaquin Audubon Society



TREE LODI

October 22, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's applications for California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

My group, Tree Lodi, has been enjoying the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area since 2006.

As an Urban Forestry Foundation, Tree Lodi has been involved with several tree projects within the park and nature area. We have assisted the Parks Division with tree planting projects, tree maintenance and Arbor Day activities. Lodi Lake Park and its riparian forest is a great asset for our citizens now and generations to come.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58-acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the (group name) urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Sincerely,

Joyce Harmon, President
Tree Lodi, Inc.
19 Pinewood Ct.
Lodi, CA 95242

October 24, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's application for a California River Parkway Grant to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

My group, the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents, has been leading tours in the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area for over 22 years. This community based effort has over the years, led thousands of school groups on interpretive tours through the 58 acre riparian forest, explaining to the children the ecological value of the wild life corridor. The docents have always stressed the importance of people's responsibility for the environment, as good stewards and managers. The present situation at Pig's Lake is an example of how nature can best be served through citizens' action: restoration and repair of the levee is now called for!

Educational tours aside, the Lodi Lake Nature Area attracts more than 200,000 casual visitors to the area, mainly because of the beauty along its wheelchair accessible nature trails. The San Joaquin Audubon Society lists the park as the premier birding spot in San Joaquin County, with many of the species found in the park using the forest cover for nesting and rearing their young. Loss of this precious habitat would certainly be a loss for the animals that depend on it for survival, but also would be a loss for the many people who visit the area and enjoy the parkland for recreation, education and exercise.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the City of Lodi's request.

Sincerely,



Kathy Grant

Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Since 1988
841 Cardinal St., Lodi, CA 95240



LODI • WOODBRIDGE
WINEGRAPE COMMISSION

October 23, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

Dear Resources Agency,

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's application for a California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grant to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The Lodi Winegrape Commission (LWC) has worked with the City of Lodi for many years as co-members of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Committee, which is dedicated to the sustainable management of the river. Lodi Lake Park Nature Area is a critical component of the Lower Mokelumne River system. Furthermore, in partnership with the City, each May LWC presents a very large wine and food festival at Lodi Lake Park Nature area and the health of this nature area is important to the success of the festival.

The City of Lodi, with the help of LWC, is considering embarking on a Sustainable Lodi program which would put it at the forefront of California cities in creating a long-term strategy for ensuring a healthy community for its residents. A stable Lodi Lake Park Nature Area would be an important part of the City's plans. With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58 acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, the Lodi Winegrape Commission strongly urges the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Park Protection Project.

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Ohmart, PhD
Sustainable Winegrowing Director

Board of Supervisors
222 East Weber Ave
Courthouse, Room 701
Stockton, California 95202



KEN VOGEL
Representing the Fourth District

Telephone: (209) 468-3113
Fax: (209) 468-3694
Denise Warmerdam
Legislative Assistant

October 20, 2008

Resources Agency
Bonds and Grants Unit
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA. 05614

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the City of Lodi's application for a California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grant to protect the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area from inevitable flooding.

The Lodi Lake Park Nature Area is an important resource not only to the people of my district, but for many residents of the northern San Joaquin Valley because of its natural beauty and recreational value.

With more and more of the riverbank crumbling each year, there is little time left to protect this California rarity – a 58 acre riparian forest that provides habitat to a wide range of plants and animals rarely seen in urban environments.

Because of the looming threat to the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the lack of local funding available for a long-term solution, I urge the Resources Agency to fully fund the Lodi Lake Nature Area Protection Project.

Should you have any questions regarding my support of **this** vital project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 468-3113. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Vogel".

Ken Vogel
Supervisor
District Four

Riverbank erosion Breach is only a matter of time



Pictures of the bank near Pigs Lake, taken last winter after Wood-bridge Irrigation District lowered its dam, shows the extent of erosion and why this area needs repairs soon.



Riverbank erosion

Breach is only a matter of time

Picture at top, taken last winter by the engineering firm of Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck, shows the eroded Mokelumne River bank near Pigs Lake in the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area. Picture at bottom shows roughly the same area with summer water levels.



The eroding riverbank: What's at stake



Visitors to the Lodi Lake Park NatureArea enjoy walking on well-maintained trails of decomposed granite (top), from which they can view wildlife. These deer (left), are grazing in a part of the NatureArea that will eventually be inundated with up to three feet of standing water if the riverbank is not repaired.

The eroding riverbank: What's at stake

These pictures were taken in the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area within a 30-minute period on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

If the riverbank is not repaired, this riparian environment rarely seen near an urban setting will be lost its many users, which includes seniors, disabled persons, families, school children and others.



The eroding riverbank

Once the bank is breached, the Nature Area will be lost to public use



The eroding riverbank: More Views



Views from the north (top photo) and west (bottom) show how riverbank erosion is threatening to break through to Pigs Lake and inundate much of the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area



2009 SJCOG “One Voice” Project Application

Please answer the questions below in as much detail as possible.

Requesting Entity: City of Lodi
221 W. Pine Street / P.O. Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95240

Contact Person: Blair King, City Manager, (209) 333-6700, bking@lodi.gov

Priority: 2 of 2 requests

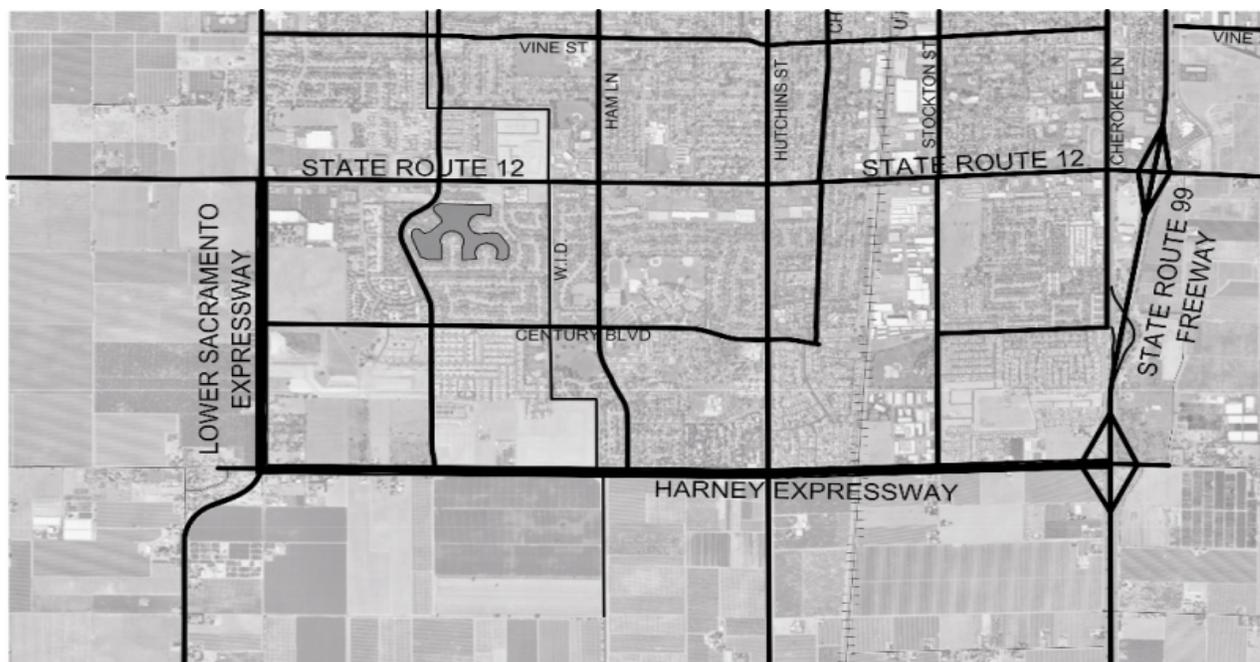
Project Name: Interchange Reconstruction at State Route 99 / Harney Lane.

Project Location: Harney Lane at State Route 99, Lodi, Calif.

Description of the Project:

Reconstruction of the interchange at State Route 99 and Harney Lane is a needed improvement to the SR 99 trade corridor and the regional circulation plan. In recent months, Blue Shield of California has opened a regional customer call center at the intersection’s southeast corner, employing more than 900 people, with the potential for another 600. Also, 75 acres of land, just south of Harney Lane and west of State Route 99, has been zoned for future commercial purposes. Substantial sales tax generation is expected from the retail commercial uses at this location.

The \$30 million project will complete the construction of this State Route 12 bypass route and defer the very expensive widening of SR 12 from 4 to 6 lanes for many years to come. Over \$6 million in local funding has already been spent on widening of the bypass route with the remaining locally funded \$6 million in improvements scheduled to be completed by 2010.



The existing interchange is an outdated design with poor operating conditions resulting in a Level of Service E condition. Advance planning at the local level has already secured most of

the required right of way. The Project Study Report and Project Report are in preparation with design scheduled to begin in 2009.



Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in 2010 and all of the requested appropriation will be committed to the construction phase of the project. Additional funding will be provided by Regional and local development impact fees, local sales tax transportation funds, and the State Transportation Program.

The project is regionally significant in that it links the two regional expressway routes of Lower Sacramento Road and Harney Lane to the freeway system at State Route 99. The combination of these expressway and interchange facilities create the functional equivalent to a State Route 12 bypass, thereby, improving the level of service on that state route and extending the acceptable operation for potentially a decade or longer.

The project is important to the local and regional economy as a critical linkage of adjacent business office and rental commercial uses to the State Highway system.

Total Project Cost: \$30 million

Amount Requested: \$5 million

Matching Funds: Funding provided through Measure K Renewal (Local Sales Tax Measure), Regional and Local Traffic Impact Fees, State Transportation Program Funds

Prior Federal Funding History: The City made the same \$5 million request through the 2008 One Voice trip, but was unsuccessful in securing federal funds.

Project Justification:

Appropriations for this project will be 100% committed to construction. The funds will be matched to create a bypass to State Route 12. A Park 'N Ride lot is included in the project as one of many air quality enhancements associated with the project and consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan and the region's Congestion Management Plan. Substantial regional

economic benefit will derive from the project in the form of sales tax revenues that will be used to fund other regionally important transportation projects.

Budget Breakdown and Total Cost:

Total Project Cost:	\$30 million
FY09 Request:	\$ 5 million
Local Match:	\$25 million

Additional Documents List (If applicable):

Congressional District(s) and Member(s): District 11, U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney.

County or Counties: San Joaquin