

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
DRAFT STAFF REPORT

**Date:** May 18, 2010  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Presentation By:** George Musallam, Public Works Director

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**Subject:** Adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Feather River Parkway: Willow Island Recreation project.  
**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.  
**Fiscal Impact:** Adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will have no fiscal impact; however, failure to adopt the IS/MND will delay the project and potentially jeopardize the Grant funding.

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**Background:**

In 2002, the City of Yuba City completed the Feather River Parkway Strategic Plan in an effort to utilize approximately 172 acres of City property referred to as "Willow Island" along the Feather River north of the Hwy. 20/10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

Since November 2006, the City of Yuba City Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the Sutter County Resource Conservation District (SCRCD) to obtain funding (River Parkways Grant Program – Proposition 50) to implement the Feather River Parkway Strategic Plan.

The City of Yuba City was granted \$1,400,000 from the Resources Agency's California River Parkways Grant Program to fund the first phase (approx. 69 acres) of the Willow Island Project and is in the process of obtaining an additional \$1,716,000 for Phase II funding.

The Project would implement recreational improvements and convert the Willow Island area into a river front park. With design currently at 80% completion, the Project improvements would include pedestrian and cycling trails, public parking, a pavilion, picnic areas, field sport areas, boardwalk, and beach landing. In addition, the Project would include public educational displays and interpretive signage to describe the setting of the viewable habitat, i.e., habitat function, wildlife species, fisheries, the restoration process, regional and state history, the river's significance to the California State Water Project, and its functionality.

**Environmental Determination:**

To meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City enlisted the services of Domenichelli & Associates and their sub-consultant, EN2, to prepare an Initial

Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration to assess the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed project. It was determined that some environmental effects could potential occur from project implementation in the areas of biological resources; geology and soils; and hydrology. Staff and the project consultants have worked closely with all regulatory agencies involved in the permitting process including: Levee District 1, Army Corp of Engineers, CA Dept. of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Services and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Mitigation measures addressing their comments/concerns have been identified and incorporated into the project to order to reduce potential impacts.

A draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), was prepared and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH # 2010032063) on March 17, 2010 and the Sutter County Clerk on March 18, 2010. The draft IS/MND was circulated for public review March 18, 2010 through April 16, 2010. No comments were received during the public review period. Staff review comments were addressed and have been included in the final IS/MND; therefore, staff recommends the City Council of the City of Yuba City adopt the final version of the Mitigated Negative Declaration\*.

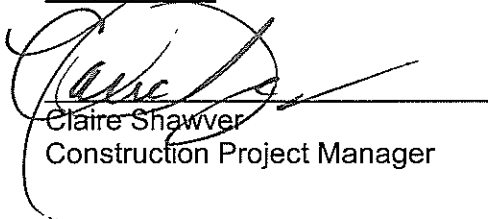
*\*The Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review in the Public Works Department.*

**Fiscal Impact:** Adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will have no fiscal impact; however, failure to adopt the IS/MND will delay the project and potentially jeopardize the funding. One of the conditions of the Grant is that the project be complete no later than May 1, 2011; therefore, given the type of construction and potential weather impacts, it is imperative that construction commence by late summer 2010.

**Alternatives:** Do not adopt the IS/MND.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Prepared By:

  
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Construction Project Manager

Submitted By:

  
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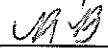
Reviewed By:

Department Head

Finance

City Attorney

Other: (Name, Title)

  
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