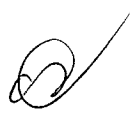




City of Nevada City

TO: Planning Commissioners

FROM: Cindy Siegfried, City Planner 

DATE: March 8, 2011

RE: **Commercial Street Boardwalk Pilot Project**

Attached is information from the Nevada City Sustainability Team (appointed by the City Council) regarding a proposed pilot program for Commercial Street. Staff has reviewed the information and provided questions and comments which are addressed in the information.

A brief summary of the boardwalk project is as follows:

The Nevada City Sustainability Team has submitted a project description for the installation of a “modular and removable boardwalk seating area” to be located within 4 existing parking spaces on Commercial Street, specifically in between Café Mecca and the Masonic Temple. The “beautification pilot project” proposes to provide opportunities to alleviate congestion on the sidewalk, add seating areas to enhance the businesses, and draw additional foot traffic to the City and this area. The goal of the project is to enhance the quality of life for the public and residents of the City.

The project will require closure of four existing parking spaces to install 50 feet of 8-foot-wide boardwalk. The boardwalk, made of recycled redwood timber, will match the existing curb and street elevations. The boardwalk will contain benches and bike racks, and vehicle protection will be provided by landscaping planters and bollards.

Attached are the City Council minutes of their meeting of February 9, 2011; their action was to direct the Team to continue to work with staff toward a final concept and return to the Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW / ACTION

After review, the Commission can make a motion finding that the project is exempt from environmental review according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and recommend approval and filing of the attached Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

1. Boardwalk Project information
2. Council meeting minutes of February 9, 2011
3. CEQA Notice of Exemption



City of Nevada City, California



To: Nevada City Council Members

CC: Nevada City Staff
Commercial Street Business Owners
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
Reinette Senum – City Council
Karin Kaufman - Landscape Designer

From: Nevada City Sustainability Team

Project Coordinator: Ray Bryars, 530-477-8725, raybryars@yahoo.com.

Project Support: Benjamin Jordan, bpjordan@gmail.com

Subject: Commercial Street Beautification - Pilot Project - City Staff Comment Support

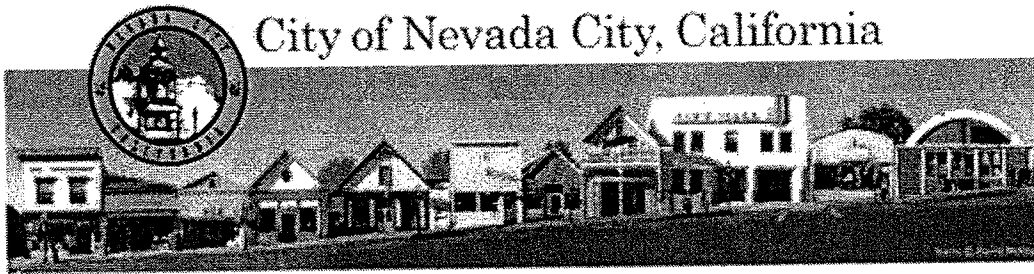
This project is a **pilot** to identify two components 1) how to use this common open space strategy locally to boost economic activity in the downtown area and 2) determine the feasibility and costs incurred by the City for implementation. The intent is to gain approval from the Council Members to work with City Staff and local businesses to minimize the costs to the city while defining the fiscal impacts and identifying the impacts to local businesses. This pilot project will help Nevada City determine if and how this economic generating, open space could integrate into our community.

At the moment the design concept that the Nevada Sustainability Team has assembled can be modified to incorporate a significant number of the Staff's comments. Detailed maintenance needs will be established and will be filled by the NC Team, Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. The project will be a trial pilot and will be made of wood and smaller planters to be easily removed with little to no impact to the existing surfaces.

After a period of one year the project will be evaluated and a report will be prepared for the Council Members. Provided this is a successful strategy there will be further planning for potentially implementing more permanent structures in various locations in the City.

There appears to be two options that could be implemented representing two tiers of effort for the local community and City Staff to allocate for the project. Currently the parking spaces used are three rather than four as shown in the attached sketch. In both options the amount of volunteer donations will be maximized from local businesses and individuals.

Option A – Reduced width of boardwalk to 7' that may eliminate the need for it to be removable along without changing the existing traffic patterns on Commercial Street and eliminating water usage.



Benefits: keeps with the may reduce the need for environmental review
Cost to City: \$1500 revenue from parking meters + DPW effort
Donations for Project: Construction, service if damaged, landscaping as needed

Option B – Included in the above changes, reduction of the overall length of the project to two parking spaces that fit within existing parking spaces, further reducing the lost revenue from each parking meter space. Other additional options would be for the deck to be used in a smaller fashion or only for a part of the pilot period.

Benefits: maintains a minimum size for a successful pilot demonstration
Cost to City: \$1,000 review from parking meters + DPW effort
Donations for Project: Construction, service if damaged, landscaping as needed

The following is additional information to support he Staff's comments:

General Comments:

1. *What are the additional costs and where is the revenue coming from?*
Hard costs to the city can be mitigated through project design leaving meter revenue loss being the largest impact.
2. *What are staff time costs and who is responsible for what duties?*
Staff time effort will be kept to a minimum such as after storm events with volunteers providing the bulk of the work.
3. *Who performs maintenance and what are the costs?*
Adjacent businesses and volunteers will keep the area generally clean in step with the existing division of activities for the sidewalk maintenance.
4. *How will the elimination of four parking spaces affect the City?*
The pilot project will eliminate 3 parking spaces that will reduce the revenue from the parking meters, which are designed to primarily keep cars from parking long periods of time. A full analysis of the City's parking meter infrastructure may identify additional revenue opportunities.
5. *Is the traffic pattern proposed effective and safe?*
The traffic pattern modification has been reviewed by engineers and traffic professionals and could be implemented in a safe manner. The project could also be maintained in the current configuration reducing project costs while maintaining setback for pedestrian safety.



City of Nevada City, California



City Manager

1. *What amount will need to be budgeted by the City?*
The City will need to reduce the expected revenue from parking meters with potentially no other budgets allocations needed.
2. *Will volunteers maintain the landscaping?*
Volunteers will maintain the landscape with the help from local business owners, chamber of commerce and local non-profits.
3. *Will additional staff be required?*
No additional staff will be required.
4. *Do the merchants and every property owner support the idea?*
A significant and ongoing effort is being made to reach all of the business and owners all of which who supported the project as a pilot. Currently building owners have not been contacted. Continued outreach and education will be provided to both business owners and building owners.
5. *Is smoking permitted? Will liquor be permitted?*
No smoking or liquor will be allowed similarly to the adjacent sidewalk.

Finance Manager

1. *Lost revenue with removal four meters that equate to \$2,000/yr.*
Revenue missed from parking spaces could be mitigated by reducing the overall scope of the project and the fiscal impact to the business district expected to far exceed the meter revenue. Additional overall parking meter management program may provide more insight on the loss of space impact.
2. *Concern with the existing City's budget, which is strained, and improvements or maintenance costs.*
Volunteer donations and labor will be utilized for the bulk of this pilot project effort to minimize the fiscal impact to the City.
3. *Concern with staff time to be devoted to the project and costs, both of which are not in the current budget.*
While minimizing required staff time the intent of the pilot is to determine how extensive, if any, this project impacts staff effort.



City of Nevada City, California



4. *Who is responsible for paying for various aspects of project, including signage, materials, removal of parking meters and upgrade of two water meters for maintenance and watering landscaping?*
Materials will be donated include signage, construction and maintenance materials and the project can be modified to include the existing parking meters in place with no improvements to the water meters until regularly schedule for upgrades.

City Attorney

1. *Potential exposure to the City's liability could be increased.*
The reduced project scope may have to be reviewed to determine the need for and EIR along with applicability of issuing a mitigated negative declaration statement. More discussion would be needed to determine minimum project scope available and total environmental review costs associated with the project. Through the reduction in the width of the pilot project and installing other pedestrian protection strategies, the risks may be mitigated to boardwalk users, similar to other areas in the City. More discussion is needed.

Police Department

1. *Concerns with roadway width and boardwalk, which leaves a smaller area for traffic. Large vehicles with wide mirrors have potential of striking pedestrians.*
The width of the project can be reduced to impact traffic much less than a parked car and increasing setback distance from traffic may increase safety
2. *Commercial Street receives deliveries on average of twice weekly and where to they park?*
No change in commercial parking spaces with majority of traffic using Pine Street commercial parking areas.
3. *New "yield" signs could result in backing traffic into the intersection of Commercial and Pine Streets.*
Existing traffic pattern may remain for a pilot with the yield being included in a permanent project configuration.
4. *Creating a park-like atmosphere and with current concerns of people congregating in this area, the question arises if this would cater to these same people.*



City of Nevada City, California



The intent is to provide a space for business patrons while helping manage problems associated with crowding on the sidewalks. This will need to be reviewed throughout the pilot.

5. *Will the boardwalk fall under the "no smoking" ordinance?*
The "no smoking" ordinance applies and will be signed appropriately.

Fire Chief

1. *Traffic flow is of concern and would prefer the section of street to be "one way" uphill.*
There may be a way to maintain the existing traffic pattern.
2. *As proposed, emergency response could potentially be delayed.*
Through the reduced width of the pilot project the impact to response time may be less than an existing parked car.

Director of Public Works

1. *Concerns of who performs repairs to boardwalk when damaged by vehicles.*
Volunteer and donated labor and materials will be secured in case of vehicular damage.
2. *Snow plowing will be difficult as snow will literally have to be picked up and moved because the street will become too narrow to plow to the side.*
This will need to be tested during the pilot project period with the reduced width helping with some of the snow removal effort by providing a space for snow storage.
3. *Moving boardwalk will be difficult requiring the backhoe and there are problems with storage.*
Removing the modular aspect of the boardwalk may be possible and will need to be coordinated, mitigating the need for moving for the potential future bicycling events.
4. *Who performs maintenance and what is the maintenance schedule?*
Local business owners will perform the general cleaning of the boardwalk and the landscaping maintenance similar to what is currently occurring along the sidewalk. Additional structural maintenance will be performed by volunteers when possible with effort by staff recorded for analysis as part of the pilot project.



City of Nevada City, California



5. *Cost breakdown provided in comments for re-striping, hose bibs, water meter work, etc.*

It may be possible to maintain the existing parking meters in place, provide minimal landscaping until meters are improved under regular replace schedules and likely striping may be reduced or eliminated.

City Engineer

1. *Suggested using plants to secure an area rather than the boardwalk. This might make expenses minimal with the pilot program.*

Landscaping plants to delineate an area is a good suggestion and may be the best option to pursue.

2. *The traffic pattern of "yielding" to traffic may be a problem.*

There may be a way to maintain the existing traffic pattern.

3. *There may be increased danger with people on the boardwalk being close to traffic.*

Additional pedestrian safety strategies may need to be included.

4. *Costs are of concern and maybe pilot program should be minimal in nature.*

NC Sustainability Team will look to work with staff to minimize costs.

Planning Department

1. *Environmental review is of concern, especially in determining impacts.*
The reduced project scope may have to be reviewed to determine the need for and EIR along with applicability of issuing a mitigated negative declaration statement. More discussion would be needed to determine minimum project scope available and total environmental review costs associated with the project.

2. *Concern with all property owners being notified of this project.*
A significant and ongoing effort is being made to reach all of the business and owners all of which who supported the project as a pilot. Currently building owners have not been contacted. Continued outreach and education will be provided to both business owners and building owners.

3. *The concern of restaurants providing outdoor dining.*
No business will be able to provide outdoor dining in lieu of more extensive business permits programs in the public right of way.



City of Nevada City, California



4. *Existing facilities – concern was raised that perhaps Robinson Plaza might be under-utilized.*

The intent is to physically bring together the public open space and businesses to increase economic activity.

Park and Recreation Supervisor

1. *Will general fund dollars be spent on this project?*
Currently the intent is to minimize and/or eliminate the fiscal impact to the General Fund.
2. *The City's 2010 summer intern presented a report to the Council on possible bike rack locations throughout the downtown.*
This project may also support the additional benches and bike racks in the downtown and is designed to increase walk-ability by extending the seating and bike rack area further away from the path of travel on the sidewalk, particularly an issue along this commercial corridor.
3. *Bike racks in the boardwalk area were included in the report and are supported for this location.*

The bike racks would be a positive contribution to this project and area of the downtown.

The Nevada Sustainability Team appreciates your review of the plan and completion of the staff comments. You are also encouraged to email any specific suggestions or concerns to Ray and Ben

Ray Bryars

530-477-8725

Benjamin Jordan

415-320-7728

CITY OF NEVADA CITY
SUMMARY MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011

NOTE: This meeting is available to view on the City's website www.nevadacityca.gov - Go to Quick Links and Click on Agendas & Minutes and find the Archived Videos in the middle of the screen. Select the meeting date and Click on Video to watch the meeting. The agenda listed directly below the video screen has bullet points which you can select to get to a specific agenda item. Please contact the Deputy City Clerk for websites assistance (530) 265-2496, ext 133.

Regular meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLLCALL

Present: Councilmembers Harris, McKay, Senum, Vice Mayor Strawser, Mayor Bergman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION: South Yuba River Citizens League - Wild & Scenic Film Festival

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - PUBLIC COMMENT (Per Government Code Section 54954.3)

Dr. Tomas Streicher, Divine Spark, 308 Main St - Stated that spring is in the air and talked about racists and white supremacy against the blacks; spoke about Martin Luther King, Jr. for the dream of equal rights for all people; homeless people are treated unfairly and demand equal rights; City Council to stop the mistreatment of homeless people.

Theresa Berliner-Mann, owner of JJ Jackson's - Stated that there's not prejudice on the streets; compassion is turning to frustration; streets are getting cluttered with garbage; customers are not comfortable; we need to keep our business a float in this very difficult economy; suggested a different area for these folks.

Joan Good, E. Broad Street - Agreed with Theresa and stated that homeless people are getting intimidating; smoking in groups; Bank of America parking lot is scary; realizes it's a life choice but it's a big problem and hopes for a solution.

Lea Davis, owner of Earth - Stated that she has been panhandled and gives money when asked; public restrooms are not okay to send customers, I send them to City Hall; hope we can come together and fix this problem.

Roi Lynn Arnold, owner of Contrast, Commercial Street - Stated that the street has become dirty; pot smoke filters in her store all day long; customers complain; talked to Police Chief and he said there's nothing he can do.

Roi Lynn Arnold's Daughter, of Contrast - Indicated that the pot smoking is a big problem; dogs are a problem (Pit Bulls) and I don't know what to do when they're around; Tomas is bringing food to the homeless but bringing many problems with it.

Adam Heilbrum, Founding Member of A.P. P.L.E. and NCTV - Stated that he supports the rethinking of downtown; suggested to rethink the public transportation system alternative to public buses, Telecare for all (mutli-mini buses); put together a working group to strategize for presentation to City Council.

Al Bulf, Nevada City - Suggested bringing the rail system to the community; announced a meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday with Ad Hoc Committee which includes Gary Tintle, Reinette Senum and himself.

Gail Damskey, 310 Nile Street - Indicated that she speaks for store owners on Commercial Street; needs to be cleaned up; asked how to bring revenue to the City to keep these businesses alive.

Public Comment - Closed

1. COUNCILMEMBERS REQUESTED ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice Mayor Strawser

- AMGEN Tour 2011- Met with the AMGEN group; will let people know what Nevada City's role will be.

Mayor Bergman

- Economic Resource Council (ERG) Meeting - The new CEO is Ron Moser; Congressman Tom McClintock spoke at the meeting.

see page 2

2. CONSENT ITEMS:

- A. Accounts Payable for January, 2011
- B. Fire Department Activity Reports for November 2010, December 2010 and January 2011
- C. Resolution No. 2011-13 Application for Tire Amnesty Grant Program to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
- D. Resolution No. 2011-14 Supporting Waste Management's New Bagster Program
- E. Consider Ordinance No. 2011-05 Adding Chapter 5.36 to the Nevada City Municipal Code Pertaining to Locally or Regionally Grown Agricultural Products

Action: Motion by McKay, seconded by Harris to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E as presented. (Approved 5 - 0)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes January 26, 2011

Action: Motion by Harris, seconded by McKay to approve Regular City Council Minutes for January 26, 2011 as amended.
(Approved 5 - 0)

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATE REPORTS: None

PUBLIC HEARING None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Subject:** Review of Annual 2010 City Accomplishments and Direct Staff to Present Report to the LAFCO
City Planner Siegfried referred to the list of accomplishments from each department included in the packet.
- Councilmember Harris stated the list was impressive and requested it be posted on the City's website.

Action: Motion by McKay, seconded by Harris to approve report and direct staff to present the report to LAFCO at their February 23rd meeting.
(Approved 5 - 0)

- B. **Subject:** Consider Nevada City Sustainability Team Proposed Boardwalk Program for Commercial Street Area

City Planner Siegfried greeted the Council and stated that in the Council's packet was a memo to the City Manager with staff comments and questions regarding the boardwalk pilot program; on behalf of staff, she offered to address these comments and questions with Council.

- Councilmember Senum introduced Ben Jordan from the Sustainability Team and she stated that he would be able to address all comments after his power point presentation.

Ben Jordan, an engineer and Sustainability Team member - Passed out a modified rendering of the boardwalk which takes the parking spaces from four to three incorporating different designs and strategies and to be located at the south side of Pine Street and Commercial Street. Stated that this program hasn't been refined and he hoped to be able to provide more complete information in the future. Indicated it to be a beautification project and hoped with Council support to be a pilot program; to provide a safe and comfortable environment; could play a role with the homeless people; increase economic activity; Nevada City is a good size. Stated that the pilot program will be managed by the Nevada City Sustainability Team and volunteers; indicated that he hoped to approve the plan with staff and the City Attorney and duck underneath an EIR; would like to get permission from

Council for a two year pilot program and come back in one year to report to Council. He stated that he received staff comments and their comments were important. The Team has already done outreach to businesses with some positive and some skeptic responses; still need to reach out to the property owners.

- Councilmember Harris acknowledged staff's concerns.
- City Manager Albaugh stated that he loves the idea of pilot programs; two year program would be good; would like to see it come back to Council in six months for review; maintenance and up-keep is a concern and there is not enough staff to do the work. Property owners have to be on board.
- Mr. Jordan stated that the Team doesn't want staff burdened; volunteers will provide storm cleanup, events cleanup, and pick up cigarette butts and trash on a regular basis. Also indicated that there is no good water access for green material; City does not need to purchase anything.
- City Manager Albaugh stated that he'd really like to see the cigarette butts picked up.
- Mr. Jordan indicated that they plan to put a no smoking sign right on the structure.
- City Manager Albaugh stated that he'd really like to have a pilot program that says "No Smoking in Nevada City". Also, an area of concern is that he wants to be reassured that all property owners are on board because he had heard they weren't contacted.
- Mr. Jordan stated that they have only contacted the business owners so far but will be contacting the property owners because they are an incredible important component to this project.
- Councilmember Harris asked if the Chamber of Commerce has been involved; mentioned the loss of sales revenue for each of the parking spaces that will be taken away; she asked the City Manager what that figure was.
- City Manager Albaugh stated that each parking space generates about \$1800/day in sales tax revenue and that's why he wants to discourage merchants and their employees to not park in that area because that's where the sales money is generated from.
- Councilmember Harris stated the Chamber of Commerce is are our business group here in town and would have a sense of that balance of economic generation of trying something new, against the loss of revenue from those spaces.
- Mr. Jordan indicated that the Team has worked with the Chamber in their regular meetings; we will work with them on that issue and find a balance; how do you draw people in without restricting them access to your store.
- Councilmember McKay asked who would be responsible for the upkeep on the boardwalk and questioned the density.
- Mr. Jordan stated that he would identify more specifically who's responsible for what.
- Councilmember Senum stated the Team realizes that they would be responsible; the boardwalk would add cultural change to the area with violin music and poetry readings, like the Saturday market.
- Vice Mayor Strawser stated he would work directly and indirectly with the City Planner and Mr. Jordan regarding the email; doesn't see this as a homeless issue but a loitering issue; hoped for a more vibrant area; has more questions but liked the idea.
- Mayor Bergman questioned traffic flow on Commercial Street.
- Mr. Jordan indicated that Commercial Street would become one way, a larger topic for the Team to look at but remove from pilot program initially; given staff comments we need to look at best strategies.

Public Comment

Tom Grundy – Loss of parking tied to revenue but you gain six bike spots versus three parking spaces which is doubling; price of gas will drive bicyclists over drivers; look at economic shift over time.

Al Bulf – Great idea and addition to Nevada City; more respect for pedestrians; full steam ahead.

Richard Buckley, property owner of 237 Commercial Street – Stated that the project is intriguing; he has not been contacted at all; could be great and the plan should be concurrent with people problem beyond logistics.

Jennifer, employee of McCammant & Durrett, Commercial Street – Stated that Commercial Street lacks greenery; no place to lock bikes.

Theresa Berliner-Mann, owner of JJ Jackson's – Stated the project sounds fabulous and would exchange the parking space revenue with a positive happening and a significant challenge.

Ray Bryars, Nevada City - Stated that he passed out a lot of information to the business owners; it looks like a great thing; proposed that it should be treated like a park with no smoking; also proposed a 20'-30' expansion area around all parks for no smoking.

Chris Cayling, employee for McCamnant and Durrett – Stated that he's a bike rider and likes the idea of having a six stall bike rack.

Diane McIntyre, Bridge Street – Stated it's a fabulous project and volunteered to help with maintenance.

Roi Lynn Arnold, owner of Contrast - Agreed with Vice Mayor Strawser's earlier comments; supported no smoking; volunteered to water plants on the boardwalk.

Public Comment – Closed

- Councilmember Harris stated the presentation was professional; Council has talked about trying new things and ideas to enhance vibrancy and walkability; there are bugs to work out with staff; suggested to come back to City Council. At the Strategic Planning Retreat we appointed Vice Mayor Strawser for the loitering goal which is on the schedule for the May 11th Council Meeting.
- Councilmember McKay stated that staff gave comments that really, really count; good to be visionary but need to be pragmatic and with people involved things get flushed out; stated that he feels intimidated to walk Commercial Street, it's not like the old days. Indicated that he will keep an open mind; great opportunity that with the help of others will hopefully be a win-win.
- Councilmember Senum stated that she absolutely supported the project.
- Vice Mayor Strawser indicated that he stated his comments and will contact Mr. Jordan to answer some of his questions but won't delay to move this forward.
- Mayor Bergman thanked Mr. Jordan for articulating the plan; stated that he walks Commercial Street often but doesn't share the same fear as Councilmember McKay; made a little bit of progress last year with Sergeant Rhode; understands the problems and perception and sees the visitor's tension; a key component to figuring that out. Question is – now what?

Direction: Sustainability Team to continue working with staff toward a final concept and come back with a progress report to the City Council meeting on March 9th.

C. Subject: Recap of Measure "S" for Previous Work Completed and Proposed Work for Projects in 2011

City Engineer Falconi and Public Works Director Taylor provided a staff report included in the packet and power point presentation which provided a summary of total street improvements for the 2010 year and the 2011 summer paving program.

- Councilmember Harris indicated that CMAQ funds for sidewalk improvements from Main Street to Hwy 49 is much needed and should get done before end of 2011; Council to consider in the next infrastructure to put in more pedestrian ways; a walkability segment to town; great job.

D. Subject: Consider the final Energy Solutions Task Force Report.

Mr. Grundy, Chair, Nevada City Energy Solutions Task Force asked the City Council to officially accept the Task Force Report as complete; the Task Force is not the "staring point" for many of the recommendations but is simply a channel to focus and track them in the context of city government.

Action: Motion by Harris, seconded by McKay to accept the Task Force Report as presented and file.
(Approved 5 – 0)

E. Subject: Consider Resolution No. 2011-15 Approving the Subgrant Agreement with the Friends of Deer Creek for the Brownfields Cleanup Programs.

Action: Motion by McKay, seconded by Senum to approve Resolution No. 2011-15 Approving the Subgrant Agreement with the Friends of Deer Creek for the Brownfields Cleanup Program.
(Approved 5 – 0)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:

County Clerk, County of Nevada
Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

FROM:

City of Nevada City
City Hall
317 Broad Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

PROJECT TITLE: Commercial Street Boardwalk Pilot Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Commercial Street, Nevada City, CA

PROJECT LOCATION—SPECIFIC: Commercial Street, within three parking spaces in front of 305, 309 and 313 Commercial Street, Nevada City, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Nevada City Sustainability Team, on behalf of the City of Nevada City, is proposing a pilot program for the installation of a “modular and removable boardwalk seating area” to be located within 3 existing parking spaces on Commercial Street, specifically in between Café Mecca and the Masonic Temple. The “beautification pilot project” proposes to provide opportunities to alleviate congestion on the sidewalk, add seating areas to enhance the businesses, and draw additional foot traffic to the City and this area. The goal of the project is to enhance the quality of life for the public and residents of the City.

The project will require closure of three existing parking spaces to install 50 feet of 8-foot-wide boardwalk. The boardwalk, made of recycled redwood timber, will match the existing curb and street elevations. The boardwalk will contain benches and bike racks, and vehicle protection will be provided by landscaping planters and bollards. The program will be evaluated after six months to ensure the project will not result in any impacts.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: City of Nevada City
Planning Commission

EXEMPT STATUS: CEQA Sections

1. Existing Facilities (14 CCR 15301)
2. Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR 15304)
3. Information Collection (14 CCR 15306) and
4. General Rule Exception (14 CCR 15061(b)(3))

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project involves a minor temporary use as a boardwalk (removable) of existing public facilities (3 on-street parking spaces) having no permanent effects and only insignificant temporary effects on the environment for a limited period of time to collect information and evaluate future options for continuing the use if no unanticipated effects are detected. Not only is this pilot project covered by the general rule exception that CEQA does not apply where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, but three categorical

exemptions also appear to be applicable: minor alteration of existing public facilities; minor public alterations to land with negligible or no permanent effects to environment; and basic data collection not resulting in serious or major disturbance of environment.”

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Cindy Siegfried, City Planner

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (530) 265-2496

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____ **TITLE:** _____