



Board Agenda Item 48

DATE: January 23, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning

SUBJECT: MOU Formalizing Maintenance of China Creek Park by the Sequoia Chapter,
California Native Plant Society

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sequoia Chapter, California Native Plant Society and Fresno County for the maintenance of China Creek Park.

Approval of recommended action will authorize the Sequoia Chapter, California Native Plant Society to continue maintaining China Creek Park, an undeveloped park near the Kings River in the community of Centerville.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

The Board may not approve the recommended action. If not approved, the Sequoia Chapter, California Native Plant Society could cease providing maintenance services to China Creek Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost associated with the recommended action. The Sequoia Chapter, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) does not charge the County for maintenance services provided at China Creek Park.

DISCUSSION:

In 1972, Fresno County purchased 120.19 acres of undeveloped land along the Kings River near Centerville; this area is commonly known as China Creek Park. For approximately the past 10 years, CNPS has worked informally with Fresno County at maintaining this park. Most recently, CNPS staff approached County staff with a request to establish a formal relationship with the County for park maintenance.

The expressed goal of CNPS is to protect and preserve the park for future generations and restore it, as practical, to a natural condition. CNPS strives to accomplish this goal by constructing and maintaining benches, picnic tables, signs and other small structures as well as maintaining an existing interpretive trail. Additionally, CNPS members have worked to eradicate from the park invasive exotic plants such as Star Thistle using hand tools, power equipment and approved herbicides. This group also works with a cattle rancher, who is contracted with the County to use cattle in maintaining invasive weeds.

County staff supports approval of this MOU as CNPS shares a common interest in maintaining this area in a natural state and frees up Parks' limited resources from maintaining this undeveloped park. Regarding format, the term of the MOU deviates from County standards as it is open-ended until either party gives notice to terminate.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - MOU with California Native Plant Society

CAO ANALYST:

John Hays