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June 29, 2018

Mr. Hector Barron  
Public Works Director, City of Sacramento  
915 I Street, Room 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attention: Jesse Gothan

***Subject: South Land Park Neighborhood Association Supports the Del Rio Trail.***

Dear Mr. Barron:

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA) submits this letter in strong support of the Del Rio Trail Project (Project). We are a volunteer-run neighborhood association in an area of approximately 14,000 residents. Most of the Project lies within our boundaries, and SLPNA has been involved in the City of Sacramento's community outreach and discussions of the Project to-date. The City conducted a poll in our area in 2015. Approximately 83% of respondents supported the Project.

The City has been listening to the ideas and concerns of all involved in the outreach, and has done a re-design of the conceptual plan for the purpose of historical preservation of the abandoned rails. SLPNA strongly supports the design and construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail that becomes an asset for the local neighborhood, the City, and the region at large.

**Project Context in the Regional Trail Network**

SLPNA believes the Project is important at the local, City, and regional levels. The Del Rio Trail will not be an isolated trail used only by the local neighborhood. The Project is an important connector south of the downtown core in both the City's Bicycle Master Plan (2016), and Sacramento County's Bikeway Master Plan (2011). The Project is listed as a priority for near-term implementation in the City's Draft Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Plan (2018).

The American River Parkway is the "backbone" of our region's Class 1 multi-use trail network (about 29 miles from Old Sacramento to Folsom). Two other existing Class 1

trails serve north Sacramento and Rio Linda (Sacramento Northern and Walter Ueda, together about 12 miles). From downtown, the Sacramento River Parkway trail extends about 3.5 miles south. The Del Rio Trail, would extend the network another 4.5 miles south, and connect to an existing 2.5 mile trail on the River serving the Pocket neighborhood, and the new Delta Shores Project trail network that is already approved. From Day 1, the Del Rio Trail will be part of a 50+ mile Class 1 trail system connecting much of the region.

New trails planned soon in Delta Shores and Pocket/Greenhaven will directly complement the Project and further expand the network to serve more residents and neighborhoods. The network will extend from Folsom to Freeport, with only a few short breaks in the Class 1 off-street trail. With the Del Rio Trail connecting large areas in the south of the City, the regional trail system will gain a size and connectivity that makes it one of our premier assets and attractions.

### **Regional Attitudes about Civic Amenities**

Last year, Valley Vision produced a report entitled “Regional Attitudes about Civic Amenities” (2017). The report conducted a poll throughout the region, and attention was given to non-English speakers, gender, race/ethnicity, and age in order to adequately represent the population. When asked to rank the single most important civic amenity to their quality of life, 54% of respondents ranked parks and trails as #1. A distant second was science and history museums at 9%. Urban parks and greenbelts were the single most frequently used amenity by the respondents. Parks and trails are relatively inexpensive compared to other amenities. The City, and the region, gets its biggest “bang for the buck” with projects like the Del Rio Trail.

### **Expected Use**

SLPNA expects, and is excited, that the Del Rio Trail will be well-used. We expect several general classes of users. The Project, in combination with the existing Sacramento River Trail, will create a direct Class 1 trail into downtown for bicycle commuters. The Project, embedded in neighborhoods, will also be a recreational amenity for adults and children (both on foot and bike), dog-walkers, and runners. More advanced cyclists will use it on long-distance rides, and to reach rural Delta roads via the Freeport Bridge. Due to the access the Del Rio Trail will provide to multiple grocery-anchored shopping centers (2 are immediately adjacent to the Project), we also expect more use by local “errand-runners” than exists on some other trails.

We have heard from City transportation specialists and parks staff that the single most common complaint the City gets on combined bicycle/pedestrian paths has to do with conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians. In order to improve this situation in the future, it is the City’s intent to separate these uses onto separate trails wherever possible, including on the Del Rio Trail. SLPNA has heard a similar story from our membership, where the separated trail design is very popular.

Some of the neighborhoods adjacent to the Project were constructed without sidewalks. A lack of sidewalks limits opportunities for people, especially children, the disabled, and

the elderly, to move about their own neighborhoods. The Project will help improve this situation. In addition, we expect the Project will help provide easy access to bus stops. Regional Transit is currently reviewing their entire bus route system in preparation for improvements, and we understand that the Del Rio Trail, and other significant bicycle/pedestrian thoroughfares will be taken into consideration in that analysis.

The City and SLPNA have held numerous community meetings on this Project over the last few years, drawing 100+ residents at each meeting. At these meetings (the most recent held two days ago), it becomes clear that support for the Project is nearly unanimous among the attending residents. In closing, let me repeat that the vast majority of our membership, and the entirety of our Board of Directors, supports and is excited about the Del Rio Trail Project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Ebbert".

Brian Ebbert  
President  
South Land Park Neighborhood Association

cc: Mr. Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento.