NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA							
MINUTES of Administration	the meeting Center,	of Mar 950	rch 23, 20 Maidu	17, 1:30 PM Avenue,	A, Board Nevada		Eric Rood California
MEMBERS PR and Jensen presen		air Agui	lar, Vice C	hair James a	nd Commi	issioners Du	ncan, Heck,
MEMBERS AB	SENT:						
STAFF PRESE County Counsel, Dobbs; Administ	Rhetta Vand	lerPloeg;	Assistant P	lanner, Janea		•	
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CALL MEETIN taken.	NG TO ORE	DER: Th	e meeting	was called to	order at 1	1:30 p.m. I	Roll call was
STANDING OR	RDERS: Sal	ute to the	Flag - Roll	Call - Corre	ctions to A	Agenda.	
CHANGES TO							
PUBLIC COMMITTEE items not appear matter jurisdiction otherwise authorities.	ing on the agon of the Pla	genda wh nning Co	ich are of iommission,	nterest to the provided that	public anat no action	nd are within on shall be	n the subject taken unless
No public comm	ent.						
Public comment	period closed	d at 1:31	p.m.				
COMMISSION	BUSINESS	: None.					
CONSENT ITE	MC. None						
CONSENTITE	Mis: None.						
PUBLIC HEAR	INGS:						
1:30 P.M.							
PLN17-0011, 00	12, 0014 & (0016 / R	RAF17-000	1. 0002. 0	0003 &	0004: For	ur separate
Commercial Raf	*						-
8.1 of the Nevao	_			0 0	_		
Truckee River an	nd Truckee F	River from	m Boca Da	m to Floristo	n. Ingress	s is propose	d just below
Boca Dam and e	- 1			_			_
also proposed a		_	-	-			-
jurisdiction. LO		•					
bridge, west sic							
RECOMMEND					ion: Exe	inpt per CE	QA Section
15061(b)(3) PLA	AININEIK: Jan	cane ividi	un, Assista	ні гланнег			

Planner Janeane Martin gave a presentation on Commercial Rafting: the current guidelines, prohibitions, routes and specific areas of operation. The four applicants are the same four applicants granted 2 year permits in 2015 and for many years prior. She described the required conditions of approval per Nevada County General Code G-III 8.1. Planner Martin noted that she received an email from a local fisherman and resident of Hirshdale objecting to one of the sections of the routes, a copy of that email was added to the Commissioners packets. This fisherman mistakenly believed the rafting operators were requesting approval to utilize a new route along a portion of the river. Planner Martin spoke with the gentleman and explained that this route has historically been approved and permitted but rarely used. He felt better after this conversation and elected to not attend today's hearing.

Planner Martin reminded the Commission of a memo added to their packet today concerning revisions to Condition of Approval A. 19.

At 1:43 p.m. Planner Martin ended her presentation and Chair Aguilar asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner James asked what prevents rafting operations on the route of concern to the local fisherman and who permits routes outside of Nevada County. Planner Martin explained that use of the route north of Floriston is dependent on water flow. Other jurisdictions do not currently require permitting similar to Nevada County but are also not required to notify our county of any changes in their permitting process.

Chair Aguilar asked for further clarification of the email received from a local fisherman. Planner Martin explained his concern was about possibly not having a good place to fish along the river due to noise and activity from rafting. He was reassured that this is not a new proposal and, since it has not affected him before, was relieved and had no further issues.

Chair Aguilar invited any applicants who would like to speak to come forward.

A representative from Tahoe Whitewater Tours, Mike Miltner, spoke to the rules and regulations in Nevada County as being more lengthy and complex and restrictive than any other jurisdiction where he has operated over the course of his career. He explained that Nevada does not require a permitting process at all and he works closely and cooperatively with Washoe County in Nevada with no issues.

Commissioner Heck asked for further information about what restrictions he feels are too burdensome to the operators and their business.

Mr. Miltner responded with his remarks about time of day restrictions which he believes violate a state constitutional protection of public right to access the river at any time of day. He did concede that counties are permitted to impose time of day use restrictions as they relate to public health, safety, and welfare although he believes Nevada County imposed these time of day restrictions to appease fisherman who did not want to share the river with others. He also spoke about the limit to 10 rafts per day per operator as being much more restrictive than Placer County, for instance, which allows 200 rafts per day. In regards to the concern about disruption to fishing, he commented that rafting tours cover six miles in two hours so the impact to fishing is very minimal as the rafts move past any fisherman in a matter of 5 to 10 minutes. These restrictions, he noted, resulted in his company turning away several hundred potential customers, who have a "constitutional right" to be on the river, because they could not be accommodated. He believes this is not fair and limits his, and the other operator's, income. Another objection Mr. Miltner commented on is the user day fee, \$2 per customer, charged by The County which is

- for monitoring of the river. He believes this fee is imposed in violation of Federal statute which 98
- prohibits any jurisdiction from charging user day fees on any navigable waterway. 99
- Commissioner Duncan commented that the current regulations were passed almost 20 years ago 100
- and maybe there is some room to review the current regulations and perhaps staff could look at 101
- them and work with the operators to update and make changes, suggesting that maybe it's time 102
- for revisions. 103
- Brian Foss stated staff can certainly look at the regulations, speak to County Counsel, and see if 104
- they are legally defensible in regards to state and federal law. 105
- Commissioner Duncan also commented that maybe the two year length of the permit is too short. 106
- Chair Aguilar expressed that possibly Nevada County is being too restrictive. He spoke to the 107
- public benefit of having access to the river. 108
- Brian Foss reiterated that staff can take a look at the issue in terms of legality, but feels the 109
- current regulations were aimed at striking a balance to prevent overcrowding on that stretch of 110
- 111 the river. He responded to the question about the two year time limits on permits, explaining that
- allowing only four operators to obtain permits for longer periods of time might create a 112
- monopoly, excluding other operators from the opportunity to offer the same type of business at 113
- 114 that site.
- Chair Aguilar stated that input from the other operators would be valuable. 115
- modifications would take time and delay rafting operations for this season. So the 116
- Commissioners agreed to move forward with the applications today allowing staff to review the 117
- issues raised prior to the next two year permitting process. 118
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- 120 End comments at 2:01 p.m.
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- Chair Aguilar opened the public hearing at 2:01 p.m. 122
- Chair Aguilar closed the public hearing at 2:01 p.m. 123
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- Motion by Commissioner Jensen, second by Commissioner Duncan to:
- Determine these projects are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Sec. 126 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, finding that 127
- they will not, directly or indirectly, result in a physical change to the environment, 128
- and that it can be seen with certainty that these permits will not have the potential for 129 causing a significant effect on the environment.
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Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.

Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.

- Motion by Commissioner Jensen, second by Commissioner Heck to:
- Approve a Rafting Permit, as amended at today's hearing, for each of the four applicants, subject to the conditions shown in Attachment "1", and make findings A-H as required
- by Nevada County General Code Section G-III. 135
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- Chair Aguilar stated there is a 10 day appeal period on this action. 138
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- Commissioner Jensen added a comment to staff to look at other jurisdictions for direction on 140 updates to the current permit process and regulations. 141
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- 2:06 P.M. 143
- PLN16-0084; GPA16-0001; RZN16-0001; EIS16-0003: The project is a recommendation to 144
- the Board of Supervisors for General Plan Land Use Map amendments (GPA) and 145
- Zoning District Map amendments (Rezone), to change the County's primary land use 146

designation of 19 specific Tahoe National Forest parcels, 18 of which are currently zoned for General Agriculture (AG), and one parcel is currently zoned Residential Agriculture (RA) uses. The proposed GPA/Rezone project would re-designate and rezone all 19 parcels, totaling approximately 1,791 acres, to the County's Forest land use designation and zoning. The project is a GPA/Rezone legislative action only and does not include any additional development or disturbance. PROJECT LOCATION: 19 parcels, totaling approximately 1,791 acres, are grouped into six different areas of the Tahoe National Forest and unincorporated Nevada County. Visit the project's webpage for more detailed site location information. APNs: 60-010-01, 60-020-01, 60-030-02, 60-030-04, 60-330-01, 60-330-02, 60-330-13, 34-110-04, 34-110-05, 34-120-04, 34-120-05, 34-120-06, 34-360-27, 38-050-02, 64-050-06, 17-020-18, 17-020-19, 48-080-84 and 49-330-08. RECOMMENDED **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Negative Declaration. **PLANNER:** Patrick Dobbs. Senior Planner.

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Planner Dobbs presented the project explaining how each parcel came to be included in the land use changes before the commission today, how it became a stand-alone project, and who the parties are who moved the project forward. The Board of Supervisors identified this as a Priority Project B in 2016. Site #1, with seven parcels, is proposed to be designated as Forest 40 for general land use as well as zoning. Site #2, also seven parcels, is proposed for designation as Forest 40 acre. Two of these parcels have the Scenic Corridor Combining District with an additional layer of regulation that requires scenic review. The proposal retains this designation on those parcels that currently have it. One parcel has the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp on it. Otherwise, the parcels are vacant. Site #3 is the smallest parcel at 2.5 acres with a current designation of Residential-Agriculture 1.5 acre minimum. The proposal is to amend the land use and zoning to be Forest 160 acre minimum. Site #4 includes two parcels with a current General Plan designation of Rural 10, zoning of Ag 10-PD, and Plan Development Combining District. The proposal seeks to amend land use and zoning to Forest 40 and *not* retain the Plan Development Combining District designation. Site #5 is the Prosser Creek parcel currently designated Rural 10, Ag 10. The proposal is to amend to Forest 160. Site #6 is adjacent to the Martis Creek National Recreation Area currently designated as Rural 20, Ag 20. The proposal is to amend to Forest 40.

Issues and Concerns were described:

- 1. Jurisdiction. Planner Dobbs advised the Commission that their recommendation may or may not actually result in any changes on the ground in the future. National Forest Lands are not subject to County General Plans. Land use jurisdiction rests solely with the Federal Government. The County Land Use designations would not apply to future development or regulations unless the Forest Service were to sell these parcels.
- 2. Land Use. Future use of these parcels is most likely to be Forest Uses. A designation of Forest is intended to protect and manage the forest including recreation and timber harvesting. None of the parcels are currently zoned Open Space which is The County's most restrictive land use. Staff believes the proposed Forest Land Use designation stays true to the core purpose of this project which was to provide long term protection of the property's resources values.
- 3. Minimum Parcel Size/Development Potential. Staff believes large tracts of land are more suitable for timber production and recreation. Accordingly, Forest Land Use designation has the largest minimum parcel sizes of all the County's land uses. Minimum parcel size affects density and the ability to subdivide so increasing the minimum parcel size reduces some of the development potential.

4. Coordination with Other Agencies. Staff worked closely with The Forest Service as well as the town of Truckee. Truckee planners have no objections to the zoning change for the parcels within their sphere of influence.

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- At 2:25 p.m. Planner Dobbs ended his presentation and Chair Aguilar asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Jensen asked for clarification of the previous designations and if an individual were to acquire one of these parcels what would the impact? Planner Dobbs answered that any new owner would inherit the adopted zoning.
- Chair Aguilar asked how this proposal affects timber harvest. Planner Dobbs stated it has no effect.
- Commissioner Heck asked about the Prosser Creek parcel and the original intent to give it an "Open Space" designation, so why designate Forest 40? Planner Dobbs explained that the project became more comprehensive to include more land. Brian Foss stated that the property is owned by the Forest Service so staff worked with them to accommodate their desire for consistency over all parcels. Planner Dobbs added that the amended designation to Forest 40
- offers similar protection to the land.
- Commissioner Jensen commented that the designation of "Open Space" would limit the Forest
- Service to almost nothing on that land; for instance, a fish hatchery. His opinion is that the Forest
- Service request for a designation of Forest 40 is sufficient.
- Planner Barrington reminded the commission that their ruling only applies in the case of any parcel being sold to a private individual. As long as the Forest Service owns the land, they have
- jurisdiction over it. It belongs to the United States.
- Commissioner Duncan stated that Open Space is not used for Forest Service property and is typically used as a result of development where there is an agreement of no development in a
- particular area.

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- Tim Cardoza, Land Use Program Manager for the Tahoe National Forest, was asked to address Commissioner Heck's concerns about the Prosser Creek parcel. He assured the Commission that the chance of this parcel ever being sold is very small. Under current law, the Forest Service has very limited authority to dispose of property. Their intention is to manage the land with minimal
- 227 impact.

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End comments at 2:38 p.m.

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- Chair Aguilar opened the public hearing at 2:38 p.m.
- 232 Chair Aguilar closed the public hearing at 2:38 p.m.

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Motion by Commissioner Jensen, second by Commissioner Duncan, to:

- 1. Adopt the attached Resolution (EIS16-0003) approving a Negative Declaration for the USFS GPA/Rezone project, pursuant to Section 15074 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines based on the findings contained in the Resolution (*Attachment 1*).
- Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.

Motion by Commissioner Jensen, second by Commissioner Duncan, to:

- 2. Adopt the attached Resolution (GPA16-0001) for the General Plan amendments to change the land use designation of 19 Tahoe National Forest parcels based on the findings contained in the Resolution (*Attachment 2*).
- Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.

Motion by Commissioner Jensen, second by Commissioner Heck, to:

3. Adopt the attached Ordinance (RZN16-0001) amending Zoning District Maps (ZDM) #23, #36, #64, #75, #76, #94, #129, #138 and #139 to rezone 19 Tahoe National Forest parcels to correspond with the amended General Plan land use designations of those parcels, based on the findings contained with the Ordinance (*Attachment 3*).

Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.

Chair Aguilar stated there is no appeal period because this is a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Aguilar called for a five minute break.

2:45 P.M.

PLN17-0021; CUP17-0001: A Use Permit for the site development and operation of a temporary 4.8 acre debris management site to receive and grind trees cleared from utility rights-of-way per Governor's 10/30/2015 Emergency Proclamation to remove dead and dying trees from high hazard zones. A temporary 100 square foot scales building will be placed on the site during the temporary operation. A grading permit and stockpile permit are in process for the grading of the pad and access road and storage of logs on the site. The Use Permit is to allow processing of the logs including chipping and grinding. An additional 1 acre area of the site that is already paved will be utilized by the Fire Safe Council for community green waste drop off site for a 2 month period during the spring and fall each year. PROJECT LOCATION: 12022 & 12270 La Barr Meadows, Grass Valley, CA. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER (APN): 22-160-06 &-033. RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: CEQA Exempt per Section 15269, Emergency Proclamation. PLANNER: Brian Foss, Planning Director (530) 265-1256.

Director Brian Foss reminded the Commissioners of the memo provided to them clarifying information in the Staff Report. He described the scope of the project, the development and improvements of the site, hours of operation, and activities to be conducted on the two parcels. He also provided background information and explained why this project is needed. This site would process logs from Nevada County locations only and would be a temporary operation, depending on supply of logs, for 2 to 5 years. Road improvements would be made to La Barr Meadows Road to ease traffic and provide appropriate safe access to the site.

In addition to debris management, space would be provided for a Fire Safe Council green waste drop-off for the public. An existing concrete pad would be used for this purpose and no site preparation is needed. This site would operate for 2 months in the spring and in the fall, likely more on weekends from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. Chipping of dropped off materials would occur at the end of the season after accumulation of materials. All material would be removed and the site cleaned up.

cleaned up.
Director Foss addressed concerns about Bark Beetle Translocation. An ecologist was consulted to address this issue. The essential result of that consultation is that Bark Beetle is already present throughout The County, the severity of the infestation is directly related to drought conditions, and this operation would not introduce them.

A noise study was conducted and it was concluded that noise thresholds would not be exceeded and excessive noise would not impact the area.

Director Foss directed Commissioners to the memo regarding traffic and a revised condition #6 to approve routing flexibility to allow trucks to utilize the McKnight/Highway 49 intersection during non-peak hour timeframes.

Director Foss addressed the issue of toxic substances found at the site due to mining activity 293 conducted there in the past. There is a voluntary agreement between the Department of Toxic 294 Substances Control and the owners to clean up the site in the future. For this proposed use for 295 debris management, DTSC requires fencing to avoid contact with any contaminated areas. There 296 is a fencing plan included in the proposed site development to keep people out of those areas. 297 DTSC has accepted the plan and has no objection to the project moving forward. 298

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At 3:07 p.m. Director Foss ended his presentation and Chair Aguilar asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

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Commissioner Duncan asked if this project is related to another site and if both sites would 303 continue to operate. Director Foss indicated they are not related and would both be in operation. 304 Commissioner Heck asked if the property is privately owned. It is owned by Rare Earth. There 305 is an agreement in place for access to the site which is a two year agreement with two 2-year 306 extensions. There are also provisions in place to leave the site cleaned up as necessary for public 307

health and safety. 308

- Commissioner Jensen asked if this site was only for trees removed by PG&E. Director Foss 309 affirmed that is correct. 310
- Commissioner James asked about regulation of the traffic. Director Foss explained that 311 enforcement would be complaint driven, however, truck drivers will not be outside contracted 312 but will be employees of Phillips and Jordan so the applicant will manage and educate them to 313

follow signage and conditions of the agreement. 314

Commissioner Heck asked how much of the site will be scraped and what happens after this 315 temporary use; who will maintain the site if, for instance, Scotch Broom starts to invade and 316

create a fire hazard? 317

- Director Foss stated that provisions are worked into the agreement to leave the site in a non-318 hazardous condition. 319
- Chair Aguilar asked about restricting truck traffic at the intersection during lunch time as well as 320
- during morning and evening peak times. Discussion ensued about the intersection in question. 321 Director Foss reiterated the low number of truck trips per day so the impact would be minimal. 322
- Chair Aguilar asked about the Fire Safe Council use of the site and if green waste would pile up 323 and only be chipped at the end of two months. 324
- Director Foss believes they will chip as needed and deferred to the Fire Safe Council 325 representative to give further details. 326

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Bob Delp of Benchmark Resources and Philip Jennings, representatives of the applicant, Phillips and Jordan, gave a presentation about the company and how they run their projects. Examples of projects they have been contracted for include debris management of the 9-11 World Trade Center clean-up and Hurricane Katrina disaster clean-up in the gulf coast region. They provided details of their operation specific to Nevada County. The proposed Bear River Debris Management Site in Nevada County is of great importance to reduce haul times and more efficiently process the felled trees. Environmental concerns were addressed. Environmental studies were conducted and it was concluded that the project would not have a significant impact on the environment or on land use issues. The project will operate under a spill prevention, control and counter measure plan for water management with provisions for storm water pollution control. A biological resources assessment was done and found no special status species or habitat on site as well as no wetlands. Noise and emissions would not exceed thresholds with no significant increases for the area. Dust control measures will be in place. Visual impact is not relevant. The community benefits by permanent improvements to La Barr

Meadows Road. No significant land use or environmental effects would result from the operation of this site. The applicant assured the commission that the site would be left in a safe and clean condition as is their policy with all sites they utilize throughout the country.

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Chair Aguilar stated that he felt his concern about mid-day traffic was addressed and resolved.

He would like to see language in the use conditions on requirements regarding how the site would be left.

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Chair Aguilar invited a representative from Fire Safe Council to speak on the operations of the green waste component of the project. There is no specific timetable for chipping to occur and would be done as needed. This particular site is similar to other sites operated by the Council so they are familiar with the requirements for processing the material.

Chair Aguilar asked Fire Protection Planner, Matt Furtado, to address concerns about stockpiling of material. Mr. Furtado stated that this particular site is well under the established fire code limits for the amount of material that the site could possibly produce.

Commissioner Heck asked for clarification on vegetation clearance at the site. Mr. Furtado explained that the nature of the site, which has been largely cleared, reduces any fire danger.

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- Chair Aguilar opened the public hearing at 3:40 p.m.
- Chair Aguilar closed the public hearing at 3:40 p.m.

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- Chair Aguilar agreed with Commissioner Heck's concern with having language added to address the final state of the site as important. Native plants and trees, for example. Discussion ensued.
- Director Foss reminded the Commission that this site is projected to be used as a biomass facility eventually and perhaps replanting should be limited to hydro-seeding and not comprehensive landscaping.
- Commissioner Heck clarified that she meant hydro-seeding in order to make the land more fire safe.

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John Blinder, a representative of the property owners, spoke on the issue of how the site is left after this project. He reiterated that there is an active plan in progress to develop the site in the future. The owners are in a cooperative agreement with Philips and Jordan which they feel is sufficient to remediate the site. He suggested that a stipulation could be made in the future in the case that the biomass facility is not built.

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Bob Delp of Philips and Jordan, as well as Brian Foss, returned to the discussion to introduce language to be added to the conditions regarding remediation of the site.

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Commissioners all agreed the language was acceptable to them.

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End comments at 3:55 p.m.

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Motion by Commissioner Duncan, second by Commissioner Jensen, to:

1. Find this project exempt from environmental review, pursuant to Section 15269 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) due to the Governor's Emergency Proclamation.

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Motion carried, as modified at today's hearing, on a voice vote 5/0.

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Motion by Commissioner Duncan, second by Commissioner Jensen, to: 391 2. Approve Use Permit CUP17-0001 for the Debris Management Site and Fire Safe Council 392 Drop Off Site subject to the conditions shown in Attachment 1, making findings A 393 through K pursuant to Section L-II 5.7 of the Nevada County Land Use and Development 394 Code. 395 Motion carried, as modified at today's hearing, on a voice vote 5/0. 396 397 Chair Aguilar stated there is a 10 day appeal period on this action. 398 Chair Aguilar asked about upcoming hearings. 399 400 There was a brief discussion regarding the Ananda project coming before the Commission on 401 April 27. Commissioner Duncan asked for Director Foss to arrange site visits which he agreed 402 to do. 403 404 Commissioner James asked about the Wildwood Self-storage project. 405 Planner Barrington replied that the project is close to being deemed complete and will most 406 likely come before the Commission in May. 407 408 Commissioner Duncan asked about Dollar General and Planner Barrington gave an update. 409 410 Commissioner Duncan offered to make a report on recently approved projects, with pictures, so 411 the Commission can see what is happening in The County. 412 Chair Aguilar stated his support and feels this would be important for the Commissioners to 413 have this type of follow-up. 414 415 Commissioner Heck asked for an update on the industrial project approved at March 9 hearing. 416 Planner Barrington assured Commission that the added conditions agreed upon were written into 417 the conditions of approval and accepted by the applicant. 418 419 Motion by Commissioner Heck; second by Commissioner Duncan to adjourn. Motion 420 carried on voice vote 5/0. 421 422 There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4: 423 08 p.m. to the next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2017 in the Board of Supervisors 424 425 Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City. 426 427 Passed and accepted this day of . 2016. 428 429

Brian Foss, Ex-Officio Secretary

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