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To: [bdofsupervisors](#); [Sue Hoek](#); [Ed Scofield](#); [Heidi Hall](#); [Dan Miller](#); [Hardy Bullock](#)
Subject: Support of Nevada County Recreation & Resiliency Master Plan
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Board of Supervisors 9/26/2022
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RE: SR 22-1017 and SR 22-0802 Nevada County Recreation & Resiliency Master Plan

Dear Chair and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

My name is Jonathan Collier and I am a resident of District 1, and I want to speak in support of the proposed Recreation & Resiliency Master Plan.

I believe we have an incredible opportunity here. In essence we are talking about how to care for and engage our natural environment and its resources for the benefit of our community and hopefully future generations.

So many of us have been called to live here because of the beauty of our natural setting. We love its beautiful rivers, alpine lakes, reservoirs, and trails that meander through wooded hills and valleys. The high mountain forests, the Sierra chaparral and oak savannah offer habitat for a diverse and thriving range of plants and wildlife. We are blessed to live in such an idyllic place and it seems only proper that we care for it so that it can not only be enjoyed by the community, but for its own sake.

It's also no question that this natural heritage is being threatened. Droughts continue year after year, and catastrophic fires have increased dramatically in the last decade. Extreme weather events continue to surprise us with their ferocity as we experienced with last winter's "snowmageddon". And then there's the human impacts, most notably with the Pandemic and the increased mass of outings by both residents and visitors. Ask any local about what they think of tourists and the Yuba and I will bet you you won't get a single pleasant response.

We are facing many challenges as a community as well as being presented with many opportunities.

Our open spaces and outdoor recreation have long been hidden jewels, but the secret is out and they're gaining popularity and notoriety and with that an increase in use. If we remain passive and don't plan accordingly we may lose what we treasure most.

As is called out in the Master Plan proposal we have an opportunity to honor and preserve our natural spaces, while at the same time promote and improve community health and safety, economic development, creative placemaking, landscape restoration, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and resilience.

Imagine leveraging our natural resources in such a way to establish ourselves as a leader in eco-tourism and edu-tourism. We could integrate our beautiful natural setting with outdoor recreation, health and wellness, art and culture, food and culinary arts, cannabis, and technology. Assets we already have in abundance, but lack cohesion.

We could have curated tourism designed to lessen the impact on our roads, communities, and ecosystem, meanwhile providing visitors with experiences of hiking through our wild places, romping in our waters, eating from our farms, playing in our towns, exploring our arts and artisans, relaxing to our healing hands, and playing in our parks. Yoga retreats, cannabis retreats, corporate retreats, other retreats, they're already happening a little but we could help them happen more.

We scoff at tourism as an industry but when it's done well it can integrate and reinforce itself in compounding ways. Look at Napa and Sonoma for agritourism, Costa Rica for eco-tourism, Ashland and its Shakespeare Festival and New Orleans Jazz Festival for art tourism, and even on the far side of the County Truckee as a success story for outdoor recreation.

But to be done well we need a plan. I encourage you to vote in support of the Recreation and Resiliency Plan and provide the necessary funding to see these efforts advance.

Thank you,

Jonathan Collier

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