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April 12, 2016

Honorable Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation
P.O. Box 942849, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 94249-0050

RE: Bridgeport Covered Bridge Restoration Project

Dear Assembly Member Bloom:

First we want to express our sincere gratitude to the Sub-committee for their past support of this project and the allocation of \$1.3 million in the 2014-2015 budget to begin the restoration work.

The project is proceeding on schedule, with the stabilization phase completed and restoration now underway. New engineering and architectural plans are in the final stage of completion. However, following an extensive assessment of the condition of the Bridge and the work needed to completely renovate the structure, a new cost estimate for the work now stands at \$3.9 million. With the \$1.3 million already funded, an additional \$2.6 million is needed to restore the iconic 1862 structure to its former glory.

As you can imagine, we are very concerned that the cost to complete the restoration of the Bridgeport Covered Bridge has increased by \$2.6 million. The total revised estimate includes approximately \$3.5 million to cover increased construction costs. In addition, State Parks feels it would be prudent to increase the construction contingency by \$379,000, above the standard 7 percent included in the base estimate, for a revised project total of \$3,918,389. Based upon the unique historical nature and importance of this bridge reconstruction project, an increased contingency should include post-construction inspection and adjustment; and put the Department of Parks and Recreation in a better position to address unforeseen conditions during construction, if necessary. Therefore, **the Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you strongly consider appropriating the additional \$2.6 million funding needed to complete the Bridge project in the 2016-2017 State budget cycle and request that the monies be secured in a special fund for the construction to begin in 2018.**

We understand that the State of California enjoys a substantial budget surplus in the upcoming 2016-2017 budget year; making this an advantageous time to fully fund this project. It is projected that the State will not enjoy this level of budget surplus in following years; possibly jeopardizing

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future funding requests. Also, having the funding encumbered and ready for the construction phase may help speed up the extensive permitting process.

Your support for this project is vital to ensure that this Bridge is saved. Built in 1862, this is the longest single span wood covered bridge left in the world. The Bridge is a National, State and Engineering Historic Landmark; a vital part of California's gold rush history and one of the few historic transportation corridors still accessible by the public in California. We hope you will support our request to appropriate and encumber the funding necessary to complete the Bridgeport Renovation Project.

Sincerely,

Dan Miller
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: **Committee Members**

Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
Assembly Member Richard S. Gordon
Assembly Member Jim Patterson
Assembly Member Das Williams
Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting
Assembly Member Jay Obernolte
Governor Jerry Brown
Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources
Lisa Mangat, Director, California State Parks
Matt Green, Chief Ranger, California State Parks, Sierra District
Caleb Dardick, South Yuba River Citizens League
Robert Coats, South Yuba River Park Association
Doug Moon, Chair, Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee
Paul Yoder, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih