COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Nathan H. Beason, 1st District Edward C. Scofield, 2nd District Chair Dan Miller, 3rd District Vice-Chair Wm. "Hank" Weston, 4th District Richard Anderson, 5th District

> Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board

March 29, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Nevada 950 Maidu Avenue Nevada City, CA 95959

DATE OF MEETING: April 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Letter to Assembly Member Richard Bloom, Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation, requesting that \$450,000 be programmed in the 2016-2017 State budget cycle for the installation of a solar electric project at the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached letter

FUNDING: None.

BACKGROUND: In 2011 as a result of a severe State budget deficit, the State of California proposed to close a number of our State Parks, including Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park (SHP). In 2012 the County, State officials, the Park Foundation and local non-profits began a collaborative effort to negotiate a solar energy project that will save the State money and have Malakoff Diggins taken off the State's park closure list. Now, though the Park is open and there is no longer a closure list, the effort to install a cost-effective, clean solar project has continued.

Working with local contractors, we have developed a plan and with the help of the South Yuba River Citizens League, have completed the necessary environmental review and documentation. The contractors have prepared a detailed estimate to construct the solar array and security fencing, which now stands at about \$450,000.

At a time when the State is enjoying a budget surplus, and all agencies are seeking ways to reduce our carbon footprint, we think this is a very fair investment that will save State resources, expand tourism to a disadvantaged, underserved community; and serve as a model for ecological sustainability and economic efficiency.

Therefore, we request you approve the attached letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Weston

Supervisor, District 4

Richard Anderson Supervisor, District 5

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City CA 95959-8617

phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: <u>bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us</u>

website: http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos