

City Manager
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678-2649

November 24, 2004

Ken Sanchez
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Dear Ken:

Thank you for meeting with the City of Roseville regarding the West Roseville Specific Plan (WRSP) O&M Plan. As discussed at the meeting, this letter documents the City's support of the goal to graze cattle for grassland management in the WRSP Preserve Area. The City has demonstrated a commitment to the concept of cattle grazing by actively participating in the development of the O&M Plan, which identifies cattle grazing as the preferred method to maintain species diversity and composition, thatch management, and Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.

The preserve area budget, which is based on the Property Analysis Record (PAR) program, assumes costs for grazing coordination. The budget was prepared with the assumption that cattle grazing would approach revenue neutral, because cattle owners would pay for the use of the land to graze. As shown in the table below, the PAR analysis assumes costs for grazing coordination for the initial two years of preserve area management, or approximately thirty labor hours for the preserve manager. Annual ongoing costs for grazing are reduced somewhat after the first two years, reflecting the fact that more funds will be need in the initial stages. If it is determined that additional funds are needed, an option would be to utilize other funds available for thatch management, which could be applied toward grazing coordination if needed. Also, if circumstances warrant, on occasion, contingency funds (ten percent of the annual preserve area budget) would be available if necessary.

	PAR Analysis Budget	
	2 Year Endowment	Annual Ongoing
Grazing Coordination	\$2,550	\$1,700
Thatch Management	\$8,000	\$4,800


The O&M Plan also specifies the necessary facilities and infrastructure needed in anticipation of grazing cattle. The plan identifies locations for cattle fencing (five-strand barbed wire), utility infrastructure to supply water, entrance areas and gates sufficient for staging, loading and unloading cattle, and notice to residents adjacent to grazing areas. Disclosure of grazing in the open space will be provided to property owners via the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) for Westpark and

Fiddymment Ranch. (Portions of the CC&R's are attachments to this letter, note that the Fiddymment Ranch CC&R's will be modified to include open space within the City).

There are many unknowns regarding grazing cattle because the City has not had direct experience with cattle. Although the City will make every attempt to use cattle, the possibility exists that other methods may ultimately be more feasible. This flexibility for adaptive preserve management is incorporated into the O&M Plan, which allows other methods of thatch management, such as mowing and controlled burns. The plan also acknowledges the possibility of grazing other animals (e.g., goats), and specifies that prior to grazing animals other than cattle, an evaluation will be conducted to assess the effect of that particular species, and the Corps and USFWS will be notified.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please call Terri Shirhall in the Community Development Department, at 916/774-5422.

Sincerely,



W. Craig Robinson
City Manager

Attachments:

- 1) Section of the Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions pertaining to livestock grazing for Westpark*
- 2) Section of the Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions pertaining to livestock grazing for Fiddymment Ranch*

cc w/o attachment:

John Tallman, Signature Properties
John Murray, Westpark Associates
Lee Axelrad, Resources Law Group
Tom Cavanaugh, ACOE