



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 17-0198

Agenda Date: 4/11/2017

Item No.: 2.8.

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Adoption of a Resolution in Support of National Heritage Area Designation for Santa Clara County.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Resolution SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY, to Support County of Santa Clara's Effort in Requesting U.S. Congress's Consideration and Designation of Santa Clara County as a National Heritage Area.

SUMMARY:

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the National Heritage Area Task Force (NHATF) have invited the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) to join their effort to have the U.S. Congress designate Santa Clara County as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

As described in the Santa Clara County National Heritage Area PowerPoint (Attachment 1), to be presented by NHATF Chair Rod Diridon at the April 11, 2017 board meeting, NHA is a program of the National Park Service (NPS) in which Congress recognizes an area for its unique history where:

- Natural, cultural, & historic resources form a **nationally important** story.
- The community drives the grassroots approach to heritage conservation.
- Community partnerships support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, tourism and education.

The benefits of this designation include:

- Economic development-every \$1 of federal investment to an NHA generates \$5.50.
- Preserves and promotes the County's historical and cultural resources through educational and interpretative programs.
- Honors the tremendous cultural diversity and heritage of the County.
- Creates a shared regional identity to foster environmentally sustainable

communities.

To receive this designation, Santa Clara County must submit a Feasibility Study to NPS for its recommendation to the U.S. Congress. If Congress determines that such designation is suitable, it would pass a resolution making Santa Clara County a NHA. After this, the county, cities, school districts, community groups, and heritage organizations will work together to develop a NHA management plan. To begin this process, the county appointed the NHATF to guide the development of the Feasibility Study.

At this stage in the process, the County has requested the District's official support of a NHA designation by adopting the Resolution in Support of Santa Clara County National Heritage Area Designation (Attachment 2).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

Attachment 2: Resolution

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

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