

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 5, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4C

STAFF: Paul Pugsley, Carson Valley Conservation District
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

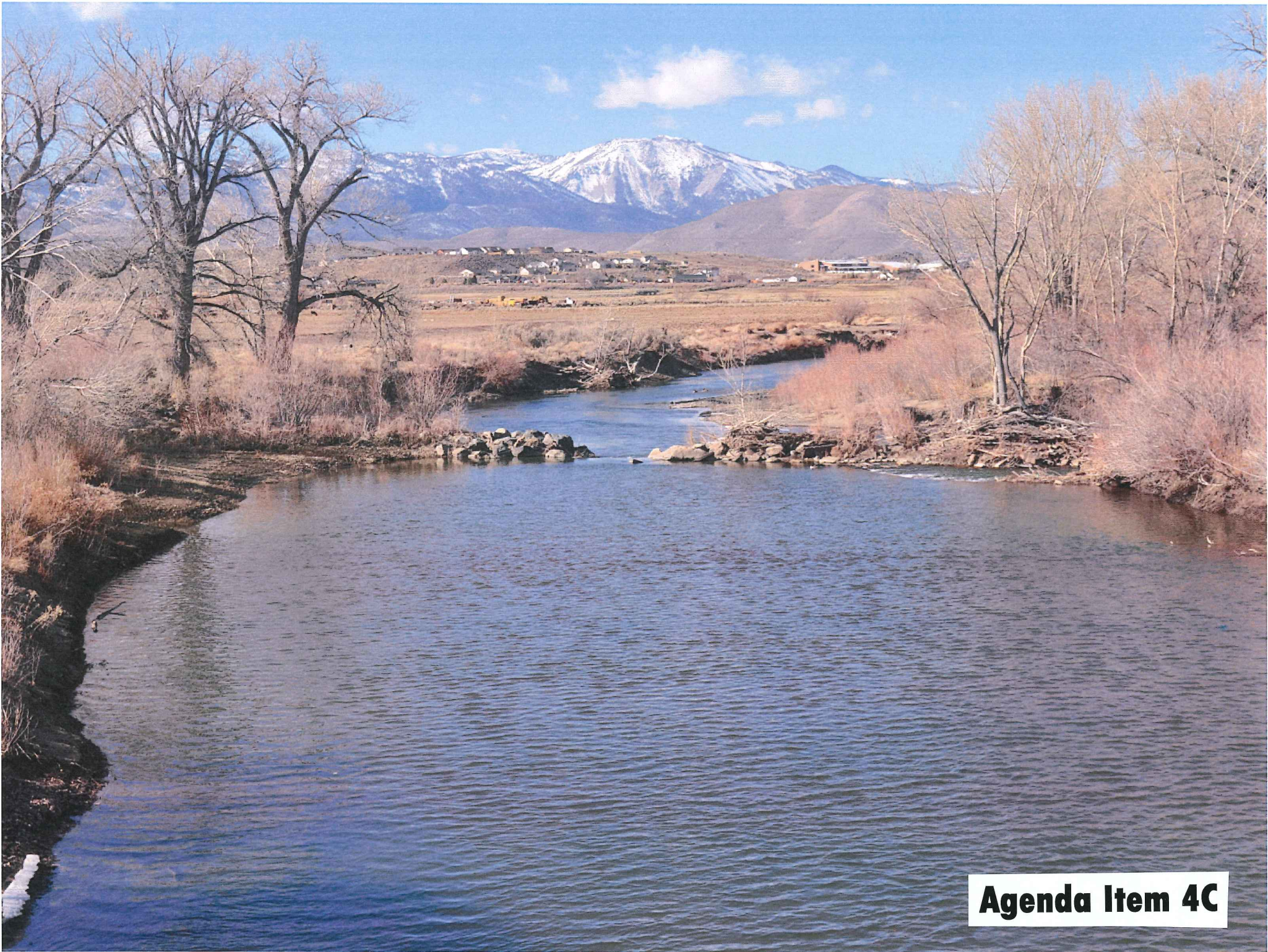
REQUEST: Discussion only regarding the Carson River Aquatic Trail's safety and river bank habitat improvements associated with the removal of the Anderson Diversion downstream from Carson River Park.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: The Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) has done quite a bit of work with Lynn Zonge, Hydrologist with Resource Concepts, Inc., in order to advance the removal of the Anderson Diversion for both public safety on the river and for river bank stabilization. Conceptually, the project involves removing the rocks in the center of the river that were originally placed across there to create a backwater area for an agricultural water diversion for the Jarrard's Ranch. This backwater area allowed the river to pond water that was then removed with pumps. However, the pump system has not been operational for over 10 years. The project's rock will be removed from the center of the river and relocated across the east channel in order to stabilize the eroding eastern river bank. Also, the removal of the rock structure eliminates a public safety concern for river recreationalist on the Carson Rivers Aquatic Trail's Class I section. This approach will use the river's natural sedimentation process during higher water flows to fill in behind the rocks with finer sediments to stabilize and restore the bank. In addition, they have found that the present rock structure does not control the grade for the river.

CVSD has utilized monies from the Carson Water Subconservancy District to do the initial project assessment and will use the same funding source to do the construction work. In addition, CVCD is working to resolve the water rights issues that are tied to the structure. These water rights issues were discussed during conversations with Chris McKenzie, Attorney for Mr. James Jarrard. CVCD staff discovered that, in order not to lose the water rights associated with the Anderson structure, it would be prudent to move those rights from the present point of diversion to the intake of the Mexican Ditch. This would allow for the transportation of river water onto the Jarrard Ranch through the Mexican Ditch. This point of diversion change will require an application to be submitted to the State Water Engineer. As a matter of course, the Pyramid Tribe has opposed those types of proposals and this could create a problem for the City. Those water rights are presently under option to be purchased by the Vidler Water Company. Subconservancy District Director, Mr. Ed James, has stated that the Subconservancy is not the correct organization to pay for the work related to moving the water rights. CVCD staff has requested an estimate from Resource Concepts as to the cost of the work required to transfer the water rights point of diversion.

This item is being presented to the Commission in order to inform the members of the project's purpose, discuss the project's issues encountered so far, and discuss a project schedule.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This agenda item is for discussion only. No formal can be taken at this time.



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