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February 15, 2024

John Lane, Chair  
River District Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee

The River District Organizing Committee appreciates your response to our letter of January 17, 2024 requesting consideration of the community input contained in the August 2018 Folsom River District Visioning Community Outreach Report as part of the current River District Master Plan Process.

In your response, you conclude that our request is contrary to the City Council's direction by allowing for the consideration of additional community input at this stage of the process. Aside from impacts to the project schedule, we fail to understand how allowing additional stakeholder input opens a different process than directed by the Council. Collecting community input is a key purpose of this exercise, and the Organizing Committee would have no objection to considering additional input from other stakeholders as well. In our view, we are not asking for special treatment, as all public input should be considered.

While you have asked us to provide a summary of the three highest priority ideas/recommendations from the Outreach Report that are consistent with primary General Plan objectives (a limitation not applied to input from other stakeholders), our biggest concern is that a significant amount previous public input will not be taken into account in the development of recommendations to the City Council for the River District Master Plan.

You have also asked for an explanation as to why the Organizing Committee has identified different boundaries for the River District than those incorporated in the General Plan. These issues are discussed below.

#### Highest Priority Ideas/Recommendations

Most of the community support of potential amenities identified in the Outreach Report is consistent with the primary General Plan objectives you enumerated in your response letter. However, it is difficult to categorize preferences for the number of specific amenities discussed in the Report, and nearly all of the amenities suggested by workshop participants involve improved public access for both trails and the waterfront. Aside from virtual unanimous support



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for greater access throughout the district, this response will focus on three general preferred categories of proposed amenities:

1. Natural Resources, History, Culture, Education. There was a significant amount of interest in some type of museum, visitor center and/or a nature center and historical/cultural center at several locations in the district, including a small amphitheater. These amenities were highly desired by the community, particularly at the Corporation Yard, the Powerhouse and the South Shore entrance near Folsom Boulevard and Highway 50.
2. Recreational Uses/Activities. Expanding recreation opportunities was also well-supported by public participants. Suggested features included picnic and play areas, improvements and expansion of bike and walking trails, additional water access from Old Town and the Corporation Yard, and the addition of a boathouse at the northern end of Lake Natoma. While not mentioned in the Outreach Report, a boathouse should include a rescue facility to respond to emergency situations on the northern Lake and River.
3. Development Uses. Limited opportunities for economic development in and near the River District area were also favored by a large number of workshop participants, including farm-to-fork food and concessions, connecting to and enhancing the City's Historic District, and, where appropriate, certain commercial uses located in the Corporation Yard or near Nimbus Flat and the Auto Mall Site.

The Community input contained in the Outreach Report also focused on opportunities to partner with State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation on projects of mutual interest, consistent with plans and policies of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area General Plan/Resource Management Plan.

While not doing justice to the many observations and input from the public involved in the Community Outreach process, the above major categories do provide a brief summary of three higher-priority ideas and recommendations from the report, consistent with primary General Plan objectives. Despite the summary outlined above, the Organizing Committee continues to strongly support consideration of the full report in the development of River District Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations to the City Council.

#### River District Boundary Adjustment

Section 3.2 of the Community Outreach Report expands upon the Folsom River District Boundary identified in the General Plan 2035. The Outreach Report includes Folsom Prison in the event that land is not needed by the State in the future. Incorporation into the River District could strengthen the City's position in terms of any ultimate land use determination for that



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property. The report also includes the area around Folsom Junction and Kikkoman Foods north of Willow Creek, a portion of which has historical significance and could serve as a gateway site into the City for visitors and residents traveling north on Folsom Boulevard from Highway 50. Finally, the boundary proposed in the Report includes the City-owned Natoma Ground Sluice Diggings (better known as the Chinese Diggings) site, another opportunity for the preservation of a historical location in Folsom.

The boundaries identified in the Outreach Report were drawn to include public (not necessarily owned by the Bureau of Reclamation or State Parks) as well as private property. The reasoning was that increased access to the waterfront resulting from the implementation of a River District Master Plan could provide opportunities for complimentary economic development land uses at those locations. It can be seen in various other communities that these adjacent lands often attract uses of businesses that enhance the experience along the waterfront.

Again, while the Organizing Committee is disappointed that the full Folsom River District Visioning Community Outreach Report will not be included as public input for the development of recommendations guiding the formulation of the City's River District Master Plan, we do appreciate the opportunity to provide summary input and will continue to work within the Master Plan development process going forward and to foster the implementation of a River District in the City of Folsom.

Please contact the Organizing Committee if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Claudia Cummings*

CLAUDIA CUMMINGS, Chair, River District Organizing Committee  
Member, River District Citizens Advisory Committee

Cc: Pam Johns, Community Development Director  
Robert Goss, Project Manger