Action Item
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Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

Report to the Auburn City Council

To:	Mayor and City Council Members
From:	Robert Richardson, City Manager
Prepared by:	Anne M. Cooey, Deputy/Assistant City Clerk
Date:	April 13, 2009
Subject:	Technical Rock Climbing

The Issue

Informational item only: Rock climbing in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Conclusion and Recommendation

No action is required.

Background

At the Auburn City Council Meeting of March 9, 2009 Gordon Ainsleigh presented a resolution to the Council requesting the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Goldfields District, to accelerate approval of technical rock climbing in the Auburn State Recreation Area. He reasoned that it would be beneficial to the City of Auburn to attract visitors to the area. Mr. Ainsleigh asked for Council encouragement and support of rock climbing in the Auburn State Recreation Area. He requested the item placed on an agenda in order that he could provide the Council with a complete informational presentation.

Mayor Holmes asked that the item be included in the agenda of March 23, 2009 as in informational item. He advised that Council Members could present their questions at that time.

Fiscal Impacts

None

(Proposed)
RESOLUTION

From the Auburn City Council

April 13, 2009

REQUESTING THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
GOLDFIELDS DISTRICT,
TO ACCELERATE APPROVAL
OF TECHNICAL ROCK CLIMBING
IN AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

WHEREAS: The Goldfields District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Goldfields), of which Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA) is a part, manages the federally-owned lands in the North and Middle Fork American River Canyons on the eastern rim of the City of Auburn, and that management greatly affects the health, happiness and prosperity of the Auburn community; and

WHEREAS: Goldfields is currently developing an updated General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan for Auburn SRA that shows every appearance of including technical rock climbing as an approved activity, but said plan appears to be several years from completion; and

WHEREAS: It is within the duties of the City of Auburn to encourage decisions by other governmental bodies that enhance the health, happiness and prosperity of Auburn's citizens; and

WHEREAS: The infusion of climbers into Auburn SRA would greatly benefit Auburn businesses whose survival is threatened by the rapidly worsening economy, especially in the winter when demand for climbing in Auburn SRA is expected to be greatest, and when river recreation in Auburn SRA is low: and

WHEREAS: A nonprofit climbing organization, Climbing Resource Advocates for Greater Sacramento (CRAGS), will soon present Goldfields with an Interim Climbing Management Plan patterned after other successful climbing resource plans used at the most successful climbing areas in America; and said nonprofit, representing the desire of many Northern California and Sacramento-area climbers to climb and otherwise recreate at Auburn, is working in conjunction with The Access Fund, a national climbing organization representing climbers from throughout the nation, including the San Francisco Bay Area, where there is strong demand for climbing in the Auburn SRA.;

Now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council and the City of Auburn does request that the implementation of an Interim Climbing Management Plan and the approval of technical rock climbing by Auburn SRA and Goldfields be accelerated as much as possible in advance of completion of the updated General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan so the people and businesses of the Auburn area may benefit from this infusion of climbing-related recreational tourism and consequent increased prosperity in the very immediate future, when the economic need is great.

AND NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council and the City of Auburn make this request of Goldfields for the betterment of the life, health, happiness and prosperity of the people of Auburn, the residents of Placer County, the inhabitants of the Greater Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Areas, and the citizens of California.