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CITY OF BLUE LAKE

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To: Mayor and City Council
From: John Berchtold, City Manager
Date: February 10, 2015
Subject: Presentation by Greenway Partners for Potential Powers Creek Project

Keith Barnard representing Greenway Partners, Arcata, will be making a presentation regarding potential grant finding to restore Powers Creek. Restoration of the Creek channel to its natural flow would assist with flood prevention to properties that abut Powers Creek; however, the chief advantage is a functioning habitat for Coho Salmon and Steelhead. On the other hand, the planning area is very large and is aggressive in scope.

My understanding is that funding if approved, covers planning initiatives as opposed to re-construction efforts. Re-construction of the channel would involve the dedication of City owned land in the Business Park.

If City Council feels more information is desired, a **motion to request more information from the applicant is in order.**

If City Council feels that the presentation has merit, a **motion to direct staff to negotiate access agreements and/or other pertinent agreements for City Council approval, would be in order.**

Agenda Item: Powers Creek Stream Habitat Restoration Project. CalTrout and Greenway Partners would like to pursue a grant for design of a restoration project on lower Powers Creek within Blue Lake City property and seeks a landowner's access agreement signed by Blue Lake.

Project Description:

Powers Creek has a partial barrier to fish migration near the mouth which is in the process of being fixed. Once that grade control is removed, the creek will begin to adjust its profile. We would like to take the opportunity during this process to restore a functioning channel which will provide good fish habitat for coho salmon and steelhead and with increased channel capacity to reduce flooding. A restored creek can also become more of a central city feature with improved trails, art installations, etc. CalTrout and Greenway Partners are preparing a grant proposal for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the corridor on the map attached with this. Most of the parcels affected belong to the City and as such, we are looking for the City to sign the general landowner access agreement that CDFW needs for their proposal.

POWERS CREEK STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

