

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: November 12, 2013

Agenda Date Requested: November 21, 2013
Time Requested: 5 minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department – Open Space Division

Subject Title: For possible action to approve a recommendation from the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee naming the open space acquisitions at the terminus of Golden Eagle Lane, APNs 010-121-42, 010-121-43, and 010-121-44 as Mexican Dam Open Space.

Staff Summary: During the Open Space Advisory Committee meeting on October 21, 2013, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to name the open space acquisitions as Mexican Dam Open Space. This recommendation was made on a 7-0 motion.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

- ☐ Resolution ☐ Ordinance
☒ Formal Action/Motion ☐ Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommended Board Action: I move to approve a recommendation from the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee naming the open space acquisitions at the terminus of Golden Eagle Lane, APNs 010-121-42, 010-121-43, and 010-121-44 as Mexican Dam Open Space.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: In May 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2013-R-19 which established the policies and procedures for the naming of open space properties. Staff has proceeded with the process and is bringing the first two nominations forward. On August 25, 2013, the Nevada Appeal published a short article notifying the public that the Open Space Program was receiving proposals for the naming of two open space properties. Staff also posted a notice on the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page (viewed by 220+ people, as of October 14, 2013) and on the Carson City intranet website. One nomination was submitted from the public and one nomination was submitted by staff. The Open Space Advisory Committee considered the nominations during their regularly scheduled meeting on October 21, 2013. Through motion and a vote of 7-0, the Committee recommended naming the open space acquisitions as Mexican Dam Open Space. In keeping with the policies for the naming of open space properties, Mexican Dam refers to the historic stone structure located adjacent to the property and provides a scenic destination. The Mexican Dam was constructed in the 1860s to contain and divert water into the Mexican Ditch, which in turn provided water to the stamp mills at Empire City and beyond during the Comstock mining era.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:

- Carson City Municipal Code 13.06.060
- Carson City Resolution No. 2013-R-19

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives:

1. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and select another name for the park.
2. Deny the recommendation of the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee and direct the Commission to consider another name.

Supporting Material:

- Resolution No. 2013-R-19
- Naming Packet / Property Information

Prepared By: Ann Bollinger
Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist

Date: 11/12/13

Reviewed By: Roger Moellendorf
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

Date: 11/12/13

Lawrence A. Werner
Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

Date: 11/12/13

District Attorney's Office
District Attorney's Office

Date: 11/12/13

Finance Department
Finance Department

Date: 11/12/13

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay

2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-R-19

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NAMING OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES WITHIN CARSON CITY

WHEREAS, the Open Space Program was created through a voter-approved ballot initiative in 1996, often referred to as Question 18; and

WHEREAS, Carson City Charter Provision 2.230 empowers the Board of Supervisors to regulate public parks, buildings, grounds and rights-of-way within the City; and

WHEREAS, Carson City Charter Provision 8A.030 defines open space as real property that is undeveloped or partially developed natural landscape, including, but not limited to, ridges, stream corridors, natural shorelines, scenic areas, watershed areas, viewsheds, agricultural or other land devoted exclusively to open-space use, conservation easements and easements devoted or connecting to open-space use; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to establish policies and procedures for the naming of the open space properties within Carson City;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board hereby resolves to adopt the following:

POLICIES

1. Names should provide some form of individual identity to the property or specific part of any owned property.
2. If possible, names should be related to the unique natural landscape, geographic or topographic features, indigenous plants or wildlife, cultural or historical heritage.
3. The naming for individuals and/or families should be reserved as an incentive towards significant donations of land and/or endowments. It is encouraged that any recommended name be designated posthumously.
4. Individuals and organizations should be encouraged to submit nominations to the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. Due to their familiarity with the individual properties, committee members and staff may submit nominations.

PROCEDURES

1. After the City has acquired title to the property, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible to solicit nominations.
2. The Parks and Recreation Department will publicize the open period including the deadline for nominations.
3. A formal nomination and justification must be submitted, in writing, to the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will review and research the nomination(s). Staff will prepare a written summary for the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC).
5. The Open Space Advisory Committee will review the nomination(s) for consideration at a regularly scheduled meeting. Upon OSAC recommendation, Parks and Recreation Department staff will forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
6. Upon Board of Supervisors' approval, the name shall be identified on open space signage and materials.

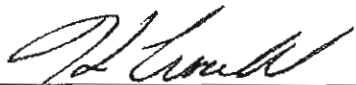
Upon motion by Supervisor John McKenna, seconded by Supervisor Brad Bonkowski, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted this 2nd day of May, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor John McKenna
 Supervisor Brad Bonkowski
 Supervisor Karen Abowd
 Supervisor Jim Shirk
 Mayor Robert Crowell

NAYS: None.

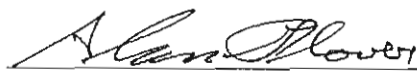
ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.



ROBERT L. CROWELL, Mayor

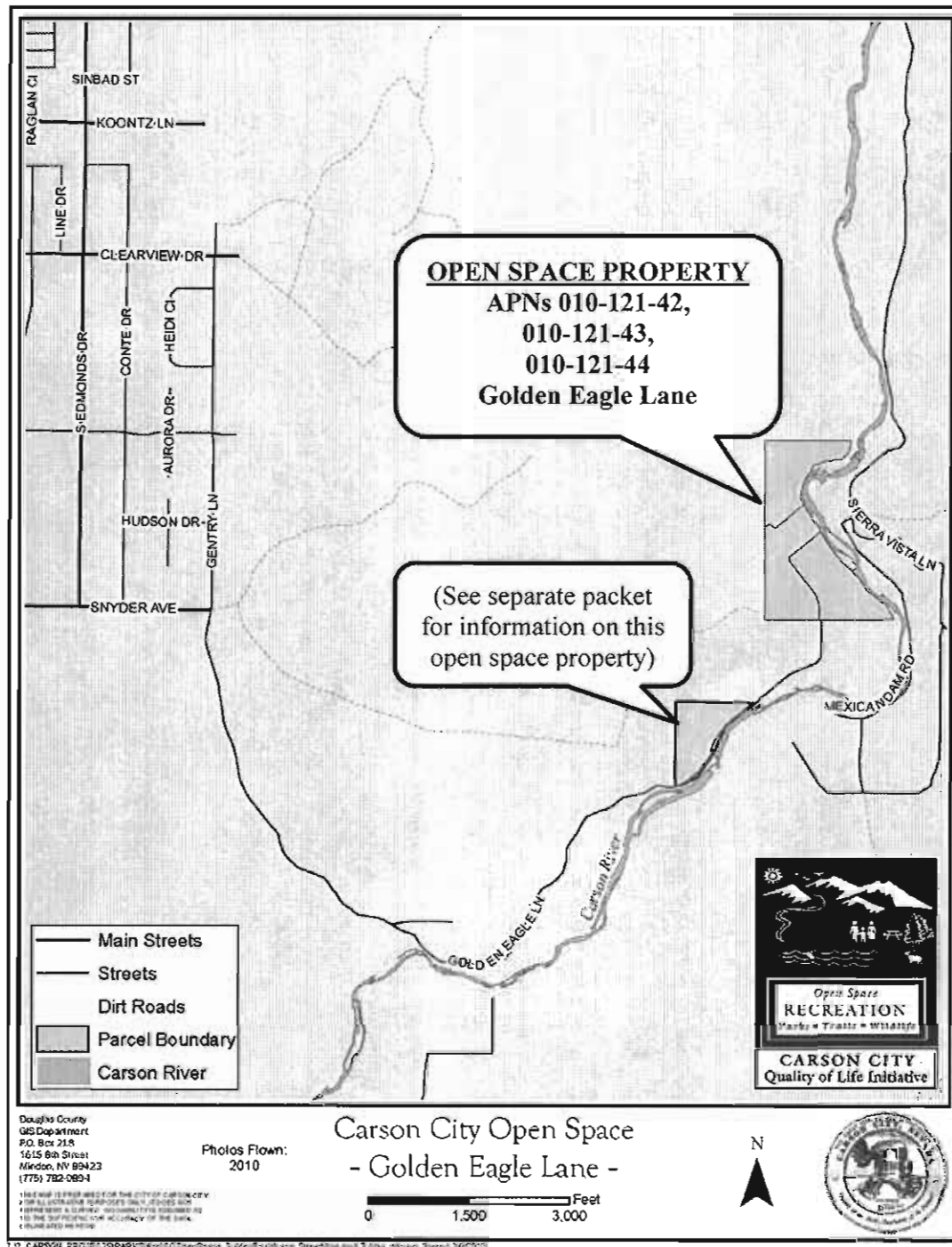
ATTEST:



ALAN GLOVER, Clerk - Recorder

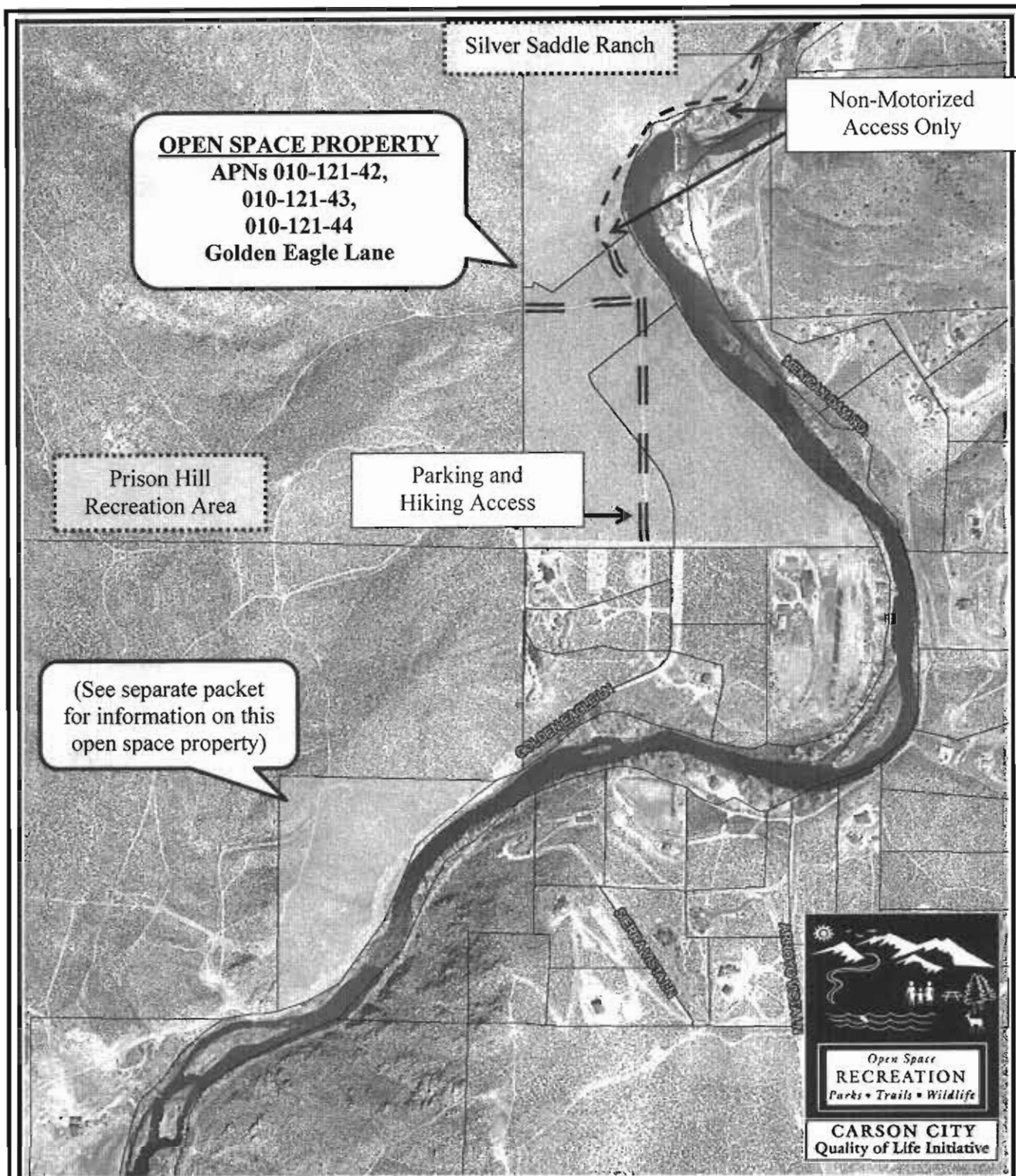
Carson City Open Space

APNs 010-121-42, 010-121-43, 010-121-44; Golden Eagle Lane
64.31 acres (total)



Carson City Open Space

APNs 010-121-42, 010-121-43, 010-121-44; Golden Eagle Lane



Douglas County
GIS Department
P.O. Box 218
1815 8th Street
Minden, NV 89423
(775) 782-9894

Photos Flown:
2010

Carson City Open Space - Golden Eagle Lane -

THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF CARSON CITY
FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. IT DOES NOT
REPRESENT A SURVEY. NO LIABILITY IS ASSUMED AS
TO THE SUFFICIENCY OR ACCURACY OF THE DATA
DEPICTED HEREON.

0 600 1,200 Feet



Location:

The northern terminus of Golden Eagle Lane, in the southeast area of Carson City. The property is bordered to the west and north by public lands, Prison Hill Recreation Area and Silver Saddle Ranch respectively, to the east by the Carson River and the south by residential parcels.

Access:

From the Snyder Avenue and Gentry Lane intersection, travel south and around on Golden Eagle Lane for approximately 3.0 miles to the terminus. The road surface changes from asphalt to a graded dirt road. Turn left and then turn an immediate right onto a two-track trail / road between two t-posts and the sagebrush.

The southern property boundary begins at the right turn near the t-posts. The two-track trail / road ends in approximately 1/3 mile with limited area to turn around. The trail continues through the property, traveling north and becoming a narrow scramble beside a rock outcrop and the Mexican Dam. The northern boundary lies just north of the dam. The eastern boundary is the Carson River and the western boundary can be found by following an east-west trail for 550±' to an old, vandalized plywood boundary sign.

Parking can be accommodated at the southern end of the property, from Golden Eagle Lane. Alternatively, hikers and other non-motorized users may park at Silver Saddle Ranch or Carson River Park and travel south for 1.5 miles to the property.

Two unpaved trails exist on the property. The trail between Golden Eagle Lane and the Mexican Dam generally has level terrain, with an exception of the narrow scramble beside the rock outcrop and Mexican Dam. An east-west trail travels 550±' uphill to the property boundary then continues uphill to the Prison Hill Recreation Area, motorized use section. Currently, the two-track trails are open to all users whereas the narrow scramble and trail north of the Mexican Dam (Mexican Ditch Trail) are only open to non-motorized use.

PLEASE NOTE: On Golden Eagle Lane, the local residents have posted private property signs. Please respect private property. Carson City is working to resolve any issues associated with public use of the road.

Background

Purchase Date:	March 2008
Purchased From:	River Ranch Holdings, LTD; Alpenglow Development, LLC; and Mexican Dam, LLC
Funding Source:	Carson City Open Space, Quality of Life Sales and Use Tax Funds

Characteristics

Historic/Cultural: The Mexican Ditch begins on the northernmost parcel. The Mexican Ditch receives a regulated water flow from the Carson River and provides a water source for several properties including Silver Saddle Ranch, Open Space ranch lands along Carson River Road, Riverview Park, and private properties along Hells Bells Road. The ditch is a historic resource relative to the history of water distribution and water rights in the state. The Mexican Dam lies adjacent to the ditch and helps to retain and divert water from the Carson River. Both facilities were constructed in the late 1800s.

Landform/scenic quality: Approximately 70% of the property is comprised of mildly sloping lands with the remaining 30% (to the north) encompassing steeper terrain and rock outcrops. The elevations range from approximately 4,640' along the river to 5,040' at the northwest corner.

Plant communities: The uplands are shrub-dominated with sparse occurrences of herbaceous plants and piñon pine. The mature, diverse shrub species include sagebrush, bitterbrush, ephedra, desert peach, rabbitbrush, and others. Along the river corridor, mature cottonwoods, willows, Wood's rose, and other riparian vegetation are present.

Water Resources: The Carson River is adjacent to the property along the eastern boundary, and about 20-30% of the property falls within the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain.

Wildlife: The river and various plant communities provide habitat for many species of wildlife. The Carson River Master Plan, dated 1996, identifies fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds throughout the river corridor, but not specific to this property.

Considerations

The Open Space Program purchased the three parcels under one transaction. Due to their contiguous location and similar characteristics, staff recommends that the three parcels be considered as one property.

Prior to receiving nominations, staff recommends consideration towards naming the property "Mexican Dam Open Space." The proposed name reflects the historic structure located adjacent to the property and provides a scenic destination.

Photo 1: Overview of the property. Taken from the east side of the Carson River, the photo illustrates the various landscape characteristics.



Photo 2: View to the north. After turning from Golden Eagle Lane, the t-post marker helps define the southern boundary of the property.

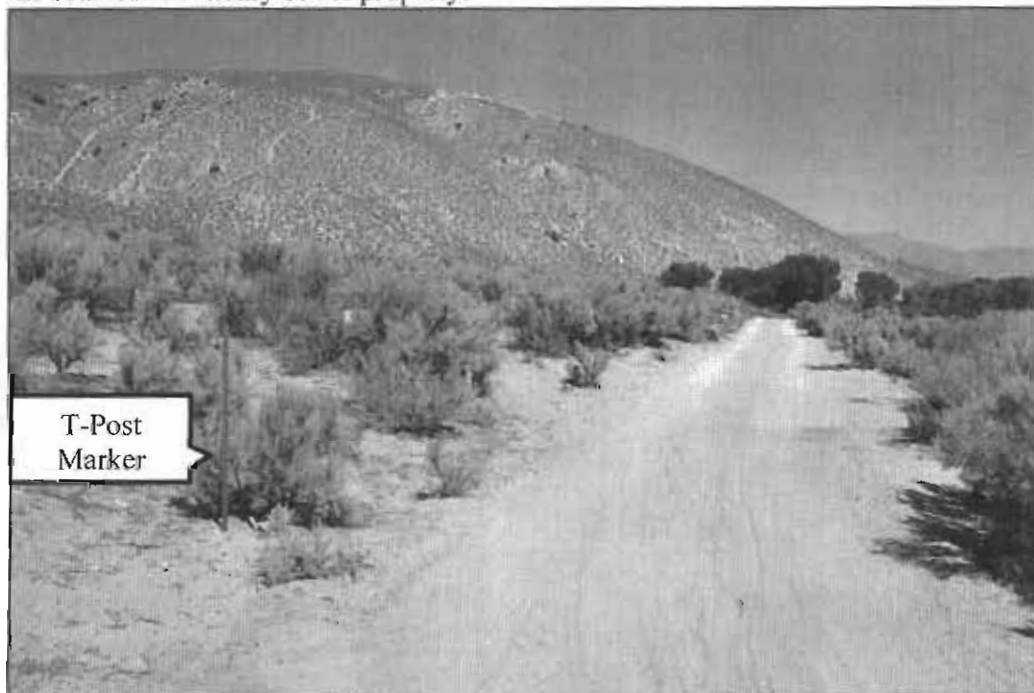


Photo 3: View to the north. As the trail approaches the Mexican Dam, it becomes a narrow single-track trail.



Photo 4: View to the south, towards the Mexican Dam.



Photo 5: View to the west and the property boundary.

