

Report To: Board of Supervisors **Meeting Date:** March 2, 2017

Staff Contact: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: To authorize the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department to submit a grant application to the Community Forest and Open Space Program, administered through the Nevada Division of Forestry for a fee-title acquisition 20 acres along U.S. Highway 50 near the Clear Creek Interchange (APN 007-051-81) from W. Michael Fagen for open space and passive recreation purposes. (Ann Bollinger, abollinger@carson.org)

Staff Summary: The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program is a federal grant program managed by the United States Forest Service and locally administered by Nevada Division of Forestry. There is approximately \$2 million that will be awarded through a competitive process on a nationwide basis with a maximum award of \$400,000 per application. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is seeking the Board of Supervisors approval to submit an application.

Agenda Action: Formal Action/Motion **Time Requested:** 10 Minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to authorize the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department to submit a grant application to the Community Forest and Open Space Program, administered through the Nevada Division of Forestry for a feetitle acquisition 20 acres along U.S. Highway 50 near the Clear Creek Interchange (APN 007-051-81) from W. Michael Fagen for open space and passive recreation purposes..

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

January 15, 2015 - The Board of Supervisors moved to direct staff to compile a list of appropriate trade parcels and continue a conversation with the owner (Mr. Fagen) of APN 007-051-81 to see if we can come to a mutual agreement on a trade parcel.

July 7, 2016 - The Board of Supervisors accepted the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to pursue a land exchange with Mr. Michael Fagen for 20 acres of land he owns on the U.S. Highway 50 near the Clear Creek Interchange APN 007-051-81 for 0.81 acres of vacant park property located between Karin Drive and Sunland Court, APN 002-373-07 with the condition that costs towards acquisition do not exceed 20 percent of the estimated value of the park property.

October 17, 2016 - The Open Space Advisory Committee recommended to the Board of Supervisors submittal of a grant application to the Community Forest and Open Space Program for fee-title acquisition of 20 acres, APN 007-051-81 located along Highway 50 and owned by W. Michael Fagen.

January 19, 2017 – The Board of Supervisors moved to authorize the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department to submit three separate Land and Water Conservation Fund grant applications for the following

Final Version: 12/04/15

projects: 1. Disc Golf Course Complex site improvements (portion of APN 010-691-04); 2. Ross Gold Park Playground Replacement (APN 009-166-010); 3. Purchase through a fee-title acquisition 20-acres of land along U.S. Highway 50 near the Clear Creek Interchange (APN 007-051-81) from W. Michael Fagen for open space and passive recreation purposes.

Background/Issues & Analysis

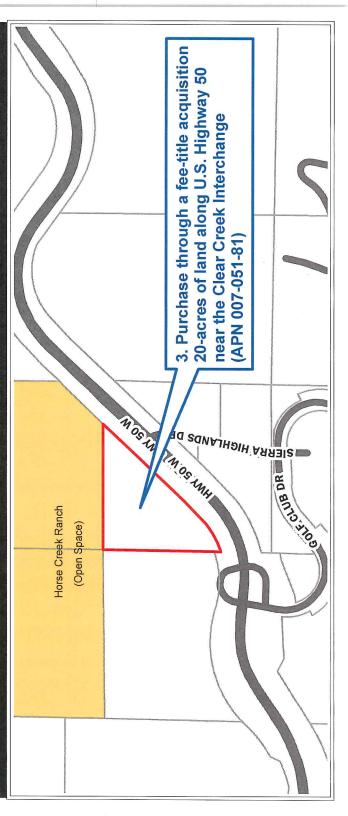
Community forest projects seek to protect forest land which has been identified as a national, regional, or local priority for protection and to assist communities in acquiring forestland that will provide public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Not only does land acquisition of this property meet priority criteria for Carson City, it and the Carson Range are identified as a priority landscape in the State's Natural Resource Strategy (2010). The approximate cost for the land acquisition is \$200,000. In addition, there are costs towards a preliminary title search, appraisal, cultural resources survey, Phase I survey, closing fees, and other possible costs. The approximate total cost is \$225,000-\$285,000.

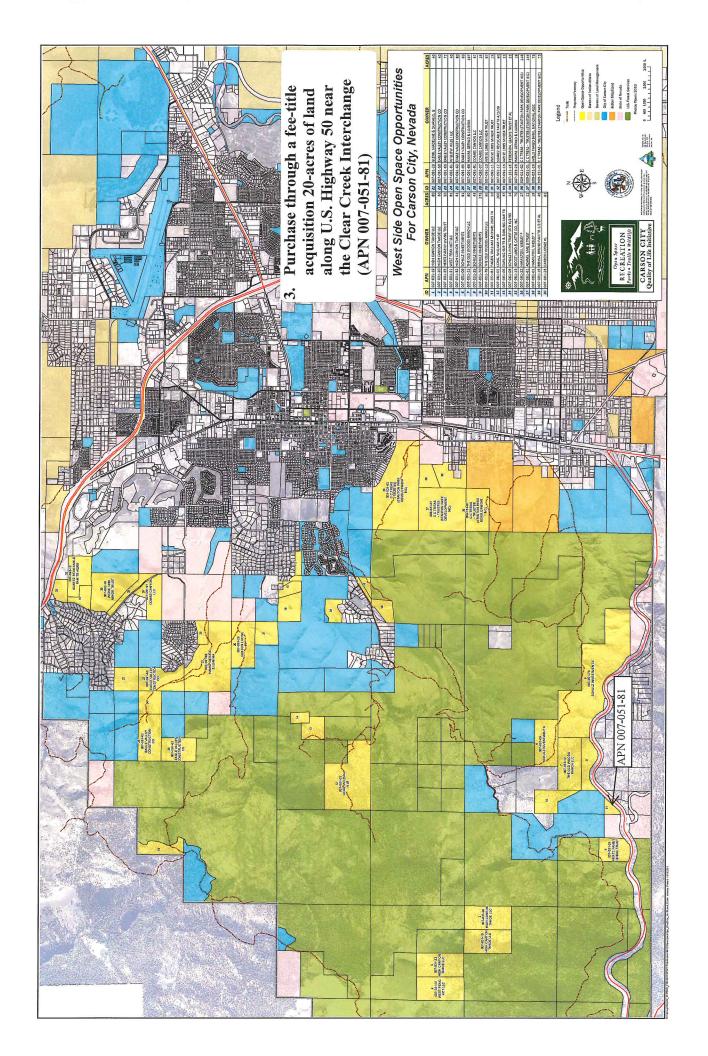
Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

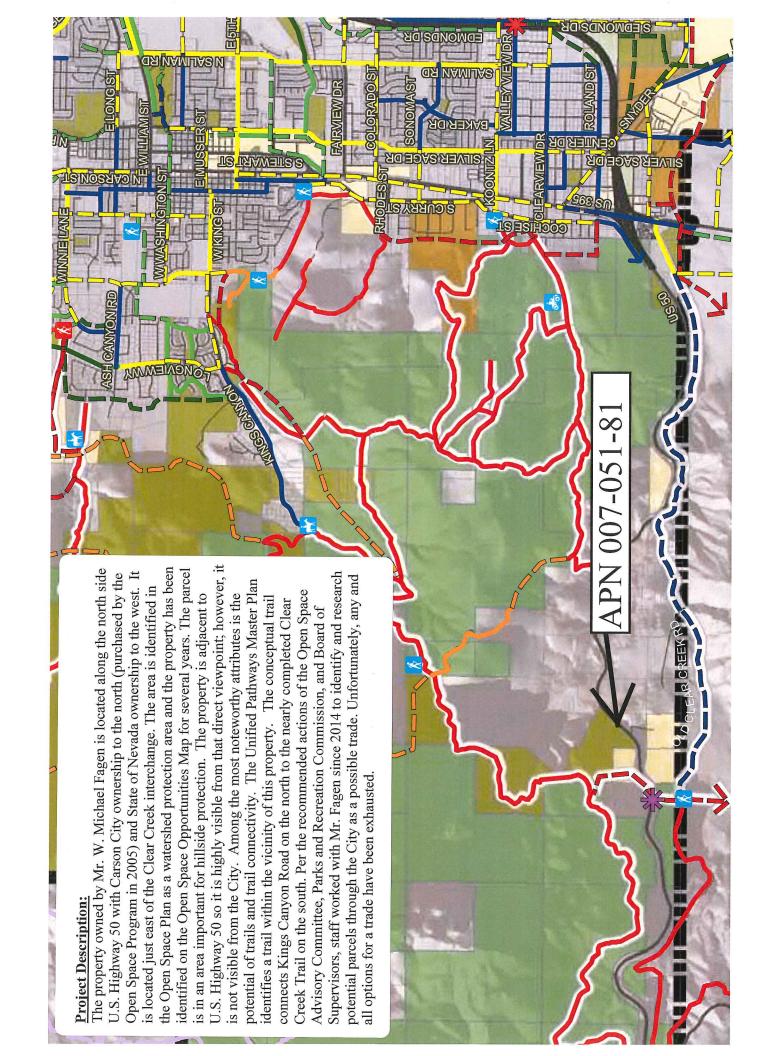
The City's grant policy requires any grant applications over \$50,000 be approved by the Board of Supervisors prior to a grant application submittal by City staff and NRS 354.598005(3).

| Financial Information Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No |
|--|
| If yes, account name/number: Not Applicable |
| Is it currently budgeted? 🖂 Yes 🗌 No |
| Explanation of Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact at this time because the City will only be submitting |
| the grant application. If awarded, the match requirement is 50% which would be provided from the Quality of |
| Life / Open Space land acquisition account. The land acquisition has a current balance of \$897,357. |
| Alternatives Not approve the submittal of the grant application |
| Board Action Taken: Motion: 1) Aye/Nay 2) |
| (Vote Recorded By) |

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OPEN SPACE EVALUATION FORM

| Landowner | William Michael Fagen 2005 Trust |
|--------------------------|--|
| Assessor's Parcel Number | 007-051-81 |
| Location | U.S. Highway 50 west; Sec 34 15/19 NW4 SW4 |
| Access | U.S. Highway 50 west |
| Zoning | Conservation Reserve |
| Master Plan | Single Family |

Table A. Physical Characteristics

For each parcel, select the highest value for each physical feature. If none apply, leave blank.

| Physical Feature | Defining Authorities | Characteristics (check if present or applicable) | Value |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife | ☐ Contains habitat or corridor for threatened of | □ Vow. High |
| | | | ☐ Very High |
| Habitats / | Service, NV Dept of | endangered (T&E) species | |
| Corridors | Wildlife, or | ☐ Contains high value habitat for non-T&E species | |
| | documented | ☐ Contains migration corridor | ☐ Medium |
| | scientific observation | ☑ Observed presence of wildlife or fish | |

The habitat value ranges from medium to high. With U.S. Highway 50 lying adjacent to the property, one would expect wildlife impacts due to traffic, noise, and a fragmented landscape. To the north, the adjacent parcel is owned by Carson City (Open Space) and most of the surrounding area is also Carson City (Open Space) or U.S. Forest Service. These undeveloped areas generally provide an unfragmented landscape, thereby providing better conditions for wildlife.

The property includes a diverse plant community with a mixed-age class of conifers. The bitterbrush is a preferred browse for mule deer and provides good cover for a number of mammals and birds.

Wildlife was not actually observed; however rabbit scat was plentiful.

| Natural US Army Corps of | ☐ Has healthy, sustainable riparian area | ☐ High |
|--|--|------------|
| Communities Eng. or competent | ☑ Presence of mature canopy trees, shrubs | |
| specialist, such as the | e ☐ Majority of parcel with healthy native grasses | ☐ Moderate |
| Nevada Natural | ☐ Contains jurisdictional (ACOE) wetlands | □ Low |
| Heritage Program | | |

The plant community is diverse with shrubs (bitterbrush, sagebrush, and manzanita), a mixed-age class of conifers (Jeffery Pine and Ponderosa Pine) with an average of two trees per acres, and a minor component of grasses (squirreltail and bluegrass) and forbs (arrowleaf balsamroot). Cheatgrass is present but not abundant.

| Landform / Scenic | Committee, staff, consultants | | Open water (lakes, ponds, river, stream) Contains ridge or promontory with long views Contains a valley that provides enclosure / | ☐ High ☐ High ☐ Madiana |
|------------------------|---|--------|--|------------------------------|
| Quality | | | privacy | ☐ Medium |
| The prope Valley. | rty generally consists of | steep | topography. A lower bench provides long views to | the Carson |
| Visibility | Committee, staff, consultants | | Visible from major roads Visible only from local roads Visible primarily from adjacent residences | ⊠ High □ Medium □ Low |
| The prope | rty is adjacent to U.S. Hi | ghwa | y 50. | |
| Size | Staff | | Large than 40 acres 20 to 40 acres 10 to 20 acres | ☐ High ☑ Medium ☐ Low |
| 20 acres | | | | |
| Accessibility | Committee, staff, consultants | | Significant portions can be opened to public Limited portions opened to public use | ⊠ High □ Medium |
| While sign | nificant portions can be o | pen to | o the public, access would need to be developed. | |
| Historic / Cultural | State Historic Preservation Office | | Known or high potential archaeological resource Historic designation (national, state, or local) Significant local cultural feature (physical landmark, working farm, unique structure, etc.) | ☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Moderate |
| At this tim | e, the historic and cultur | al res | ources are unknown but they are also unlikely. | |
| Water Protection | CC Public Works | | Within 5 year well protection zone Within 10 year well protection zone Contains high-infiltration soils within watershed protection area | ☐ High ☐ High ☑ Medium |
| | to the Open Space Plan, he property in the waters | | Health / Safety Considerations" map found in the a protection area. | ppendix |
| Flood Hazard | Federal Emergency Management Agency | | Within FEMA-designated 100 year floodplain Within area of known flooding | ☐ Low ☐ Medium |
| None | | | | |
| Prime Farmland | US Dept of Agriculture | | Land has statewide agricultural importance (irrigated farmland) | □ High |
| None | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Submitted b | y: | | Date: | |

Table B.Prioritizing Factors

This part of the evaluation assumes that some form of acquisition is necessary to protect the parcel(s) not otherwise protected by existing City, State or Federal regulation (wetlands, floodplain, easements, etc.)

For each parcel check the most appropriate priority factor for each category below.

| Uniqueness of Habitat Type □ One of few remaining examples of at least one characteristic in Table A □ Habitat or physical setting is relatively rare in Carson City □ Low No Ease of □ Landowner motivated to sell at less cost than market value etc.) favorable to the city □ Cost is not greater than appraised value, terms are not unfavorable The land owner is interested in a sale to the Open Space Program and willing to consider a trade. Potential To □ Likely significant participation of non-city funding partners □ High Share Cost □ Likely participation from other funding sources □ Medium □ Likely significant participation from other city departments □ Low If a trade is available, it's likely that participation from another city department will be required. A trade could provide a cost savings in the actual purchase price. |
|---|
| Habitat Type in Table A ☐ Habitat or physical setting is relatively rare in Carson City ☐ Low No Ease of ☐ Landowner motivated to sell at less cost than market value ☐ High ☐ Can be acquired with terms (options, payment structure, trade, etc.) favorable to the city ☐ Cost is not greater than appraised value, terms are not unfavorable The land owner is interested in a sale to the Open Space Program and willing to consider a trade. Potential To ☐ Likely significant participation of non-city funding partners ☐ High ☐ Likely participation from other funding sources ☐ Medium ☐ Likely significant participation from other city departments ☐ Low If a trade is available, it's likely that participation from another city department will be required. A |
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| Urgency □ Development is imminent □ High |
| ☐ For sale (acquisition / development likely) ☐ Medium |
| ☐ Private negotiation, not on open market ☐ Low |
| At the present time, the transaction is a private negotiation. However, if the OSAC does not wish to pursue acquisition, it is anticipated the property will be placed for sale. |
| Is a Significant ☐ Located within an Open Space priority area ☐ High |
| Part of Open |
| Space Plan |
| trail(s), or park(s) |
| Hillside Priority Area |
| Citizen Support ☐ Has city-wide citizen support / advocacy ☐ High |
| ☐ Has local citizen support ☐ Medium |
| ☒ No significant opposition☒ Low |
| |
| |
| Submitted by: Date: |

Photo Point 1: View to the west.



Photo Point 2: View to the northeast, taken from across U.S. Highway 50. For reference, note the U.S. Forest Service entrance sign for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

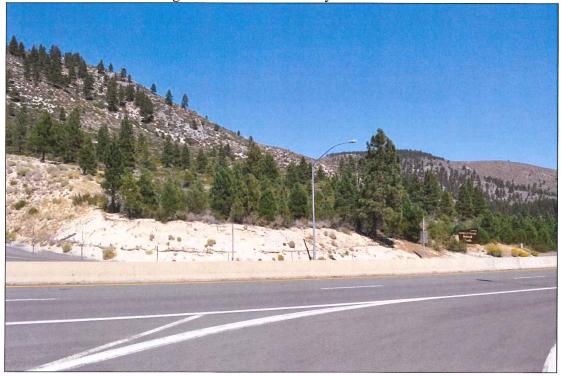


Photo Point 3: View to the northwest, taken from across U.S. Highway 50.

