



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CAPITAL DISTRICT
101 J STREET

Armando Quintero, Director

December 12, 2025

Mayor McCarty and Sacramento City Councilmembers
Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Council Item 2025-01873 – Waterfront Reinvestment Program and Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Certain Expenditures

Dear Mayor McCarty and Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my strong support for Item 2025-01873, authorizing staff to proceed with Phase A of the Waterfront Reinvestment Program (WRP) and adopting the official intent resolution necessary to position the City to reimburse eligible expenditures with future tax-exempt bond proceeds.

As District Superintendent for California State Parks' Capital District—which includes Old Sacramento State Historic Park, the California State Railroad Museum, and several of the cultural resources that anchor the district—I see firsthand the critical need to reinvest in the Old Sacramento Waterfront. The projects included in Phase A, particularly the Boardwalk Replacement, the Native American-themed Children's Play Area, and the design and construction of the Public Market Buildings, represent foundational improvements that will enhance public safety, strengthen tourism, and elevate the entire district's visitor experience.

Old Sacramento welcomes more than 4 million visitors annually, yet its core public-realm infrastructure has not kept pace with the increasing demand or the expectations of a modern, economically vibrant waterfront destination. The boardwalk system—now 20 years past its last comprehensive replacement—requires investment to ensure safe access and continued function as one of the most iconic features of the historic district.

Similarly, the Public Market Buildings proposal presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a dynamic food-and-beverage anchor, strengthen connections between museums and waterfront spaces, and support surrounding small businesses.

The Children's Play Area, developed in collaboration with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and Wilton Rancheria, adds an essential cultural and educational dimension that aligns with State Parks' interpretive mission and helps foreground the Indigenous history of the Sacramento River region.

California State Parks is deeply invested in the long-term vitality and success of the Old Sacramento Waterfront. The City's efforts through the WRP are aligned with our own stewardship objectives and will substantially benefit the museums, historic assets, and

educational programs we operate. These improvements will not only enhance the visitor experience but also contribute to the economic health and cultural vibrancy of the region.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the City Council to approve the motion directing staff to proceed with Phase A and to adopt the official intent resolution.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in revitalizing one of Sacramento's most historically significant and economically important destinations.

Sincerely,

John Fraser
District Superintendent
Capital District
California State Parks