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## Billy Mills 10K Parkway Plan Impact Analysis

### **Introduction:**

The American River Parkway Plan (Parkway Plan), in part, provides the guidelines for special events and group activities that may be conducted on the American River Parkway. This report analyzes the potential impacts to users and the natural environment as required by the Parkway Plan. The result of this analysis provides the justification for issuing or denying a permit by the Department.

### **Event Description:**

The Billy Mills 10k would take place on Thursday, June 26, 2014 from approximately 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm and run along the North and South sides of Parkway from Howe Avenue to Watt Avenue. Event participants and spectators are estimated to be approximately 1,000 people.

### **Goals and Concept Policies of the American River Parkway Plan**

#### Goals (Page 10)

- To provide, protect and enhance for public use a continuous open space greenbelt along the American River extending from the Sacramento River to Folsom Dam; and
- To provide appropriate access and facilities so that present and future generations can enjoy the amenities and resources of the Parkway which enhance the enjoyment of leisure activities; and
- To preserve, protect, interpret and improve the natural, archaeological, historical and recreational resources of the Parkway, including an adequate flow of high quality water, anadromous and resident fishes, migratory and resident wildlife, and diverse natural vegetation; and
- To mitigate adverse effects of activities and facilities adjacent to the Parkway; and
- To provide public safety and protection within and adjacent to the Parkway.

#### Concept Policies (Page 11)

##### 1.1 Balanced Management

The American River Parkway is a unique regional asset that shall be managed to balance the goals of controlling flooding; preserving and enhancing native vegetation, native fish species, the naturalistic open space and environmental quality within the urban environment; maintaining and

improving water flow and quality; providing adequate habitat connectivity and travel corridors to support migratory and resident wildlife; providing recreational opportunities; and ensuring public safety.

### 1.2 Recreation

The Parkway shall be oriented to passive, unstructured water-enhanced recreation activities which are appropriate in a natural environment, and which are not normally provided by other County recreational facilities. To this end, development in the Parkway shall be minimal, and facilities which are primarily visitor attractions should be placed in less sensitive areas within the County Park system. Insofar as possible, development shall not occur in areas where natural ecosystems are still relatively undisturbed.

### 1.3 Resource Protection

Limitation on the use of the Parkway through design and management tools to prevent overuse of the Parkway and preserve the environmental quality, thereby ensuring the integrity of the Parkway for future users.

### 1.4 Land Use

No existing publicly owned Parkway lands shall be disposed of through sale, lease, or de facto uses adverse to the goals and policies of this Plan, in order to assure the long-term protection and integrity of the present boundaries of the Parkway.

### 1.5 Cooperation

Coordination and cooperation in Parkway planning and management is essential, especially in recognizing the many important roles of jurisdictions and agencies with regulatory responsibilities within the Parkway.

## **Event compliance with the Goals and Policies of the American River Parkway Plan**

This event is a 10k race on the existing levee or bike trail and is consistent with the goals and policies of the Parkway Plan.

## **Special Events & Competitive Activities defined in the American River Parkway Plan**

### Group Activities

- 5.30 Any medium or large group activity conducted on any designated pedestrian trail, equestrian/hiking trail, or bicycle trail shall be coordinated with the Parkway Manager, to minimize the impacts on other Parkway users.
- 5.31 Competitive group activities may be permitted on the bicycle trail and shall be limited to:
- a. Fund raising by non-profit or charitable organizations with public and civic interests; or
  - b. Competitive recreation for which no event fee is charged.

- 5.32 Competitive events on the bicycle trail shall not exceed one event per month.
- 7.12 Activities and facilities in the Parkway which attract large numbers of users are to be directed to the less sensitive areas such as Limited Recreation and Developed Recreation areas so that the areas which are more environmentally sensitive can be protected.

### Special Events (Page 102)

The special events section of the Parkway Plan defines the following benefits, purpose, and considerations for permitting special events.

- Special events serve to introduce new users to the Parkway, potentially resulting in an expanded base of community awareness and long-term support for the Parkway.
- Events that help to educate and interpret the Parkway's resources are particularly valuable as opportunities to increase visitors' appreciation and understanding of the Parkway.
- Events also contribute to an important revenue stream that helps support on-going Parkway operations, maintenance, and programs.
- Additionally, there has been considerable community support for large events at the confluence of the two rivers. Historically, both small and large events have been held successfully in the Parkway at locations selected on the basis of the site's ability to support the scope and scale of the event, and the ability to manage the event in a way that minimizes impacts to the Parkway's natural setting, other Parkway visitors, and adjacent communities.
- The permit process for a special event includes measures to minimize impacts on other users and Parkway resources. (See Chapter 11 for discussion on permit processes.) These measures typically include steps to avoid closure of the bicycle trail and boat ramps, defining the size of the event area and amount of parking allowed, temporarily fencing the event area to regulate access, leaving portions of the park and parking areas available for other use during the event, regulating and enforcing amplified sound regulations, enforcement of alcoholic beverage regulations specified in the permit for the event, and advance notification regarding the date, time, and location of the event through signage and the media. This Parkway Plan also recommends that the permit process require: recycling, shuttle services and promoting bicycle use in order to reduce traffic congestion, and valet parking for bicycles.

### **Compliance with Special Event & Competitive Activity Section of the American River Parkway Plan**

This event is a 10K competitive race. The Parkway Plan allows for a competitive race to be conducted on the bike trail during the month of June. There are no other events scheduled for the bike trail during the month of June.

## Permit Process Guidelines

Code Section	Requirements	Compliance Justification
9.32.021 (a)	That the proposed activity or use of the park will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the general public enjoyment of the park	This event could close a small portion of the bike trail with the provisions for detours either to the levee top or American River Drive. The remainder of the bike trail will be open for the rest of the 23 miles managed by the County.
9.32.021 (b)	That the proposed activity or use will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the promotion of public health, welfare, safety, and recreation	The event is a recreation event that will not unreasonably detract from the promotion of public health, welfare, or safety. Volunteers, race staff and parks staff will be on hand to address any potential issues that may arise.
9.32.021 (c)	That all conditions including, where applicable, the payment of fees, approval of the Board of Supervisors, and insurance coverage, are met	The provisions in the contract with the event promoter ensure compliance with this provision. The Department will be requesting a variance to the fee schedule for this event.
9.32.021 (d)	That the proposed activity or use is not reasonably anticipated to incite violence, crime, or disorderly conduct	It is not anticipated that this event will incite violence, crime or disorderly conduct.
9.32.021 (e)	That the proposed activity or use will not entail unusual, extraordinary, or burdensome expense or security operation by the Department	The Department is assessing fees for a portion of the expenses and will be recognized as an in kind sponsor for the event as recognition for the fee waiver.
9.32.021 (f)	That the facilities desired have not been reserved for other use.	This condition has been met.
Special Events page 102	Defining event size	The event will attract about 1,000 runners and will have adequate space to safely conduct the event in and around the start line.

Special Events page 102	Parking	The parking plan has been well vetted and managed in order to provide adequate ingress and egress from the event area and will be primarily located at Sacramento State.
Special Events page 102	Temporary Fencing	Not required
Special Events page 102	Park Availability	The event is not using Parkway Parking Lots
Special Events page 102	Regulating Amplified Sound	All sound amplification will be located off the Parkway.
Special Events page 102	Alcoholic Beverage Enforcement	Not a part of the event
Special Events page 102	Shuttle services	No shuttle services are planned at this time.
Special Events page 106	Commercial Activities	Will be available outside the Parkway boundaries.

### **Impacts to other users**

Activity	Potential Impact	Mitigation Steps
Trails Recreation	Race is conducted on trails during recreation and commuting hours.	The race organizers and the department will notify the community of the impacts and provide detours for recreation users impacted by the event.
Aquatic Recreation	Minimal impact	none
Nature Appreciation	Additional trail traffic	The additional traffic on the trail or levee and the noise associated with many runners could impact the nature appreciation activities of some Parkway users. The remainder of the Parkway is available for users who may be impacted by the event.
Recreational Enjoyment	Minimal impact	none
Good Neighbor Policy	Minimal impact to surrounding communities	none

Frequency of Use	The parkway plan allows for competitive activities during the month of June however the board approved fee schedule restricts the activity.	This event is recognized once only event that is taking place in conjunction with the USA Track and Field Championship. The Department does not wish to pursue a permanent change to the fee schedule and is only requesting a variance for this event.
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### **Impact Monitoring**

The Department staff will be responsible for implementing the provisions of the permit during the event as well as ensuring that all trash, equipment and event impacts are adequately mitigated. Significant changes and or damages will be evaluated by staff prior to the event or after the event to ensure proper steps are taken to protect or repair the impacted area.

### **Final Determination**

The Department of Regional Parks will request a variance to the Board approved fee schedule to allow the department to issue a permit for this event.