

COUNTY OF NEVADA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Chair Wm. "Hank" Weston, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Richard Anderson, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Donna Landi, Clerk of the Board

December 10, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
First Floor, State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Re: Requesting Completion of the Bridgeport Covered Bridge Restoration Project

At its regular meeting today, the Board of Supervisors approved the attached Resolution requesting the Bridgeport Covered Bridge Restoration Project be fully funded in the 2014-2015 State Budget and completed by April 2015.

The Park reports that the Bridgeport Covered Bridge draws approximately 500,000 visitors annually to this region. Tourism is vital to our area and we can't afford to wait any longer while this project languishes.

The Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you, the State Legislature and the Resources Agency and State Parks to make this project a priority for the benefit of our regional economy and the State's.

Sincerely,

William H. "Hank" Weston  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attachment: Resolution 13-503

cc: Major General (Ret) Anthony L. Jackson USMC  
Senator Ted Gaines  
Senator Jim Nielsen  
Assembly Member Brian Dahle  
Secretary John Laird, Natural Resources Agency  
Matt Green, Sector Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
David Anderson, President, South Yuba River State Park Association  
Paul Yoder, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih

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# **RESOLUTION No. 13-503**

## **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

### **RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND SENIOR LEADERS AT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO FULLY FUND THE BRIDGEPORT BRIDGE RENOVATION PROJECT IN THE 2014-2015 STATE BUDGET AND SCHEDULE THE PROJECT FOR COMPLETION BY APRIL 2015**

WHEREAS, built in 1862 by David John Wood with lumber from his mill in Sierra County, the 229-foot Bridgeport Covered Bridge at the South Yuba River State Park is the longest single-span wooden covered bridge still in existence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the 1860's, the Bridgeport Covered Bridge was part of the Virginia Turnpike Company Toll Road which served the Northern Mines and the busy Nevada Comstock Lode, serving passenger and commercial traffic to the silver mines of Virginia City via the Henness Pass; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgeport Covered Bridge is a California Registered Historical Landmark, a National Historic Landmark, and an American Society of Civil Engineers Historic Civil Landmark; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years the Bridgeport Covered Bridge at the South Yuba River State Park has drawn upwards of 500,000 visitors annually to this region, not only from other states but other countries, thereby becoming one of Nevada County's most important tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, after an engineering survey in 2011 revealed severe structural problems including twisted arches, dry rot of structural supports and misalignment of end supports, the bridge was deemed unsafe for foot traffic and was closed due to safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has estimated the cost for initial bridge repairs at approximately \$1.1 million, and DPR has secured a \$545,000 federal grant to be used toward this project, with local fundraising efforts working to raise a required \$62,000 match; however, nearly \$600,000 is still needed to fully restore and reopen the Bridgeport Covered Bridge for the community's enjoyment once again; and

WHEREAS, over the last few years volunteers from the South Yuba River Parks Association (SYRPA) and the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) have donated over 11,000 hours in service at the Bridgeport Visitor Center, on the trails and beaches serving as docents, filling gaps left by down-staffing at the parks, cleaning up the park and talking to visitors about stewardship. The State has estimated the dollar value of the volunteer hours and recently agreed to allocate a portion of these funds toward the stabilization project this year to prevent further deterioration and/or a catastrophic collapse; and

WHEREAS, SYRPA is spearheading a "Save Our Bridge" campaign to raise funds, increase awareness, and build widespread community and political support to save the Bridge from collapse and reopen it to the public. To date, SYRPA has partnered with the California State Parks Foundation to provide \$30,000 in local matching funds to DPR, has met with state and local elected representatives to enlist their support, and expanded the Save Our Bridge campaign to include community and business leaders from SYRCL, the Economic Resource Council, local Chambers of Commerce, and welcomes other community leaders to join the campaign; and

WHEREAS, although DPR reports that the "Phase I" (stabilization) project is slated to take place in 2014, no firm plans or timeline have been formulated to date to secure the necessary funds for "Phase II", the restoration and rehabilitation necessary to reopen the Covered Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors firmly believes that the Bridgeport Covered Bridge must be restored and re-opened to foot traffic as soon as possible so that the tens of thousands of visitors to the Park can once again walk across this bridge and experience the unique and memorable experience of walking back through time and history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada unanimously urges the Governor, Legislators of the State of California, and senior leaders at the California Department of Parks and Recreation to fully fund the Bridgeport Bridge renovation project in the 2014-2015 State Budget and schedule the project for completion by April 2015, and direct County staff to forward this Resolution to Governor Jerry Brown, State Senator Ted Gaines, State Senator Jim Nielsen, State Assembly member Brian Dahle, Resource Secretary John Laird, and State Parks Director Anthony Jackson.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Nathan Beason, Edward Scofield, Terry Lamphier, Hank Weston, and Richard Anderson.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

DONNA LANDI  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Donna Landi*

*Hank Weston*  
Hank Weston, Chair

12/10/2013 cc: SYRCL  
State Parks  
Legislators