CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

IRON HORSE CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – LANDSCAPE ELEMENT

September 1, 2000

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The County extends their gratitude to these volunteers who participated actively in the Iron Horse Corridor Advisory Committee to guide development of this document:

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Contra Costa County, the Iron Horse Corridor Advisory Committee, and Consultant Team gratefully acknowledge those residents and community organizations who participated in public meetings and provided valuable ideas and input.

PREFACE

The Iron Horse Corridor is an eighteen-and-a-half-mile former railroad right-of-way traversing north-south in Central Contra Costa County, California. The Contra Costa County Public Works Department (and County Redevelopment Agency in one location) has overall management responsibility for the former Southern Pacific Right-of-Way. The corridor is used as a transportation and recreational trail above ground and provides easements for communications, power utilities, water, sewage, and oil pipelines below ground.

In a resolution adopted in July 1997, the County Board of Supervisors directed the Public Works Department, the Community Development Department and the County Redevelopment Agency to jointly develop a Management Program for the Iron Horse Corridor. The program consists of six elements: mapping of the right-of-way; joint use criteria and standards; an inventory of existing license agreements, contracts, and conditions for existing and committed uses in the corridor; landscaping criteria (*Landscape Element*); a funding strategy (*Finance Element*); and a public information program.

This document comprises the *Landscape Element* of the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program. The first part of the document consists of background information on the Iron Horse Corridor and the management program. The second part identifies design goals, criteria, and an implementation process to guide landscaping of the right-of-way as a joint-use facility. The purpose of this element is to ensure design of safe amenities and aesthetic landscape improvements that create a cohesive landscape character along the corridor. Both public and private entities interested in improving the corridor are required to use these criteria in preparing design improvements. The County Public Works Department will use these criteria to evaluate and approve proposed projects.

The other elements of the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program will be available from the County Public Works Department.

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