



City of

GOLD HILL

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RESOLUTION 21-R-3

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WHITEWATER PARK AS A POTENTIAL HOST FOR THE 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES WHITEWATER EVENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Hill adopted a Parks and Open Space Master Plan on May 18, 2015;
and

WHEREAS, within said Master Plan it was agreed that there was limited benefit to any extensive
marketing of park amenities and programs directly to Gold Hill Citizens, and that the Whitewater
Park had the potential to be a regional, statewide and potentially even national draw; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan states that this asset should be marketed broadly.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The City of Gold Hill will attempt to market broadly the Whitewater Park by supporting the
efforts of the State of Oregon, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG), and the Gold
Hill Whitewater Center to engage with the Los Angeles Olympic Committee to explore the
possibility of hosting the whitewater events of the 2028 Olympic Games at the Gold Hill
Whitewater Park.

The City of Gold Hill will submit a letter to the Office of the Governor of Oregon, voicing its
support for the proposed letter (Attachment "A") to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Organizing
Committee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Approve: Mayor Brad Studebaker

Attest: City Recorder Jessica Simpson

Res 21-R-3 Attachment "A"

Draft of Letter from the Governor to the LAOC

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF OREGON

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Organizing Committee

Attn: _____

Dear _____,

I am writing in order to explore a possible collaboration between the State of Oregon and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Organizing Committee ("LA 2028"). There is currently under development in Southern Oregon the Gold Hill White Water Park. This project is being developed in a natural environment on the Rogue River and will meet all technical specifications for Olympic whitewater events. Design of the project is being led by Rick McLaughlin, who designed the 1996 Olympic course on the Ocoee River in Tennessee.

In 1996, the Atlanta Olympic Organizing Committee chose to conduct its whitewater events at the facility on the Ocoee River in order to create a larger and more creative whitewater environment using natural resources rather than the smaller, artificial, pump-fed, energy-inefficient courses used in more recent Olympic Games.

We would like to explore with LA 2028 the possibility of hosting the 2028 Olympic whitewater events at the Gold Hill White Water Park for several reasons:

1. Because the facility is being developed with mostly Oregon funding sources, LA 2028 would likely save millions of dollars in development costs verses the proposed facilities on Lake Perris.
2. The 2028 Olympics are intended to be sustainable. Utilizing existing, natural resources, particularly during a time of water conservation and greenhouse gas concerns, would support LA 2028's mission of pursuing sustainable approaches to designing and utilizing facilities for these events. The LA 2028 Sustainability and Legacy Committee has an expressed mission "to deliver an environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable Games....aiming to deliver the first ever 'energy positive' Games by generating more energy from renewable sources and Games-related energy efficiency efforts than needed to power the Games". Utilizing an existing, natural facility would be consistent with these objectives.

3. As mentioned above, the approach of having a natural facility within a reasonable air travel distance has been accomplished successfully by Atlanta. There is precedence for this approach. We believe this success could be duplicated for the LA 2028 Olympics.
4. The State of Oregon would stand to benefit by hosting these events and we would therefore encourage more significant financial participation by businesses who have interests in or associated with Oregon.
5. The Gold Hill White Water Park is located at the site of historically significant Native American sacred salmon ceremonies. The Park has already collaborated extensively with local tribes to honor their traditions. We envision the possibility of developing additional concepts to honor this history in a manner that would be consistent with and promote the spirit of the modern Olympic movement.

I would appreciate the opportunity to have representatives of our team meet with the appropriate representatives of LA 2028 to see whether there is any merit to exploring more fully this concept.

Thank you.