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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **RIVER DISTRICT IS HOME TO NEW URBAN OFFROAD BIKE PARK**

As development progresses at the River District, local cyclists are awaiting the October 31 grand opening of the Township 9 Bike Park, a new progressive skills bike park that will include an oval track with banked curves, mounds of dirt for jumps, a half-mile cross-country trail and a loop with gentle hills for youngsters on strider bikes without pedals.

“When we consider amenities needed for a vital, energized district in the urban core, we generally think of housing, restaurants, retail and other services,” said Patty Kleinknecht, executive director of The River District. “Bicyclists would normally have to pack their bikes in the car and travel many miles to experience the style of riding that will be available here in the River District.” The bike park, near the end of North 7<sup>th</sup> Street along the American River, provides a series of increasingly difficult obstacles to help riders hone their off-road skills.

Sacramento City Councilmember Jeff Harris touted the bike park’s central location near the river, the bike trail and, perhaps most important for cyclists from other parts of town, its accessibility via light rail trains.

“The River District has been an underutilized, hidden gem for 80 years, but it is fast becoming a destination and recognized as the gateway to downtown,” said Harris, who is a cyclist. He said the bike park will attract the attention of riders from throughout the region and show them “this city is bigger and more interesting than they ever realized.”

The park was the brainchild of Terry Cox, owner of College Cyclery – an 80-year-old bicycle shop in Land Park that will open a new retail store at Cannery Place in Township Nine by the end of the year. Cox worked with Randy Spangler, a trail specialist with the International Mountain Bicyclists Association who has designed similar parks in the state, nation and internationally, to plan the site. The Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC), the local chapter of the IMBA, helped build and will maintain the park.

“This is a great partnership,” said Cox. “Working together, the city, Township Nine, and the cycling organizations have turned this vacant land into an opportunity. It’s active, people are already using it, and it’s a vibrant attraction for the River District.” Cox said bicycle officers from the nearby California Highway Patrol headquarters have expressed interest in working out at the track.



With the support and leadership of former Parks & Recreation Director Jim Combs, the City of Sacramento entered into a “no rent” lease agreement with the developer of Township Nine on a temporary basis to test public demand for a permanent location in the city. The year-to-year lease allows for a public use urban bike park with the expectation that the land will revert to the developer when the time is right for development of homes, offices or other improvements at the 65-acre mixed-use community.

“It provides an excellent interim use of vacant land adjacent to the American River and the Two Rivers Bike Trail until it is ready for development,” said Steve Goodwin, president of Township Nine. “We are happy to offer the land and fund the construction of the park, providing a needed amenity for residents of Township Nine and the downtown area.”

The Township 9 Bike Park includes an oval “pump track” consisting of mounds of dirt and banked curves. Mountain bikers can ride continuously around the loop by pumping back-and-forth on their bikes with minimal pedaling.

The park will include beginner, intermediate, and advanced jump lines consisting of a series of mounds of dirt that are flat or angled on top, referred to as “table jumps.” Cyclists enter the jump lines by rolling down a steep drop-in slope and then ride over the table jumps, often becoming airborne. In addition, there is a nearly half-mile cross-country mountain bike trail around the perimeter of the vacant lots, with assorted features that allow mountain bikers to hone their skills in negotiating various obstacles. A “strider loop” oval track will have gentle ups and downs for children on the small strider bikes.

Progressive skills bike parks have become popular in recent years and have been built in Folsom, Truckee, Elk Grove, Fresno, and Marin County, according to IMBA representatives.

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## **ABOUT THE RIVER DISTRICT**

The River District, an 830-acre central city district, is quickly transitioning from a light industrial, low intensity commercial area into one of Sacramento’s up and coming vibrant, mixed use, transit oriented communities. The historic commercial area will combine an eclectic mix of residential, office and commercial land uses designed to take advantage of multimodal transportation options, riverfront views and open space.

(916) 321-5599

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