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**State of Montana**  
**Office of the Governor**



STATE LAW LIBRARY  
JUL 25 1996  
OF MONTANA

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**Executive Order No. 17-96**

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EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE  
VIRGINIA CITY/NEVADA CITY PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

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WHEREAS, the towns of Virginia City and Nevada City, Montana, are recognized by both the general public and professional historians as central to Montana's heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, these two towns represent major heritage resources significant both statewide and nationally as the best representation of Western gold rush sites extant; and

WHEREAS, the owner of these towns because of financial considerations has chosen to place them for sale; and

WHEREAS, the decision to acquire these resources must be made before June 30, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these buildings and their contents for public visitation, appreciation, and tourism opportunities would represent an irretrievable loss for Montana.

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NOW THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Montana, specifically 2-

1 15-122, MCA, do hereby establish the Virginia City/Nevada City  
2 Preservation Task Force.

3 I. PURPOSE

4 The purpose of the Task Force is to research, consider and  
5 recommend to the Governor and the Legislature:

6 A. the best methodologies for financing and acquiring the  
7 buildings and contents of Virginia City and Nevada City now  
8 owned by Ford Bovey;

9 B. the most effective strategies to operate, manage, and  
10 market the facilities as cultural and tourism destinations;

11 C. the best and most workable management/  
12 ownership approaches; and

13 D. the appropriate fiscal and cultural decisions to  
14 assure that the buildings and contents will be conserved  
15 and maintained to survive long into the future.

16 II. COMPOSITION

17 The Virginia City/Nevada City Preservation Task Force  
18 shall be comprised of not more than thirteen members, with one  
19 member serving as chairperson. The names and addresses of  
20 members who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor are  
21 submitted by separate letter to the Montana Historical Society  
22 and the Secretary of State. Staff support shall be provided by  
23 the Montana Historical Society.

24 III. COMPENSATION

25 Task Force members eligible for compensation under 2-15-  
26 122(5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Montana Historical  
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1 Society, at \$25 for each day actually and necessarily engaged in  
2 the performance of Task Force duties. All members shall be  
3 reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to 2-15-122(5), MCA.

4 IV. ADVISORY

5 The National Trust for Historic Preservation shall be asked  
6 to provide any possible advice and expertise on financing,  
7 ownership, operation, and curation.

8 The Office of Budget and Program Planning shall provide  
9 advice and guidance on methods and strategies for acquiring and  
10 financing the facilities.

11 V. DURATION


12 This task force shall exist until the production of a final  
13 report containing recommendations for legislation for  
14 consideration by the Governor and Legislature, but no later than  
15 November 30, 1996.

16 This Order is effective immediately.

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20 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT  
21 SEAL of the State of Montana,  
22 this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1996.

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25 MARC RACICOT, Governor

26 ATTEST:

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MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State