

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: **RECORD OF MEETING**

MEETING TITLE: **LAST CHANCE GRADE PARTNERING MEETING**

MEETING DATE: 9/20/17	TIME: 1000 - 1200	LOCATION: SOUTHERN OPERATIONS CENTER OF REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS, ORICK, CA
Facilitator Jaime Matteoli Meeting initiated by: Caltrans District 1	Attendees Leonel Arguello Victor Bjelajac Karl Falk-Carlsen K. E. Fischer Tim Keefe Jaime Matteoli Kevin Mealue Jason Meyer Brandi Natt	Titles / Affiliations Chief RMS, National Parks Service District Superintendent, California State Parks Project Management Support, Caltrans Planner, Yurok Tribe Archaeologist, Caltrans Project Manager, Caltrans Environmental Services, Elk Valley Rancheria Environmental Planner, Caltrans Transportation Manager, Yurok Tribe

Notes:

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were made and a brief overview of the agenda was given.

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- A. Jaime Matteoli briefly discussed the content of the May 31st meeting and covered the action items from that day.
 - 1. New Partners with an updated MOU is nearing completion.
 - 2. Jaime Matteoli discussed a State Parks liaison with the Caltrans Environmental Chief. Coordination and discussions are ongoing between Caltrans and State Parks.
 - 3. Tim Keefe mailed letters to partner agencies requesting a cultural resource working group be convened.

III. MOU

- A. Jaime Matteoli gave a brief update on the status of the new Partner Group MOU. The group is making good progress on the updates. One more partner “Whereas” statement is needed and a few updates to org charts are needed. Otherwise, the agreement is ready for signatures.

IV. UPDATES

- A. Caltrans: Preliminary Geotechnical Studies
 - 1. A localized failure of approximately 10’ of south-bound lane, this past winter, prompted increased interest and coordination from high level Management within Caltrans and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). This paved the way for \$5 Million in partial funding for preliminary Geotechnical reports.
 - a. This initial, partial funding is a key step to refining project alternatives for the Environmental Review process.
 - 2. Caltrans Surveys have been assigned to begin surveying and staking portions of the alternative alignments for study in the preliminary Geotechnical reports, using the \$5 Million partial funding. Tree surveys will be conducted concurrently, and have the potential to rule out one of the proposed “C” alignments early in the study process should impacts be deemed too great.
 - 3. State Parks raised concerns over environmental impacts that would come as a result of the surveys and geotechnical investigations. Getting in and out of locations, bringing in equipment, etc...
 - a. Caltrans acknowledges State Parks’ concerns and stated that initial surveys and studies would occur along current road alignments, which would be quick and have little impacts. Locations off of current road alignments will take longer to survey and study, as Caltrans will be coordinating with State Parks and other agencies to minimize impacts associated with work at these locations.

- B. Caltrans: Coordinating with FHWA on Pursuing Approval of a Permanent Project
 - 1. Caltrans updated the Partners on the Expert Based Risk Assessment (EBRA) process and news from FHWA.
 - a. The EBRA team is targeting a completion date in February, 2018. As part of the EBRA, a Risk Assessment Panel will look at proposed alternatives and produce decision trees and probabilities for each potential outcome. The Risk Assessment Panel will be made up of consultants and experts, no Caltrans staff will be on the panel.
 - b. Completion of the EBRA will aid Caltrans in the pursuit of funding for a long-term solution at Last Chance Grade.
 - c. Recent talks with FHWA have suggested that Caltrans and Partners look toward seeking funding via legislative action.
- C. Caltrans: Public Meeting on 10/18/17
 - 1. Caltrans will be hosting a public meeting in Crescent City on October 18, 2017. The meeting will be at the Del Norte Fairgrounds and will run from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. The meeting will be facilitated by a 3rd party consultant, hired by Caltrans.
 - 2. The meeting will be an information sharing meeting to show how Caltrans is coordinating with its Partners and highlight the progress that has been made so far. There will be a presentation from a panel of project stakeholders, a brief question and answer session with the panel, and a set of kiosks with displays to provide further information on project progress.
 - 3. Jaime Matteoli invited the Partners to participate on the panel or at a kiosk during the open house. An invitation will be sent to interested partners for a dry run in early October.
 - 4. A discussion was had highlighting the topics Caltrans expects to cover at the open house.
- D. Partner Updates
 - 1. A round table was had where partners presented updates.
 - a. Leonel Arguello and Victor Bjelajac offered for Caltrans survey crews to call either of them, or their agencies, should any questions arise or any help be needed while surveying and staking the routes alternatives.
 - b. Concern was noted over the “C” alignment proposals and potential impacts to Coho habitat.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. The team reviewed and concurred on the attached action items.
- B. The team agreed to hold a Partnering Meeting in mid-November. Jaime Matteoli will send out a poll to determine the date.

Meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

Responsible	Action	Due Date
Jaime Matteoli	Share electronic files of displays for the open house with the Partners.	
Jaime Matteoli	Send invitation for an open house dry run, in early October, to participating partners.	
Jason Meyer	Schedule a Biological Working Group meeting.	
Tim Keefe	Send out date requests for the Cultural Working Group kickoff meeting. Expect to meet sometime in October.	
Brandi Natt	Follow up on the Cultural Working Group invitation response from the Yurok Tribe.	
Jaime Matteoli	Send draft MOU to Partners for review.	
Jaime Matteoli	Schedule next meeting for early/mid – November.	