

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

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

MEETING DATE: 12/6/17	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 Victor Bjelajac Pyuwa Bommelyn Craig Compton Karl Falk-Carlsen Jaime Matteoli Jason Meyer David Roemer Rowena Yeahquo	Titles / Affiliations District Superintendent, California State Parks Cultural Department Director, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Manager, Green Diamond Project Management Support, Caltrans Project Manager, Caltrans Environmental Planner, Caltrans Deputy Superintendent, National Parks Service Planning Director, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

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 September 20th meeting and covered the action items from that day.
 - 1. The Partners MOU is being updated and will include new Partners, updated verbiage and updated org charts.
 - 2. Jaime Matteoli discussed the ongoing geotechnical studies at Last Chance Grade. Caltrans survey crews are in the field staking the proposed alignments for the geotechnical studies.
 - 3. Jaime Matteoli thanked the Partners for supporting and participating in the October public meeting.

III. UPDATES

- A. Caltrans: Preliminary Geotechnical Studies.
 - 1. Caltrans survey crews have completed approximately 50% of the planned area set out as part of the \$5 Million partial funding for geotechnical studies.
 - a. Geotechnical studies at the more easily accessible locations should begin in the summer of 2018.
 - 2. The Biological Working Group is looking at the various proposed alignments to see if there are any jeopardy calls for listed species.
 - a. Caltrans is working to provide some initial analysis that will help partner agencies make any potential jeopardy call determinations.
 - b. There was a discussion on whether or not abandoning the existing roadway will help mitigate impacts on wildlife.
 - i) While abandoning the current alignment would help wildlife as a whole, it may or may not help with regards to any specific listed species in question.
 - 3. Caltrans has been working with partner agencies to determine what environmental studies may be required for the project.
 - 4. Caltrans has begun contacting local tribes to create a programmatic agreement for a Cultural Working Group that will address cultural concerns within the scope of the project. This group will meet quarterly.
- 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.
 - a. A panel of 5 experts will look at the proposed Last Chance Grade Alternatives. From this review, a report will be generated discussing the geotechnical risks associated with the various proposed alternatives.
 - i) The three objectives that will be considered are: Mobility, Safety, and Cost.

2. The next step for the proposed alternatives, after the EBRA completion, is for Caltrans to engage with stakeholders to determine which alternatives to include in the environmental analysis process.
 3. It was suggested that the Huffman Group begin meeting again, as this group will be important for the progress of the Last Chance Grade project. It has been a long time since this group last met.
- C. Caltrans: Partial Funding of Environmental
1. Caltrans is working to determine the next logical step in the project to request funding for from the California Transportation Committee (CTC).
 2. A quantitative risk analysis is being performed by Caltrans to determine the amount of funding to request for the next step in the project.
- D. Partner Updates
1. A round table was had where partners presented updates.
 - a. State Parks and Green Diamond are working to finalize their mutual use/access agreement.
 - b. National Parks – Steve Mietz is the new Director. There is concern about potential Federal shutdowns in December, could slow coordination efforts.
 - c. State Parks – will work with National Parks to help cover emergencies, should they arise, during a Federal shutdown.
 - d. State Parks is onboard with helping Caltrans get access for geotechnical investigations.
 - e. State Parks – In an emergency, if 101 is closed and the State Parks / Green Diamond mutual access route is needed for long term use by emergency responders, they would seek help from Caltrans and others to make betterments to the road to handle the increased traffic load.
 - f. All partners present stated their interest to walk the staked alignments with Caltrans should the opportunity arise.

IV. 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 February or March, 2018. 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 the new study, showing the movement of the roadway at Last Chance Grade over time, with the Partners group.	
Jaime Matteoli	Follow up on any outstanding issues regarding the MOU update.	
Jaime Matteoli	Contact John Driscoll about remobilizing the Huffman Stakeholders Group.	
Jaime Matteoli	Invite partners to walk the proposed alignments, should the opportunity arise.	
Jaime Matteoli	Schedule next Partners meeting for after the completion of the EBRA, February or March, 2018.	