

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

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

MEETING DATE: 10/24/19 **TIME:** 1000 - 1200 **LOCATION:** CRESCENT CITY FIRE AND RESCUE, CRESCENT CITY, CA

Facilitator	Attendees	Titles / Affiliations
Joan Chaplick	Victor Bjelajac Joan Chaplick Zack Chapman Steve Croteau Alexis Kelso Jaime Matteoli Maria Mayer Steve Mietz David Roemer Brett Silver	District Superintendent, California State Parks Principal, MIG, Inc. Tribal Employment Rights Officer, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans Senior Transportation Planner, Caltrans Project Manager, Caltrans Project Associate, MIG, Inc. Superintendent, Redwood National Park, National Park Service Deputy Superintendent, National Park Service Sector Superintendent, California State Parks
Meeting initiated by: Caltrans District 1		

Notes:

I. INTRODUCTION:

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

II. PREPARATION FOR CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TOWN HALL, NOVEMBER 6

A. Planning

1. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) Town Hall will take place at the Del Norte County Chambers on November 6, 2019. The Town Hall will cover county and tribal transportation projects throughout the area. Although the subject matter is not limited to Last Chance Grade, it is recognized as an important project in whose success the CTC is strongly invested.
2. Tamara Leighton, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission, is the local contact regarding planning for the Town Hall. Speakers will include CTC Commissioners, staff and Executive Director Susan Branson.

B. Schedule

1. The day will begin with a tour of Last Chance Grade scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. During lunch, virtual viewing of LCG alternative sites will be offered using HoloLens technology. The Town Hall afternoon session begins at 2:30 p.m. with one hour allowed for a presentation by Caltrans, which will include a 20-minute briefing on LCG in which Congressman Huffman and Senator McGuire will participate.
2. The CTC Town Hall will be followed by a Town Hall hosted by Senator McGuire at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds in Crescent City.

C. Partner Involvement

1. Partners are encouraged to arrive at the beginning of the CTC Town Hall afternoon session and speak on behalf of LCG during the 20-minute public comment period which will follow Caltrans' presentation. There are no question and answer periods included in the Town Hall schedule, so the public comment period provides the only opportunity for partners and stakeholders to speak. Public comment is expected to begin at about 3:45 p.m.; Jaime Matteoli will confirm the time. Caltrans will provide current talking points on LCG project details.
2. Jaime Matteoli will serve as the point of contact for partners regarding the LCG Tour and CTC Town Hall.

D. Last Chance Grade Presentation

1. Jaime reviewed a draft of the presentation on Last Chance Grade that will be shared with the CTC. Topics covered by the presentation include:
 - a. Geotech studies – will determine risks associated with alternatives and possibly help eliminate some alternatives from further study.
 - b. Environmental studies
 - c. Collaborative process for selecting, evaluating and eliminating alternatives. All partners are at the table early and with equal investment, and collaboration and shared responsibility for studies on partner properties is helping to expedite the work. Stakeholders will weigh in on the criteria to help ensure a data-driven process, with substantial assistance from the project-specific Architectural and Engineering (A&E) contract which lasts for the life of the project.
 - d. Focus on public and stakeholder concern re. timeline and requests for a confirmed completion date sooner than 2039. It is too early to provide any degree of certainty, but the presentation covers possibilities for accelerating the process of completing an alternative:
 - i) Preliminary, geotechnical and environmental studies normally done in series, as well as review processes, will be performed concurrently whenever possible.
 - ii) Alternative procurement procedures including a Construction Manager/General Contractor contract, which allows Construction Manager to provide input on constructability during the design process, and then, upon the satisfactory completion of pricing negotiations, to become the General Contractor for the construction phase. This will allow a well-developed design process that may be more costly up front but allow more certainty about impacts, support a robust environmental document and reduce delays during construction. Designers can be added concurrently, allowing more resources leading to faster development. The CMGC contract reduces risks and allows the use of separate smaller contracts that can be permitted separately.
 - e. Potential risks that may delay the schedule, including litigation, discoveries leading to scope change, mitigation impasses, and major unknowns such as restrictive work window permits, geology, sensitivities regarding biological and/or cultural resources.
 - f. Funding. Environmental phase is fully funded (\$50M). Design phase will need to be funded at approximately \$30M.
 - g. Once the preferred alternative has been selected, a approximate completion date earlier than 2039 can be specified.

III. CALTRANS UPDATES

A. Caltrans Updates

1. A&E Contract
 - a. A&E contractor selection and contracting is on schedule to be completed by December 2019.
2. Preliminary Geotechnical Studies
 - a. Phase 2 of geotechnical studies are currently ongoing. Phase 3 is on schedule to begin in fall of 2020.
 - b. An Open House specifically regarding Phase 3 of the geotechnical study process will be scheduled for December 2019.
3. Biological Working Group
 - a. The Biological Working Group last met in September. Notes from that meeting are forthcoming.
 - b. The next Biological Working Group meeting will be convened in December and will be scheduled to coincide with the discussion of the Phase 3 Geotechnical Study Open House.
4. Cultural Resources Working Group / Status of Programmatic Agreement
 - a. The Cultural Resources programmatic agreement, to be signed by five tribes, is in process and on target to be finalized by winter/spring of 2020. Tribes should anticipate a request to meet this coming winter of 2020.
5. Huffman Stakeholder Group
 - a. Congressman Huffman's LCG Stakeholder Group last met in September and will meet again in February. At the February meeting, they will begin discussing the alternatives in detail.

6. Public Outreach
 - a. Public Outreach
 - b. Last Chance Grade Open House
 - i) The next LCG Community Open House is currently being scheduled for February of 2020 at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds Main Hall. The format will resemble the last several Open Houses, featuring a panel of partner representatives who will present information and be available to answer questions from the public.
7. Partner MOU
 - a. The LCG Partner MOU was last reviewed in 2018. It is currently being updated to include a “Whereas” statement for Resighini Rancheria. The revised MOU will be sent to partners for signature when it is complete. The related organizational charts will also be updated.

IV. PARTNER UPDATES

1. California State Parks:
 - a. California State Parks is currently completing a 4F review to formalize permitting for biological exploration. It is on track to be signed by early January 2020.
2. National Park Service (NPS):
 - a. NPS is also reviewing the biological permitting document – review will be complete by October 28, 2019.
 - b. The NPS has reviewed cultural resources information and agrees with Caltrans’ findings.
 - c. The Redwoods Rising collaboration between Save the Redwoods League, NPS and California State Parks has documented substantial information on biological and cultural resources in the Mill Creek Watershed area.
3. Tolowa Dee-Ni’:
 - a. The Tolowa Dee-Ni’ are working with State Parks, who are contracting with the tribe, as allowed by SB204, to do up to \$50,000 worth of work on Federal land. Formation of a potential trail crew is being discussed for trail work outside of Hiouchi. Beginning of work is awaiting contract finalization. The tribe is excited about this partnership and its potential to create local jobs for tribal members, including hiring by the LCG contractor (which would be expedited by the CM/GC contract).

V. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. The next Partnering Meeting is yet to be scheduled. It will take place prior to the February Open House, and may be conducted via webinar to make full partner attendance more convenient.
- B. A briefing with the A&E consultant may be scheduled to take place in coordination with the February Open House, possibly the day before or after.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting – To be determined

ACTION ITEMS:

Responsible	Action	Due Date
Partners	Provide any feedback on Last Chance Grade fact sheet provided to the group on 10/24/2019.	ASAP
MIG/Caltrans	Revise LCG fact sheet per partner feedback.	ASAP – prior to 11/6/19 CTC Town Hall
Caltrans (Jaime)	Confirm schedule for November 6th CTC Town Hall public comment	ASAP – prior to 11/6/19 CTC Town Hall
MIG/Caltrans	Provide Last Chance Grade talking points prior to the November 6th CTC Town Hall.	ASAP – prior to 11/6/19 CTC Town Hall
MIG (with Caltrans approval)	Complete LCG explainer video: "Why Does it Take So Long?"	ASAP
Caltrans/MIG	Confirm date in February 2020 for LCG Community Open House	ASAP
Caltrans/MIG	Confirm date and format for next Partnering Meeting	December 2019/January 2020
Caltrans/MIG	Confirm date before/after February 2020 Open House for partner briefing session with A&E consultant	December 2019/January 2020