

Elk Valley Rancheria, California



2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

Phone 707.464.4680
Fax: 707.465.2638
www.elk-valley.com

January 14, 2014

Ms. Tamera Leighton, Director
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
1301-B Northcrest Dr. #16
Crescent City, CA 95531

RE: Highway 101 Last Chance Grade

Dear Ms. Leighton:

The aboriginal lands of the Elk Valley Rancheria, California include the land bounded by Wilson Creek to the South, the Sixes River to the North, East to the Applegate watershed in the coastal range, and west to the Pacific Ocean, including Point St. George Lighthouse. The above lands constitute our place of origin and our continued habitation and occupancy.

Elk Valley Rancheria is willing, ready and able to assist community-based efforts that have the purpose of working towards dealing with threats to the economic viability and community well-being within the boundaries of these aboriginal lands. This is one of the underlying reasons that Elk Valley Rancheria submits this letter to the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission, strongly advocating with all federal and state agencies involved with the ease of egress to build a route around Last Chance Grade on Highway 101, south of Crescent City.

It is well known that it is only a matter of time before US Highway 101 at Last Chance Grade collapses and slides into the ocean. When this happens, it will have dire economic and citizens based negative impact on Del Norte County. The Tribe's opinion is that to continue to expend large sums of taxpayers' dollars on a "Band-Aid" approach to fixing this problem is irresponsible. When the road collapses, CalTrans would then start to build a new road most likely going through the area where a road could be started now.

It is Elk Valley Rancheria's strongly held conviction that we cannot and should not have to wait until the inevitable disaster happens on Last Chance Grade. Let's work together and advocate for a permanent solution to this long-term problem plaguing Del Norte County.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Miller
Chairman