

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

MEETING TITLE: **PARTNERING MEETING: LAST CHANCE GRADE PROJECT STUDY REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 1/27/16

TIME: 1000 - 1200

LOCATION: PARKS SOUTH OPERATIONS CENTER, ORICK, CA

Attendees

California State Parks
Caltrans
Elk Valley Rancheria
National Park Service
MIG

Notes:

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

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

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The group briefly summarized the content and action items from the previous meeting.

III. UPDATES

A. Memorandum of Understanding

1. The final signature page was received. Caltrans will forward the completed MOU to all Partners.

B. Slide Movement Update

1. Caltrans provided an update on slide movement to the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors on January 26th.
2. Slide movement has continued to slow down overall, but there was more movement over the holiday period. All recent movement is still within expected ranges. Movement has been continuous, but no singular movement has been above or beyond expected amounts, given the type of geology. Repairs are underway.
3. Near Real-Time Monitoring has been installed. It provided data about recent movement and also monitors groundwater which can add to movement rates. Groundwater normally increases landslide movement, but no clear significant correlation has been made yet for LCG. Caltrans actively monitors the area (daily). Maintenance is on site every day, and will partner with the Coast Guard to do flyovers every six months, looking for significant changes of the slope below the roadway and erosion at the toe of the slope.
4. Improvements to communications and safety alerts are underway, including signs with flashing LEDs and webcams. The system is designed to alert specific Caltrans Geotechnical people to a significant event through text messages or emails, and to alert specific Caltrans District 1 staff so they (or CHP) can appropriately respond.

C. Partner Updates

1. Elk Valley Rancheria attended a meeting regarding the update of the Del Norte Regional Transportation Plan, and clarified that funding is needed for diverse projects including both Last Chance Grade and others. The tribe also received a coastal permit to make improvements to Humboldt Road, with work likely to move forward this summer.
2. Caltrans updated the group on the following project-related meetings:
 - a. Caltrans Environmental Planning has recently met with all stakeholders, and convened two meetings of the Biological Resources Working Group so far.
 - b. The FHWA has asked to meet with Caltrans regarding options for Emergency Response program funding.
 - c. Caltrans will attend the second meeting regarding the Regional Transportation Plan this evening.
 - d. Five different stakeholder groups are currently meeting regarding Last Chance Grade and considering the pros and cons of seven alternatives; all are still on the table.
3. California State Parks met with Fish and Wildlife officials to brief them on the LCG Partner and Huffman Stakeholder Group processes.
 - a. National Park Service has been attending specialist meetings. They also noted that the Huffman Stakeholder Group's white paper summarizing their points of consensus thus far has been finalized.

D. Huffman Stakeholder Group Updates

1. Caltrans will send the completed Stakeholder Group Consensus White Paper out to the Partners.
2. The next meeting of the Stakeholder Group will take place on February 18th. It will focus on how to use the Consensus White Paper to advance the work of the group. Congressman Huffman will be in attendance.
3. Caltrans emphasized the importance of keeping the multiple stakeholder groups integrated, in touch with each other and informed as the process continues.

IV. REPORTS FROM SPECIALIST MEETINGS

- A. Caltrans Environmental Planning shared the results of the first two meetings of the Biological Resources Working Group. The discussion has focused on the cost and impacts of shorter versus longer alignments, and possible mitigations for impacts.
- B. Caltrans discussed hiring consultants with local knowledge, including tribal experts, to complete the necessary survey work at Last Chance Grade.

V. PROJECT STUDY REPORT

- A. Caltrans Advance Planning gave an update on the progress of the Project Study Report (PSR). Content from various departments will be ready in February/March; a draft for review should be available in late April/early May. A more specific timeline will be provided as it is confirmed.

VI. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

- A. The Partners discussed plans for three town hall style meetings to be held in March in Crescent City, Eureka and Klamath. These meetings will focus on informing and educating the public about the planning process. Information will be available online for those who cannot attend a meeting in person.
- B. MIG presented the draft Public Engagement Plan (PEP), which covers both the immediate outreach process for the PSR and also plans for ongoing outreach throughout the lifetime of the project.

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. The next Partnering Meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2016 from 10am to 12pm. It will be held via webinar to facilitate Partner review of materials for the upcoming Town Hall Meetings.

Meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting – March 2, 2016 // 1000 – 1200 // Held via Webinar