

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

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

MEETING DATE: 6/01/16

TIME: 1000 - 1200

LOCATION: PARKS SOUTH OPERATIONS CENTER, ORICK, CA

Facilitator

Joan Chaplick

Meeting initiated by:

Caltrans District 1

Attendees

Jeff Bomke
Joan Chaplick
Sebastian Cohen
Maria Mayer
Kevin Mealue
Jason Meyer
Steve Prokop
David Roemer
Brett Silver
Crista Stewart

Titles / Affiliations

California State Parks
MIG, Principal
Project Management, Caltrans
MIG, Project Associate
Elk Valley Rancheria
Environmental Coordinator, Caltrans
National Park Service
National Park Service
California State Parks
Elk Valley Rancheria

Notes:

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

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

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

III. UPDATES

A. New Partners

1. Resighini Rancheria, a federally recognized tribe in the area, has been invited to join the Last Chance Grade Partners. They will also be considered for inclusion in the Huffman Stakeholders Group and the Biological Resources Working Group.

B. Caltrans Updates

1. Slide Movement
 - a. Sebastian Cohen provided an update on slide movement, which has slowed down significantly. He is requesting additional, more detailed slide data and will pass it on to the partners when received.
2. Emergency Repairs
 - a. Emergency repairs are ongoing. The contractor is fixing Retaining Wall #3 and others that are not visible from the road, and will build two additional walls concurrently this summer. There will also be work done to add lighting and reliable power for communications. Much of the work can likely be done without significant traffic control, but there will be significant traffic control expected later in the summer when planned wall repairs begin.
3. PID/PSR Update
 - a. The Project Initiation Document (PID), which is also known as a Project Study Report (PSR) is currently being routed to the Partners for comments.
4. Governor's Proclamation/ER Funding Process
 - a. The Governor's Proclamation needed for initiation of FHWA's Emergency Repair Program has been approved, and the process associated with requesting funding has been initiated. For funding of a new alignment, the FHWA needs to concur that there are no feasible project alternatives that can be feasibly designed using the current alignment. FHWA Geotechnical Engineers and other Specialists from their Colorado Division visited the site in April and issued a response which Caltrans has received.
 - b. The press release regarding the Governor's Proclamation was newsworthy and received coverage in the Triplicate on April 21, 2016.
 - c. Caltrans is collecting additional data through the emergency work being done currently to support FHWA's data request and also the CEQA/NEPA analysis.

C. Partner Updates

1. Elk Valley Rancheria:
 - a. Crista Stewart explained that they have been circulating the PSR to their council for comments.
 - b. Last Chance Grade has been a main topic at recent meetings.
2. California State Parks:
 - a. The Deputy Director of Park Operations has reviewed the PSR. They were informed of the Governor's Proclamation and provided more background so they are fully up to date.
3. National Park Service:

- a. Dave Roemer and Steve Prokop reviewed the PSR and provided comments.
- 4. Caltrans:
 - a. Jeff Pimentel was promoted to Project Manager.

D. Huffman Stakeholder Group Updates

- a. The group will probably be convened again in June or early July. (Note: next meeting is scheduled for July 13.)

IV. REPORTS FROM SPECIALIST MEETINGS

- A. Jason Meyer provided an update on the meetings of the Biological Resources Working Group, which have continued on a bi-monthly basis.
 - 1. The group has been discussing possible impacts on populations of fish species.
 - 2. The FWS also wanted more information regarding the trees in the area, including number, size, and whether they are inhabited by wildlife. Caltrans will likely do detailed surveys to collect this information. They will look into the possibilities and impacts of building an elevated structure or tunnels, and may also include potential portal entrances in the analysis as well.

V. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

- A. The group discussed continued strategies for public involvement.
- B. The next project milestone will be the release of the Project Study Report. The final review of the PSR will start soon, and then Caltrans will be able to confirm the project and request. The group discussed public involvement strategies regarding this milestone.

VI. CLOSING COMMENTS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. The next Partnering Meeting will be scheduled once the Emergency Repair designation has been confirmed and Congressman Huffman's next visit takes place.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting – To be determined

ACTION ITEMS:

Responsible	Action	Due Date
Caltrans	Add Resighini Rancheria to Partner MOU	In process
Caltrans (Sebastian)	Caltrans to request and send more detailed slide survey results to group	Week of 6/13/16
Parks (Dave R.) / MIG	Dave R. to email PSR to all, incl. Elk River; MIG to double-check download link and fix as necessary	Email PSR - 6/2/16 Check link – done
Caltrans	Reminders to be sent to those partners who have not responded to PSR	Done
All	Review and send comments on PSR to Carlon Schrieve.	6/14/16
Caltrans / MIG	Website: get slide graphs and data, info re. real-time monitoring on site; create ongoing strategy (incl. partner news, project news such as governor's proclamation); designate Caltrans web coordinator to help streamline process	6/30/16
Caltrans / MIG	Need to develop talking points for partners that explain why building the road is NOT the next step	6/30/16
Caltrans / MIG	Schedule next meeting per timing of process, news items, Huffman Group, etc.	TBD
Caltrans / MIG	Reach out to meeting attendees with an update once PSR is final	TBD (7/31/16?)
Caltrans (Jason)	Jason/tech specialists to discuss type/scope of tree survey needed	8/31/16
Caltrans (Jason)	Caltrans to meet with agencies regarding jeopardy call process and then update larger group	8/31/16