

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

MEETING TITLE: **LAST CHANGE GRADE PARTNERING MEETING**

MEETING DATE: 3/8/18	TIME: 1000 - 1200	LOCATION: PARKS SOUTH OPERATIONS CENTER, ORICK, CA
Facilitator Joan Chaplick	Attendees Victor Bjelajac Joan Chaplick Rosie Clayburn Craig Compton Jaime Matteoli Maria Mayer Jason Meyer David Roemer Brett Silver Crista Stewart Sara Atchley Thomas Rick Warner	Titles / Affiliations District Superintendent, California State Parks MIG, Principal Repatriation & Collections Coordinator, Yurok Tribe Manager, Green Diamond Project Manager, Caltrans MIG, Project Associate Environmental Planner, Caltrans Deputy Superintendent, National Park Service California State Parks Director of Grants, Elk Valley Rancheria Associate Environmental Planner – Archaeologist, Caltrans Vice Chairman, Elk Valley Rancheria

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.
2. Jaime Matteoli provided updates on two items:
 - a. There will be more flexibility in funding opportunities for the environmental studies, with additional funding made available next year.
 - b. The Expert Based Risk Assessment (EBRA) is taking longer to complete than originally planned. The preliminary version should be completed in April.

III. UPDATES

B. Partner Updates

1. National Park Service:
 - a. The district has a new director. He recently met with Congressman Hoffman to discuss several matters including Last Chance Grade.
2. Green Diamond:
 - a. They have completed the process of identifying an emergency access route on their property, working with State Parks. They'll need notification regarding any planned upgrades.
3. California State Parks:
 - a. State Parks Met recently with Congressman Huffman to discuss Last Chance Grade and funding options.
 - b. They have permits in place for geotechnical studies, including stake alignments and surveying trees.
4. Elk Valley Rancheria:
 - a. The tribe would like to be kept informed regarding the condition of Last Chance Grade.
 - b. Elk Valley has been hosting meetings of the cultural resources working group.
5. Yurok Tribe:
 - a. They are currently participating in the cultural resources working group.
 - b. The Tribe appreciate having simplified fact sheets.

C. Caltrans Updates

1. New Caltrans Director
 - a. The new Caltrans Director is from San Diego and strongly familiar with coastal issues. District 1 will be meeting with the Director on March 20th regarding Last Chance Grade, and she will be meeting with the FHWA in April.
2. Storm Damage and Upgrades
 - a. \$35 million has been approved for repair of storm damage that took place over this past winter.
 - b. Movement is continuing on Last Chance Grade, with new cracks appearing in the retaining walls. Current contracts and approved funding will take care of this. Current work includes:
 - i. Installation of webcams is underway. Once the installation is finished, webcam images will be posted on the LCG website.

- ii. A new 500-foot wall is being built to the north of the Stewart Wall finished just last year.
 - iii. Three walls are being repaired and a new one built at the area where a significant dip appears in the road.
 - iv. A slipout is being repaired at the Wilson Creek wall at 14.2, two miles north of the Wilson Creek Bridge.
 - c. By the time the current work is done, the majority of LCG will be lined with retaining walls.
- 3. Expert Based Risk Assessment (EBRA)– Status and Schedule
 - a. Five geotechnical experts will convene beginning next week to begin geotechnical risk assessment of the various alternatives. This will assess the probability of movement leading to road failure. They are considering all current information available, including the likely impacts of sea level rise. A cost analysis will follow at a later stage. Preliminary results will be ready to present to the FHWA in April.
- 4. Geotech Studies
 - a. Potential boring and refraction line sites have been identified for geotechnical studies, and work is being done to verify the impacts of using these sites, assess their utility and arrange any necessary permitting by Partners. Most sites are on Green Diamond land, with boring located on the road. There is one location on Parks land; its utility is being considered to determine if the location is essential since including it will add to the effort needed to secure permits.
- 5. Environmental Studies
 - a. Environmental studies are ongoing in the areas of cultural resources, tree studies, and habitat issues.
 - b. The Cultural Working Group is developing a Permitting Agreement that will address both state and federal consultation in one document – a first for Caltrans. It will be complete in June.
 - c. There are currently four archaeologists working on the project; there soon will be a total of five.
 - d. Site visits to seismic and refraction sites will begin as soon as it is sufficiently dry, ideally in April.
- 6. It was suggested that the continued record of no accidents be shared with the public.
- 7. All partners continue to express a strong willingness to explore all stable long-term solutions and will continue to refine their approach as additional documents such as the EBRA are completed to inform the next steps in the process.

IV. DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- A. Scope for Community Outreach
 - 1. MIG provided details on the public engagement methods and activities they are scoped to provide for Last Chance Grade, and added several items requested by Partners. Their current contract with Caltrans expires September 14th, and work must be completed by the end of August. There is no option for extension.
- B. Next Steps in Community Outreach – Partner Involvement
 - 1. An open house, featuring a panel of Partners and other experts, is being considered in Crescent City in the summer, shortly after the EBRA is finalized to have as much information as possible. The group discussed upcoming public outreach and engagement activities and preliminary plans for the open house. A preliminary production schedule will be developed by MIG.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. The next Partnering Meeting is yet to be scheduled. It will probably take place in May. The team will determine whether the meeting is in person or if a teleconference will be suitable.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting – To be determined

ACTION ITEMS:

Responsible	Action	Due Date
Caltrans	Coordinate with State Parks regarding webcam signals	ASAP
Caltrans/Partners/MIG	Finalize MOU updates and announce new Partner on website	ASAP
MIG/Caltrans	Develop draft communications plan and production schedule; amend scope	End of March
MIG	Begin developing fact sheets and other materials	March-April
MIG/Caltrans	Assess need for another partner meeting in May	May
Caltrans	Work with Huffman's office to schedule a Stakeholder Group Meeting	May
Caltrans/MIG/Partners	Plan and coordinate Community Open House	Summer