

**State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Memorandum

Date: June 28, 2021

To: Ocean Protection Council
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA. 95814

From: Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Northern Region

DocuSigned by:
Tina Bartlett
1D82ADE7303A474...

Subject: Letter of Support: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection

On behalf to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), I am writing in strong support of the Wiyot Tribe's proposal to acquire and manage the undeveloped 42-acre parcel (APN 306-361-003), known as the village of *Mouralherwaqh*, for cultural and water quality protection. The parcel, one of the last large undeveloped parcels in the Humboldt Hill vicinity of Humboldt Bay has substantial resource values including Sensitive Natural Communities such as Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), northern coastal scrub habitat, and palustrine scrub shrub wetlands.

The wetlands and forested habitat are excellent northern red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*) habitat, a State Species of Special Concern, and could also be suitable habitat for the state and federally endangered western lily (*Lilium occidentale*). The Department is also aware that this parcel has a substantial great blue heron (*Adrea herodias*) and great egret (*Ardea alba*) roost and certainly could be nesting habitat (i.e., rookery). Due to the presence of these important and sensitive wading birds, retention areas and buffers were established during past timber harvest activities.

Several of the native plant species found on the property are culturally significant species important to the Wiyot people. Acquisition of the property would provide the Tribe opportunities for the increased application, and passing on, of traditional ecological knowledge. Additional opportunities for habitat management and restoration exist, including removal of invasive plant species such as Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*), all aggressive invaders in the coastal zone.

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor Michael van Hattem at 707-499-9457 or Michael.vanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov.

Ocean Protection Council

June 28, 2021

Page 2

Ec:

Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Department

adam@wiyot.us

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Rebecca.garwood@wildlife.ca.gov, michael.vanhattem@wildlife.ca.gov

June 28, 2021

Mr. Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gold:

I enthusiastically offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: "Reclaiming Mouralherwaq: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection." The proposal is being submitted to the Ocean Protection Council Proposition I Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper and Friends of the Dunes.

In my former role as City of Eureka Community Services Director, I was present at a meeting held in the Wiyot Tribal Council chambers where the Wiyot requested that Tuluwat be returned. I worked for multiple years to see the request through and consider my work in support of the land return one of the most professionally important contributions of my career. Now as City Manager, I am moved to learn about this proposal, and that efforts by our staff and City Council were indeed not a one-off but rather a moving legacy.

I wholeheartedly support this project for the fundamental reason that it will enable the Wiyot Tribe to own additional land in their ancestral territory and lead the ecocultural restoration process that will conserve and protect it. Such a purchase will increase the Wiyot's ancestral holdings by ten percent and thus build on the Tuluwat land return legacy. The Wiyot's ownership of this parcel will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay, increase opportunities for tribal members and the public to access these places, and create opportunities for the Tribe to protect and restore unique coastal wetland and forest habitat which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitat in the Humboldt Bay region. All of these attributes will collectively contribute to environmental justice impacts that will benefit the entire Humboldt Bay region.

The City of Eureka will support the project when possible by providing input and guidance gleaned from our experience facilitating the Tuluwat land return, and, when possible, connecting the project to people and resources.

In sum, I wholeheartedly support this grant application and recommend it for funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Miles Slattery
City Manager



June 11, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gold:

It is with great pleasure that Friends of the Dunes offers this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: "Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection" submitted by the Wiyot Tribe and Humboldt State University for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

Friends of the Dunes is a 501c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments in northern California through community-supported education and stewardship programs. Equity and environmental justice are central to our community-based work and mission.

We support this project because it involves the Wiyot Tribe's acquisition of coastal conservation lands in their ancestral territory for ecocultural restoration purposes, and it will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay. The project will achieve historically significant environmental justice outcomes for the Humboldt Bay region. The project also involves protection and restoration of unique coastal wetland and forest habitat, which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitat in the Humboldt Bay region.

As a project partner, Friends of the Dunes will support this landmark project by contributing the time and work of Executive Director Mike Cipra as a conservation land acquisition consultant, to support the project team with experience, expertise, and guidance as it navigates through the necessary steps of a conservation land acquisition funded by the state of California. The value of this contribution over the life of the project is calculated to be \$5000.

In sum, Friends of the Dunes strongly supports this grant application, and we are willing to work alongside our partners to ensure the success of this conservation project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cipra", is written over a light grey circular stamp.

Mike Cipra



Indian Natural Resources

INRSEP

Science & Engineering Program

+Diversity in STEM

June 28, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mark Gold:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: "Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection" submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

The Indian Natural Resources, Science and Engineering Program (INRSEP) + Diversity in STEM provides academic and research support services to Native American students in the sciences to support them in attaining their academic goals, and opportunities to meet their career and graduate school goals beyond graduation from Humboldt State University. I am currently completing my third year as Director of this program. As described in the proposal I intend to employ the resources of INRSEP, to ensure that project leaders will have students to meet their restoration internship recruitment goals.

I support this project because:

- The project provides avenues for students, particularly Native American and underrepresented students, to get involved in tribal land acquisition and ecocultural restoration projects.
- The project provides an opportunity for Native students, partners and the region to learn about Tribal land acquisition and ecocultural restoration which can support further efforts for Tribes to become more involved in coastal management in the Humboldt Bay region and beyond.
- Native students involved in this project will be able to transfer the knowledge they acquire to existing and future reclamation projects on their own tribal homelands. We have several Native students at INRSEP currently enrolled at Humboldt State University who came here expressly to gain the knowledge needed to help their communities back home. These opportunities do not present themselves with regular frequency, and their

Indian Natural Resources, Science & Engineering Program (INRSEP) +

Diversity in STEM, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA; 707-826-4998

participation would be invaluable to not only the Wiyot, but other California tribes seeking to reclaim lands as well.

- The reacquisition of Wiyot ancestral territory will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay. The project will achieve important environmental justice outcomes for the Humboldt Bay region.
- The project involves protection and restoration of unique coastal wetland and forest habitat which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitat in the Humboldt Bay region.

I will support the project in the following ways:

- Help with identifying and recruiting HSU students who could participate in the ecocultural restoration and planning activities associated with the project. We currently have several Native INRSEP students who would be an excellent fit for this groundbreaking work.
- As members of INRSEP, students will be supported by the wrap-around activities already in place:
 - o guidance for successful completion of their college degrees
 - o information on applying for graduate programs, opportunities to present research findings, networking, and career exploration

With respect,



Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, Director
INRSEP + Diversity in STEM <https://inrsep.humboldt.edu/program>
CSU – LSAMP @HSU
Humboldt State University
Board of Directors Geoscience Alliance <https://geosciencealliance.org/>
Steering Committee Ecological Forecasting Initiative <https://ecoforecast.org/>



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Native American Studies

June 28, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mark Gold:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: “Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection” submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

I am the Co-Director for Rou Dalagurr: the Native American Studies Food Sovereignty Lab & Cultural Workspace at Humboldt State University.

We support this project because

- It involves Wiyot Tribe acquisition of land in their ancestral territory for ecocultural restoration purposes and it will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay. The project will achieve important environmental justice outcomes for the Humboldt Bay region.
- The project involves protection and restoration of unique coastal wetland and forest habitat which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitat in the Humboldt Bay region.
- The project involves a unique collaboration between a Tribe, an academic institution, environmental NGOs, and government to achieve environmental and social justice outcomes. We believe that this team and partnership is well qualified and situated to complete this ground-breaking project.
- The project provides an opportunity for partners and the region to learn about Tribal land acquisition and ecocultural restoration which can support further efforts for Tribes to become more involved in coastal management in the Humboldt Bay region and beyond.

Rou Dalagurr (Food Sovereignty Lab/FSL) will support the project by providing a physical space on HSU’s campus where Wiyot Tribal members and representatives engage in and revitalize their cultural practices such as plant and food processing, and regalia making. We will offer courses and programs for members of the community to learn about Wiyot culture and traditional practices that will only be improved with the Tribe’s ability to reconnect with its ancestral territory.

In 1860 the Wiyot experienced one of the most horrific massacres in the Northern California

region where they were ultimately displaced from their sacred island (Tuluwat). This period of time was followed by attempted removal, relocation, and termination of the Wiyot Tribe. The tribe was not officially restored until 1981 and was finally able to begin rebuilding after this prolonged period of continuous injustices. The Wiyot Tribe made history in October 2019 when a sacred island, Tuluwat, was returned to the Tribe by the City of Eureka. The story of this return made international headlines around the world. The return of the island coincided with the return of world renewal ceremonies for the Wiyot peoples. That the Wiyot Tribe have continued to build lasting partnerships with our university, the surrounding Humboldt community, and various political and social organizations while always finding new ways to reconnect with their culture and histories is incredibly admirable. We cannot say enough about how important it is for funding like the Prop 1 Grant funding to support a tribe that has been able to demonstrate such resiliency, heart, and strength.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "C Baldy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "C" being particularly large and stylized.

Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy
Co-Director of Rou Dalagurr
Department Chair



June 28, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mark Gold:

It is with great pleasure that the HSU Sea Level Rise Initiative (SLRI) offers this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: "Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection" submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

Wiyot or Humboldt Bay is experiencing the fastest rate of SLR on the entire West Coast and the HSU SLRI was formed with a vision to develop "a diverse network of collaborators working together across disciplines, sectors, and ways of knowing to develop sea-level rise research and planning that informs equitable, sustainable, and community-centered local climate action."

The HSU SLRI is envisioned as a partnership between HSU and the broader Humboldt Bay community. The group has over 20 members including representatives from academic institutions, tribes, government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and civic and community groups in the region. Undergraduate and graduate students play a key role in the governance and activities of the initiative. Membership includes individuals with expertise in engineering, planning, policy, social science, geosciences, coastal & marine ecology, botany, and more. A key value of the SLRI is related to maintaining indigenous leadership in SLR research and planning activities in the region. Adam Canter from the Wiyot Tribe Natural Resource Department is co-chair of the SLRI and SLRI members have supported the Wiyot Tribe in acquiring several grants to support climate resiliency and SLR planning.

We believe that Indigenous acquisition of coastal lands in the Humboldt Bay region for coastal restoration purposes, as envisioned in this project, can play a key role in building the region's resiliency to climate change and sea-level rise. Several members of the SLRI are honored to be a part of the OPC Prop 1 project team for the proposed project. The SLRI contains many additional members who are not explicitly members of the project team but would be committed to being a resource to the proposed project and can provide expertise, guidance, connections, and support to the project and the

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THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY • Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • Fresno • Fullerton • Hayward • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay • Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San Jose • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus •

development of future research and educational opportunities associated with the site. We strongly believe that the composed project team has the necessary experience and expertise to complete the project work.

Members of the SLRI have successfully developed and funded several projects related to many facets of SLR on Humboldt Bay. Most recently, Professor Marlow was funded by the California Seat Grant to conduct scenario planning workshops with California tribal nations and Humboldt Community members to discuss ways to address sea level rise risk to spent nuclear fuel stored nearby the site of interest (at Buhne Point) on Humboldt Bay. The land acquisition project proposed in this application is among the efforts for which the SLRI is the most proud. In addition to helping protect the water quality and coastal ecosystems of the Humboldt Bay region, the project can produce tangible environmental justice outcomes. Through acquisition and restoration of the parcel, the Wiyot Tribe will be able to increase land holdings within their ancestral territory and to have increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay. In addition, through this project the greater Humboldt region can begin working towards addressing historical injustices. The project will help to rightfully set the Wiyot Tribe as leaders in coastal restoration and SLR resiliency planning in Humboldt Bay, the state, and beyond. Funding of this project will also allow members of the SLRI to generate knowledge and skills related to indigenous land return, TEK, and ecocultural coastal restoration. Skills and experiences developed through this project can inform future SLR work on Humboldt Bay, ensuring that environmental justice and indigenous leadership remain key features in our region's planning for a resilient climate future.

Sincerely,



Laurie Richmond
Co-Chair Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management
Humboldt State University
Laurie.richmond@humboldt.edu

Adam Canter

Adam Canter
Co-Chair Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative
Assistant Natural Resources Director
Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Dept.
adam@wiyot.us



June 30, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mark Gold:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled: *Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection* submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

Humboldt Baykeeper works to safeguard our coastal resources for the health, enjoyment, and economic strength of the Humboldt Bay community, and is a member of the California Coastkeeper Alliance and the international Waterkeeper Alliance.

We support this project for the following reasons:

- It involves the Wiyot Tribe's acquisition of land in their ancestral territory for ecocultural restoration purposes; will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats; and will achieve important environmental justice outcomes for the Humboldt Bay region.
- The project involves conservation and restoration of unique coastal wetlands and mature Sitka spruce forest, helping to protect water quality and native flora and fauna.
- The project involves a unique collaboration between a Tribe, an academic institution, environmental NGOs, and government to achieve environmental and social justice outcomes. We believe that this team and partnership is well qualified and situated to complete this ground-breaking project.
- The project provides an opportunity for project partners to learn about Tribal land acquisition and ecocultural restoration, which can support further efforts for Tribes to become more involved in coastal management in the Humboldt Bay region and beyond.

600 F Street, Suite 3 #810
Arcata, CA 95521
www.humboldtбайkeeper.org



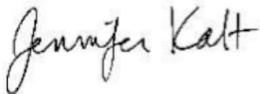
In my role as Director of Humboldt Baykeeper, I have managed volunteers, consultants, and student interns involved in water quality monitoring, scientific research, debris cleanups, community outreach, group tours, and other bay-related projects. I have also worked as a professional botanist for many years, conducting rare plant surveys, habitat mapping, and teaching plant identification skills.

I will support the project in the following ways:

- Providing technical guidance on water quality monitoring, plant identification, habitat mapping, managing invasives, and native plant restoration;
- Providing equipment for water quality monitoring;
- Providing input on baseline monitoring protocols;
- Connecting the project to people who can provide input on trail planning, road improvement and decommissioning, watershed restoration, biological assessment, forest management, and other areas of expertise.

We strongly support this grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Kalt".

Jennifer Kalt, Director

jkalt@humboldtbykeeper.org

(707) 499-3678



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

3015 H Street Eureka CA 95501
Phone: (707) 445-7541 Fax: (707) 268-3792

June 28, 2021

Mark Gold
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mark Gold:

As the Supervising Planner for the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, Long Range Planning, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal titled *Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection*. This project is submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes, for the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

This project involves the protection and restoration of unique coastal wetland and forest habitat which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitats in the Humboldt Bay region. The project also involves Wiyot Tribe acquisition of land in their ancestral territory for ecocultural restoration purposes and will provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Humboldt Bay. These are just some of the reasons for supporting this project.

The property being acquired is located within the unincorporated area of Humboldt County, and is therefore subject to the County's land use regulations. I and my staff look forward to providing assistance, advice and guidance in regard to our land use regulations in order to facilitate this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for this grant application. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Richardson
Supervising Planner, Long Range Planning
Phone: (707) 268-3723
Email: mrichardson@co.humboldt.ca.us



June 14, 2021

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ha'wa'lou (Greetings) Ocean Protection Council (OPC),

The Wiyot Tribe hopes this letter finds you and your organizations staff healthy and well and it is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we offer this letter of support for the collaborative proposal entitled: "Reclaiming Mouralherwaqh: Wiyot Tribe Acquisition of Coastal Property for Cultural and Water Quality Protection" which is being submitted by the Wiyot Tribe, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Baykeeper, and Friends of the Dunes (FOD) for the OPC Proposition 1 Grant Program Coastal Environmental Justice Solicitation.

As Chairman and representatives on the Wiyot Tribal Council, we facilitate the democratic process guiding Tribal decision making and work toward protecting and furthering Wiyot culture, language, and ancestral lands stewardship and repatriation, which encompass all the goals of the current proposal.

We support this project because:

- Presently the Wiyot do not hold any ancestral forest lands, where this proposal involves Wiyot Tribe acquisition of significant cultural lands within the heart of Wiyot ancestral territory for ecocultural restoration purposes and to provide the Tribe with increased access to culturally important plants and habitats around Wig (Humboldt Bay). The project will achieve important environmental justice outcomes for the Humboldt Bay region, and at 42 acres, would expand the Tribe's ancestral landholdings by 10%.
- The project involves protection and restoration of unique coastal wetland, Sitka spruce forest, and northern coastal scrub habitats, which can help to protect water quality and coastal habitat in the Humboldt Bay region.
- The project involves a unique collaboration between the Tribe, an academic institution, environmental NGOs, and government to achieve environmental and social justice outcomes. We believe that this team and partnership is well qualified and situated to complete this ground-breaking project. The Wiyot are fortunate and grateful for our amazing partners at HSU, FOD, and Humboldt Baykeeper, who have supported the Wiyot's capacity to manage a project at this scale and we are thankful to have them as part of this amazing team.
- The project provides an opportunity for partners and the region to learn about Tribal land acquisition and ecocultural restoration which can support further environmental justice efforts for Tribes to become more involved in coastal management in the Wigi (Humboldt Bay) region and beyond.

The Wiyot Tribe will support the project in the following ways by:

- Providing cultural and technical advice and guidance, including biological, ethnobotanical, and wetlands inventory assistance as well as planning support to enhance the property's ability to contribute to regional climate and sea level rise resiliency.
- By providing match from current related Tribal projects associated with Phase 1 of the Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Program (\$5,000 from the PG&E Better Together Resilient Communities Grant and \$10,000 from the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant)
- By connecting the project to Tribal citizens and students for the enrichment and ecocultural education of all parties involved.

In closing, we thank the OPC for this monumental opportunity and want to reiterate the Wiyot's excitement over the hopeful repatriation of this significant Wiyot place of Mouralherwaqh, which is a jewel of undeveloped land within an important coastal corridor on the Wigi (Humboldt Bay). It brings us great joy when we visualize multiple generations and students teaching and learning from one another in this special place, taking our Wiyot youth out huckleberry or spruce root gathering in the forest, or simply walking with elders on a quiet stroll. The Wiyot's returning relationship and stewardship with Mouralherwaqh will set the stage for furthering Tribal self-determination and community access to the coast and represents one important step toward healing the environmental injustices of the past. We thank you for your consideration and take care.

Rra'dutwas (with kindness),



Michelle Vassel
Tribal Administrator
Table Bluff Reservation
1000 Wiyot Dr.
Loleta, CA 95551
michelle@wiyot.us