
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

February 17, 2016

Mr. Daniel Berman
City Manager
City of Trinidad
P.O. Box 390
Trinidad, CA 95570

Dear Mr. Berman:

Subject: Proposition 1 Grant Application Letter of Support

File: City of Trinidad, Small Phase II MS4 Program, WDID 1 12M2000163

This letter is provided in support of the City of Trinidad's (City) application for a grant under the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program.

A portion of the City's storm water runoff discharges into an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The California Ocean Plan prohibits the discharge of waste to designated ASBS, unless the State Water Board grants an exception to the prohibition. The State Water Board may grant an exception for discharges that will not compromise protection of ocean waters for beneficial uses and the public interest will be served. In March of 2012, under Resolution No. 2012-0012 (Resolution), the State Water Board granted an exception to the City of Trinidad to discharge to the ASBS known as Trinidad Head. In addition to coverage under the Resolution, the City of Trinidad was also required to obtain authorization to discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Thus, effective July 1, 2013, the City of Trinidad is designated as a Small Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permittee in Order No. 2013-0001 DWQ (Small Phase II MS4 Order).

The Small Phase II MS4 Order is intended to regulate the discharge of storm water and non-storm water runoff of municipalities within an "urbanized area," as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The City of Trinidad is not within an urbanized area and would not otherwise be designated for coverage in the Order.

The City of Trinidad is a small, disadvantaged community with a population of approximately 300 people. The City continues to struggle with meeting the requirements of the Small Phase II MS4 Order due to the limited resources of such a small community. The City, however, continues to work towards compliance and is dedicated to incorporating Small Phase II MS4 Order requirements into the City's storm water program.

The City is seeking funding to support projects for storm water capture and infiltration, with the ultimate goal of abating the discharge to the ASBS. By eliminating the discharge to the ASBS, the City of Trinidad will no longer need coverage under the exception and the Small Phase II MS4 Order. The North Coast Regional Water Board staff is fully supportive of the City of Trinidad working toward implementing projects which move the City toward the goal of abating the discharge to the ASBS. Eliminating the discharge to the ASBS is the most protective approach for water quality benefit in the ASBS, will provide relief to the City of Trinidad from expending resources on permit compliance, and will enhance water supply in the area of Trinidad with increased infiltration from storm water capture facilities.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Colleen.Hunt@waterboards.ca.gov or 707-576-2831.

Sincerely,

Colleen Hunt, CMS4S #343
Environmental Scientist

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cc: Rebecca Price-Hall, City of Trinidad, rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov



Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

~Working together to improve our watersheds from the hills to Trinidad Bay~

Web: www.trinidadwatersheds.org | Email: info@trinidadwatersheds.org | Telephone: (707) 616-6671

February 25, 2016

Mr. Daniel Berman
City Manager
P. O. Box 390
Trinidad, CA 95570

Re: Proposition 1 Ocean Protection Council Grant Application Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Berman;

On behalf of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) we are providing this letter of support for the City of Trinidad's application for Proposition 1 Ocean Protection Council Grant Funding for the "Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project" (Project).

TBWC was formed by Trinidad Bay and watershed stakeholders in 2007 to support implementation of the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Management Plan. Our mission is to work collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters and communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members. This Citywide LID project addresses priorities identified in the Watershed Plan, and TBWC commits to working with the City on several aspects of the project, including project specific LID education and outreach as described in the Project Full Application.

The City's project was presented and discussed at a January 2016 meeting. This project addresses some of the TBWC goals, including:

- Fostering partnerships and coordination with local community members and local, state and federal agencies.
- Developing and supporting opportunities for community development that improve well-being for residents, the community, local businesses and the coastal ecosystem;
- Promoting stewardship of the land, natural and cultural resources in the Trinidad Bay coastal area through education, outreach, and technical and financial assistance.

As the California drought intensified several years ago, TBWC has encouraged the City to seek funding for projects to promote water conservation and storage and other methods to improve drought resilience. This project incorporates several components that promote water conservation as well as protecting water quality and coastal ecosystems and community. Specific aspects of the project that TBWC supports includes: the Ocean Friendly Gardening guide, LID workshops and residential LID package and incentive program. The project also addresses environmental justice issues by consideration of bluff stability and saturation issues impacting the Tsurai Study Area and protection of local cultural resources.

We urge you to fund the Citywide LID Planning and Construction Project!

Sincerely, Trinidad Bay Watershed Council



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



via electronic mail

February 24, 2016

Mr. Daniel Berman
City Manager
City of Trinidad
PO Box 390
Trinidad, CA 95570
citymanager@trinidad.ca.gov

RE: Proposition 1 Ocean Protection Council Grant Application Letter of Support

Aiy-ye-kwee' Mr. Berman:

The Yurok Tribe is providing this letter of support for the City of Trinidad's application for Proposition 1 Ocean Protection Council Grant Funding for the "Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project" (Project).

The Yurok Tribe is a member of the Tsurai Management Team, which was formed to prepare and implement the Tsurai Management Plan (TMP) in a "collaborative effort to ensure the protection, preservation, and restoration of significant recreational, cultural, and natural resources contained within the Tsurai Study Area". The Tsurai Study Area is currently owned by the City of Trinidad, encompasses the Yurok Village of Tsurai, and is a component of a larger landscape utilized by Yurok people since time immemorial. The Tribe has a deep interest in maintaining the cultural integrity of the Tsurai Study Area. Among its priorities, the Tribe is opposed to projects with major ground disturbing activities, especially in specific areas known to the Tribe and Tsurai Management Team to be particularly sensitive or culturally important.

The Project proposes to address issues raised by the Tsurai Management Team and recommendations from the TMP.

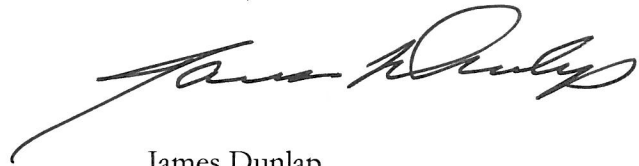
- ...site protection and stabilization from erosion and other geomorphic processes; and identifying the cause of and mitigating the impacts of site saturation. (TMP p. 39)
- Analysis and mitigation of the run off and saturation issues that are impacting the Tsurai Village site (TMP Executive Summary p. iii, & p. 68).
- A collection and delivery system for surface water runoff should be constructed to route runoff into the city's existing storm drain network. The City should seek funding to resolve this issue. (TMP p. 72)

- ...restore the natural hydrology of the watershed, as well as divert water away from, rather than into, the village site. (TMP p. 72)

The project will benefit water quality, support a healthy and resilient coastal ecosystem, and will help protect and restore the historically and culturally significant Tsurai Study Area. The Project proposes to achieve these benefits through a combination of infrastructure improvements, policy development, and promoting residential use of native and low water use plants. All of these components will work together to improve the protection of the bluff from inundation and instability related to rain water, irrigation, and waste water.

The Yurok Tribe supports this Project and the City's efforts to provide long term protection of the bluff and Tsurai Study Area, and to implementing TMP recommendations for cultural and natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Dunlap", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James Dunlap
Chairperson