



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
C O U N T Y O F H U M B O L D T

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LAND USE 445-7205

August 6, 2018

To: Ocean Protection Council/USC Sea Grant
Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition

Subject: Support Letter for Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project

Dear Proposal Reviewer:

I am writing to convey strong support for the Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project sponsored by the State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Friends of the Dunes. This is an important ongoing study to improve our understanding of how sea level rise will affect the coastal dune system along Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Delta. The project has achieved an extremely high level of collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies; academic researchers; non-profit organizations; professional engineers and scientists; and interested citizens and volunteers. We appreciate the science-based approach, leveraging of resources from multiple partners, emphasis on long-term monitoring, and efforts to share information with the public.

Humboldt County's interests include understanding the vulnerability of our dune system to increased flood risk due to sea level rise and learning about potential adaptation measures. Our region depends heavily on the dune system to protect communities, infrastructure, and agricultural land from coastal flooding. Humboldt County was one of the co-leads for the Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Group which convened in 2013. We coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to utilize the best available science and information in reducing flood risk. We are a land manager for several county roads and county parks along the coastline. Finally, Humboldt County is a member of the Humboldt Coastal Dunes Cooperative which facilitates coordinated management of coastal dune environments across ownerships.

Understanding the sediment dynamics in our coastal dunes is a key component of utilizing natural systems for optimal public benefit. Humboldt County will use the results from this project to support ongoing flood risk reduction efforts and to inform project planning and land management decisions. We anticipate devoting approximately 50 hours of staff time (valued at approximately \$5,000) to participate in the stakeholder group, facilitate field work, and contribute to strategic planning. The requested funding from your program is essential to continue the monitoring work and to secure the needed academic and professional resources. We believe this project is an exceptional candidate for investment and will provide tremendous benefit and value to our coastal communities. On behalf of Humboldt County, we appreciate your agency's consideration and look forward to continued collaboration on this high-priority project.

Sincerely,

Hank Seemann, Deputy-Director (Environmental Services)
Humboldt County Department of Public Works
hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



August 9, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Seagrant

Subject: Sea-level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition

To Whom This May Concern:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is an active partner in the ongoing Dunes Climate Ready project, a multiagency collaborative dunes climate ready project. The project is unique, especially here in Humboldt County, where coastal communities and the State's public trust resources are subject to the ramifications of sea level rise.

The Department has dedicated staff time and resources to support this project. We currently have two environmental scientist's involved who collectively spend up to 80 hours during the summer and winter survey seasons. Furthermore, four transects are located on Department property, specifically, the 6-mile-long north spit of the Eel River, known as the Ocean Ranch Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area.

The Department supports the continuation and expansion of this project through the proposed Sea-level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition and urges continued funding to collect meaningful data on how our dunes and associated Sensitive Natural Communities function in relation to the Eureka littoral zone, under climate change scenarios. Barring unforeseen funding limitations, we plan to continue our involvement if the project continues at the same level.

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) Michael van Hattem at 707-445-5368 or Michael.vanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov

Sincerely,



Neil Manj
Regional Manager

ec: Andrea Pickart, Eric Nelson
Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge
andrea_pickart@fws.gov, eric_nelson@fws.gov

Curt Babcock, Jeffrey Stoddard, Gordon Leppig, Michael van Hattem, Charles Bartolotta
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Curt.Babcock@wildlife.ca.gov, Jeffrey.Stoddard@wildlife.ca.gov,
Gordon.Leppig@wildlife.ca.gov, Michael.vanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov
Charles.Bartolotta@wildlife.ca.gov

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



August 1, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Seagrant
Re: Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern.

Please include Friends of the Dunes as a supporter of Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project, which builds upon the 3-year Dunes Climate Ready Project (DCRP) that included data collection, adaptation strategy testing, and the establishment of a stakeholder engagement component. We have been a collaborator since the project began in 2015, and have conducted the public outreach component of the DCRP and served as the local project manager. In the face of rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events, our coastal community is racing the clock to develop the best techniques to protect against the effects of climate change. Results from this project will help support existing efforts to prepare for climate change effects by communicating findings of the DCRP to diverse stakeholders, including members of the community whose homes and livelihoods may be impacted.

Friends of the Dunes is dedicated to conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments through education and stewardship programs. We have been removing invasive plants in favor of native vegetation for over 20 years. The DCRP supports our restoration efforts by providing empirical data about our dunes in relation to restoration and vegetation. Results from this project will help guide restoration efforts, and allow us to communicate with the public and better inform our community. Additionally, we look forward to having an adaptation site on our property.

We are committed to continuing this partnership, and will provide meeting space at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center for public meetings, representing approximately \$1,000 in match to the project.

Sincerely,

Jess Barger
Stewardship & Community Program Manager
Friends of the Dunes



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
www.ca.blm.gov/arcata



July 25, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Seagrant

Re: Sea-level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Arcata Field Office to express support for the Eureka littoral cell sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience project. The project builds on previous extensive dunes survey work and is a vital effort in better understanding our local coastal processes.

Highlighting the need for this effort, the Humboldt Bay region has some of the highest rates of sea level rise along the West Coast. In addition, the coastal dune environment hosts a unique assemblage of rare and endemic plants not present elsewhere in the region. In addition, these areas experience some of the highest public recreational use. Better understanding local coastal processes is necessary for informing the general public, local, state, and federal regulatory authorities.

The BLM manages a number of these coastal lands encompassed by the study. The data set will inform BLM management for current and future decision making and long-term coastal resource management. Data collected over the previous years of surveys have informed various management decisions and we expect that an increasingly longer term data set, coupled with modeling of coastal processes, will continue to provide much needed information for our long term planning and decision making.

The BLM has contributed extensive funding and in-kind staff time, as well as vehicle and equipment storage space to the current survey efforts. We anticipate that our involvement in the project will continue into the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Molly Brown
Arcata Field Manager

COMMISSIONERS

1st Division

Larry Doss

2nd Division

Greg Dale

3rd Division

Stephen Kullmann

4th Division

Richard Marks

5th Division

Patrick Higgins

Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
(707) 443-0801
P.O. Box 1030
Eureka, California 95502-1030



31 July 2018

Ocean Protection Council
USC Seagrant

Re: Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience project proposal. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) was created in 1973 by the State of California to efficiently balance the various and potentially conflicting uses in Humboldt Bay. The statutory purpose of the District is to manage Humboldt Bay for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, recreation, and the protection of natural resources, and to acquire, construct, maintain, operate, develop, and regulate harbor works. The District oversees planned development of the harbors and ports within its boundaries, as well as protection of the natural resources located here. It is a countywide agency with permit jurisdiction over all tide, submerged and other lands granted to the District, including all of Humboldt Bay, California's second largest natural bay and the only harbor between San Francisco and Coos Bay with channels of sufficient size to accommodate large commercial vessels.

The District has a vested interest in better understanding the movement of sediment within the Eureka littoral cell and its accumulation in Humboldt Bay channels. Annual maintenance dredging of Humboldt Bay is vital to maintaining safe and navigable access. Federal channels in Humboldt Bay are dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, while dredging outside of the Federal Channels is the responsibility of the District. We have been actively engaged in developing beneficial use alternatives for the disposal of dredge spoils, including ways in which dredge spoils could be used to increase coastal resilience to sea level rise. The District also has a statutory responsibility for the natural resources of the Bay and its enclosing spits. The information that has been collected to date through the successful completion of the three-year Dunes Climate Ready project has significantly increased our understanding of shoreline processes along the Eureka littoral cell. This project builds upon that work, and the Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience proposal will significantly advance our efforts locally to prepare for sea level rise and extreme events. The District is also committed to participating in the stakeholder group being proposed through this project, and strongly urges that you support it.

Sincerely,


Patrick Higgins, Secretary
Board of Commissioners



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

EEL RIVER ESTUARY | *Irving and Jean Stone* SOUNDING SEAS DUNES *North Coast Preserves*

July 25, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Sea Grant

Re: Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition

To Whom This May Concern,

The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) is an active partner in the ongoing Climate Ready research project, a multiagency and organization collaborative sea level rise adaptation project. The project has broad support and is truly unique, especially here in Humboldt County, where coastal communities and the State's public trust resources are subject to the ramifications of climate change and sea level rise.

TWC has dedicated staff time to support this project. We currently have two staff involved that have and will collectively spend up to 130-hours/year over five years (2016-2020) participating in the summer and winter survey seasons collecting transect data, and the Dunes Coop and stakeholder meetings. The staff will manage a demonstration adaptation site on the Eel River Estuary Preserve to assess new foredune building techniques. Furthermore, five transects are located on the Preserve, a three-mile stretch of the south spit of the Eel River, north of Centerville Beach.

TWC supports the continuation and expansion of the project through the proposed Eureka Littoral Cell sea level rise and coastal resiliency project, and urges continued support and funding to collect meaningful data on how our dunes will function under climate change scenarios and as we collectively plan and implement climate change resiliency. Barring unforeseen funding limitations, we plan to continue our involvement if the project continues at the same level as the past three years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Allee
Preserve Manager, North Coast Preserves

EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS

39611 Oak Glen Road, Building 12, Oak Glen, CA 92399 | (909) 797-8507 | info@twc-ca.org | WildlandsConservancy.org

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS | EEL RIVER ESTUARY PRESERVE

PO Box 1127, Ferndale, CA 95536 | (707) 672-4725 | northcoastpreserves@twc-ca.org





North Coast Redwoods District
PO Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95502
(707) 445-6547

July 30, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Seagrant

Re: Sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience grant competition

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Eureka Littoral Cell Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Project, which builds upon the 3-year Climate Ready research project that included data collection, adaptation strategy testing, and the establishment of a stakeholder engagement component. The North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD) of California State Parks has been a collaborator since the project began in January 2016, with Little River State Beach representing the northern extent of the project area. The NCRD is committed to continuing this partnership, and plans to invest approximately \$7,500 per year towards project tasks. Results from this project will provide a regional perspective and better inform the NCRD on vegetation management strategies in relationship to sea level rise and infrastructure protection for several coastal state park units in the District. Further, this collaborative project will inform regional land managers and the greater community of specifics in relation to this portion of coastline in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Amber Transou
Natural Resources Program Manager



July 23, 2018

Ocean Protection Council/USC Seagrant
Re: Sea-Level Rise Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Grant Competition

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of funds to continue the Dunes Climate Ready project of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The California Conservation Corps Fortuna Center is a partner and supporter of the USFWS dune restoration cooperative and have worked on the current Dunes Climate Ready project.

The California Conservation Corps Fortuna Center is committed to supporting this project and can offer a match of 25% of our rate per hour we are contracted on this project. A full cost per hour per member is \$28.26. We will agree to contract at the rate of \$21 per hour per member.

If there are any questions or additional information required in regards to this support letter please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Raquel Ortega,
District Director
CCC Fortuna Center

p. 707.725.5106

