



November 4, 2020

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

Subject: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program 2020

Ha'wa'lou (greetings) OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program

We hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and well. Since time immemorial, the Wiyot Tribe has relied on and provided stewardship over its natural resources. Awareness to the climate's relationship with the presence and cycles of plant and animal communities is an inherent aspect of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and stewardship. The Wiyot Tribal Council is fully supportive of the Wiyot Natural Resources Department's (WNRD) collaboration with Humboldt State University's Sea Level Rise Initiative (SLRI) and other local land managers and community professionals to begin scoping for, and addressing flooding and climate vulnerabilities that will be the most significant to tribal cultural resources (TCR) in and around Humboldt Bay (the *Wigi*) and its ancestral territory.

The threats of flooding, climate change, and sea-level rise pose to affect the abundance and distribution of culturally and ecologically important species that occur along the coastal fringe and impact traditions of the Tribe. The results from this project will greatly help the Tribe to prepare for and adapt to flooding, a changing climate, and sea level rise, including providing critical insights for the Tribe's formation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Native American tribes are in a unique position to combine modern scientific methods with Traditional Environmental Knowledge and stewardship techniques to holistically approach resource management and begin to address centuries of environmental harm and social injustice. After generations of forced disconnection from the ability to care for our natural resources, we are beginning to regain that capacity. This need is even more acute in the face of the uncertainties associated with global climate change.

For the sake of our greater Humboldt Bay community and Wiyot tribal cultural resources, we thoroughly support the WNRD's efforts to build our community and tribal resiliency, and respectfully ask for OPC's support in the funding this important and timely project. We wish you safety and good health during these uncertain times and thank you for your consideration.

Čawokš,

Ted Hernandez
Wiyot Chairman and Cultural Director
Table Bluff Reservation
1000 Wiyot Drive
Loleta, CA 95551



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

November 13, 2020

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for OPC Prop 68
Coastal Resilience Grant Program Application 2020

Dear OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program,

I am writing you to express my enthusiastic support of the Wiyot Tribe's application to the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program for conducting a Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Since time immemorial the Wiyot Tribe of Humboldt Bay have been stewards of the lands and waters of their ancestral territory and have a rich culture tied to marine resources. Humboldt Bay (*Wigi*), is the center of Wiyot territory.

Today, the Humboldt Bay region experiences sea level rise rates twice those in the rest of the state due to tectonic activity, while many low-lying contaminated sites from past industries around the Bay threaten water quality, habitat, and fisheries that tribal members rely on for subsistence, ceremonial, and traditional uses. Preparing for the coming changes to the region's shoreline is a critical priority. The Wiyot Tribe's Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan complements numerous local and state-funded sea level rise efforts in the region, meaningfully advancing climate change planning and community resilience in Humboldt Bay.

Native American Tribes are in a unique position to combine modern scientific methods with Traditional Ecological Knowledge to holistically approach cultural resource management and preserve Tribal Heritage and history, empowering Tribal sovereignty. For the sake of these cultural resources and landscapes, we strongly encourage OPC to support the Wiyot's Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan Project by funding this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Sam Schuchat

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
scc.ca.gov
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470



November 5, 2020

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

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for for OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program Application 2020

Dear OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program,

The Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative (HSU SLRI) offers this letter of support to the Wiyot Tribe in their application to the to the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program.

The [SLRI](#) brings together a group of government, Tribal, academic, planning, and environmental NGO professionals with the mission to “provide regional leadership on sea level rise research and outreach by developing a home for interdisciplinary scholarship related to sea level rise; informing local, regional, and national decision making through collaborative frameworks; and providing a centralized program through which regional sea level rise science and planning efforts can be coordinated.” Staff members from the Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Department are active members of this group. Members of the SLRI have expertise in planning, social science research methods, GIS techniques, the geosciences, and more.

The SLRI is very excited about and supportive of the Wiyot Tribe’s proposal to conduct interviews of Tribal members and to create a geographic information systems (GIS) database of resources within their ancestral territory. Native American Tribes are in a unique position to combine modern scientific methods with Traditional Ecological Knowledge to holistically approach cultural resource management and preserve Tribal Heritage and history, empowering Tribal sovereignty. The GIS platform has become the standard geospatial management tool for government agencies, which are mandated to consult with Tribes regarding potential project impacts to cultural resources. Building the Tribe’s abilities to conduct GIS analysis will lead to better preservation planning and review of project impacts fostering increased protections for Wiyot cultural sites. Many Wiyot sites are at low elevations and within dune and saltmarsh habitats, making them especially vulnerable to sea level rise (SLR) and climate change, highlighting the need for prioritizing resilient sites for preservation. Preparing for SLR and identifying

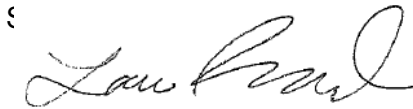
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where sites lay on the spectrum of vulnerability will be an important part of the Wiyot's comprehensive preservation planning for the future, and will involve collaboration with professionals and interdisciplinary experts, including a founded partnership with the HSU SLRI.

The HSU SLRI is committed to supporting the Wiyot Tribe as they embark on this project including providing: resources and expertise to develop, conduct, and analyze interviews; access to the most up to date SLR vulnerability assessments for the region; access to accompanying GIS files relate to those assessments; as well as GIS support and guidance when needed.

We would like to voice our full support for the Wiyot Tribe's Phase 1 Climate Change Adaption Plan Project, which will serve to benefit the Tribe and larger community by helping to preserve the Tribe's rich cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations. This project will also help the Tribe contribute to broader goals of the HSU SLRI which include helping to facilitate research and planning related to SLR.



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



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
LONG RANGE PLANNING

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

November 8, 2020

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

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program Application 2020

Dear OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department's Long Range Planning Division, I am writing in support of the Wiyot Tribe's application to the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program.

Humboldt Bay (*Wigi*), is the center of Wiyot territory. The region is experiencing twice the rate of sea level rise as the rest of the state due to tectonic activity and preparing for the coming changes to our shoreline is a top priority.

Native American Tribes are in a unique position to combine modern scientific methods with Traditional Ecological Knowledge to holistically approach cultural resource management and preserve Tribal Heritage and history. While this goal alone has merit and warrants Humboldt County's support for the application, we are also interested to know if these same approaches can benefit other impacted resources including historic resources and coastal access. For these reasons, we strongly encourage OPC to support the Wiyot's Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan Project by funding this Grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Richardson
Supervising Planner
Long Range Planning Unit
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department



October 25, 2020

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

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program 2020

Dear OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program,

On behalf of Humboldt Baykeeper, I am writing in support of the Wiyot Tribe's application to the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program for their proposed Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Humboldt Baykeeper works to protect Humboldt Bay (*Wigi*), which is the center of Wiyot territory. The region is experiencing twice the rate of sea level rise as the rest of the state due to tectonic activity, and preparing for the coming changes to our shoreline is a top priority. Many low-lying contaminated sites from past industries threaten water quality, habitat, and fisheries that tribal members rely on for subsistence, ceremonial, and traditional uses.

Humboldt Baykeeper has successfully collaborated with the Wiyot's Natural Resources Department for many years to protect and restore water quality in Humboldt Bay. We look forward to continuing our partnership to plan for sea level rise, ocean acidification, and other climate-related impacts in the Humboldt Bay region.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kalt, Director
jkalt@humboldtbykeeper.org

Mailing Address: 600 F Street, Suite 3 #810
Office: 415 I Street, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 499-3678
www.humboldtbykeeper.org





Inter-Tribal Student Services
1330 Hayes Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707.599.0694
intertribalstudentservices2013@gmail.com

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

October 5, 2020

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program Application 2020

Dear OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program,

On behalf of the Inter-Tribal Student Services, I am writing in support of the Wiyot Tribe's application to the OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program.

Humboldt Bay (*Wigi*), is the center of Wiyot territory. The region is experiencing twice the rate of sea level rise as the rest of the state due to tectonic activity and preparing for the coming changes to our shoreline is a top priority. Many low-lying contaminated sites from past industries threaten water quality, habitat, and fisheries that tribal members rely on for subsistence, ceremonial, and traditional uses.

Native American Tribes are in a unique position to combine modern scientific methods with Traditional Ecological Knowledge to holistically approach cultural resource management and preserve Tribal Heritage and history, empowering Tribal sovereignty. For the sake of these cultural resources and landscapes, we strongly encourage OPC to support the Wiyot's Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan Project by funding this Grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Lonyx Landry

ISS, Director of Outreach and Development

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

November 13, 2020

Re: Support for Wiyot Tribe Phase 1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan for OPC Prop 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program Application 2020

My name is Hilanea Wilkinson, I am a Wiyot tribal member who has always lived in Humboldt county. I grew up gathering and hunting all around Humboldt and along the coast. The Wiyot people are greatly affected by climate change and change to the ocean. With sea level rise and loss of coast an imminent threat we are at risk of losing our food source and traditional practices. Another concern regarding sea level rise is the loss of coastline causing more land to be private along the shore, which we have no access to.

There are many obvious effects other than sea level rise, having the water temperatures rising is disastrous to marine life. The seasons changing is impacting our plants and animals on land, due to the lack of rain and extreme weather events. Many animals being displaced due to action to try to help the environment, such as clean energy projects that end up destroying more than benefiting the earth.

No one in the tribe wants to see our earth being treated so poorly and depleted. Everything in nature is connected and we cannot strictly focus on one issue when they all have a domino effect. We want to try and fix as much as we can but can also plan on how to mitigate and adapt to the new environment.

This is a very important project for the Tribe and humanity. We need to do better for the earth and the animals. I look forward to seeing what the Tribe plans to do about these important topics and I hope to continue traditional practices and allow our future generations to experience nature as we once have. I fully support the Tribe for this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilanea Wilkinson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hilanea Wilkinson, Wiyot Tribal member