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Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CHAIR
BUDGET SUB #1,
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
BUDGET
HEALTH
INSURANCE

March 25, 2008

Chairman Douglas Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco: *D Berg*

I am pleased to offer my support for Tolowa Dunes Stewards' proposal to support education and restoration resources for Tolowa Dunes State Park, Lake Earl Wildlife Area, and Point St. George.

The project area is one of California's coastal gems, with over 11,000 combined acres that includes ten miles of open undeveloped beachfront, ancient sand dunes, pine and sitka forests, and a vast wetlands complex. The 5,500 acre Lake Earl Coastal Lagoon, situated on the Pacific Flyway, provides nesting habitat for thousands of migratory ducks, waterfowl, and songbirds. Eleven federal and state listed threatened and endangered species are found there as well.

The Stewards have a record of successful partnerships with the Department of Fish & Game and State Parks to provide much-needed restoration projects and educational programs. This project will build on that success to protect these resources and increase public education and access to this beautiful area.

I urge your favorable consideration of Tolowa Dunes Stewards' proposal. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Patty Berg

PATTY BERG
Assemblywoman, 1st District

cc: ✓ Deborah Hirst, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
Susan Calla, Tolowa Dunes Stewards

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

NORTHERN REGION
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-2300



April 2, 2008

Chairman Douglas Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
Attention: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Support for Tolowa Dunes Stewards Coastal Conservancy Application

The Tolowa Dunes Stewards and their partner, the North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association, have worked cooperatively with the Department of Fish and Game (Department) at the Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA) in Del Norte County for several years.

Public use programs have been developed by the Tolowa Dunes Stewards on State land (which includes California State Parks and Recreation holdings) at Lake Earl that incorporate guided walks for bird and wildlife viewing, plant identification, and general ecology. These activities promote and highlight the natural resource values of LEWA and surrounding coastal environments. As the Tolowa Dunes Stewards are filling a need for public education on the LEWA, the Department contributes in-kind support for these types of programs by donating public meeting and visitor center space.

The Department fully supports the Tolowa Dunes Stewards grant application to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the development of a comprehensive trail/access guide, construction of interpretive signs, and implementation of habitat restoration projects at the LEWA.

If you need any further information regarding the Department's support for the Tolowa Dunes Stewards' grant application, please contact Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor Ms. Karen Kovacs at (707) 441-5789.

Sincerely,

GARY B. STACEY
Regional Manager

ec: See Page Two

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Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Chairman Douglas Bosco
April 2, 2008
Page Two

ec: Ms. Karen Kovacs
Messrs. Richard Callas, Robert Smith, and Charles Bartolotta
Department of Fish and Game
kkovacs@dfg.ca.gov, rcallas@dfg.ca.gov, rsmith@dfg.ca.gov,
cbartolotta@dfg.ca.gov



State of California • The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
REDWOOD COAST SECTOR
1111 Second St.
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 465-7332

Ruth Coleman, Director

February 5, 2008

Deborah Hirst, Project Manager
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hirst,:

RE: Support for Tolowa Dunes Stewards proposal to California State Coastal Conservancy

I am writing to convey my support for the California State Coastal Conservancy funding proposal being submitted by the Tolowa Dunes Stewards, located in Del Norte County. The Stewards have been making significant contributions over the last four years to coastal conservation, restoration, and education. We at California State Parks welcome the potential opportunity for them to work with us, other state and county land managers, and the local Tolowa sovereign nations for an overall planning process to enhance public access and increase interpretive opportunities, as well as implement more conservation and restoration projects within Tolowa Dunes State Park.

Tolowa Dunes State Park is one of our newest parks, established five years ago because of its outstanding natural and cultural resources. Unfortunately it is sorely under-funded. This Park currently has only one Ranger and intermittent support staff. It also has no accurate trail map or informational handouts, is without adequate restroom or camping facilities, designated picnic areas, signed trails, or outdoor interpretive displays. However, because of the dedicated efforts of the Stewards and our parks' cooperating partner North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association, four years of summer interpretive and educational programs have taken place with more than one thousand visitors attending these events. The Tolowa Dunes Stewards and a corps of dedicated volunteers originated from these efforts.

The lush natural biodiversity of Tolowa Dunes State Park deserves far greater public recognition and visibility than it has received so far. This Park also has significant issues, primarily with invasive plants, poaching, and illegal off road vehicle violations, where a well thought out and planned public education program and interpretive signage network would be extremely helpful.

We have already committed staff time to work together with Tolowa Dunes Stewards and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to develop overall interpretive themes and an access enhancement strategy, which would be the first step towards increased public awareness and stewardship. It will hopefully contribute to more recognition and fiscal support at the state level for this coastal gem and thus will hopefully accelerate the ultimate implementation of that plan.

Specifically, toward this proposed project, we have committed the time of our staff to the strategy process (Superintendent, Supervisory Ranger, District Landscape Architect, and Interpretive Specialist) and the archeology surveys and permits needed for dune restoration (District Archeologist and Vegetation Management/Environmental Specialist to oversee survey crews and monitor's and assist with permit applications).

We both need and welcome the State Coastal Conservancy's assistance as it will complement work already in place to enhance recreational possibilities and foster increased stewardship of this new Park and its rich resources. Thank you for your consideration of this vital work.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bomke,
Acting State Park Superintendent
Redwood Coast Sector



Smith River Rancheria

140 Rowdy Creek Rd, Smith River, CA 95567-9525
Ph: (707) 487-9255 Fax: (707) 487-0930

March 4, 2008

Kara Brundin
Miller
Chairperson

Denise Padgett
Vice Chairperson

Sharyne R. Harper
Council Secretary

Joel Bravo
Treasurer

Marian Lopez
Council Member

Brock Richards
Council Member

Joseph Giovannetti
Council Member

Russ Crabtree
Tribal
Administrator

Deborah Hirst, Project Manager
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hirst:

This letter, submitted on behalf of the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council, supports the funding proposal submitted to the State Coastal Conservancy by Tolowa Dunes Stewards and Sandra Jerabek, program manager. This grant if awarded will provide needed funding for interpretation, conservation and restoration projects that will increase appreciation and protection for the ancestral, sacred lands of the Tolowa people in the contiguous area now known as Tolowa Dunes State Park and Lake Earl Wildlife Area.

Although these lands are under the management of the state agencies, California State Parks and California Fish and Game, we have been concerned for many years that some of our most sacred areas and village sites have been severely compromised and degraded due to pedestrian and equestrian traffic. This proposal, if accepted, will also provide a process whereby we can address concerns about inappropriate recreational access. When the Rancheria reaches agreement with the other agencies regarding coastal trail alignment at Point St. George, we hope that this area will be connected to the project for the purposes of authentic cultural interpretation.

We welcome the opportunity to participate as partners in a process intended to interpret the area as a whole, protect its cultural and natural values, and enhance public access. It is important to us that authentic Tolowa cultural and historic background information as well as Tolowa

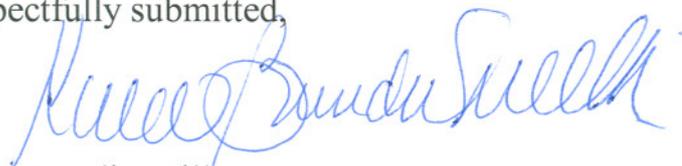
*Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni
Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong*

names of areas and trails are used in the planned publications, website, trails map and access guide, and/or interpretive signage located in appropriate places.

Since the entire project area is archeologically significant to the Tolowa, we are pleased that this grant will provide funding for archeological surveys, cultural monitors and permits before any restoration work is initiated. We also concur with the exotic plant removal/restoration work planned under this proposal as vital and necessary to return the dunes to their original configuration, thus rescuing sensitive habitat for native plants and dune species.

To demonstrate our support, the Rancheria is pleased to contribute the time of tribal members and staff associated with the Culture Committee to partner in planning for interpretation, conservation and restoration projects during this two year period. Further, we appreciate that the project will compensate tribal cultural monitors during archeological surveys, and would like to offer an in-kind match of monitor services equivalent to about a quarter of the total compensation. Finally, the Rancheria looks forward to the possibility of involving our summer tribal youth employment program when the actual hands-on dune restoration phase of the project is reached.

Respectfully submitted,



Kara Brundin Miller
Tribal Council Chairperson
Smith River Rancheria

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Elk Valley Rancheria, California



2332 Howland Hill Road
Crescent City, CA 95531

Phone: 707.464.4680
Fax: 707.465.2638
rancheria@elk-valley.com

May 8, 2008

Chairman Douglas Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Elk Valley Rancheria, California, a federally recognized Indian Tribe (hereinafter "Tribe") supports the funding proposal submitted to the State Coastal Conservancy by Tolowa Dunes Stewards and Sandra Jerabek, program manager. The grant will provide the funding necessary for several worthy interpretative, conservation and restoration projects that will increase appreciation and protection of Tolowa Dunes State Park and Lake Earl Wildlife Area. Though today these lands are under the management of California State Parks and California Fish and Game, they are part of our ancestral territory. Many Tribal members have direct connections to the villages in the immediate area, and we are deeply committed to the preservation of these places.

Over the years the Tribe has been concerned that our sacred areas and village sites have suffered significant impacts due to several factors including looting, animal grazing and pedestrian and equine traffic. Preservation and planning projects at Tolowa Dunes and Lake Earl Wildlife Area have been historically under funded, and this proposal, if accepted, will facilitate a much needed process whereby we can address concerns about inappropriate recreational access.

The Tribe looks forward to working in partnership with the land managing agencies, the Coastal Conservancy, and the Smith River Rancheria on future projects related to cultural and natural resource preservation, archaeological survey, interpretation, exotic plant removal, and public access. The Tolowa Dunes Stewards have put together a well thought out multi-year proposal and we commend their commitment and continued efforts to protect and preserve this very special place.

Sincerely,

Dale Miller
Tribal Council Chairman
Elk Valley Rancheria, California

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