

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
June 6, 2024

CLIFFORD KAMPH MEMORIAL PARK EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY: AUGMENTATION

Project No. 20-015-01
Project Manager: Michael Bowen

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$130,000 to the County of Del Norte to augment the Conservancy’s previously authorized grant of \$96,000 to assess the feasibility of expanding camping opportunities and to develop a park improvement plan for Clifford Kamph Memorial Park, the northern gateway to the California Coastal Trail, in Del Norte County; and authorization to expand the project scope to include preparation of designs, engineering, and environmental analysis of improvements identified in the park improvement plan.

LOCATION: Approximately five miles north of Smith River, unincorporated Del Norte County

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)
- Exhibit 2: [Proposed Park Schematic](#)
- Exhibit 3: [June 18, 2020 Staff Recommendation](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) to the County of Del Norte (“the grantee”) to augment the Conservancy grant of \$96,000 previously authorized on June 18, 2020 to assess the feasibility of expanding camping opportunities and to develop a park improvement plan for Clifford Kamph Memorial Park, the northern gateway to the California Coastal Trail, in Del Norte County; and authorization to expand the project scope to include preparation of designs, engineering, and environmental analysis of improvements identified in the park improvement plan. Prior to commencement of the expanded project scope, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. An updated work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any additional contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's "Coastal Access Project Standards" into the project.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapters 9 and 10 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access and lower cost coastal accommodations, respectively.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of an amount not to exceed \$130,000 to the County of Del Norte ("County") to augment and expand the project scope of a Conservancy grant of \$96,000 previously authorized on June 18, 2020. The existing grant is to assess the feasibility of expanding camping opportunities and to develop a park improvement plan for Clifford Kamph Memorial Park ("the project"), the northern gateway to the California Coastal Trail, in Del Norte County (Exhibit 1). The project scope is expanded to include preparation of designs, engineering, and environmental analysis of improvements identified in the park improvement plan.

Using the existing grant, the County prepared a park improvement plan for Clifford Kamph Memorial Park, a popular but small and dilapidated coastal campground near the Oregon border. Park improvements identified in the plan (See Exhibit 2) include:

- Relocation of the camp host site to the entry of the park,
- New restrooms near campsites (vault toilets) (ADA compliant),
- Convert existing restroom to shower(s),
- All surface pathways within the campground (ADA compliant),
- Buffer fencing along the south property line,
- Replacement of parking in the west portion of the parcel with a day-use picnic area,
- Parking area – new surface, new striping plan, and
- Interpretative panel(s) for California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and tribal fishing education.

In addition, with the existing grant, the County made significant efforts to seek an expansion of the campground, including a facilitated meeting held January 18, 2024. Concerns expressed

about expansion, in combination with an inability to acquire the property to the south at present, have prompted the County to shift its attention to design and improvement of the existing footprint. However, the County will continue to explore expansion opportunities, and to continue dialogue with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. Grant funds will enable a continuation of this dialogue. In the meantime, the County seeks to further the completed park improvement plan. The project is expanded to include preparation of designs, engineering, and environmental analysis for the park improvements listed in bullet form above.

Additional detail about the park and the need for its improvement can be found in the June 18, 2020 Staff Recommendation (Exhibit 3).

Site Description: See Exhibit 3.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: See Exhibit 3

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Strategic Plan" section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

In addition to serving the northern entrance to the California Coastal Trail, this campground serves a diverse group of visitors ranging from tourists to local tribal fishermen accessing the beach and its traditional fishing sites. The County's remarkable cost effectiveness in delivering high quality public access amenities is well established, making this an extremely beneficial and cost-effective project.

3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.

County staff and two supervisors have made extensive efforts to coordinate with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation regarding both the campground in its present form, and the possibility of acquiring and transferring lands to the south to the Nation. These conversations have been productive, and they continue. Nonetheless, they have not resulted in consensus, and the County meanwhile wishes to update facilities at the existing campground in order to meet current environmental standards, improve accessibility for people with disabilities, and to better serve the general public.

4. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

The park improvements are expressly intended to ensure that this exposed coastal campground is updated in a way that meets modern environmental standards, and in a way that is adequately resilient.

As described in Exhibit B, the existing camping area at Kamph Park is not vulnerable to sea level rise. It is set back from the edge of the bluff as well as protected by the fore dunes. However, increased rates of coastal erosion due to more frequent and intense winter storms will have an effect on the trails and parking area. The current day use parking area is at the bluff edge and the trails go from the parking lot and camping area to the beach. The trails need to be redesigned to better withstand erosion from winter storms and the edge of the parking lot will recede slowly over time.

5. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

See Exhibit B.

6. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

At both the Staff and Supervisorial level, the County has engaged with landowners and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation on the advancement of upgrades to this highly popular County Park.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$130,000
Project Total	\$130,000

The expected source of funds for this augmentation is an appropriation to the Conservancy from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68, Public Resources Code Sections 80000- 80173). Chapter 9 of Proposition 68 (section 80120-80121) allocates funds to the Conservancy to enhance and protect coastal and ocean resources, and, in particular, to grant funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for lower cost coastal accommodations. (Public Resources Code Section 80120 (b)).

Consistent with the purposes of this funding source, the proposed project consists of planning for the improvement of existing, and potential development of new, lower cost overnight accommodation on the coast in the form of campsites at Kamph Park. The project will be carried out in accordance with Chapters 9 and 10 of Division 21 regarding public access and lower cost coastal accommodations (see "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section below).

The County of Del Norte will also contribute the staff time to manage the project as an in-kind donation. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

See Exhibit 3.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

Consistent with **Goal 2.3, Expand Accessibility**, the proposed project will result in a completed plan to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

Consistent with **Goal 2.5, Enhancement of Recreational Amenities**, the proposed project will result in designs for improved campground facilities such as a restroom, shower, trails entrance and parking area that substantially improve and enhance the utility of this already popular coastal campground.

Consistent with **Goal 2.7, Explore the Coast Overnight**, the proposed project will result in a completed plan to increase the supply of lower cost overnight accommodations.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Sections 15262 and 15306, because it involves only feasibility studies, planning studies, basic data collection and research, none of which will impact any environmental resource(s) and all of which will be undertaken as part of a planning effort leading to possible future action that the Conservancy has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval of this project.