

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
December 8, 2005

TSURAI VILLAGE STUDY AREA ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

File No. 02-101
Project Manager: Su Corbaley

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to augment the Conservancy's February 27, 2003 authorization by disbursing up to \$44,300 in additional funds to the Yurok Tribe to hold additional planning meetings with planning team members and the public, and to complete the cultural survey and the CEQA initial study in order to determine appropriateness of recommended projects and actions in the final management plan for the Tsurai Village Site in Trinidad.

LOCATION: Tsurai Village is located within the coastal zone on the north bluff overlooking Trinidad Harbor in the town of Trinidad, approximately 20 miles north of Eureka.

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Public Access

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: February 27, 2003 Staff Recommendation

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following Resolution pursuant to Sections 31400 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of additional funds in an amount not to exceed forty-four thousand three hundred dollars (\$44,300) to augment the February 27, 2003 authorization to the Yurok Tribe in order to complete the management plan for public access and protection of natural and cultural resources on the Tsurai Village Site located in Trinidad, Humboldt County, as described in Exhibit 1 of the accompanying staff recommendation. This authorization is subject to the condition that, prior to the disbursement of any additional Conservancy funds, the Yurok Tribe shall submit for review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work plan, budget and schedule including the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed to carry out the work plan.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the proposed project remains consistent with the purposes and objectives Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31400 *et seq.*) regarding access to the coast, and with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed authorization would augment funds for management planning for preservation of public access and protection of cultural and natural resources on the Tsurai Village Site, a project approved by the Coastal Conservancy in February 2003. Additionally, the project would enable the Yurok Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, in consultation with the Tsurai Ancestral Society (descendants of Tsurai Village inhabitants), the City of Trinidad (fee title owner of the property), the Trinidad Rancheria (a nearby property owner), and the Conservancy (conservation easement owner) to complete a management plan for public access, and for scenic, natural, and archeological resources preservation, for the 12.5-acre ancient Tsurai Village Site Study Area in Trinidad. Additional funds are needed to complete the planning process, to gather additional archival information from the City of Trinidad, to complete a cultural resources survey, and to conduct an initial study in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to address environmental impacts in order to finalize recommendations for managed public access and protection of the cultural and natural resources on the site. Further, the additional funds will allow for additional public scoping and informational meetings critical to the planning effort.

The current planning process has revealed issues more complicated than originally anticipated in the initial authorization, such as impacts to the cultural resources from stormwater runoff and the need to actively manage the vegetation to protect cultural resources and promote bluff stability for access trails. Due to the sensitive nature of the cultural and natural resources on the site and the high level of public interest in the future management of those resources, staff proposes the Conservancy authorize an additional \$44,300 to complete the more thorough planning process by September 2006.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$44,300
Yurok Tribe (in-kind labor)	3,000

The Conservancy’s contribution to this project is expected to come from the FY 05/06 appropriation from the Safe Neighborhoods, Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12) allocated for coastal resource development projects north of the Gualala River.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION; PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES; THE COASTAL ACT; AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, Sections 30210, 30230, and 30240 of the Coastal Act, and the *Humboldt County Bay Plan, Trinidad Area Plan* (certified Local Coastal Plan) as indicated in the attached staff recommendation dated February 27, 2003 (Exhibit 1)

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective D**, the proposed project will increase coastal recreation opportunities by planning for improved management that would result in safer conditions at a key coastal access location.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

In its initial authorization of funding, the Conservancy found the management plan project to be statutorily exempt from CEQA (see Exhibit 1).

The addition of funds does not have the potential to result in any physical changes to the environment and therefore is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as provided in 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15378.