



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-5

For the meeting of: November 4, 2014

Date: October 27, 2014
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg
Subject: Letter of Support for the Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest land acquisition.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Yurok Tribe has partnered with Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) to purchase a 47,279-acre landscape-scale acquisition from Green Diamond Resource Company. The project area is located along the Lower Klamath River, including the Blue Creek watershed. The Klamath is California's most important salmon river and Blue Creek is one of its most vital tributaries. The Tribe and WRC are partnering with California's Wildlife Conservation Board, other agencies, and private funders to purchase the remaining 18,000 acres in 2014 and 2015

This acquisition project will establish the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* to protect and restore salmon and steelhead fisheries, improve habitat connectivity, restore watershed integrity, protect threatened and endangered species, and reestablish the Yurok's cultural heritage.

Prepared by Tracy Damico

Signature *Ryan Sundberg*

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Lovelace Seconded by Supervisor Sundberg
Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Bahn, Fennell, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Nov. 4, 2014
By: *Ann Huffwell*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

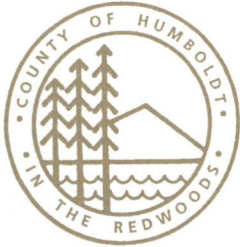
As recognized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), this project provides a unique opportunity for the State of California to partner with the Yurok Tribe to achieve mutual goals of private land stewardship and fisheries conservation. The project area will be owned and managed by the Yurok Tribe. The Tribe intends to transfer the land from fee into trust with title held by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe. Project lands will be protected in perpetuity through an agreement between the Tribe and the State. Among other things, this project will convey a stretch of coastal redwoods from Green Diamond, a willing seller, into a locally owned and managed preserve and sustainable forest. This acquisition is a valuable conservation opportunity for the State because it will result in the permanent protection of some of the most vital salmon and steelhead habitat in the Klamath Basin, have a major impact on furthering wildlife conservation goals in one of California's most diverse regions, and benefit an important regional economy. There is no known or likely outright opposition to the project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

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John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest land acquisition

Dear Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors support for the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* land acquisition project. This 47,000 acre acquisition from Green Diamond, a willing seller, along the Klamath River will result in the permanent protection of Blue Creek -- the anchor tributary for the survival of salmon species on the Klamath River. Once acquired, the Yurok Tribe will restore over 20,000 acres to old-growth redwood that will permanently protect habitat for several species. The Yurok Tribe and Western Rivers Conservancy are seeking funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, Coastal Conservancy, the federal government and private foundations to acquire these lands. I urge you to work closely with them to complete the project.

The Yurok Tribe has worked with Western Rivers Conservancy to contribute nearly one third of the acquisition purchase price using non-State of California resources. The Yurok Tribe's continued, relentless commitment to the natural resources of our beautiful state would be an outstanding choice for the Wildlife Conservation Board's first investment in a significant conservation acquisition by a California Tribe.

This Community Forest land acquisition is important to Humboldt County and I urge you to fund the proposal. If you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Chair, Rex Bohn
County of Humboldt