

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

May 5, 2020

Mr. Tom Mattson  
Director of Public Works  
County of Humboldt  
1106 Second Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Annie & Mary Phase 2 Trail Project

Dear Mr. Mattson,

Caltrans District 1 supports the pursuit of Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds by the County of Humboldt for the Annie & Mary Trail Phase 2 project. The proposed project will provide a missing connection in the Annie & Mary Trail by extending the facility from Glendale to Blue Lake parallel to State Route 299.

Caltrans District 1 and the County of Humboldt will enter into a cooperative agreement to define the roles and responsibilities between agencies. The intention is that the County will be the sponsoring agency for all project funding, the County will be the administering agency for the segment of the trail outside of state right-of-way, and Caltrans will be the administering agency for the segment of trail within state right-of-way. Funds for state work will be exchanged from the County to Caltrans through the subvention reimbursement process, which allows state forces to perform work on behalf of a local agency using federal funds. Each agency will be responsible for any financial overruns on their respective segments of the project as well as maintenance of their segments after construction completion.

I appreciate the collaboration between Caltrans District 1 and the County of Humboldt on the Humboldt Bay Trail South project along the Eureka-Arcata State Route 101 corridor and the shared-use path project along State Route 255 in Manila. I look forward to partnering with you on this project and delivering much needed access for the community in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Mettam".

for Matthew K. Brady  
District 1 Director

cc: Brad Mettam, Deputy District Director, Planning & Local Assistance  
Richard Mullen, Deputy District Director, Project & Asset Management.  
Brandon Larsen, Office Chief, North Region Environmental  
Jen Buck, Project Manager

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*



North Coast Railroad Authority  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
707-463-3280

August 7, 2020

California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street MS 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Humboldt County's Annie & Mary Trail Phase 2 Project

Dear Application Review Committee,

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) strongly supports the funding application by Humboldt County to the state Active Transportation Program (ATP) for the Annie & Mary Trail Phase 2 Project. Humboldt County, with support from Caltrans District 1 and many local partners, seeks ATP funds to design and construct the second phase of the Annie & Mary Trail, from the western end of the Phase 1 Annie & Mary Trail at Blue Lake city limits to the unincorporated community of Glendale. This project has been a regional transportation priority for over two decades. Approximately 0.35 miles of the 1.7-mile project would be situated within the right-of-way of the Arcata & Mad River Railroad (A&M) railroad line, which is owned by NCRA. The railroad parcels within the project area are owned in fee by NCRA.

The A&M railroad line has a rich history going back to the 1850s. For much of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, this line served as a branch line to the Northwestern Pacific main line and provided a critical transportation and economic link in Humboldt County. Train operations ceased in the 1990s due to safety concerns regarding line conditions along the Eel River Canyon. In 2008, the NCRA passed Resolution No. 2008-11 expressing its willingness to cooperate with local entities to effectuate multi-modal transportation use of the A&M line.

In 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill SB 1029, known as the North Coast Railroad Authority Closure and Transition to Trails Act, to dissolve the NCRA and transfer the rights-of-way and other properties to a successor agency that would create a Great Redwood Trail for hiking, biking, and riding. This transition is currently being administered by a task force composed of California State Transportation Agency, Caltrans, Department of Finance, and Department of General Services.

The Annie & Mary Trail Phase 2 is fully consistent with SB 1029 and would deliver an important segment of the Great Redwood Trail. NCRA continues to be willing to cooperate with Humboldt County, Caltrans, and local partners to realize multi-modal transportation use of the A&M line. This approval is conceptual for funding application purposes only. Final design review by NCRA (or its successor agency) would be required prior to construction, and an entity such as the County would be required to enter into an agreement to manage and maintain the constructed trail within the A&M right-of-way (unless that responsibility is assigned to NCRA or its successor agency).

We are pleased to support Humboldt County's Annie and Mary Trail Phase 2 Project and encourage financial assistance for this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Stog".



**BLUE LAKE RANCHERIA TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE**

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Blue Lake, CA 95525

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[www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov](http://www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov)



August 8, 2020

California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street MS 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for the County of Humboldt's Blue Lake to Glendale Annie & Mary Trail,  
Phase 2 Project**

Dear Commissioners,

The Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) is writing in support of the Blue Lake Annie and Mary Trail, Phase 2 application submitted to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) by the County of Humboldt. The Annie & Mary Trail has been a priority transportation project for the Blue Lake community for many years. BLR is committed to supporting this project and recognizes its benefit to Tribal Members, the community as a whole, and the many visitors who come to Blue Lake to enjoy its beauty, recreational opportunities and local businesses.

The County of Humboldt has reached out to the Rancheria for feedback during the preliminary design phase and during development of this application. Interpretive panels and solar trail lighting have been included in this application at our request to provide cultural context and education as well as sustainable safety lighting along the trail. The interpretive signs will be designed and installed in collaboration with the Rancheria's Environmental and Culture Departments.

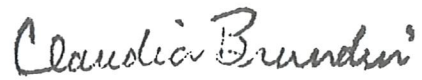
BLR has led the development and maintenance of bike lanes and non-motorized facilities serving the Rancheria and western Blue Lake which will provide connectivity for Tribal Members to the Annie & Mary Trail. We host a senior meal program at the Tribal Community Center, and this trail project would provide a direct connection to the program from seniors' homes in the community. The Blue Lake Rancheria is also designated as a Red Cross shelter site, and the community and Blue Lake School would benefit from a safe, connected network to this facility.

Furthermore, BLR believes that the trail will enhance health and transportation options for Tribal Members, 75% of whom are elders and children. The health of community elders and youth is an important focus for the Rancheria, as many elders have suffered health impacts related to air pollution and would benefit from a reduction in emissions. Access to healthy, fresh food is an issue for our community, and this trail project would provide Tribal Members a direct connection to the full-service grocery store in Glendale. The Rancheria is proud to be recognized by the White House as a Climate Action Champion, for taking steps to innovatively reduce greenhouse gases and improve climate resiliency. This project is in line with BLR's focus on supporting projects that continue to meet these goals.

The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Council and our Rancheria staff share the goal of keeping our communities safe, healthy and environmentally sound. We are pleased to support the Annie and Mary Trail, Phase 2 and strongly encourage your support of this beneficial project.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudia Brundin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Claudia Brundin, Chairperson