

rec'd 1/31/08
January 31, 2008

W182

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Re: Inclusion of Manila in County General Plan Circulation Element
Dear Commissioners,

The MCSD Board of Directors submitted a letter to you dated January 11 regarding the Circulation Element of the County General Plan. Staff, Michael Richardson, made several suggestions regarding the issues raised in the letter, one of which was to provide a map that not only showed trails identified in the *Manila Community Transportation Plan – Phase II*, adopted in 2006 by the Board, but which also showed additional trails sought by Friends of the Dunes to provide pedestrian access to its newly acquired property and to the Ma-le'l Dunes owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM off Young Lane in Manila. The Friends of the Dunes' property will be open for public coastal and dune access in late spring or early summer. This map is attached. This new pedestrian trail would be on the west side of SR 255 between Lupin Avenue and Young Lane within the right of way but separated from SR 255 with fencing. As noted in the MCSD Board's last communication to you the *Manila Plan's* its trails include:

Rail Trail – [A] rail trail for pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the NCRA rail right-of-way between the Pacific Avenue – Dean Street – Peninsula Drive intersection to just north of Ward Street behind the Manila Market. This 0.75 mile section would have the least wetlands issues to address for short-term implementation.

New Pedestrian Paths – [A] new pedestrian path on a) the west side of SR 255 between Pacific Avenue and Lupin Avenue within the right of way but separated from SR 255 with fencing and b) on the east side of Peninsula Drive between the Community Center and Pacific Avenue.

Connection to Manila Market – Create a new pedestrian path to link Peninsula Drive with the recommended rail trail near the Manila Market.

The draft circulation plan encourages the "use of the NP Railroad Right of Way for Bicycles and Pedestrians ... between Arcata and Eureka ... provided those uses do not compromise future use of the right of way for rail transportation" (C-P 37, pg. 13). MCSD supports this policy and urges the adoption of a similar policy for the proposed Manila Rail Trail. The draft circulation plan encourages "development of access into existing and future recreation areas" (C-P 34, pg. 13). The New Pedestrian Paths of the *Manila Plan* provide pedestrian access to the community center/Manila Dunes Recreation Area. MCSD supports this policy and urges the adoption of a similar policy for the proposed Manila New Pedestrian Paths and for the extension of this trail proposed by Friends of the Dunes.

The County supports "a strategy for improvements to the U.S. Highway 101 Safety Corridor that minimizes impacts to coastal resources, and treats all three main roads between Arcata and Eureka as one system. The strategy would develop an overall improvement plan that phases improvements on a prioritized basis between the three roads: U.S. Highway 101, State Route 255, and Old Arcata Road/Myrtle Avenue" (C-P 16, pg. 11). The particular phased improvements contained in the *Manila Plan* for SR 255 should be included as recommendations in the Circulation Element.

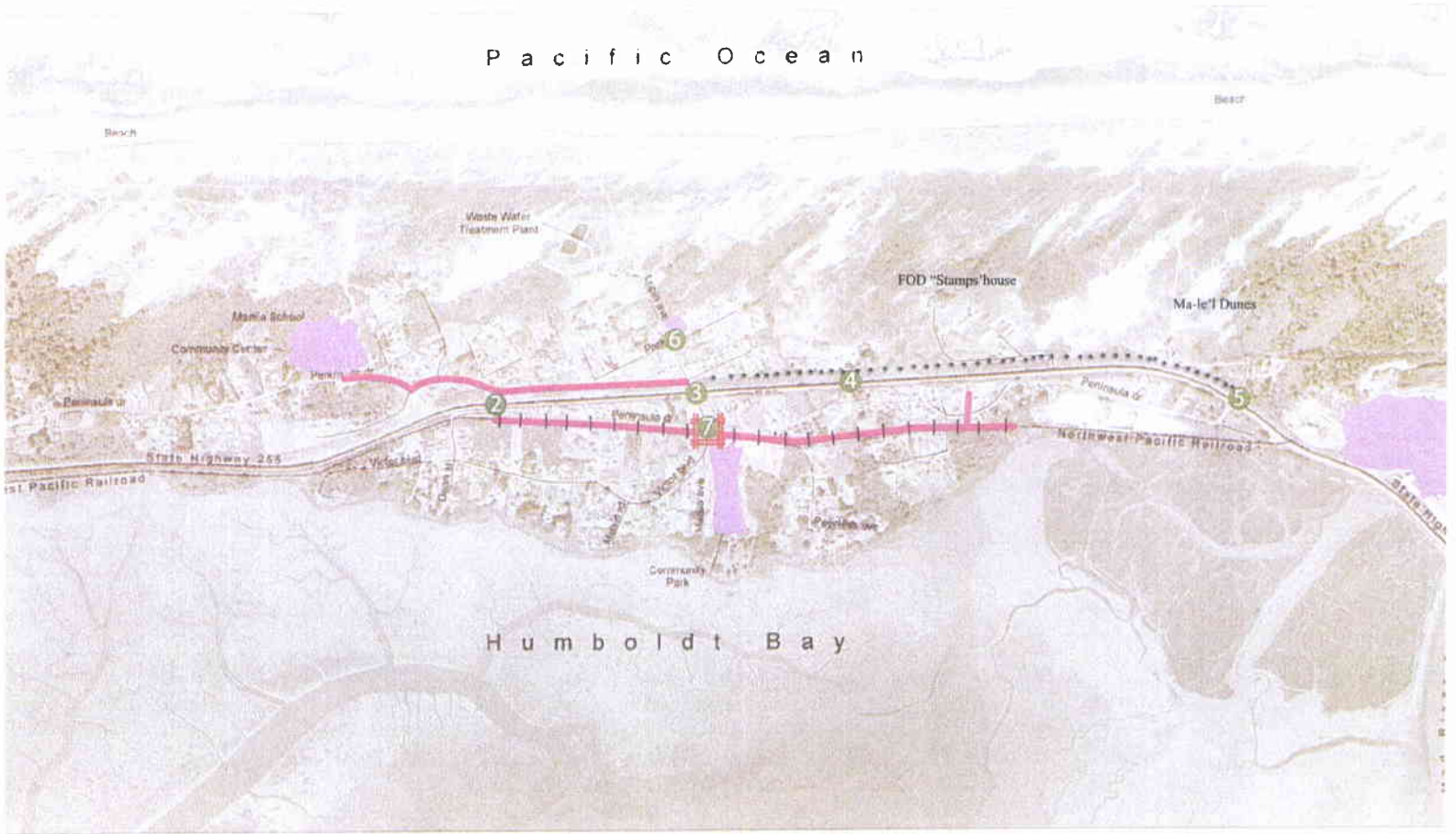
We wish to honor the wishes of our community residents who were very involved in the development of the *Manila Plan* and who will work towards the implementation of the recommendations of this plan. Your help in this endeavor are sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dan Ihara
231 Dean Street
Arcata (Manila), CA 95521
Manila CSD Board President

Attachment: Pedestrian/Bicycle Recommendations



..... Requested Trail Addition

LEGEND

- Rail Trails
- New Paths
- Crosswalk Striping

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles
1 inch equals 350 feet
1:4,200

