

PART 1—INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1. PLANNING PARTNER PARTICIPATION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Section 201.6.a(4) of Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR) states:

“Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.”

Region IX of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of this Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan, a Planning Partnership was formed to leverage resources and to meet requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) for as many eligible local governments in Humboldt County as possible. Humboldt County assumed the leadership role of this planning process by securing grant funding and selecting contractor assistance to facilitate the planning process. The DMA defines a local government as follows:

“Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.”

There are two types of Planning Partners in this process, with distinct needs and capabilities:

- Cities and the County
- Special purpose districts

1.2 THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

1.2.1 Initial Solicitation and Letters of Intent

The County planning team solicited the participation of all incorporated cities in Humboldt County and all County-recognized special purpose districts with junior taxing authority at the outset of this project. On March 23, 2006, a planning kickoff meeting was held at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility Training Room in Eureka. All eligible local governments within the planning area were invited to attend. Various agency and citizen stakeholders were also invited to this meeting. The purpose of this session was to:

- Provide an overview of the Disaster Mitigation Act
- Outline the Humboldt County work plan
- Illustrate the benefits of multi-jurisdictional planning
- Solicit planning partners
- Form a Steering Committee.

All interested local governments were provided with a list of planning partner expectations developed by the planning team and were informed of the obligations required for participation. Local governments

wishing to join the planning effort were asked to provide the planning team with a “Notice of Intent to Participate” that agreed to the planning partner expectations and designated a point of contact for their jurisdiction. In all, formal commitment was received from 25 planning partners by the planning team, and the Humboldt County Planning Partnership was formed. The following jurisdictions submitted letters of intent, representing 28 percent of the eligible local governments within the Humboldt County Operational Area:

1. City of Arcata
2. Weott Community Service District
3. City of Blue Lake
4. McKinleyville Community Service District
5. City of Eureka
6. Redway Community Service District
7. City of Ferndale
8. Humboldt #1, Fire Protection District
9. City of Fortuna
10. Arcata Fire Protection District
11. City of Rio Dell
12. Rio Dell Fire Protection District
13. City of Trinidad
14. Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District
15. Humboldt County
16. Resort Improvement District #1
17. Orleans Community Service District
18. Garberville Sanitary District
19. Orick Community Service District
20. Humboldt Bay Municipal Water Dist.
21. Humboldt Community Service District
22. Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation & Conservation District
23. Willow Creek Community Service District
24. Reclamation District #768
25. Willow Creek Fire Protection District
26. St. Joseph’s Health System

1.2.2 Planning Partner Expectations

The planning team developed the following list of Planning Partner expectations, which were confirmed at the first Steering Committee meeting held on August 2, 2006:

- Provide a “Letter of Intent to Participate” or Resolution to Participate to the Humboldt County Planning Team.
- Support and participate in the selection and function of the Steering Committee selected to oversee the development of this plan. Support includes allowing this body to make decisions regarding plan development and scope on behalf of the partnership.
- Provide support in the form of mailing list, possible meeting space, media such as newsletters, newspapers or direct mailed brochures, required to implement the public involvement strategy formed by the Steering Committee.
- Participate in the process through opportunities such as:
 - Steering Committee meetings
 - Public meetings or open houses
 - Workshops/Planning Partner specific training sessions

- Public review and comment periods prior to adoption.
- Attendance will be tracked at every opportunity, and attendance records will be used to track and document participation for each planning partner. No thresholds will be established as minimum levels of participation. However, each planning partner should attempt to attend all possible opportunities.
- Each partner will be expected to perform a “consistency review” of all technical studies, plans, and ordinances specific to hazards identified within the defined planning area to determine the existence of plans, studies or ordinances not consistent with the equivalent documents reviewed in preparation of the County (parent) plan. For example: if a planning partner has a floodplain management plan that makes recommendations that are not consistent with any of the County’s Basin Plans, that plan will need to be reviewed for probable incorporation into the plan for the partner’s area.
- Each partner will be expected to review the Risk Assessment and identify hazards and vulnerabilities specific to its jurisdiction. Contract resources will provide the jurisdiction-specific mapping and technical consultation to aid in this task, but the determination of risk and vulnerability will be up to each partner.
- Each partner will be expected to review and determine if the mitigation recommendations chosen in the parent plan will meet the needs of its jurisdiction. Projects within each jurisdiction consistent with the parent plan recommendations will need to be identified and prioritized, and reviewed to determine their benefits and costs.
- Each partner will be required to create its own action plan that identifies each project, who will oversee the task, how it will be financed and when it is estimated to occur.
- Each partner will be required to sponsor at least one public meeting to present the draft plan at least 2 weeks prior to adoption.
- Each partner will be required to formally adopt the plan.

1.2.3 Annex-Preparation Templates

Templates were created to help the Planning Partners prepare their jurisdiction-specific annexes. Since special purpose districts operate differently from towns or cities, separate templates were created for the two types of jurisdictions. The templates were created so that all criteria of Section 201.6 of 44CFR would be met, based on the partners’ capabilities and mode of operation. Each partner was asked to participate in a technical assistance workshop during which key elements of the template were completed by a designated point of contact for each partner and a member of the planning team. The templates were set up to lead each partner through a series of steps that would generate the DMA-required elements that are specific for each partner. The templates and their instructions can be found in Appendix A to this volume of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1.2.4 Workshops

Three-hour workshops were held on May 9 and 10, 2007, for Planning Partners to learn about the templates and the overall planning process. These sessions were separated based on the type of planning partner to better address each type of partner’s special needs. The purpose of these sessions was to provide technical assistance and an overview of the template completion process. Attendance at this workshop was mandatory under the planning partner expectations established by the Steering Committee. There was 100-percent attendance of the partnership at these sessions. Topics discussed during this session included:

- DMA
- Humboldt County plan background
- The templates
- Risk ranking
- Developing your action plan
- Cost/benefit review

In the risk-ranking exercise, each planning partner was asked to rank each risk specifically for its jurisdiction, based on order of impact on its constituency or facilities. Cities were asked to base this ranking on probability of occurrence and the potential impact on people, property and economy. Special purpose districts were asked to base this ranking on probability of occurrence and the impact on their constituency, their vital facilities and their functionality after an event. The methodology for both exercises followed the methodology used for the county-wide risk ranking presented in Volume 1. A principal objective of this exercise was to familiarize the partnership with how to use the risk assessment as a tool to support other planning and hazard mitigation processes that evaluate risk. Tools utilized during these sessions included:

- The Humboldt Operational Area Risk Assessment
- Hazard maps for all nine hazards of concern
- Special district boundary maps that illustrated the sphere of influence for each special purpose district partner.
- Hazard Mitigation Catalog

A public review workshop was held on October 4, 2007. This workshop was an open house formatted meeting designed to provide the public with an opportunity to have their comments and concerns considered in the review process before the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan is finalized. Cybelle Immitt, from Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning Division, gave a 30- minute presentation to Steering Committee members and meeting attendees on the scope of the Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan, what happened throughout the planning process, and explained how the adoption process works. Tables were set up with draft copies of the Plan for meeting attendees to review and comment on. Stations with laptop computers with GIS capabilities were used to identify various hazard conditions for specific addresses. Additionally, the Red Cross set up an informational booth. The presentation consisted of a power point presentation covering the following topics:

- Reasons for planning
- The Disaster Mitigation Act
- Assembly of the Humboldt County Partnership
- Plan development methodology
- Plan Maintenance
- How to Use the Plan
- County-wide Initiatives

1.2.5 Benefit/Cost Review

Each jurisdiction's annex includes an action plan of prioritized initiatives to mitigate natural hazards. Section 201.6.c.3iii of 44CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs. During the completion of their templates, the Planning Partners were asked to weigh the estimated benefits of a project versus the estimated costs to establish a parameter to be used in the

prioritization of a project. This benefit/cost review was qualitative; that is, it did not include the level of detail required by FEMA for project grant eligibility under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. This qualitative approach was used because projects may not be implemented for up to 10 years, and the associated costs and benefits could change dramatically in that time. Each project was assessed by assigning subjective ratings (high, medium, and low) to its costs and benefits, as follows:

- Costs:
 - **High:** Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project, and implementation would require an increase in revenue through an alternative source (for example, bonds, grants, and fee increases).
 - **Medium:** The project could be implemented with existing funding but would require a re-apportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
 - **Low:** The project could be funded under the existing budget. The project is part of or can be part of an existing, ongoing program.
- Benefits:
 - **High:** Project will have an immediate impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property.
 - **Medium:** Project will have a long-term impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property or will provide an immediate reduction in the risk exposure to property.
 - **Low:** Long-term benefits of the project are difficult to quantify in the short term

Using this approach, projects with positive benefit versus cost ratios (such as high over high, high over medium, medium over low, etc.) are considered cost-beneficial and are prioritized accordingly.

For many of the initiatives identified in the action plans, Planning Partners may seek financial assistance under FEMA’s hazard mitigation grant programs such as: HMGP, PDM, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant program (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims grant program (RFC) or Severe Repetitive Loss grant program (SRL). Most of these programs will require detailed benefit/cost analysis as part of the application process. These analyses will be performed when funding applications are prepared, using the FEMA model process. The Partnership is committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits that exceed costs. For projects not seeking financial assistance from grant programs that require this sort of analysis, the Partnership reserves the right to define “benefits” according to parameters that meet its needs and the goals and objectives of this plan.

1.2.6 Completion of the Planning Process

All incorporated cities and towns in the County Operational Area completed the planning and annex-preparation process. All of the special purpose districts that committed to this process also completed their required elements. Any non-participating local government within the Humboldt County Operational area can “link” to this plan in the future by following the linkage procedures defined in Appendix B of this volume of the plan.

Figure 1-1 shows the location of participating special purpose districts within this initial planning effort. Maps for each of the cities is provided in individual jurisdictional annex. These maps will be updated periodically as changes to the partnership occur, either through linkage or by a partner dropping out due to a failure to participate. It should be noted that by adopting this plan, each planning partner agrees to the

plan implementation and maintenance protocol established in Chapter 7 of Volume 1. Failure to meet these criteria may result in a partner being dropped from this partnership by the Steering Committee, and thus losing its eligibility under the scope of this plan.

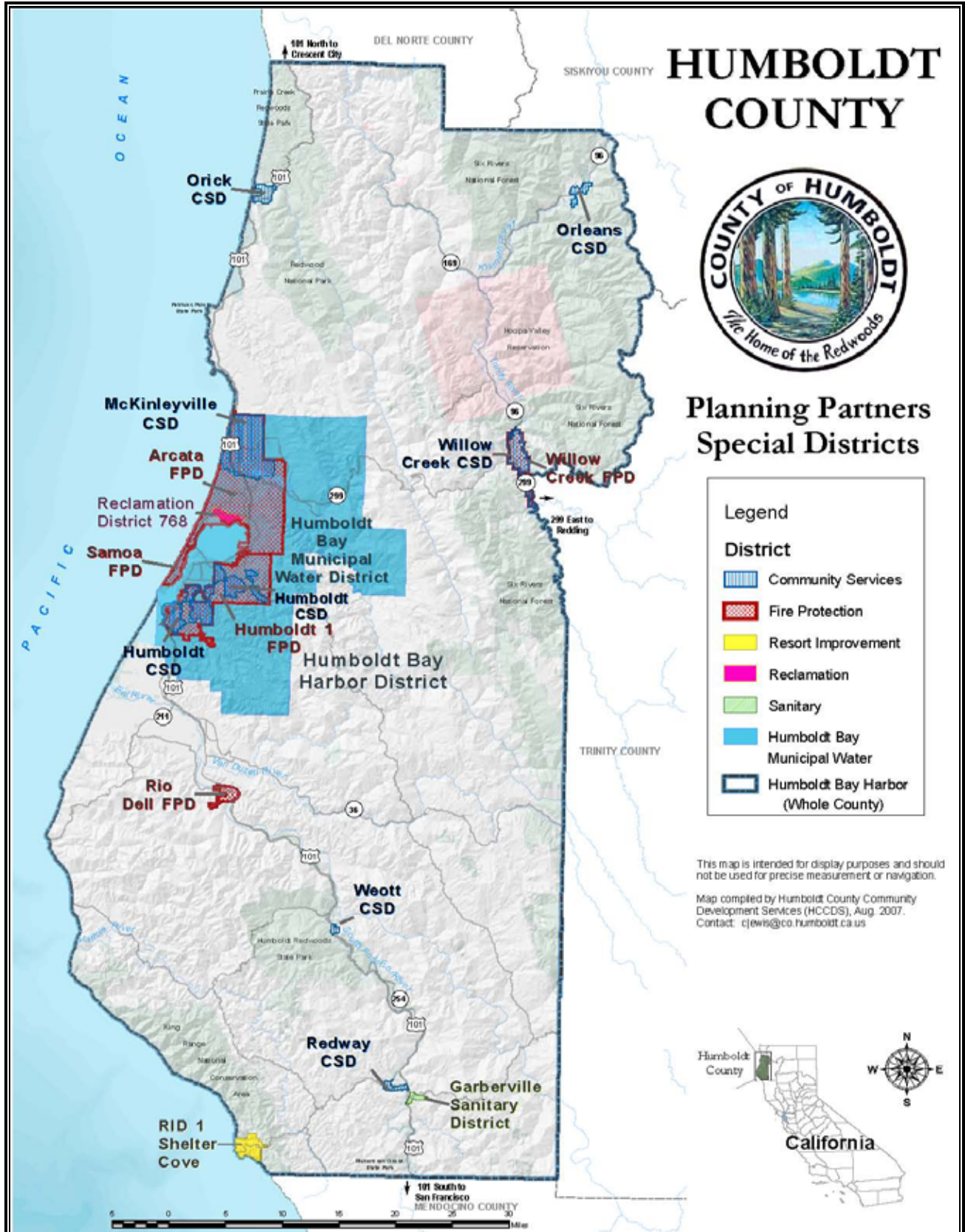


Figure 1-1: Participating District Partner Boundaries

CHAPTER 2. HUMBOLDT COUNTY TRIBAL STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 BACKGROUND

Nearly 25 percent of California’s Native American population resides in Humboldt County. Prior to European settlement, the Humboldt County area was populated by peoples of four language families in 14 tribal groups: the Karuk, Yurok, Hupa, Tsunangwe, Chilula, Chimariko, Wiyot, Sinkyone, Mattole, Walaki, Lassik, Nogatl, Wintun, and Whilkut Tribes. Many Tribes and Tribal members did not survive the contact period with Western settlers. Those that did survive banded together into eight distinct Tribal governments, including the following:

- The Big Lagoon Rancheria
- The Blue Lake Rancheria
- The Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe
- The Karuk Tribe of California
- The Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- The Table Bluff Tribe of Wiyot Indians
- The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- The Yurok Tribe

* The Tsunangwe Tribe is a ninth Tribal government in Humboldt County that may soon be Federally recognized. Based in the town of Salyer, the Tsunangwe Tribe has a fully-functional Tribal government and a long-standing cultural history in the area. Federal recognition of this tribe in the coming years is highly likely.

Together, these eight Tribal governments constitute over 12,374 individuals. Each operating under its own independent Tribal Council, these eight sovereign tribal governments were federally recognized between 1864 and 1979. The Tsunangwe Tribe is a ninth Tribal government in Humboldt County that may soon be federally recognized. Based in the town of Salyer, the Tsunangwe Tribe has a fully-functional Tribal government and a long-standing cultural history in the area. Federal recognition of this Tribe in the coming years is highly likely.

Given their multi-millennial history of living in the area, the region’s Native American peoples are proven experts in successfully mitigating every possible natural hazard faced in Humboldt County. Collectively, the County’s tribal oral traditions tell of a long legacy of surviving natural hazards. For instance, Yurok and Wiyot oral histories tell of a massive tsunami over 300 years ago, which has recently been positively correlated with sediment tests in Humboldt Bay as well as with written history in Japan. These histories indicate that the Tribes are well-versed in the necessities of hazard mitigation.

The Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared by and for a group of 26 Planning Partners. The tribes are independent sovereign nations, many of whom have their own federally approved hazard mitigation plans, and are therefore not official Planning Partners. However, given the importance of the local tribes, the Humboldt Operational Area planning partnership chose to make an effort to consult with each of the eight Tribal governments in preparing this plan. On May 10, 2007, County staff, tribal representatives, and other stakeholders met in Eureka to discuss the inclusion of this supplemental chapter for tribes. The results of those discussions are the following tribal summaries that were developed in collaboration with and approved by their respective tribal governments.

2.2 HUMBOLDT COUNTY TRIBAL PROFILES

The following profiles provide a summary of the tribes' history, organization, geographical location in Humboldt County, land area and population, and whether they have an approved state level hazard mitigation plan. It should be noted, that even though the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 has created a definition of "local government" that could apply to tribes, the State of California has chosen to require tribal governments to meet the state level planning requirements specified under the DMA. This ensures tribal sovereignty and allows each tribe to deal with FEMA directly in post-disaster situations.

By acknowledging the tribes as stakeholders, the Humboldt Operational Area planning partnership recognizes the tribal state-level plans as existing mechanisms within the operational area that could support or enhance hazard mitigation within Humboldt County. This is a requirement of section 201.6.b.3, of 44CFR. These tribal plans offer an opportunity to partner and share information between planning efforts that can leverage resources within the operational area. The Humboldt Operational Area planning effort and those of the tribal governments are separate and autonomous efforts. However, these efforts are committed to working together as partners in pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation of natural hazards within the Humboldt Operational Area.

2.2.1 The Big Lagoon Rancheria

Tribal Profile

The Big Lagoon Rancheria consists of members belonging to both the Yurok and Tolowa Tribes. Before the arrival of white settlers both Tribes used a large portion of northern Humboldt County and coastal Del Norte County for fishing, hunting, gathering, ceremonial purposes, and for their villages. The original Big Lagoon Rancheria land was purchased in 1918 and members of the Rancheria expanded the Rancheria in 1985 by purchasing additional property adjacent to the Rancheria. During 2005 and 2006 the Rancheria purchased additional properties totaling 21 acres within a half-mile of the Rancheria. In 2004, the Rancheria purchased 2.2 acres of commercial property in McKinleyville. The Rancheria's Constitution was approved on May 5, 1985.

Location

The Big Lagoon Rancheria is located north of the City of Trinidad, on the southern end of Big Lagoon, and adjacent to the Pacific Ocean.

Land Area

The Big Lagoon Rancheria lands include 22 acres of trust land and 21 acres of tribal fee property within the Big Lagoon area. The trust land is on the southern edge of Big Lagoon and nearly adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. A 5-acre tribal fee parcel is located adjacent to Highway 101, with another 16-acre tribal fee parcel adjacent to the Big Lagoon County Park and Big Lagoon. The developed area of the Rancheria is low-density residential, and the neighboring community of Big Lagoon is also low-density residential with one school. The land surrounding the Rancheria has been used for forestry and sawmills operations during the last 150 years and currently has 126 homes. There is a small but popular County Park that provides public access for boating on Big Lagoon near the Big Lagoon Rancheria. Highway 101 is the primary route from the Rancheria to the more urban portions of Humboldt County that have stores and medical services.

Hazard Overview

The primary hazards in the area are winter storms and earthquakes, and there is a potential for damage from Tsunami. In the event of a large earthquake and tsunami the Tribe would become isolated from

medical services by the closure of Highway 101 south of Trinidad/Westhaven. Highway 101 is vulnerable to both flooding and tsunamis as it passes over the Little River and behind Clam Beach. This area has been mapped by the Humboldt County Tsunami Working Group and was identified as being subject to high-velocity wave hazard. The tsunami danger has not been mapped for the Big Lagoon Rancheria but much of the developed portion of the Rancheria is below 35 feet in elevation and is therefore at risk of flooding. Further evaluation of the risk of a destructive wave hitting the community should be evaluated.

Winter storms bring large amounts of rain, large surf, and heavy winds. In the recent past homes in the non-Indian Community Development Corporation community of Big Lagoon were moved inland because of the erosion of the coastal bluffs during winter storms. The erosion caused by winter storms is likely to continue. Although this does often pose an immediate threat to property it has the potential to pose a long-term threat to property and the environment in the area. Winter storms also cause power outages and because Big Lagoon is relatively isolated it can take several days before power is restored.

Population

The total population of the Big Lagoon Rancheria is 24, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Approved Plan

The Big Lagoon Rancheria does not have a FEMA-approved, state-level, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

2.2.2 The Blue Lake Rancheria

Tribal Profile

Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) is a Sovereign Indian Nation located 7 miles east of the City of Arcata and 12 miles northeast of Eureka. The Rancheria is dedicated to the education, self-confidence, and upward mobility of its members. Blue Lake Rancheria is a Wiyot Tribe located in historical Wiyot territory, but the Tribe includes members who are Wiyot, Tolowa, Hupa, Kuruk, Yurok, and Cherokee Indians. The Tribal Business Committee and the General Council have set as a priority the provision of education, social services, and community safety for tribal members, as well as for the Blue Lake Community as a whole. For decades, the Rancheria has worked hard in the areas of education, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy to become one of the most respected and prosperous tribes in Northern California.

Blue Lake Rancheria was established as a 30-acre reservation for homeless Native Americans through an Executive Order on December 24, 1908. The Executive Order was designed to aid Native Americans displaced by the immigration of Europeans. On August 18, 1958, the U.S. Congress terminated the Blue Lake Rancheria pursuant to Public Law 85-671 – later determined to be an illegal and unjust act. After a lawsuit spanning decades (*Tillie Hardwick v. United States of America*), the Blue Lake Rancheria was reinstated as a federally recognized tribe on December 15, 1983.

Wiyot territory historically extended from Little River, north of McKinleyville along the coast, south to Bear River Ridge, and inland 25 miles. Within this territory there existed many hundreds of historic and prehistoric villages, ceremonial, burial, and summer sites of the Wiyot Tribe. Of the three principal groups of Wiyot, the Mad River Wiyot were known as the Batawat, the Wiki on the Humboldt Bay, and Wiyat. Wiyat is a native name for the Eel River Delta; later the name was applied to all who spoke the language, whether living on the Eel River, Humboldt Bay or Mad River. Wiyot is used in preference to the old name of “Whishosk.”

Hazard Overview

Both the seismic and hydrologic settings of the Rancheria are very active. Hence, earthquakes and floods constitute the greatest level of threat to the Rancheria from natural hazards. BLR is less than 1,000 feet away from the Blue Lake Thrust Fault, 3,000 feet away from the primary trace of the Mad River Fault, and also subject to the influences of the regional Mendocino Triple Junction, the Coast Range thrust Fault, and the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Earthquakes with a Richter magnitude of 6.0 or higher have occurred nine times in the last fifteen years and larger earthquakes between 6.9 and up to 9.1 Richter magnitude are forecast. Peak ground acceleration (PGA) at BLR is anticipated up to 0.8g (the acceleration due to gravity - Pacific Watershed Associates, 2006) while FEMA loss models only calculate losses for earthquakes generating 0.55g PGA. Estimates of losses to structures, contents, and functions, including displacement costs, for an earthquake generating 0.55g PGA at BLR are \$23.3 million. For earthquakes with 0.8g PGA, losses approach 100% and are valued at \$71.5 million.

Earthquake events, along with many of the other hazard events, also have the potential to close down the Highway 299 transportation corridor and isolate BLR and the City of Blue Lake from critical municipal and county emergency services, hospitals, shelter, food, as well as from gaming industry patrons. Moreover, frequent closures of Highways 299 and 101 have effectively removed or sharply limited ground access to Humboldt County for state and federal emergency services to the county several times in the last decade. It is estimated that Humboldt County would not receive substantial state or federal aid in a regional or statewide seismic disaster for a minimum of one week and possibly up to three weeks.

BLR is situated within the 100-year floodplain of both the Mad River and Dave Powers Creek (Powers Creek) and contains lands designated as Zone A2, Zone B, and Zone C per the 1999 Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Each zone has varying degrees of susceptibility to flooding. Flood events much smaller than the 100-year flood but resulting in localized water depths from 9 to 18 inches have occurred three times in the last 15 years, in 1992, 1994 and 2003. The loss estimate methods provided in the How-To Manual (Sheets 3a, 3b, and 4) indicate that the Rancheria could sustain structural, content, and functional losses of up to \$24.2 million in a flood event with water surface elevations two or more feet above grade. Using FEMA's HAZUS-MH model results in loss estimates for a two-foot flood event at an even greater value of \$38.4 million.

After floods and earthquakes, wildfire is the hazard to which the Rancheria is most vulnerable and could generate the next greatest losses, up to \$15.3 million. The last wildland fire at BLR occurred in the summer of 2003 when grasslands north of the Casino burned. The source of the fire remains unknown.

The Rancheria is surrounded on all but one side by wildlands or former agricultural lands consisting of infrequently maintained grasslands and heavily wooded riparian corridors, beyond which are heavily forested slopes. To the north and east the Rancheria is bounded by roads from which burning cigarettes thrown from cars or traffic accidents could ignite wildfires. To the south and west BLR interfaces with vegetation rooted along the Mad River and Powers Creek to which emergency vehicles have very limited access. Once wildland fire enters the Rancheria, there is a high probability that the fire would ignite residential areas comprised of wooden houses, wooden outbuildings, manufactured homes, trailers – most with combustible siding and decks and non-rated roofing materials – and combustible trees. There are also forty-four above-ground propane tanks immediately adjacent to individual residences that could explode in a single or multi-structure conflagration. Insufficient ingress and egress for emergency vehicles, less than 70% defensible space, and limited fire hydrants make portions of the Rancheria particularly vulnerable. The Tribal Office and gaming facilities, on the other hand, have large defensible spaces, sufficient fire hydrants, and more than one access road to reach them. The Sapphire Palace gaming facility is a plastics-based, tented building that will resist ignition but will easily melt where wind-blown hot embers land.

Severe winter storms with attendant saturated soils and wind gusts of up to 70 mph are responsible for annual nuisance damages and chronic power outages. Tree fall is a constant threat, particularly to residents of manufactured homes or trailers with less structural strength. Severe storms in the winter of 2006 resulted in blown-off roofing materials in several older buildings, a toppled communications tower on the Casino roof, and three power outages. The power outage of January 2006 lasted six days. Long power outages are of particular concern to BLR as a high percentage of the population are aging, elderly, or infirm, and many are dependent on properly-functioning medical devices and are particularly vulnerable when domestic heating, lighting, cooking, refrigeration, and media access are lost. Loss estimates from severe storms, including repairs and displacement, are \$985,000.

Other natural hazards, including tsunamis, technological hazards such as chemical spills, poor air quality, and dam failure are also identified in the risk assessment. A failure of Matthews Dam would cause a high-velocity debris torrent at a depth roughly ten feet above the roof elevation of the Casino complex. This event would result in a devastating 100% loss of all BLR structures. If a properly executed, an approximately sixteen-hour warning period between the time of dam failure and arrival of the debris torrent at BLR would allow sufficient time to avert loss of life, and a small percentage of personal effects could be saved. The remaining hazards, such as tsunamis and hazardous spills would result primarily in indirect, mostly economic effects from associated road closures.

Vulnerabilities

In general, most vulnerable at BLR are the residential structures and inhabitants of the Rancheria. The greatest economic losses to residents result from the sum of structural replacement costs and displacement costs during reconstruction. Loss of contents in the residential structures is less substantial. Conversely, the gaming enterprises and Tribal government buildings, while the least structurally vulnerable, would suffer the most economic damage due to losses to high-value contents and, more importantly, the loss of functions. The gaming enterprise is the largest economic asset of the Tribe, and functional downtime equates with substantial economic losses. Downtime is particularly problematic for the gaming business because it cannot be temporarily relocated elsewhere – like most other businesses – due to permitting restrictions.

The greatest vulnerability for non-residents and patrons of the gaming enterprise are their automobiles during a large flood or earthquake. With an average of 750 patrons with 500 vehicles on site at any given time, potential economic losses could be as high as \$10 million dollars in vehicle damage alone.

General Mitigation Activities

For most of the hazard event types, under personal mitigation before the event hazard, the CPC decided it was important to have an evacuation plan and have an emergency kit. The CPC emphasized the importance of an emergency kit for every family in the community. This kit will contain information on personal mitigations that individuals should be aware of, as well as lists of resources for additional information. The CPC also ranked a high priority to the establishment of a buddy system with neighbors especially for those members of the community who need more help like the elderly and the sick.

The workplace questionnaires described previously asked not only what staff found unsafe in their workplaces but also what mitigation activities they would suggest to mitigate the vulnerabilities. After reviewing these suggestions, the recommended mitigation activities for the Rancheria workplaces include (in order of priority):

- Assemble and install earthquake kits in the office buildings.
- Become a primary contact for the County OES for any nearby hazard events.

- Install a backup generator for the Tribal office.
- Perform regular emergency/evacuation drills and first responder/ICS refresher courses.
- Perform CPR training.
- Highlight the natural gas shutoff valve, and turn it off during/after an emergency.
- Develop written procedures for emergency response.
- Develop a central gathering location and a procedure for head counts after an emergency.

These activities are all feasible and generally cost-effective.

Approved Plan

Blue Lake Rancheria is submitting a FEMA, state-level, multi-hazard mitigation plan. The plan will be approved in 2008 and will be available online at: <http://www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov>.

2.2.3 The Hoopa Valley Tribe

Tribal Profile

The People of Hoopa Valley are one of California's first cultures. The first American trappers and gold miners entered Hoopa in 1828. They came up the Trinity River into the rich valley which has always been the center of the Hupa World, the place where the trails return. Legends say this is where the people came into being. The Tribe's treaty was signed providing the whole Hoopa Valley as a reservation. In 1876 an executive order was signed acknowledging this treaty. Since first European contact the culture and traditions remain to this day.

In 1864, a Peace and Friendship Treaty was negotiated with the United States. In 1896, the Department of the Interior began preparing a land allotment list and in 1909 a Proclamation was handed down by President Theodore Roosevelt. This list was not completed and approved until 1923. The Hupa People successfully avoided the physical destruction of their valley homeland, and in modern times created one of the first successful Self-Governance Tribal structures in the nation.

The Tribe's traditional language belongs to the Athabascan Language family, which relates the Tribe to other peoples in the region and, more remotely, to the Athabascans from the interior of Alaska and northern Canada, as well as to the Navajos and Apaches Tribes of the Southwest. The Tribe's traditional way of life was based on the semiannual king salmon runs that still occur on the Trinity River, which flows through the center of the Hoopa Valley Reservation. In addition, the Tribe made use of other indigenous foods, especially acorns. Both these resources remain important as ceremonial foods. Today some 2,500 Hupa people live on the Hoopa Valley Reservation, in the heart of the Tribe's traditional territory.

The Hupa people traditionally occupied lands in the far northwestern corner of California. The boundaries of the reservation were established by Executive Order on June 23, 1876 pursuant to the Congressional Act of April 3, 1864. The boundaries were expanded by Executive Order in 1891 to connect the old Klamath River (Yurok) Reservation to the Hoopa Valley Reservation. Further confirmation of the ownership by the Hupa Tribe of the Hoopa Valley Reservation came on October 31, 1988 with President Ronald Regan's signature on Public Law 100-580, the Hoopa/Yurok Settlement Act.

The Hupa People have occupied their lands since time immemorial, and the past century has really been the shortest in the Tribe's history. However, up until the late 1800s, there is little or no written record on the rich history and culture that is now the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Much of the tradition and lore that still

exists today has been passed along between generations via an extensive oral tradition. The ceremonies and traditions continue in the similar manners as they have since the beginning, and will continue in this custom.

Location

The Reservation is located in the northeastern corner of Humboldt County in Northern California. It lies approximately 50 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and is bisected by the Trinity River as the river travels between the community of Willow Creek and its confluence with the Klamath.

Land Area

The Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation is the largest reservation in California. According to the Executive Order issued by President U.S. Grant on June 23, 1876, the Reservation encompasses 89,572 acres. As currently surveyed, the Reservation is nearly square with sides 12 miles in length or approximately 144 square miles. This area encompasses roughly 50% of the Hupa aboriginal territory.

The reservation consists of rugged, mountainous terrain and a broad valley that is bisected by the Trinity River and its many tributaries. The area is characterized by relatively wet, cool winters and dry summers. The primary hazards are earthquakes, flooding from winter storms, and wild land fire during the dry summer and fall.

Hazard Overview

Winter storms can bring large amounts of rain, damaging winds, and occasionally some snow. Rain can cause landslides that block Highway 96 and cause flooding on the Trinity River. The most significant flooding is caused during the late winter and early spring if a warm storm brings a large amount of rain that melts snow in the surrounding mountains. These rain-on-snow events can cause rapid increase in flows and flooding.

Earthquakes are possible at any time in northern California. Aside from damage to property and the potential for injuries, the largest problem associated with an earthquake is the loss of access to emergency medical care and the disruption of power. A clinic on the reservation can address many issues but if highway 96 or 299 are blocked all acute patients would need to be transported by air to Eureka or Redding.

During the summer months there is a consistent danger of wildland fire. The reservation has its own wild land fire department which responds to over 200 incidents a year. Fire has the potential to destroy homes, block roads, and cause respiratory problems for residents of the Reservation. Fire protection services are bolstered by mutual aid agreements with other fire services in the area.

Insufficient water in the Klamath and Trinity Rivers should also be considered when planning for hazards. As with all 'natural' disasters low water levels in the rivers are not entirely the consequence of natural weather patterns, such as drought, but the result of management decisions. Both rivers are controlled by upstream reservoirs and decisions as how much water is released are political decisions. Nevertheless these political decisions can have dramatic impacts on the ability of the rivers to support salmon. Fish kills have occurred in the past and caused harm to Tribes that rely on the Salmon for subsistence and ceremonial purposes.

Population

The 2000 census states the reservation population is 2,633. By utilizing the 1997 BIA Report and the 2000 census population statistics, the population on the reservation was determined to include 1,893

Hoopa, 337 other Native Americans, and 403 non-Indians. Children are continually being added to the Hoopa Valley Tribal Role following an applications process and finally approval by the Tribal Council.

Approved Plan

The Hoopa Tribe does not have a FEMA-approved, state-level, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

2.2.4 The Karuk Tribe

Tribal Profile

The Karuk Araara, the Upriver People, are from the middle course of the Klamath and lower course of the Salmon Rivers, a remote, forestland area of northwestern California. The Karuk have lived in this region since the beginning of time and retain millennial ties to the land. Today, the Karuk Tribe sustains its traditions and sovereignty as a Federally-recognized Tribe.

As a modern Tribal government, the Karuk Tribe provides a variety of social, educational, environmental, linguistic, cultural, health, general assistance, self-governance, housing, transportation, and land use planning services for Tribal Members and others residing in the communities. The Karuk Tribal Health Program operates Indian health clinics, which serve *all* residents of Orleans, Happy Camp, and Yreka, regardless of their ability to pay.

Location

The Karuk Tribe of California's present-day Service Area is comprised of northeastern Humboldt and the entirety of Siskiyou Counties. The *Federal Register* describes the area as “[t]he counties of Siskiyou, northeastern Humboldt from State Highway 96 milepost HUM 28.61 north to the Siskiyou County Line in the State of California.”

Land Area

Karuk lands include approximately 650 acres of trust land and 1,000 acres of fee land (Fee land is owned by the Tribe, but not yet in trust.). These lands are mostly isolated parcels dispersed across central & western Siskiyou County and northeastern Humboldt County in California. They are generally located in small communities surrounded by National Forest Lands. The Karuk Tribe's “near reservation” Service area is described above.

In Humboldt County, the Tribe serves the community of Orleans (Panamnik) and those residing in the surrounding area. This area comprises 214 square miles and is extremely rural. The population density for the Tribe's Service Area is 6.87 per square mile, which the U.S. Census Bureau labels as a “frontier.” Community members served include Tribal Members, members of other Tribes, and non-Indians.

Hazard Overview

The Tribe's Service Area consists of rugged, mountainous terrain that is bisected by the Klamath River and its many tributaries. It receives abundant sun from May through September. Winter weather consists of heavy rains (most of the region's annual rainfall is received between October and April); rock slides precipitated by rain; rain-on-snow events that cause severe landslides; and high winds. Travel through the Service Area is confined to California State Highway 96, a narrow two-lane road that winds along the Klamath River corridor. Highway 96 is built into steep mountains, making it subject to falling rocks year-round and landslides that cause the road to close during winter storm events. High winds and landslides during winter storms frequently destroy power lines, which may be unreachable by electrical utility workers until Highway 96 can be cleared and reopened. A February 2007 storm closed and/or restricted travel to one-way controlled traffic at two locations (one near Orleans) on Highway 96 for nearly two (2)

weeks; the accompanying power outage in Orleans lasted nine (9) days. Events such as these further isolate the Tribe's already rural communities and prohibit residents from accessing services outside the immediate area due to long distances and transportation barriers.

Population

The total population in the Humboldt County portion of the Tribe's Service Area, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, is 766. 126 of these residents are Karuk Tribal Members or Descendants.

Approved Plan

The Karuk Tribe of California has a FEMA-approved, state-level, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved in August 2006. The plan may be viewed at: <http://www.karuk.us>. If you have questions, please contact Arch Super, Karuk Tribal Chairman, at asuper@karuk.us or (530) 493-1600, ext. 2019.

2.2.5 The Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria

Tribal Profile

The Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria currently occupy only a small portion of their ancestral lands which previously encompassed much of the Eel River delta. The original Rohnerville Rancheria was purchased by the United States in 1910 and consisted of 15.187 acres located just outside the city limits of Fortuna. This Rancheria was terminated on July 16, 1966, and the 15.187 acres were divided into individual parcels and given to individual members of the Tribe.

On March 4, 1986, the United States signed a Stipulation to Restoration of Indian Country and Order that established that the original boundaries of the Rohnerville Rancheria, among others, be as they existed immediately prior to the Rancheria Act. By the time the boundaries were re-established only a small portion of the land remained in Indian ownership. Since the land base on the original Rohnerville Rancheria was too small for providing housing and social services for Tribal members, it was necessary for the Tribe to acquire additional property. The Tribe acquired additional property on Singley Hill road. On July 12, 1991, the Tribe entered a grant deed transferring the 65-acre parcel to the United States in trust for the Tribe. The Secretary of Interior accepted this property in Trust on January 20, 1994.

As a modern Tribal government, the Bear River Band provides a variety of social, educational, environmental, linguistic, cultural, general assistance, self-governance, housing, transportation, and land use planning services for Tribal Members residing on and off of the Rancheria.

Location

The Rohnerville Rancheria is located north of the City of Fortuna and east of the community of Loleta. The Bear River Band has ownership or governmental control of four parcels of land within their aboriginal territory. The four parcels include the original Rohnerville Rancheria east of the city of Fortuna, the Singley Hill and the Fearrian Road parcels in Loleta, and the Basayo Subdivision in Fortuna.

Land Area

The Bear River Band lands include approximately 185 acres. The Old Rancheria lands are east of the City of Fortuna and the current Rancheria land is north of Fortuna off of Singley Hill Road. The Tribe owns an additional parcel within the city of Fortuna on which it has constructed housing for Tribal members.

The land is primarily rural residential with the exception of the property within the City of Fortuna. The Rancheria has a casino and housing and is surrounded by pasture and open space lands. The Tribe is

planning to construct additional housing on its property off of Singly Hill Road which will also be surrounding by ranch lands and open space.

Hazard Overview

Earthquakes and the possibility of wildland fire are the primary hazards in the area. Although the Rancheria is in a relatively coastal and moist area, the Rancheria is surrounded by grass-lands which have burned in the past. Very little sunshine is needed to dry the fuels sufficiently and increase the risk of wildland fire. The current roads are adequate for emergency access/egress to the Rancheria during dry weather, but may not be adequate for wet weather. In the event an evacuation is necessary, residents of the Rancheria and visitors to the Casino can either drive north or south on Singly Hill Road. Singly Hill Road connects with Highway 101 traveling in either direction. The Loleta Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection services to the Rancheria and is partially funded by the Rancheria.

Storms with strong damaging winds and heavy rain are possible during the winter months. Tribal Officials have commented that it is difficult to drive on Bear River Road during many of the winter storms. The road was constructed without proper drainage and residents on the downhill side of the road often have to put sandbags across their driveways during winter rain events.

Population

The current enrollment of the Tribe is 279 members. Many of these members live in the surrounding communities of Loleta, Fortuna, Rio-Dell and Eureka.

Approved Plan

The Rohnerville Rancheria does not have a FEMA-approved, state-level, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2.2.6 The Table Bluff Rancheria

Tribal Profile

Wiyot people have inhabited California's northern shores for thousands of years. Before the coming of white settlers, Wiyot people around Humboldt Bay and on Indian Island hunted the area's wildlife, fished for salmon and gathered roots for medicine, food and basketry. Before 1850, there were approximately 1500 to 2000 Wiyot people living within this area. After 1860 there was an estimated population of 200 people left. By 1910 there was an estimate of less than 100 full blood Wiyot people living with Wiyot territory. This rapid decline in population was due to disease, slavery, target practice, 'protection,' being herded from place to place, and of course, massacres.

After the massacres of 1860 nearly all Wiyot people were removed from their homelands, but some returned. In the early 1900's, a church group purchased 20 acres, in the Eel River estuary, for homeless Wiyot people. The Federal Government later transferred this land into trust status in 1908. This land became known as the Table Bluff Rancheria of Wiyot Indians, now referred to as "The Old Reservation".

In 1958, the Federal Government passed the California Rancheria Act that terminated the Tribe in 1961. In 1975, the Tribe filed suit against the Federal Government for unlawful termination, and in 1981, in *Table Bluff Band of Indians v. Lujan (United States)*, it was determined the Tribe's termination was unlawful and trust status was reinstated. In 1991, during another lawsuit regarding drinking water contamination and other sanitation issues on the old Reservation, the court mandated new land be purchased and the Tribe moved to another location. This location was approximately 1 mile away up on the bluff, and serves as the present Table Bluff Reservation. The original 20 acres were put into fee simple under the individual families, but deemed to be under the Tribe's jurisdiction as long as held in

Indian hands. Some Wiyot people reside on 88 acres of land called Table Bluff Reservation, 16 miles south of the City of Eureka.

Location

Wiyot territory starts at Little River and continues down the coast to Bear River, then inland to the first set of mountains. Towns that are within the traditional Wiyot territory are McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka, Kneeland, Loleta, Fortuna, Ferndale, and Rohnerville. Rivers within this territory are Mad River (Batwat), Elk River, Eel River and the Van Duzen River.

Currently the Wiyot Tribal own lands an 88 acre parcel on the southern edge of Humboldt Bay and a 20 acre parcel known as the Old Rancheria. They recently acquired 1.5 acres of Indian Island which is the center of the Wiyot People's world.

Land Area

The Table Bluff Reservation is located 16 miles south of Eureka in the Eel River Bottom on the southern edge of Humboldt Bay. This property ranges in elevation from about 40 feet above sea level at the edge of Humboldt Bay to near 130 on the southern edge of the property near residential areas.

Hazard Overview

According to the hazard mapping conducted by Humboldt State University the residential portions of the Table Bluff Reservation are not at risk from a tsunami. However, the re-acquired property on Indian Island is at risk of flooding in the event of a tsunami. The Table Bluff Reservation, however, may be cut off from Eureka in the event of a Tsunami as Highway 101 North may be inundated by flood waters between College of the Redwoods and Eureka. Members of the Tribe would still have access to emergency medical services in Fortuna.

Other hazards include high winds and heavy rain from strong winter storms and earthquakes. Strong winter storms along with increased rates of runoff from bare slopes have caused flooding of the Eel River. Historically floods have covered much of the Eel River bottom. However, the Reservation is located on a bluff which may protect it from any flooding of the Eel River.

Earthquakes have the potential to isolate members of the Wiyot Tribe who live on the Table Bluff reservation from other members of the Tribe who live in the communities of Fortuna and Eureka. Earthquakes may damage area roads and may it impossible to get emergency medical care and to access goods and services.

Population

Currently there are over 550 enrolled members.

Approved Plan

The Table Bluff Rancheria does not have a FEMA-approved, stage-level, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2.2.7 The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

Tribal Profile

The Trinidad Rancheria was established in 1917. Descendants of three tribes of California presently occupy the Rancheria including the Yurok, Weott, and Tolowa peoples. All three tribes share a similar

cultural heritage. Traditionally these groups lived throughout the coastal region of what is now northern California, residing on lands from the Humboldt Bay area to the Oregon coast.

Since the mid 1970s the tribe has accomplished an enormous revitalization, including the development of housing facilities and the provision of health and welfare benefits for its tribal members. A community council that is made up of the entire adult voting tribal membership governs the Trinidad Rancheria. A five member tribal council is elected from the Rancheria community.

Location

The Tribe owns property at two separate sites in Trinidad 46.5 acres on the west side of U.S. Highway 101 along the Pacific coast and 9 acres on the eastern side of U.S. Highway 101 approximately one-mile from the City of Trinidad. Highway 101 bisects the Rancheria on the northeast corner of the Rancheria in Trinidad. The Tribe also owns the Trinidad Pier and Seascape Restaurant in the City of Trinidad. The pier is the northernmost oceanfront pier in the state and sits in one of the state's most beautiful settings at Trinidad Harbor. It is accessible from Main Street in central Trinidad. A third parcel of 27.5 acres is located two miles north of McKinleyville east of the Eureka/Arcata Airport.

Land Area

The Trinidad Rancheria comprises of 83 acres on three parcels in Humboldt County. The land uses on the property include commercial, low density residential and sections of coastal beach and bluff. Land uses on surrounding the tribe include, both low and medium density residential, commercial, and state park. The potential hazards include: earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, winter storms, flooding, wildland fire, and toxic chemical/biological spills on Highway 101 (which bisects the Rancheria and is within very close proximity to Tribal homes).

Hazard Overview

Strong winter storms bring large surf which frequently damages portions of Scenic Drive. Scenic Drive is the only access road to portions of the Rancheria including the Casino. Northern parts of Scenic Drive near Trinidad are less susceptible to landslides and failure of the coastal bluff. The southern portion of scenic drive has been closed for up to a year at a time because of erosion of the coastal bluff supporting the road base.

A tsunami has the potential to damage additional portions of Scenic Drive and inundate the Trinidad Pier and Seascape Restaurant in the City of Trinidad. Both the pier and the accompanying restaurant are close to sea-level and would likely feel the impact of any change in sea-level, particularly a large rapid rise in sea level or a wave. If a large earthquake occurs patrons of the restaurant and restaurant staff would need to evacuate before any official tsunami warning is issued. In the event of a large earthquake and Tsunami the Tribe would also become isolated from medical services by the closure of Highway 101 south of Trinidad/Westhaven. Highway 101 is vulnerable to both flooding and Tsunamis as it passes over the Little River and behind Clam Beach. This area has been mapped by the Humboldt County Tsunami Working Group and was identified as being subject to 'High velocity wave hazard.

Earthquakes have the potential to damage property and injure people at any time. If an earthquake occurs while an event is in progress at the Casino the Tribe may need to provide food, water, and shelter for a large number of people. Highway 101 may be closed until bridges are inspected or repaired. If a tsunami accompanies the earthquake it may be several weeks before large portions of 101 are reconstructed.

The risk from wild land fire is relatively small. Fire in stands of Redwoods along the coast is infrequent although based on the fire history in other stands of Redwoods it does occur. Adequate defensible space as well as sufficient access/egress would help mitigate this risk.

Population

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population of the Rancheria is 73. These numbers are for the Trinidad Rancheria and Off-Reservation Trust Land. There are 52 members on the Rancheria and 21 members on Off-Reservation Trust Land. However, Trinidad Rancheria has its own population records as recent as 2006, showing Reservation population at 102 Tribal members, an estimated 31 non-Tribal members, and 52 children living within the Rancheria boundaries.

Approved Plan

The Trinidad Rancheria has a FEMA-approved, state-level, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved in April of 2006. The plan is kept on file with FEMA and on file in the Tribe's Operations building. Questions can be directed to Jonas Savage, EPA Technician and Emergency Planner for the Rancheria.

2.2.8 The Yurok Tribe

Tribal Profile

The Yurok Tribe is California's largest Indian Tribe with over 5,000 enrolled members. The Yurok Tribe's people are also known historically as the Pohlik-la, Ner-er-er, Petch-ik-lah and Klamath River Indians. For millennia, traditional Yurok religion and sovereignty was pervasive and practiced throughout all of the Tribe's historic villages along the Pacific Coast and inland on the Klamath River. The Yurok people carried on extensive trade and social relations through this region and beyond. Yurok commerce traditionally included a monetary system based on the use of dentalium shells, Terk-n-term and other items as currency. The Yurok traditional ceremonies include the Deerskin Dance, Doctor Dance, Jump Dance, Brush Dance, Kick Dance, Flower Dance, Boat Dance, and others, that have drawn Yurok people and neighboring Tribes together for renewal, healing and prayer. This whole land, this Yurok country, stayed in balance and was kept that way by the Tribe's good stewardship, hard work, wise laws and constant prayers to the Creator.

The Yurok social and ecological balance, thousands of years old, was shattered by the invasion of the non-Indians beginning in the 17th century. As white explorers, gold-miners and settlers came to this region, the Yurok people lost more than three-fourths of its population through fatal contact with European diseases and unprovoked massacres by vigilantes. The Yurok people agreed to sign a "Treaty of Peace and Friendship" with representatives of the President of the United States in 1851, however, the US Senate failed to ratify the treaty. In 1855, the US Government ordered the Tribe's people to be confined on the Klamath River Reserve which was created by Executive Order. The relocation of Yurok families to unfamiliar lands caused great hardships. The forced removal of children to US Government boarding schools where they were denied the right to practice their cultural traditions caused the disruption of the Tribe's heritage. Throughout the past history of Yurok contacts with the US Government and State of California, the Tribe has fought to protect and maintain access to its Ancestral Lands. These struggles were legally complicated by the fact that the Yurok people had never established a formal structure with a written form of government. After the land-based natural resources and fisheries of the Tribe's aboriginal lands had been decimated, and the traditional stewardship of the people ignored, the Yurok people knew it was time to establish a federally recognized Tribal Sovereignty and Authority to protect and preserve both the traditions of the Tribe's people and the land and river of its ancestors.

On November 24, 1993, the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe was certified and approved, after having passed a Ratification Election by a majority of the Yurok Tribal members. The Constitution defines the territory, jurisdiction and authority of its Tribal Government. The Yurok Tribe’s main offices are located in Klamath, California and the Tribal government employs nearly 200 individuals. Enrolled and registered to vote Tribal members elect nine of its members to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected at-large. Seven council members represent the seven Tribal Districts. Each Council member serves a term of three years. The Council meets at least monthly. Individual council members have District meetings at least quarterly. All regular and special meetings of the Council are open to members of the Yurok Tribe. All votes of the Council are a matter of public record.

Location

The Yurok Tribe’s Territory consists of all Ancestral Lands, specifically including, but not limited to, the Yurok Reservation’s lands, which currently extend from one mile on each side from the mouth of the Klamath River and upriver for a distance of 44 miles.

Land Area

The Yurok Reservation is 63,035 acres. Only a small portion of the Yurok Reservation has been developed for residential housing, and much of that lacks basic services such as electricity and telephone.

Hazard Overview

The Yurok Hazard Mitigation Plan identified that there was a medium or high risk of the following hazards:

- Bridge Failure
- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Heat
- Fish Kill
- Flood
- Hailstorm
- Landslide
- Road Failure
- Winter Storms
- Structural Fires
- Tsunami
- Water Contamination
- Wildfire
- Windstorm

The Hazard Mitigation Plan examines each hazard and outlines potential mitigation measures which are intended to lessen the impact of each hazard. The Yurok Hazard Mitigation Plan available from the Tribe should be consulted for an in-depth discussion of how hazards affect the Yurok.

Population

The Tribe has 5,074 enrolled members.

Approved Plan

The Yurok Tribe of California has a FEMA-approved, state-level, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved in May 2006. The plan may be viewed at: <http://www.yuroktribe.org>