



Shane Brinton, Mayor
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

June 3, 2013

Honorable Mayor Brinton:

I am the staff person with the California State Coastal Conservancy working with the city's Environmental Services Department to develop a 4.5 mile stretch of non-motorized, Class I, ADA-accessible multi-use trail from the north end of Arcata south along Highway 101 to Bracut Industrial Park, approximately 3 miles south of Arcata. The trail will be constructed in two phases: Phase I from the north end of the city to highway 255, and Phase II from Highway 255 south to Bracut Industrial Park/Highway 101 intersection.

Completion of a bay-side trail between the cities of Arcata and Eureka is a very high priority for Conservancy staff, and completion of the trail to Bracut is a critical step to that success. As you know, the Conservancy awarded a grant of \$1,065,000 to the city to undertake the planning, environmental review and engineering designs for both phases of the trail; approximately \$900,000 of which was expended for the Phase II segment. I understand the city has secured funds to complete Phase I of the construction, and is seeking a grant of \$3.1 million from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 grant for Phase II construction.

This project meets the selection criteria for TIGER 2013 in several ways. It will provide safe commuting travel for all economic levels of the community, reduce vehicle miles traveled on existing roadways, reduce the need for new or expanded road facilities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase local property values improve community health, and provide economic stimulus that is urgently needed in your rural county. Further, and additionally important for Conservancy goals, the project will provide a vast array of recreational opportunities for residents and tourist and expand opportunities to enjoy Humboldt Bay and its natural resources.

For the above reasons, Conservancy staff strongly supports and endorses your efforts to secure TIGER funds for this project. As stated, this project remains a very high priority in the northern region of the state. As such, Conservancy staff intends to seek Conservancy Board approval at a future meeting for additional grant funds to assist the city with Phase II construction.

Regards,


Su Corbaley
Project Manager, North Coast Region

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