



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria



Appendix A

CDP Application No. 1-21-0770
(Trinidad Rancheria)
Request for Waiver of Fee

April 7, 2022

Honorable Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
c/o North Coast District Office
1385 Eight Street, Suite 130
Arcata, CA 95532

RE: Request for Waiver of Fees - CDP Application No.1-21-0770 Trinidad Rancheria Stormwater Runoff Management and Improvements Project

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, (Trinidad Rancheria) as Tribal Chairman, I am requesting a waiver of the CDP application fees, calculated at \$28,402.00 under the Coastal Commission current fee structure.

The Trinidad Rancheria Stormwater Runoff Management and Improvements Project is imperative to capture storm water runoff at Trinidad Harbor, an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). It includes retrofitting/replacing the existing paved parking lot in the vicinity of the Trinidad Pier and Seascape Restaurant with Low Impact Development (LID) design features to manage Stormwater runoff and pollutant discharge from the project area.

In 2006, the Rancheria was identified by the State Water Resources Control Board as a Prohibited Discharger for several discharges to the ASBS. This project will be the final project to mitigate those prohibited discharges and provide long term solutions to improve water quality and address the non-point source pollution associated with runoff from the Trinidad Harbor parking lot.

This project is funded through the State Water Resources Control Board and has encountered numerous obstacles and challenges since the grant was awarded in 2017. The permitting budget is far below the needed amount to cover the \$28,402.00 CDP application fee. The overall budget is impacted also due to the increase in construction material due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and supply shortages.

The Tribe is an economically disadvantaged tribe and to allocate this large amount out of our General Fund will impact our other programs. Additionally, we have requested Government to Government Consultation through our North Coast District Office regarding a pathway forward to not lose the project and move forward in finalizing permitting so that we are able to proceed with construction as soon as possible. In working with the North Coast Project Manager, Tamara Gedik, she indicated we could request a waiver of fees due to our economically disadvantaged status.

We have been an active environmental steward and are proud of our accomplishments at the Trinidad Harbor including new public restrooms, a state of the art waste water treatment plant, a new pier, and numerous other improvements. In view of the scope of the need for this water quality improvement project, we ask the Commission Support the project and wave the CDP application fees. If you have any questions, please contact Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, CEO, Trinidad Rancheria.

Sincerely,



Garth Sundberg
Tribal Chairman
Trinidad Rancheria