



## Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488  
www.westportmac.org

---

October 3, 2012

Jesse Robertson  
Caltrans District 1  
P.O. Box 3700  
Eureka, CA 95502-3770

and

Janet Orth  
Mendocino Council of Governments  
367 N. State Street, Suite 206  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Pacific Coast Bike Route Engineering Feasibility Study for Route 1 in Mendocino County

Dear Jesse and Janet:

The WMAC reviewed letters written by MCOG on August 20<sup>th</sup> and The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on August 28<sup>th</sup> encouraging Caltrans and the California Department of Parks and Recreation to consider a possible Class I trail through MacKerricher State Park between the Ten Mile River and Fort Bragg. We support their suggestion that Class I trail route options should be evaluated as an alternative to a bike and hike route along the highway shoulder. We also agree that segment is a high priority along the PCBR in Mendocino County.

We recognize that developing a trail through the Dune Preserve at the north end of MacKerricher State Park will pose challenges. However, the possibility should not be dismissed without a detailed alternatives analysis that considers innovative trail tread options and careful selection of an alignment that minimizes environmental impacts. A balanced comparison of Class I and Class II (road shoulder) trail options may reveal the costs, safety, and environmental consequences of a separated bike and hike route through MacKerricher State Park is in fact preferable for a PCBR alignment along that section of the Mendocino coast.

In a prior community-based transportation planning study last year, the public supported the concept of Class I trails wherever publicly owned coastal parcels or access easements exist west of State Route 1 between the Ten Mile River and Rockport. The reason mentioned in the plan entitled *Westport Area Integrated Multi-Use Coastal Trail Plan* (2011) is that Class I trails are safer, more scenic, and have many other advantages that promote livable communities. We note that no Class I design alternatives were included in the options presented to the public during several workshops held for the current PCBR study in July.

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council therefore urges careful consideration of Class I PCBR alternatives wherever they are feasible along the Mendocino coast in the draft plan you are preparing for release sometime later this fall. North of the Ten Mile River, locations for such alignments include Westport Union Landing State Beach, the Caltrans property south of Chadbourne Gulch, and the Kibesillah Trail easement opened by the Mendocino Land Trust in 2012.

Thank you for considering the views of our community. Please contact Chairman Thad Van Bueren at (707) 964-7272 or thadvanbueren@directv.net with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles L. Eyerly".

Chuck Eyerly, Secretary

cc: Abbey Stockwell, Mendocino County Planning & Building Services Department  
Kendall Smith, Fourth District Supervisor  
Dan Gjerde, Fourth District Supervisor Elect  
Liz Burko, DPR District Superintendent  
Loren Rex, DPR Sector Superintendent  
Bob Merrill, California Coastal Commission  
State Senator Noreen Evans  
State Legislator Wesley Chesbro  
Congressman Mike Thompson