

Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: April 19, 2000

From: Robert I. Remen

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INFORMATION

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Vice Chairman Kellogg and Commissioner Wolf held a meeting entitled, *“Strengthening State, Tribal and Regional Government Transportation Partnership”* with Tribal Governments, Regional and Transportation Planning Agencies, and Caltrans in Eureka, California on April 12, 2000. The meeting was hosted by the Yurok Tribe of California.

Attendance included representation from 16 Tribes throughout the State; California Transportation Commission; Caltrans District Directors for Districts 1, 2, and 4, District 5 Deputy Director for Planning and headquarters staff; Del Norte County Local Transportation Commission, Humboldt County Association of Governments, Humboldt Transit Authority, Lassen County Transportation Commission, Mendocino County Council of Governments, Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency, Trinity County Transportation Commission; Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Federal Highway Administration.

Tribes in attendance:

Northern California

- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Karuk Tribe
- Resighini Rancheria
- Susanville Indian Rancheria
- Table Bluff Rancheria
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Yurok Tribe of California

Central California

- Redwood Valley Reservation
- Round Valley Tribes
- Shingle Springs Rancheria

Southern California

- Barona Reservation
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Rincon Reservation
- Santa Ysabel Reservation

Tribal Organizations present:

- Reservation Transportation Authority (represents 23 tribes in southern California).
- Caltrans Native American Advisory Committee (statewide organization)
- Native American Negotiating Rule Making Committee (represents all tribes in California during the national meetings held throughout the United States).

Issues

1. Commitment to work with Tribes through a Government-to-Government process - Vice Chairman Kellogg and Wolf, Caltrans, and the MPO/RTPAs that were present, all expressed a commitment to work with tribes on transportation issues, including:
 - increased sensitivity to tribal issues involving confidentiality of contents and location of cultural sites;
 - integrating tribal environmental concerns into environmental documents and the environmental review process;
 - flexibility to work toward desired final products and outcomes in a way compatible with tribal processes rather than being strictly tied to existing procedures;
 - enforcement of RTP Guidelines requirement that the RTP be developed in cooperation with Tribal Governments and that tribal concerns are addressed in the adopted plan;
 - Tribal consultation in the decision-making process as well as in the planning process;
 - pursuing legislation to designate tribal governments as members of regional transportation planning agency boards. The Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County is the only tribe that currently has this authority (Government Code Section 65101.1);
 - support for a position at the Governor's Office to deal with tribal issues.
2. CTC Appointment - Vice Chairman Kellogg and Commissioner Wolf made a commitment to solicit support from their peers for the appointment by the Governor of a tribal government representative to the CTC. It is up to the tribes to identify and submit one name to the Governor for his consideration.
3. Obligational Authority Limitation on Indian Reservation Road Program Funds
 - CTC made a previous commitment to the tribes to support the concept to guarantee 100% obligational authority (OA) for the Indian Reservation Road (IRR) Program.
 - Caltrans has determined that the OA limitation on the IRR Program resulted in the loss of \$1,967,652 to California tribes in the first three years of TEA-21 (\$452,341 in FY1998, \$719,100 in FY1999, and \$796,211 in FY2000).
 - Vice Chairman Kellogg and Commissioner Wolf committed to work to develop a process to make funding lost by California tribes as a result of OA limitations on the IRR Program, available to tribal transportation projects through a state program.

4. More Training and Assistance

- Vice Chairman Kellogg and Commissioner Wolf supported assigning additional Caltrans personnel to meet and work with tribes to assist them in meeting the requirements for programming projects into Regional Transportation Improvement Programs and the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP).
- Caltrans committed to hold a Tribal Transportation Planning Academy as an orientation on working within the Caltrans process. This academy will provide information to tribes on state and federal processes for planning, programming and implementation of projects.
- Caltrans was asked to assist tribes in securing funding from sources currently available to tribes for transportation projects (including planning), specifically the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) funds, the 10% ITIP funding for economic development, and other federal discretionary grant funds.
- Caltrans has modified highway signage policies to allow tribes destination signage. A list of the Caltrans District contacts was provided.
- Caltrans was asked to include information on TERO requirements in Requests for Bids on Caltrans projects and to ensure that contractors are aware of the Indian workforce.

5. Next Meeting – The CTC will hold another meeting in Sacramento this summer to review issues and recommendations from the three workshops and to develop a strategy for implementing these recommendations. Notification of the time and location of the meeting will be sent to all the tribes.