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Subject: AM-22-005 Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan Update-CTCLUSI Comments
Date: Monday, February 20, 2023 5:19:57 PM
Attachments: [CTCLUSI Comments AM-22-005.pdf](#)

This Message originated outside your organization.

Good Afternoon,

Please find the attached comments in response to the proposed amendments to the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan.

We are supportive of a CBEMP that reflects Statewide Land Use Planning Goals that incorporates best available science and appropriately integrates opportunities for Tribal sovereign interests to be recognized, and are happy to see updates being made to the plan.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have in regards to our comments.

K'ele (thank you),

Courtney Krossman

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

541.808.5085

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**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW INDIANS**

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SENT VIA EMAIL

February 17, 2023

Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Coastal Management Program
635 Capitol Street NE Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

Coos County
Coos County Community Development
250 North Baxter Street
Coquille, OR 97423

**RE: Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan Phase 1 Revision
AM-22-005 Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan**

Dear Coos County Community Development Director Rolfe and Oregon Coastal Management Program Director, Phipps:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (“CTCLUSI” or “Tribe”). The Tribe appreciates that Coos County is seeking to update the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan. We are supportive of a CBEMP that reflects Statewide Land Use Planning Goals incorporates best available science and appropriately integrates opportunities for Tribal sovereign interests to be recognized.

The Tribe has a strong interest in how the CBEMP is updated and what updates are included in any phase of the revision. Currently, the CBEMP process has not allowed for meaningful engagement with the CTCLUSI. While we recognize the Tribe’s participation in the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds, this forum does not inform Tribal leadership of initiatives local governments evaluating during the phased CBEMP revision process. It is clear in our direct experience that the CBEMP needs to be updated; however, the process for Tribal engagement is not. We also recognize that local governments do not have the same responsibilities to consult as state agencies do, but offer that a stronger process of notification and communication for CBEMP updates between local governments and Tribal Nations offer significant benefits.

On January 12, 2023, the Tribe reached out to the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement consultants ("UO") that have been drafting and coordinating the Phase I Revision and requested a presentation to CTCLUSI Tribal Council, but were not able to arrange a meeting prior to the February 20 comments timeframe because UO staff was out of the country and Tribal Council was unable to meet during the limited times provided. To ensure that our comments are considered, we are opting to provide comments on the process, Phase I revision and next steps before the deadline. We appreciate that UO has indicated that they open to comments from the Tribe after the deadline and are available to meet with Tribal leadership or staff and we will continue to work to find a time in the near future.

The Revision & Process:

- The revision of the CBEMP has been an ongoing process, and yet it feels like the official Phase I Revision process happened without sufficient Tribal notice, opportunity to engage and was missing inventory information needed to assess the revision
- Tribal leaders should be notified of actions that have the potential to impact cultural and natural resources significant to Tribal identity and practice.
- Tribal governments should be included in review processes for amendments to EMPs and local comprehensive plans.
- Local governments should respect and acknowledge Tribal sovereignty and codify processes to enhance Tribal relationships.
- Local governments and processes should appropriately distinguish when and where to include Tribal or indigenous perspectives and formalize Tribal government relationships in the form of a written agreement.
- Official Tribal government notification and engagement should allow for early communication and maximize opportunities to provide feedback.
 - We expect the applicant and county present information and timeframes directly to Tribal leadership. Tribal staff should not be expected share application or presentations with Tribal Council or Chief Executive Officer
- Quality information (e.g. data, maps, sources, tables) should be provided prior to and during discussions with Tribal leadership and staff to improve transparency of inclusion and basis for decision making.
- Map updates are very beneficial for the CBEMP.
 - Some maps included in the Phase I revision are would already be considered out of date; it is especially important that inventories and data for culturally significant and sensitive species, including. but not limited to. eelgrass, triangle sedge, and razor clams, are updated in a manner that reflects current conditions—poor data will yield poor decision making.
 - There are other maps that are not included in the Phase I Revision that, in the Tribe's view, should be updated, including cultural resource inventories

Next steps for CBEMP:

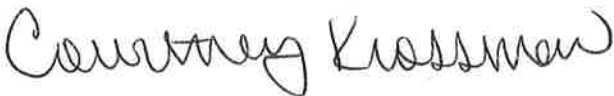
- Step back and expanded Tribal and indigenous engagement.
- Determine with state regulatory and implementing agencies how best to include Tribes.

- Identify opportunities to use best available data and science for CBEMP inventories.

In sum, CTCLUSI has a unique and longstanding connection to the Coos Bay estuary. It is a place important to the identity and subsistence of the hanis and miluk Coos people. This relationship and connection is officially recognized by the State as a traditional cultural property, *Q'alya ta Kukwis Shichdii me*. Tribal governments are the first stewards of these lands and waters and we request that our local jurisdictions and representatives and state agencies overseeing and implement updates to plans consider how to improve relationships and process to consider concerns and expertise of our nation.

Please contact us with any questions.

Respectfully,



Courtney Krossman
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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cc:

Meg Reed, Oregon Coastal Management Program Coastal Policy Specialist
Hui Rodomsky, Department of Land Conservation and Development South Coast Regional Rep.
John Pouley, State Historic Preservation Office
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Rodger Craddock, City of Coos Bay

