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Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
North Coast Railroad Authority

Meeting Date: January 13, 2020

From: Hank Seemann, Deputy-Director
Humboldt County Public Works Department

Subject: Update on Humboldt Bay Trail South Project

Date Prepared: January 8, 2020

Overview

The Humboldt Bay Trail is a network of multi-use trails (also known as shared-use paths) providing non-motorized access for transportation and recreational use throughout the Humboldt Bay region. The Humboldt Bay Trail will connect communities with multi-modal transportation facilities and connect people to the bay by enabling people of all ages and abilities to access and experience the bay's resources directly. In addition to serving the region's transportation needs, the Humboldt Bay Trail will achieve a critical link in the California Coastal Trail and support NRCA in fulfilling the mandate of Senate Bill SB 1029 to use NCRA property and right-of-way to create the Great Redwood Trail.

Humboldt County is implementing the Humboldt Bay Trail South Project which entails construction of a 4.2-mile paved bikepath between Eureka and Arcata along the Highway 101 and NCRA transportation corridor. The project is located between Eureka Slough (near the Target store) and Brainard Slough (near Bracut Industrial Park). The Project will connect trail projects recently completed by the City of Eureka and City of Arcata to form a 14-mile network of trails. Other collaborators include the Humboldt County Association of Governments, Caltrans, California Coastal Conservancy, Timber Heritage Association, Humboldt Trails Council, and Redwood Community Action Agency. The project is being developed concurrent with a major improvement project on Highway 101 led by Caltrans.

In August 2018, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration of environmental impacts for the project in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act. In January 2019, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded Humboldt County \$13.3 million for construction. Humboldt County is currently in the process of acquiring right-of-way which includes two fee-simple acquisitions for segments where NCRA holds an easement for railroad purposes but not fee ownership.

Design Summary

The standard width of the bikepath is ten feet with two-foot gravel shoulders. For a total length of nearly three miles, the project will be constructed by widening the railroad prism and placing the trail 8.5 to 10 feet away from the centerline of the rails, similar to the City of Arcata's Humboldt Bay Trail North project. The project includes major shoreline improvements to make urgent repairs of erosion damage and increase the railroad prism's resilience to flooding. Approximately 1,000 feet of existing shoreline revetment will receive replacement rock rip-rap where it is largely absent, and approximately 6,000 feet of shoreline will receive supplemental rock to restore stability and protection. The proposed project includes cooperative use of NCRA's 720-foot-long bridge over Eureka Slough. Flangeway fillers installed adjacent to the rails on the bridge will allow passage by railroad and speeder cars while maintaining a flat trail surface. Many or all of the existing cross ties on the bridge may require replacement or an anti-fungal treatment prior to construction of the trail surface. New safety railings will be constructed on the bridge. Approximately one mile of the trail is proposed to be located on the perimeter levee around the California Redwood Company former mill site. Two new bridges will provide connectivity to the levee trail segment.

Consultation

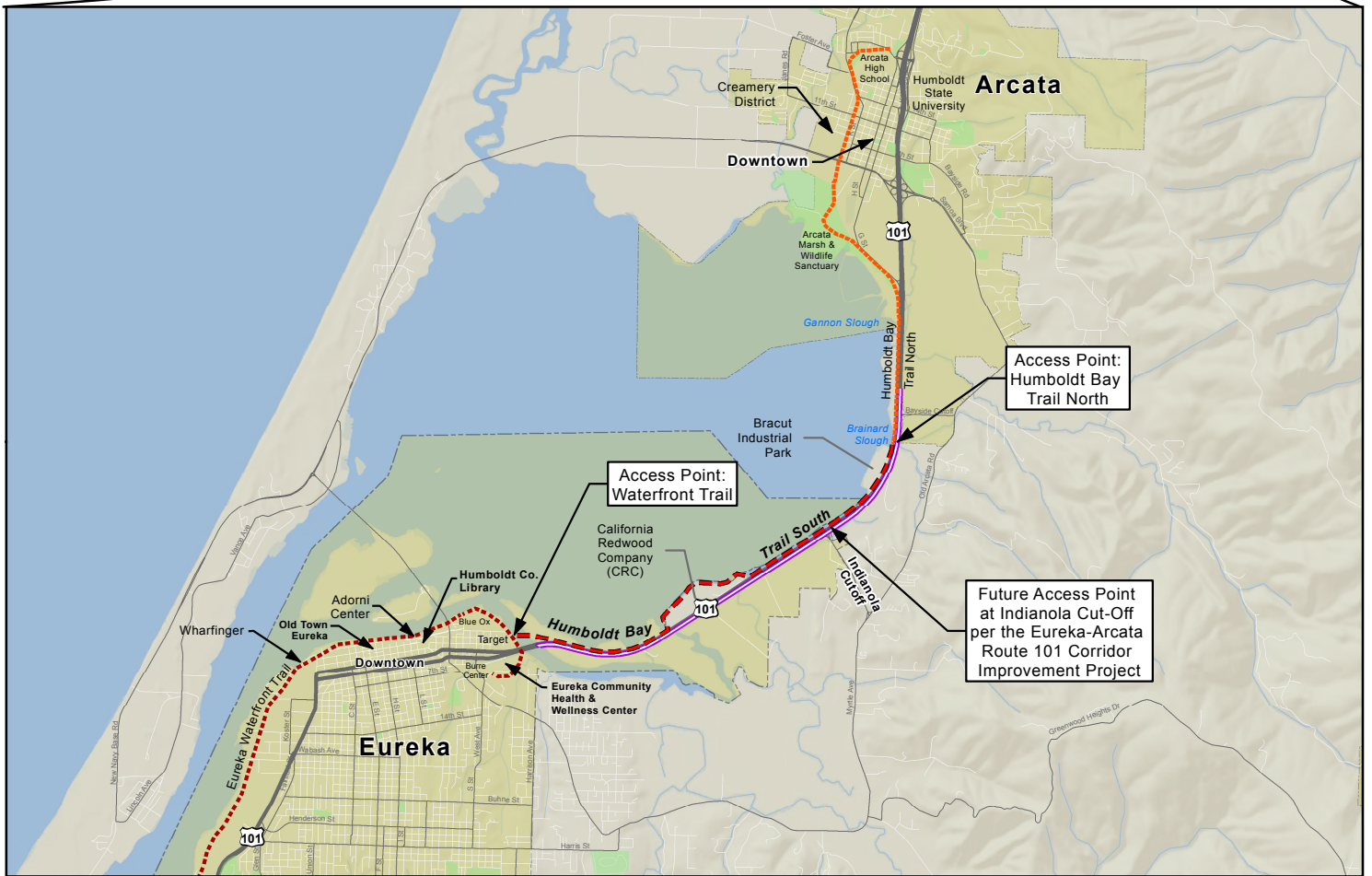
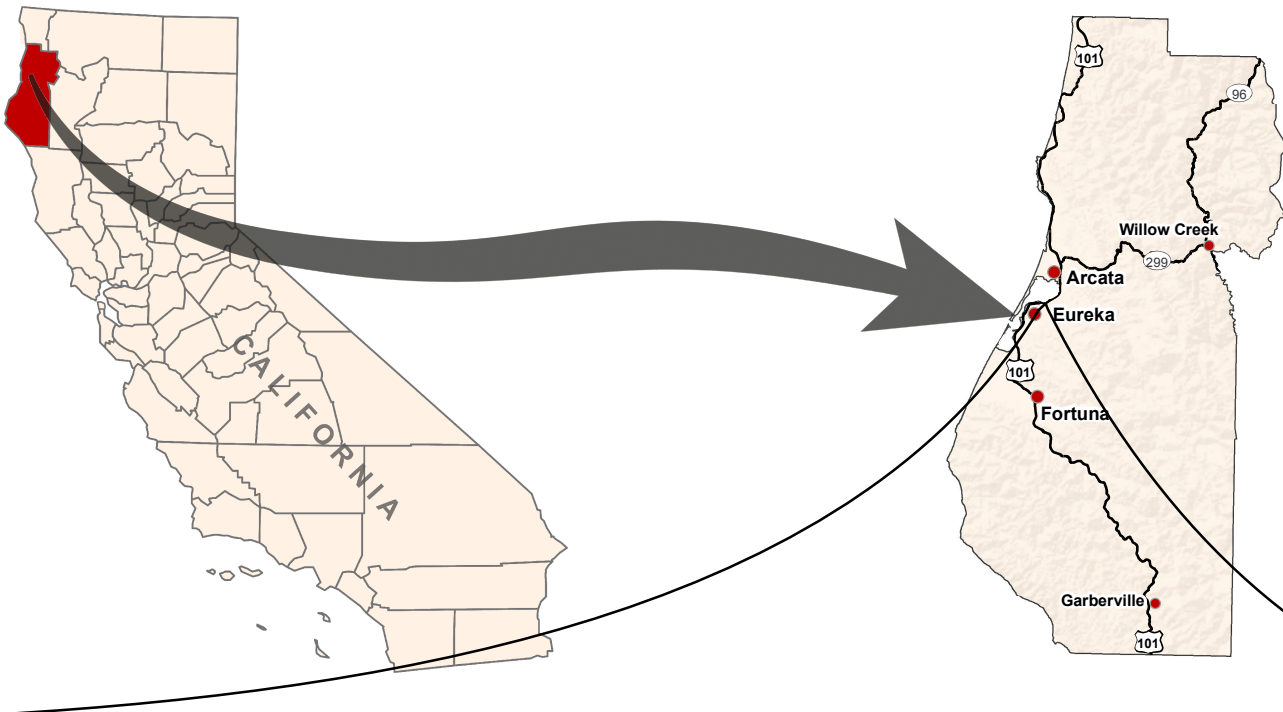
In 2016, Humboldt County retained American Rail Engineers (ARE) to provide third-party plan review on behalf of NCRA. ARE has reviewed preliminary design plans and provided feedback on various design issues. In February 2018, ARE performed a detailed inspection of the Eureka Slough bridge. The contractual agreement with ARE remains active. In September 2019, Humboldt County coordinated with the Timber Heritage Association to test two flangeway filler products on the Eureka Slough bridge with a speeder car. Also in September 2019, Humboldt County toured the project site with NCRA Directors Connolly and Campbell.

Timeline

February 2020	Humboldt County to submit application to NCRA for a lease agreement (similar to the agreement approved in April 2019 with City of Blue Lake)
June 2020	Target date for NCRA approval of lease agreement
August 2020	Target date for CTC approval of lease agreement
October 2020	Target date for Coastal Commission approval of Coastal Development Permit

Project Website

www.humboldtbytrail.info



City Limits

US 101 Safety Corridor

Proposed Humboldt Bay Trail South

Trail Connections

Existing Eureka Waterfront Trail

Existing Humboldt Bay Trail North

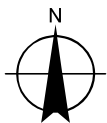
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Miles

Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Horizontal Datum: North American 1983

Grid: NAD 1983 StatePlane California I FIPS 0401 Feet

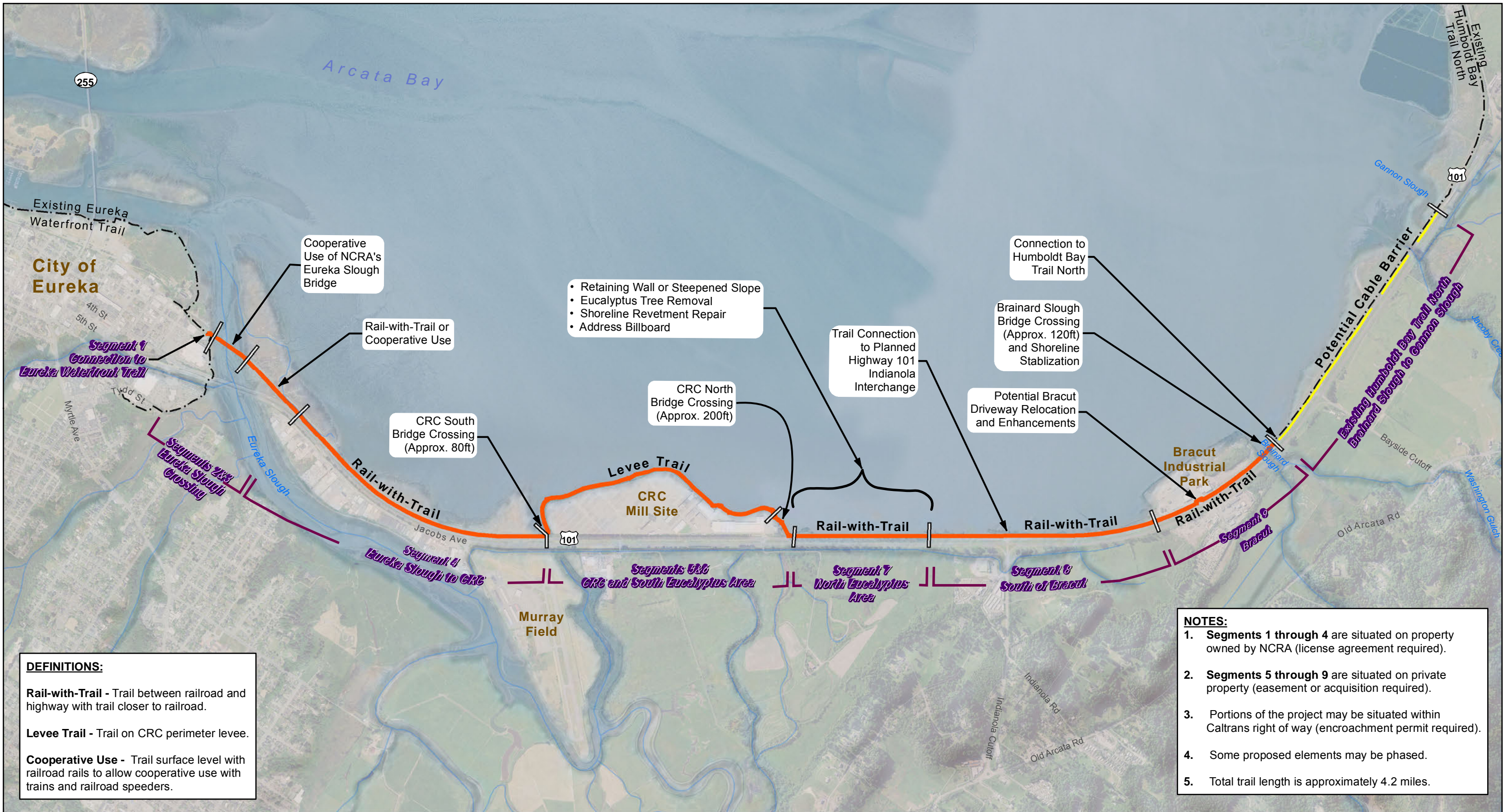


Humboldt County Public Works Department
Humboldt Bay Trail - Bay Trail South
(Eureka to Bracut)

Job Number 11110166
Revision C
Date 02 Aug 2018

Project Location and Existing Conditions Map

Figure 1



DEFINITIONS:

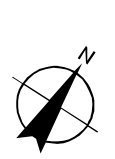
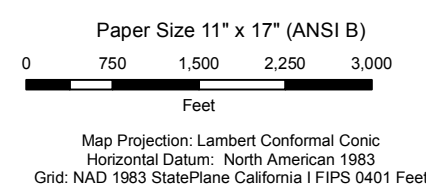
Rail-with-Trail - Trail between railroad and highway with trail closer to railroad.

Levee Trail - Trail on CRC perimeter levee.

Cooperative Use - Trail surface level with railroad rails to allow cooperative use with trains and railroad speeders.

NOTES:

1. Segments 1 through 4 are situated on property owned by NCRA (license agreement required).
2. Segments 5 through 9 are situated on private property (easement or acquisition required).
3. Portions of the project may be situated within Caltrans right of way (encroachment permit required).
4. Some proposed elements may be phased.
5. Total trail length is approximately 4.2 miles.



LEGEND	
	Humboldt Bay Trail South
	Existing Trail
	Project Segment
	Cable Railing - Humboldt Bay Trail North
	Segment Break

ABBREVIATIONS	
CRC	California Redwood Company
NCRA	North Coast Railroad Authority



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 Humboldt Bay Trail - Bay Trail South
 (Eureka to Bracut)

Job Number: 11110166
 Revision: F
 Date: 10 Jul 2018

Proposed Trail Alignment and Key Components