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RESOLUTION
of the
Board of Directors
of
GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

Resolution No. 2025-09

IN THE MATTER OF:

Resolution No. 2025-09
Environmental and Tribal
Commitments

WHEREAS, GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY (“GRTA”), formerly named the North Coast Railroad Authority (“NCRA”), created and governed by the terms of California Government Code Section 93000 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, per GRTA’s enabling legislation (Government Code, Title 12, Section 93022(a)) GRTA shall do the following:

1. Complete an environmental assessment of the conditions of the rail rights-of-way for purposes of trail development.
2. Conduct a thorough community engagement process that includes landowners, trail advocates, environmental groups, and the community at large.
3. Use the services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps for projects related to trails, environmental enhancements, and restoration, and other improvement projects

- 1 4. Use the services of conservation organizations for projects related to trails, fishing access,
2 fish passage barrier restoration, and other environmental enhancement, restoration, and
3 improvement projects; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Great Redwood Trail development creates the opportunity for environmental
6 restoration along key waterways and early in project implementation planning, the GRTA and
7 local partners should identify opportunities for and invite tribal participation in ecological
8 restoration activities; and,
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10 **WHEREAS**, the master planning process has resulted in recommendations to complete
11 additional studies that identify and assess:
12

- 13 • Stream restoration locations on the Eel River and Russian River to improve water
14 conveyance through trail design and remove fish passage barriers on tributaries that cross
15 GRTA property,
16
- 17 • Trail design features that prevent further erosion,
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- 19 • Opportunities to enhance ecological habitat with native plant species,
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- 21 • Opportunities for environmental restoration including the removal of dilapidated railroad
22 infrastructure; and,
23

24 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**
25 **GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY** as follows:
26

- 27 1. The GRTA Board hereby adopts the below stated values as the policy direction of the
Agency with respect to topics contained therein, and further declares that through the
creation of the Great Redwood Trail and the stewardship of lands GRTA owns and
manages it is our intent and staff are hereby directed to, to the extent feasible:

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- a. Protect, preserve, and restore sensitive natural and cultural resources along the trail corridor,
 - b. Develop long-term relationships and engage in robust dialog consistent with the goal of aligning protection and preservation of tribal and cultural resources with the implementation of the Great Redwood Trail corridor.
 - c. Remove environmentally damaging railroad infrastructure and restore fish passage and other ecologically important features,
 - d. Steward, honor, and care for the land.
2. Staff are directed to undertake the following actions toward full involvement of California Native American tribes and tribal-led organizations:
- a. Respectfully and proactively communicate with tribes to build long-term relationships and dialog consistent with the goal of aligning preservation of tribal and cultural resources with the implementation of the Great Redwood Trail,
 - b. Direct staff to develop a proposal for creation and facilitation of a Tribal Advisory Committee and to return to the Board with a recommendation at the regular January 2026 meeting,
 - c. Explore contract opportunities to draw on local tribal cultural knowledge relevant to planning and implementation of GRTA’s mandate,
 - d. Develop a plan for inviting tribes to participate in management of portions of the Great Redwood Trail that may cross ancestral tribal lands, particularly with reference to ensuring ceremonial and cultural gathering uses are facilitated and prioritized; and,

e. Continue to maintain the highest degree of confidentiality with respect to the information generated from communicating with tribal representatives within applicable law.

3. Staff are directed to undertake the following actions toward the implementation of environmental restoration activities, providing the board with regular updates and returning to the board with results of work conducted:

a. Develop a consistent, actionable framework to identify, assess, and remediate toxic pollutants resulting from railroad operations along the GRTA-controlled right-of-way of the former Northwestern Pacific Railroad,

b. Develop a prioritized checklist and maps that the GRTA Board of Directors and staff can utilize to identify and prioritize restoration projects to be incorporated into segment level trail development in the Eel River watershed using the forthcoming Eel River Restoration and Conservation Program (ERRCP) Phase 2 Restoration and/or Conservation Action Plans CalTrout is producing under a grant from California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW).

c. Operationalize recommendations into Agency trail development policy and decision-making.

Introduced and adopted this 18th day of September, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Great Redwood Trail Agency by the following vote:

AYES: Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hunerlach, Madrone, Gore, Hart, Campbell, Garnes

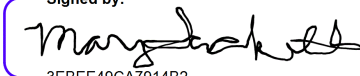
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:  Signed by: Elaine Hogan
A40D89EC4B804B8...

GRTA Executive Director

 Signed by: Mary Sackett
3EBEE49CA7914B2...

GRTA Chair