

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Humboldt Bay Trail – Maintenance and Public Safety

Report Date: 06/26/2018

Response by: Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt

SUMMARY

FINDINGS

1. The Board agrees with findings F7, F9, F10, F11 2. The Board disagrees wholly or partially with findings: F6, F8

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations have been implemented:
2. Recommendations have not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future:
3. Require further analysis
4. Will not be implemented: R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – FINDINGS AND ECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

DETAIL

FINDINGS

F6. Efforts of the Volunteer Trail Stewards to keep the trails clean, remove trash and clear excess plant growth are impacted by an insufficient number of regular volunteers.

Response: Disagree

Community trail work is ably coordinated by the Volunteer Trail Stewards program of the Humboldt Trails Council.

F8. Many trail users do not feel safe walking or riding bicycles on the interim trail along the shoulder of Highway 101.

Response: Disagree

The statement in the Grant Jury Report (page 2) that the county plans to open a temporary segment of the trail connecting Eureka and Arcata is erroneous. A temporary trail segment is not feasible within the highly-constrained transportation corridor. The shoulder of Highway 101 should not be construed as an “interim trail.” The Humboldt Bay Trail between Eureka and Arcata will have a gap until the Humboldt Bay Trail South project is constructed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata form a working group with the sole purpose of studying the requirements for providing individuals with disabilities full access to the Humboldt Bay Trail. This working group should include a minimum of one person each from groups with visual, hearing, and mobility impairments. This group should be formed by September 1, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Humboldt County is currently developing the engineering design plans, acquiring permits and right-of-way, and seeking funding to construct the four-mile segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail (“Humboldt Bay Trail South”) that will connect the existing trail segments constructed by the City of Eureka (“Eureka Waterfront Trail”) and City of Arcata (“Humboldt Bay Trail North”). Construction of the Humboldt Bay Trail South project will not occur for at least two to three years. The County’s design will comply with applicable standards and requirements for accessibility. The County will forward recommendation R4 to the Highway 101/Humboldt Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee of the Humboldt County Association of Governments for the committee’s review with respect to existing trail segments.

R5. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata form a second working group, including community members-at-large, with the sole purpose of developing rules for use of the Humboldt Bay Trail consistent across all trail segments. These rules should address issues such as animals, bicycles, skates/skateboards, and motorized speciality vehicles, etc. These rules should be developed by January 1, 2019, be clearly posted and be included in a brochure at all major access points.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Completion of Humboldt County’s segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail is still early in the design and permitting phase, and it is premature to develop rules of use for a trail that will not be constructed for at least two to three years. The county will forward recommendation R5 to the Highway 101/Humboldt Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee of the Humboldt County Association of Governments for the committee’s review with respect to existing trail segments.

R6. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata place signage at all major access points within their jurisdictions including mileposts, distances to other points along the trail, and rules for use. These signs should be installed by May 15, 2019.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Humboldt County does not currently manage a segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail and, therefore, installation of signage is premature. The county will forward recommendation R6 to the Highway 101/Humboldt Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee of the Humboldt County Association of Governments for the committee's review with respect to existing trail segments.

R7. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata install safety lighting along the Humboldt Bay Trail where appropriate. Lighting should be installed by May 15, 2019.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Humboldt County does not currently manage a segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail and, therefore, installation of safety lighting is premature. The county will forward recommendation R7 to the Highway 101/Humboldt Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee of the Humboldt County Association of Governments for the committee's review with respect to existing trail segments.

R8. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata install specialized receptacles for syringes, recyclables, and pet waste, to be placed at regular intervals along all segments of the trail. These receptacles should be in place by January 1, 2019.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Humboldt County does not currently manage a segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail and, therefore, installation of receptacles is premature. The County will forward recommendation R8 to the Highway 101/Humboldt Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee of the Humboldt County Association of Governments for the committee's review with respect to existing trail segments.

R9. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors consult with Caltrans regarding an appropriate temporary safety barrier, to be placed along the interim segment of the trail adjacent to Highway 101. This consultation should take place by September 1, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The statement in the Grant Jury Report (page 2) that the county plans to open a temporary segment of the trail connecting Eureka and Arcata is erroneous. A temporary trail segment is not feasible within the highly-constrained transportation corridor. The shoulder of Highway 101 should not be construed as an “interim trail.” The Humboldt Bay Trail between Eureka and Arcata will have a gap until the Humboldt Bay Trail South project is constructed.

R10. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, and the City of Arcata parks and recreation departments cooperate to develop a shared list of potential volunteer organizations for community trail work occasions. This list should be available to each entity by September 1, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Community trail work is ably coordinated by the Volunteer Trail Stewards program of the Humboldt Trails Council.