



Community Development Department
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532

For the Meeting of April 15, 2025

☐ Consent Item; ☒ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council

From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director 

Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

Date: April 2, 2025

Subject: Resolution No. 1631-2025 Authorizing a Grant Application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Phase II of the Eel River Trail, a Concrete Accessible Ramp

Recommendation:

That the City Council:

1. Allow staff to briefly discuss Resolution No. 1631-2025 authorizing a Grant Application from the Wildlife Conservation Board for Phase II of the Eel River Trail, a Concrete Accessible Ramp; and
2. Open the public hearing, receive public input, and deliberate; and
3. Approve and Adopt Resolution No. 1631-2025 Authorizing a Grant Application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Phase II of the Eel River Trail, a Concrete Accessible Ramp.

Discussion

Staff made pre-application to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for a grant to fund the construction of Phase II of the Eel River Trail. Phase II includes the construction of a concrete accessible switch-back style ramp at the north end of the trail up to Davis Street. The ramp bridges the connectivity gap, especially for those with mobility issues.

As the Council is aware, the trail is a 1,600+/- foot Class I shared-use path (pedestrian, bicycle) with associated trailhead improvements. Phase I was funded by a Clean California Grant. The City was hoping to complete the entire project, both Phase I and Phase II, at one time. However, the cost for the project exceeded the available funds.

The Wildlife Conservation Board approved the Pre-Application and invited the City to make application for grant funds to complete the trail by constructing the accessible ramp. One of the submittal requirements is a Resolution from the City Council authorizing the City Manager to submit the application.

Staff has completed the application, including a Workplan, Management Plan, Budget and Project Timeline. Staff has included a copy of the submittal cover letter for your review. If any Council members would like copies of any information regarding the application, please reach out to staff.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Resolution No. 1631-2025

Attachment 2: Copy of the cover letter to the WCB.



City of Rio Dell
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov

April 2, 2025

Alyssa Benedetti
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: WCB Grant Application – Eel River Trail – Phase II – Concrete Accessible Ramp

Dear Ms. Benedetti:

I am writing to submit our application for a grant to fund the construction of Phase II of the City's Eel River Trail. The trail is a 1,600+/- foot Class I shared-use path (pedestrian, bicycle) with associated trailhead improvements. Phase I was funded by a Clean California Grant. The City was hoping to complete the entire project, both Phase I and Phase II, at one time. However, the cost for the project exceeded the available funds.

The trail provides a safe walking and biking route for Rio Dell, and in addition to safety and connectivity improvements, the trail provides opportunities for nature study and recreation. Phase II includes the construction of a concrete accessible switch-back style ramp at the north end of the trail up to Davis Street. The ramp would bridge the connectivity gap for those with mobility issues.

This project directly aligns with the Wildlife Conservation Board's goals of enhancing public access to natural resources while ensuring these spaces are inclusive for all members of our community. However, current terrain limitations restrict access for individuals with mobility challenges, preventing them from fully experiencing and appreciating this valuable natural resource.

Our project aims to:

- **Construct a durable, ADA-compliant concrete ramp:** This will provide safe and easy access to the trail for individuals using wheelchairs, strollers, or those with other mobility impairments.
- **Minimize environmental impact:** The ramp's design and construction will prioritize the preservation of the surrounding habitat, ensuring minimal disturbance to the ecosystem.
- **Enhance public awareness:** The project will incorporate interpretive signage highlighting the ecological significance of the Eel River trail and the importance of accessibility in natural spaces.
- **Increase community engagement:** We will work closely with local organizations and community members to ensure the project meets the needs of all users.

By constructing this accessible ramp, we will not only improve physical access to the Eel River, but also foster a deeper connection between our community and its natural environment. This project will promote inclusivity, environmental stewardship, and a greater appreciation for the wildlife that depends on this habitat.

The City of Rio Dell and its residents has a strong commitment to both ecological conservation and community accessibility. We have a proven track record of successfully completing Phase I, and we possess the necessary expertise and partnerships to ensure the timely and effective completion of this project.

We have included a detailed project application, budget, workplan, management plan and timeline for your review. We are confident that this project will provide public access to natural resources while ensuring these spaces are inclusive for **all** members of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our application. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this project further.

Sincerely,

Kyle Knopp
City Manager

Enclosures

Copy:
City Council w/o enclosures
Community Development Director w/o enclosures

RESOLUTION NO. 1631-2025



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD FOR PHASE II OF THE EEL RIVER TRAIL, A CONCRETE ACCESSIBLE RAMP.

WHEREAS funds were made available to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the enhancement or restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing or other wildlife-oriented recreational uses; and

WHEREAS the City of Rio Dell intends to construct Phase II of a 1,600+/- foot Class I shared-use path (pedestrian, bicycle) with associated trailhead improvements; and

WHEREAS the trail provides a safe walking and biking route for Rio Dell, and in addition to safety and connectivity improvements, the trail would provide opportunities for nature study and recreation; and

WHEREAS Phase II includes the construction of a concrete accessible switch-back style ramp at the north end of the trail up to Davis Street. The ramp bridges the connectivity gap, especially for those with mobility issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Rio Dell herby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board;
And
2. Certifies that said Applicant will comply with all federal, state and local environmental,

public health, and other appropriate laws and regulations applicable to the project and will obtain or will ensure that the other project partners obtain all appropriate permits applicable to the project; and

3. Further commits to the terms and conditions specified in the grant agreement; and

4. Appoints the City Manager as a representative(s) of the City of Rio Dell to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and other documents which may be necessary for the completion of the proposed project.

PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on April 15, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Garnes

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

City of Rio Dell

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1631-2025 adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on April 15, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell