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Funding Approved for Trail Projects in Covelo

At their meeting on October 21 in Oakland, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved funding for two multi-purpose trail projects in Covelo. Both projects were prepared and submitted in June by the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) under the State's Active Transportation Program.

The CTC awarded \$1.89 million for design, right-of-way and construction of MCOG's *SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Phase 1* project. Phase I will construct a bicycle and pedestrian trail parallel to State Route 162 from Howard Street to Biggar Lane. The CTC previously awarded \$847,000 for environmental and non-infrastructure (community and schools safety & education) work in the 2014 Active Transportation Program funding cycle.

The second project awarded was MCOG's *SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Phase 2*. Over \$1.25 million was awarded by the CTC for all project components through construction to extend the Phase 1 bicycle and pedestrian facility from Biggar Lane northward to Hurt Road.

"We thank the hardworking staff and Commissioners for helping to protect the safety of our Third District citizens and encouraging a healthy lifestyle in Round Valley," said District 3 Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, whose district includes Covelo.

Construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail physically separated from State highway 162 was the top priority identified in MCOG's *Covelo/Round Valley Non-Motorized Needs Assessment & Engineered Feasibility Study* (GHD/Alta Planning & Design/Local Government Commission, 2014).

Priorities established in the study were developed with extensive public input within the Covelo/Round Valley community and the Round Valley Indian Tribes. There is a history of pedestrian and bicycle collisions that have resulted in fatalities within the project area. Much of the new facility will be constructed on Tribal Lands through an easement dedicated through an agreement with MCOG.

The Round Valley Indian Tribes have also agreed to permanently maintain all trail segments that lie on Tribal Lands. Remaining segments of the new facility will be constructed within state right-of-way along Highway 162, but separated from vehicle travel lanes. An east-west trail within Tribal Lands connecting Henderson Lane with the primary trail along Highway 162 will also be constructed with Phase I funding.

The two MCOG projects awarded were among 87 grants funded under the statewide competition. A third Mendocino County project, the *Northwestern Pacific Rail Trail Phase 2* project, also was awarded to the City of Ukiah. This project will extend Ukiah's newly completed rail-with-trail facility from Gobbi Street southward to the commercial area at Commerce Street. Over \$1.8 million was awarded by the CTC for the Ukiah project.

The CTC received 617 applications in 2015, the second round of this program, requesting a total of more than \$1 billion. In 2014, MCOG received a grant of \$847,000 for the SR 162 trails project in Covelo for the environmental and design work to prepare for construction, and also a non-infrastructure component of education and training in bicycle and pedestrian safety.

MCOG formed as a joint powers agreement in 1972, as mandated by state law, to disburse state and federal funds for transportation, to provide regional planning, and to serve as a regional forum. MCOG is overseen by a board consisting of two county supervisors, a countywide public appointee, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463-1859 or consult the agency's web site at www.mendocinocog.org.

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