



Jill Flygare &lt;jflygare@utah.gov&gt;

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**Re: Humboldt Bay**

1 message

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**Jill Flygare** <jflygare@utah.gov>  
To: Chris Mitton <cmitton@utah.gov>  
Cc: Jack Hedge <jackhedge@utah.gov>, Ginger Chinn <gchinn@utah.gov>

Wed, Mar 17, 2021 at 8:54 AM

Thanks Chris

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 3:41 PM Chris Mitton <cmitton@utah.gov> wrote:

All,

Quick wrap-up from the Humboldt Bay call UIPA was asked to participate in this morning:

**Attendees:**

Brian Somers (Utah Mining Association)  
Michelle Vassel (Tribal Administrator - Wiyot Tribe)  
CJ Stewart (Energy Director - Crow Nation)  
Justin Wight - (Project Consultant)

**Key Highlights:**

- 1) The Wiyot Nation is "fully committed to this project..."
- 2) The Crow tribe is looking for any new export channel or new use for their mineral resources.
- 3) The terminal at Humboldt Bay and the RR would be Tribal owned, or would have small, non-tribal minority owners.
- 4) Northwestern Pacific Railroad is considered an "open-active" railroad, which makes the rehabilitation of this rail line much easier from a permit perspective. This has not been independently verified at this time (I am looking into it).
  - a) A southern portion of this line has been a freight and passenger service in serving a small area north of San Francisco.
- 5) Justin Wight (project consultant) stated he has had conversations with USDOT regarding funding for the rail rehabilitation, up to \$1 billion. This program is not a grant program but a loan program that would need to be repaid. The loan is likely contingent on securing long-term contracts as a source of repayment.
- 6) There are existing federal navigation channels that can be utilized for the export of minerals and Justin is not concerned about that piece for exporting.
  - a) The terminals identified for use are on the north side of the bay and are "well away from the environmentally sensitive areas."
  - b) Justin did not view this as an area of concern
- 7) Both Justin and Michelle stated there is strong local support for revitalizing the harbor and port operations. Michelle mentioned she would expect some, but not overwhelming opposition to the project.

The in-person meeting will move ahead next week between the tribal officials, local officials, Brian Somers and others.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Chris Mitton**

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