

TO: The Greater Trinidad Community  
FR: HARP — Humboldt Alliance for Responsible Planning  
RE: Water Pipeline Revisited  
July 1, 2025

Dear Neighbors:

This is a heads up that the Trinidad City Council plans to reopen discussion of a water pipeline from Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) to the city water plant at the Council's July 8 meeting.

The Council voted three times in 2021 NOT to move forward with a pipeline, and instead to expand conservation measures and other options.

HARP urges the Council and all area residents consider the following concerns that will affect both current Trinidad water customers and the larger Trinidad area north of the Little River:

1. **Development:** A pipeline would induce substantial growth and development in the greater Trinidad area. Additional homes on either side of the 101 corridor from Westhaven north also would worsen wastewater run-off problems from septic systems, and expand population density and issues that come with it (e.g., traffic, etc.).
2. **Proposed Rancheria Hotel:** A pipeline would fulfill the Coastal Commission's requirement of a reliable water source for the Trinidad Rancheria's proposed 100-room hotel. The California Court of Appeal has imposed a second condition that the Rancheria present a plan showing that the proposed hotel could be defended against fire. This was a result of HARP's successful legal action.
3. **Cost:** While the City Council proposes simply to study the costs of extending the water main, why spend money for a project that is a detriment to the future of the area? There is no evidence that Trinidad's existing water system is not adequate. During the recent five-year drought, Trinidad never had to implement any of its emergency contingency plans. Construction of a pipeline will likely mean higher water rates for Trinidad water customers for both construction and ongoing fees for the HBMWD water itself.
4. **Dioxin:** A plume of dioxin contamination from industrial sites has for years been moving downstream toward Mad River HBMWD water intakes.
5. **Luffenholtz Resiliency:** As recommended in the 2021 study by Pacific Watershed Associates, Trinidad should develop ponds to store water for use in extreme drought years. Has the city taken any steps to follow the PWA recommendations?

Trinidad-area residents and property owners are urged to contact the City Council with concerns about the potential impacts of a water pipeline for the entire area, and to attend (or Zoom to) the Council's Tuesday, July 8, 6 p.m. meeting at Town Hall (go to

trinidad.ca.gov and click on upcoming events for meeting agenda, packet and Zoom info, which should be posted by Friday, July 4). Send comments by 5 p.m. Monday, July 7, to [cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov). **Other Contacts:** City office: 707-677-0223; City Council: visit [trinidad.ca.gov/city-council](http://trinidad.ca.gov/city-council).

**Please Help! Your feedback can make a difference.**