



## **MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

*A document adopted by partners collaborating to create the North Coast Resource Partnership to confirm shared agreements for actions to enhance the quality of life in North Coast landscapes and communities.*

**Approved by the North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council, December 9, 2022**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU) is to establish a set of mutual understandings between North Coast Tribes, counties, agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), resource conservation districts (RCDs,) local governments, and other partners and stakeholders with respect to collaboration on planning and project implementation to enhance the quality of life in North Coast communities and enhance the stewardship of natural landscapes. This collaborative coalition is known as the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP). This MOMU is intended to document long term understandings of the principles and goals of the NCRP. The NCRP requires partners requesting or receiving funding or support from the NCRP to sign onto to this MOMU to confirm their understanding of and commitment to the NCRP principles, goals and processes outlined herein.

### **2. BACKGROUND: NORTH COAST REGION & NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP**

#### **NORTH COAST REGION**

- 2.1. The North Coast Region of California, as defined by this MOMU, comprises the Tribal and county lands contained within the North Coast counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino and Sonoma, as well as including the watersheds that comprise the North Coast Hydrologic Region per the State Water Resources Control Board.
- 2.2. Jurisdictional areas of Tribes, counties and individual agencies may lay outside the boundary of the North Coast Resource Partnership Region/North Coast hydrologic region. Where it demonstrably supports the purpose of the NCRP, as determined by the NCRP Leadership Council, collaborations may extend beyond the NCRP regional boundary into full counties, other counties and/or states and Tribal territories. In the case of energy independence endeavors, boundaries may encompass full counties.
- 2.3. The North Coast Region is 19,000 square miles, is 12% of California's geographic area, is a source region for water, biodiversity and forest-based carbon, all of which provide substantial benefits within and beyond the Region.

- 2.4. The North Coast Region is the homeland of over thirty federally recognized Tribes, which are sovereign nations, and have stewarded North Coast lands for millennia.
- 2.5. The North Coast Region is home to diverse socio-political perspectives, and is a rural region with a low population relative to many areas in California.
- 2.6. The North Coast Region is severely economically challenged, with over 50% of the population living under the US poverty line, and more than 90% of the North Coast area considered a disadvantaged community, as defined by a number of state granting programs.
- 2.7. The North Coast Region and its communities have experienced significant impacts from fire, floods, drought and public health and safety challenges, with those impacts falling disproportionately on vulnerable and economically disadvantaged people.

#### **NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP**

- 2.8. The North Coast Resource Partnership is a coalition of over a thousand stakeholders from the Region's Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs, agencies, local governments, business groups – all focused on enhancing the quality of life for North Coast landscapes and people.
- 2.9. First formed in 2004 as the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to develop an integrated regional water management plan and a planning process to increase regional coordination and collaboration to obtain funding for water-related projects.
- 2.10. The first MOMU was created in August 2004, and adopted by resolution by seven North Coast counties, the Sonoma and Mendocino County Water Agencies, and hundreds of signatories including Tribes, NGOs, RCDs, cities and other organizations in the North Coast Region
- 2.11. An updated MOMU was created on November 11, 2010 to reflect Tribal leadership on the NCRP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee, as well as documentation of the Tribal Representation Process
- 2.12. On October 18, 2012 the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan became known as the North Coast Resource Partnership to better reflect the multi-objective nature of its ongoing work.
- 2.13. On July 16, 2021, the name of the NCRP Policy Review Panel was changed to the NCRP Leadership Council
- 2.14. In strong collaboration with an array of entities, the North Coast Resource Partnership is a regional planning and coordination group that:
  - 2.14.1. Furthers a broad array of integrated, multi-objective goals that are intended to enhance the quality of life in North Coast landscapes and communities and achieve multiple benefits in a cost-effective manner
  - 2.14.2. Performs regional assessments and planning to determine needs in the region
  - 2.14.3. Develops an adaptive regional vision and actionable plans in collaboration with partners and experts
  - 2.14.4. Aligns and integrates the priorities of Tribal, state, federal, regional and local agencies and partners
  - 2.14.5. Identifies, evaluates, prioritizes and funds implementation projects
  - 2.14.6. Advocates for funding and policies that invest in the region
  - 2.14.7. Focuses on common ground and local autonomy

- 2.14.8. Prioritizes equity, transparency and the use of the best available data and information at the regional and local scale, including indigenous science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
  - 2.14.9. Supports partners in the region to access funding via technical assistance and capacity building
  - 2.14.10. Coordinates funding via block grants and other mechanisms that reflects the goals of the partner funding agency, and benefits partners in the North Coast region
  - 2.14.11. Convenes partners to provide opportunity for shared learning, networking and collaboration.
- 2.15. The North Coast Resource Partnership recognizes Tribal sovereignty and the need for meaningful Tribal consultation by all NCRP partners that collaborate with the NCRP.

### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND THE TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- 2.16. The North Coast Resource Partnership is governed by a Leadership Council that is comprised of appointees from the Region’s Tribes and counties, thereby ensuring representation of the people in the North Coast Region via Tribal Councils and county Boards of Supervisors. The Leadership Council makes all decisions related to North Coast Resource Partnership approved plans, projects and resource allocation – with advice and information provided by NCRP staff and the Technical Peer Review Committee.
- 2.17. The NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook follows the principles and goals of this MOMU, outlines the processes used by NCRP Leadership Council, TPRC and staff, and is updated and approved by the Leadership Council on a regular basis.
- 2.18. The NCRP Leadership Council consists of two representatives from each of the seven Counties (Modoc, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Sonoma) plus three Tribal representatives selected by the North Coast Tribes according to the “Tribal Representation Process” attached to the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook. NCRP Leadership Council county representatives shall be designees of the Board of Supervisors of the County. Each county shall also designate two alternates who have expertise in water, wastewater, land-use, or energy planning, and are familiar with the NCRP process, and who may be members of the Technical Peer Review Committee. Tribal alternates are outlined in the “Tribal Representation Process” attached to the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook. In the event that the elected or Tribal representatives are unavailable for a particular meeting, the alternates may participate on their behalf.
- 2.19. All meetings of the Leadership Council and the Technical Peer Review Committee are subject to and carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. All NCRP business shall be conducted in accordance with any and all applicable conflict of interest laws, regulations and standards.
- 2.20. The North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council and staff are advised by a Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) comprised of appointees from the Region’s Tribes and counties, and having expertise in a wide array of technical, scientific, and planning areas,

ranging from water resources, fisheries, policy development, engineering, habitat restoration, regional planning, and related issues. The appointment process for TPRC members is outlined in the North Coast Resource Partnership Policies and Procedures Handbook.

- 2.21. The North Coast Resource Partnership staff is comprised of a core team approved by the Leadership Council, with explicit roles outlined in the North Coast Resource Partnership Policies and Procedures Handbook.
- 2.22. Decision-making is conducted by the NCRP Leadership Council. The Leadership Council seeks to arrive at a consensus if the need for a decision arises. If the Leadership Council cannot reach consensus, decisions shall be made as follows:
  - 2.22.1. Quorum. Representatives or alternates constituting one-half or more of the total number of representatives on the Leadership Council shall constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business or arriving at a decision.
  - 2.22.2. One vote per representative. Each representative (or alternate, if one has been assigned and if a representative is not present) shall have one vote.
  - 2.22.3. Majority vote. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Leadership Council present at a meeting is required to, and is sufficient to, approve any item of business or make any necessary decision.
  - 2.22.4. Approval of the NCRP. Review and approval of plans, allocation of funding resources, letters of support and staff direction to pursue grant funding will be considered and approved by the NCRP Leadership Council at a regularly scheduled NCRP meeting, with input from the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee, NCRP staff, and North Coast Region partners and stakeholders.
  - 2.22.5. Major updates to NCRP plans will be brought before each North Coast County's Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption. North Coast Tribes will approve the NCRP regional plans according to the Tribal Representation Process outlined in the "Tribal Representation Process" attached to the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook.

### **3. NON-BINDING NATURE; TERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL.**

Execution of this MOMU and participation in the NCRP are legally nonbinding, non-exclusive and in no way limit or impair any participating Tribe, County, organization, or agency from continuing any of its own activities, obligations, or legal or regulatory functions, including any planning or securing of project funding from any source. Any Tribe, County, organization, or agency may withdraw from this MOMU and participation in the NCRP at any time by notifying the NCRP contracting entity in writing. Nothing in this MOMU is intended to create a legal partnership or give the NCRP or its Leadership Council any decision-making authority over any participating entity or any matter within the jurisdiction of any signatory county, agency, organization, or Tribe.

**4. PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

It is expected that participating agencies, Tribes, and organizations will contribute the personnel and financial resources necessary to actively collaborate with the NCRP, and/or will seek assistance from the NCRP to ensure active collaboration.

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

NCRP staff, Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee will regularly report on their progress to partners, agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders participating in the NCRP process and the associations or organizations to which they belong that are involved in the NCRP.

**6. ENTIRETY OF MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

This MOMU shall constitute the entire understanding between the parties relating to the NCRP and shall supersede all prior agreements concerning the same subject matter.

**7. SIGNATORIES**

The undersigned representative of each signatory agency, entity, or Tribe, acknowledge and understand the above as the NCRP goals, objectives, principles, functions and operations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization