

Stakeholder Catalogue

Tribal Government

Wiyot Tribe

Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria

Blue Lake Rancheria

Roles & Responsibilities

Federally Recognized Tribe



Private Property Owner



The entire Humboldt Bay region, which is referred to as Wigi by the Wiyot people, is part of the Wiyot ancestral home. Three federally recognized tribes are located within Wiyot ancestral territory and have Wiyot members: the Wiyot Tribe (Table Bluff

Reservation), the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, and the Blue Lake Rancheria. All three tribes are governed by a tribal council. Projects undertaken by local governments in the Humboldt Bay region are referred to all three tribes for their comments and concerns as part the project review process, as all three tribes have an interest in cultural resources and other relevant assets in the region. However, the Wiyot Tribe is the most active tribe in the Humboldt Bay region in terms of land ownership and project implementation, and particularly in regard to addressing sea level rise. Therefore, the information in this section is focused on the Wiyot Tribe.

According to the Wiyot Tribe's constitution, their jurisdiction extends to the fullest extent permitted by applicable tribal and federal law to the following:

1. All land encompassing the Tribe's ancestral territory, including all that area from Little River to the north, Bear River Ridge to the south, and from the Pacific Coast out to as far as Berry Summit in the northeast and Chalk Mountain in the southeast.
2. All lands, water and resources as may be hereafter acquired by the Tribe or by the Federal Government in trust for the Tribe, or its citizens, under any grant, transfer, purchase, adjudication, treaty, Executive Order, Act of Congress, or other acquisition, including but not limited to, eighty-eight acres of land held in trust by the United States for the Tribe's benefit, and located on the south end of Humboldt Bay, California, five miles from the town of Loleta. This new Reservation was established in 1991.

The Wiyot people inhabited permanent villages along the waterways of their ancestral lands that also served as routes for travel and trade, in addition to seasonal camps in other regions. According to the County's Humboldt Bay Area Plan Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, there are a number of Wiyot villages and other cultural sites that would be impacted in all six HUs with 1.0 meter of SLR².

² Evidence of Wiyot villages and other cultural sites exists in 83 locations within a 2.0-meter SLR inundation zone.

The Wiyot Tribe is actively working to recover their language, ceremonies, and lifeways. The Tribe is dedicated to preserving their native history and cultural material of their ancestors, including ancient village sites and shell middens within and surrounding Humboldt Bay such as Tuluwat Island, as well as sites beyond.

Specific Hydrological Unit Assets and Concerns

All hydrological units

- **Cultural resources sites are located within in each HU and are vulnerable to 1 meter of SLR.**

Arcata Bay

- **Tuluwat Island**
 - Two Wiyot cultural sites located in Humboldt Bay are the ancient villages of Tuluwat ("Toulouwat") and Hutverroulh ("Etpidolh", "Etpidalh Watpuroulh"), located on Tuluwat Island also known as Indian Island. Tuluwat Island is a culturally significant location to the Wiyot people. The island was the site of the Tribe's annual World Renewal Ceremony for thousands of years until what became known as the 1860 Wiyot Massacre, when white settlers murdered all but a few Wiyot people, resulting in the Tribe's loss of the island. The ownership of the majority of Tuluwat Island has since returned to the Wiyot Tribe.
 - Located beneath what was the village of Tuluwat is a culturally significant 1,000-year-old mound of clamshells known as a midden that measures over six acres and contains the ancient remnants of meals, tools, ceremonies, and sacred burial sites, and is considered irreplaceable by the Wiyot. Due to modifications in tidal action along the shoreline stemming from dikes and channels built by settlers at the end of the 19th century, the midden beneath Tuluwat has lost an estimated 2000 cubic yards to erosion from 1913-1985 alone. In addition to this continuing erosion, the shell mound was subject to uncontrolled archaeological digging in the early part of the 20th. Furthermore, the Wiyot people have permanently lost to nature structures of the Tuluwat village that were still reportedly visible as late as 1913.
 - The Tribe created the Tuluwat project for the purpose of restoring the cultural heritage and ecological resources of the site and surrounding habitat, constructing a cultural center for the public, and rehabilitating the site so it would be suitable again for tribal ceremonies. The Tribe first had to clean up scattered metal, wood debris, hazardous materials, dilapidated structures, and contaminated soil resulting from the ship repair facility.



Eureka Bay

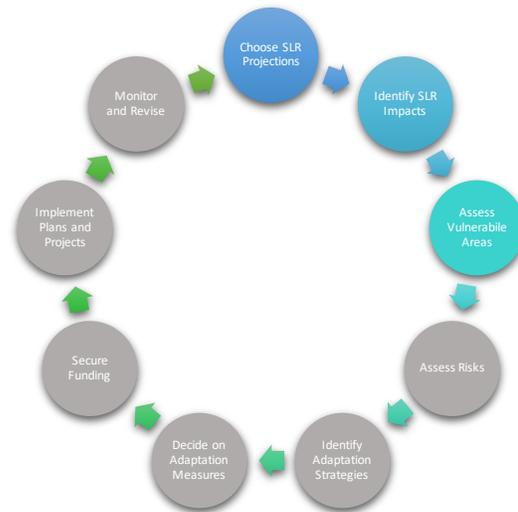
- **Southern end of Tuluwat Island**

General Concerns

✓	Shoreline Management		Sea Level Rise Impacts:
✓	Property Ownership and Adaptation Responsibility	✓	Erosion
✓	Regulatory Authorization and Compliance	✓	Tidal Inundation
✓	Feasible Adaptation Strategies	✓	Backwater and/or Emerging Groundwater Flooding
✓	Funding	✓	Saltwater Intrusion

Planning Efforts

In 2020, the Wiyot Tribe received a \$100,000 grant from PG&E and \$60,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in 2021 a \$250,000 grant from the Ocean Protection Council, to fund their Climate Change Adaptation Planning (CCAP) Project. The project will identify cultural and natural resources within Wiyot ancestral lands and waters vulnerable to climate change and at risk from flooding. Phase 1 of the project involves identifying cultural and natural resources vulnerable to sea level rise by interviewing and meeting with tribal elders, youth, and community members to share experiences, and collect cultural and natural resources information, stories, concerns, and advice. The Tribe will also inventory and collect existing



GIS data and mapping of cultural and natural resources and assets of interest which are vulnerable to climate change in Wiyot ancestral lands and waters. In Phase 2, the Tribe will draft its Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Phase 3 will include implementation of the plan, Tribal land acquisition, and expanding co-management and Tribal decision making in regional adaptation planning.

The 2018 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment conducted by Humboldt County included the number of Wiyot villages and other cultural sites that were vulnerable within the 2.0-meter SLR inundation zone. Cultural sites were identified from a 1918 field map from an ethnographic report on the Wiyot by L.L. Loud in combination with consultation with a Wiyot Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). In total 83 locations were identified within the six HU.

The Wiyot Tribe was one of 22 partners in the Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Working Group (APWG) which ended in 2015.

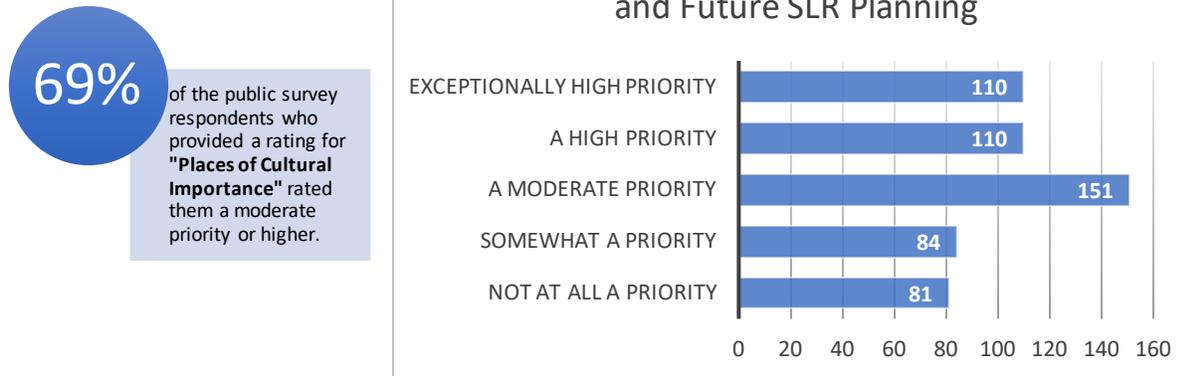


Figure 3. Priority Ratings for Places of Cultural Importance regarding Flood Protection and Future SLR Planning by participants of the SLR Public Survey 2021 (n = 536)

Relevant Coastal Professional Survey Findings

Results presented in this section for the SLR Coastal Professionals Survey 2021 do not necessarily represent an official view of the agency/organization or categories with which respondents identified, as explained in the introduction. Results presented below are intended only to provide general guidance in future planning and collaboration efforts. For more information on sampling methods and data collection, refer to the section on Community Input within the Introduction on page 2 and Appendix ii - SLR Regional Coordination: Coastal Professional Survey Results within the Appendices beginning on page 229.

There were 7 total respondents from both Blue Lake Rancheria and the Wiyot Tribe during the SLR Coastal Professionals Survey 2021, though participation for individual questions varied. These tribal government members were asked a variety of questions including their preferred level of involvement in SLR planning for the tribal government they represented. Respondents were given a sliding scale to rate their preferred role ranging from "not involved" to "participate" and "lead". The results for the Tribal Government category ranged from just above not involved to right below leading, with a 60% preference for a level of involvement mixed between leading and participating in the planning effort as shown in the graph on the next page.

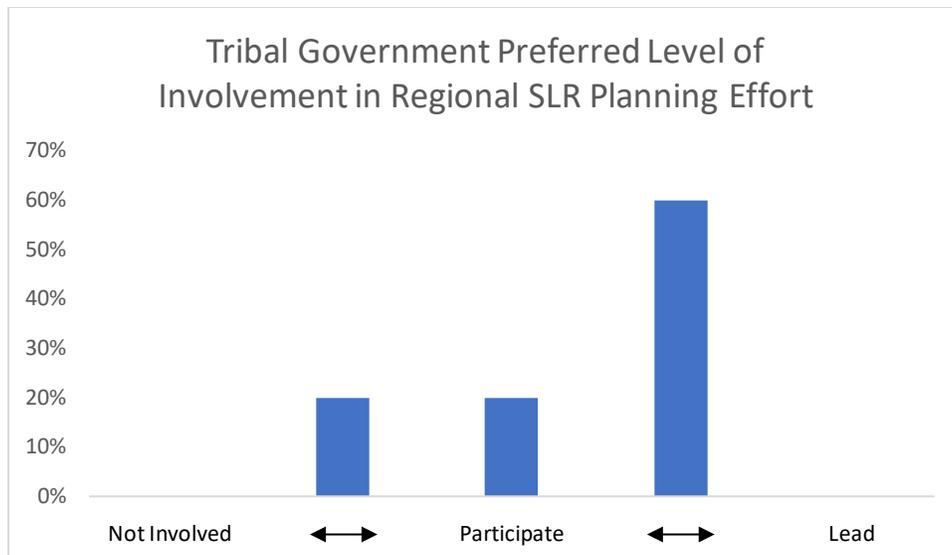


Figure 4. Tribal Government respondents' preferred level of involvement in SLR planning effort from the SLR Coastal Professionals Survey 2021 (n=5).

These Coastal Professionals were also asked about their preferred spatial scale for SLR planning. Respondents were given a sliding scale ranging from planning on a “project by project” basis to planning on a larger scale of “Watershed/HU” and “Humboldt Bay”. The results for the Tribal Government category ranged from just above a project by project basis to right below a Humboldt Bay scale, with a 40% preference for a mix between a Watershed/HU and Humboldt Bay scale approach as shown in the graph below.

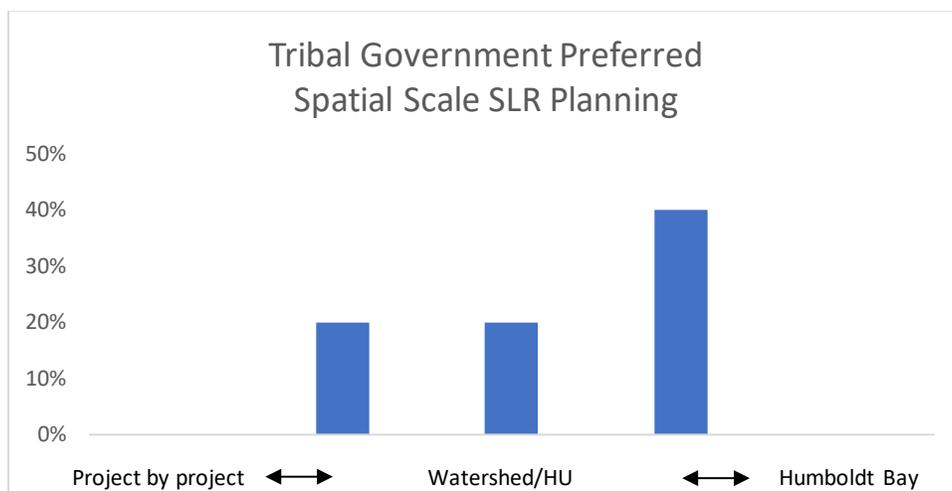


Figure 5. Tribal Government respondents' preferred spatial scale to focus regional SLR coordination efforts from the SLR Coastal Professionals Survey 2021 (n=4)

To better understand the preferred style of future regional SLR coordination, Coastal Professionals were asked their level of support for several potential regional SLR planning options on a five-point Likert scale ranging from “strongly oppose” to “strongly favor”. The results for Tribal Government favored a new regional authority, with 84% of respondents rating this option as somewhat favorable or higher. On the

other end of the spectrum, only half of respondents answered they somewhat opposed not having any regional planning as shown in the graph below.

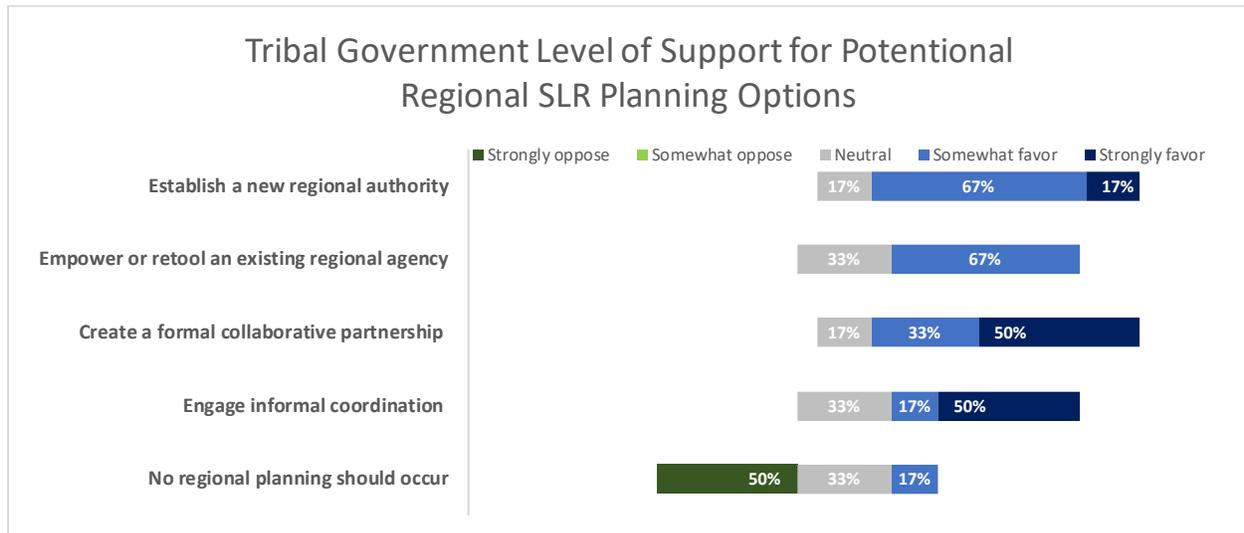


Figure 6. Tribal Government respondents' level of support or opposition for various strategies for regional coordination of SLR planning from the SLR Coastal Professionals Survey 2021 (n= 4-5)

Reference Links

<https://www.wiyot.us/>

<http://www.brb-nsn.gov/>

<https://bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov/>

<https://www.wiyot.us/101/Natural-Resources>

<https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/were-coming-home/Content?oid=12849841>

<https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/87242/Humboldt-Bay-shoreline-cultural-landscape-investigation-Rohde-2020?bidId=>

<https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62872/Humboldt-Bay-Area-Plan-Sea-Level-Rise-Vulnerability-Assessment-Report-PDF?bidId=HBAP>