



CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

(Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors as to expenditure of funds derived from Measure Z.)

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Hoopa Valley Tribal Council / K'ima:w Medical Center

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1348, Hoopa, Ca. 95546

Contact Person: Ryan Jackson

Title: Chairman

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Mary Benedict, Controller- K'ima:w

mary.benedict@kimaw.org

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2017-18: \$ 357,801

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- a. Humboldt County Department
- b. Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- c. Local Government Entity
- d. Private Service Provider
- e. Non-Profit Service Provider
- f. Other: Tribe

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3. Please provide brief description of proposal for which you are seeking funding.

K'ima:w Medical Center, an entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, maintains an ambulance base in Willow Creek in addition to the ambulance base on the reservation. The Willow Creek base serves an estimated 1,710 residents of Willow Creek and surrounding areas (based on the 2010 Census), plus an Average Annual Daily Traffic volume of 3,950 vehicles on the Berry Summit to Humboldt/Trinity County Line segment of Highway 299 (per CalTrans Route 299 Transportation concept Report, December 2010). This segment experience a collision rate of 99, including 43 fatal and injury collisions. Actual fatal collision rate is 1.7 greater than the State average for similar areas. (Source: Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System-TASAS for the period of July 2006 to January 2009).

The largest component of cost is staffing 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The cost of maintaining meaningful emergency services in a largely rural, some might say frontier area requires substantial additional levels of training and stocking additional types of medical supplies and specialized equipment to sustain life in patients needing a transport to the nearest emergency room. The Willow Creek and Hoopa Bases are

equipped the same so that the services can respond to separate, simultaneous incidents. The Hoopa base is more than 15 minutes from Willow Creek and currently sits behind an active slide on Highway 96 (the detour to Willow Creek is approximately 40 minutes from Hoopa).

4. *Measure Z* funding is scheduled to "sunset" in 2020. How are you developing a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, in order for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?

We are continually requesting additional funding from the Indian Health Service. We have also requested funding assistance from neighboring Tribes to contribute to the cost of this vital life-saving service. By 2020, we will work with Humboldt County to design and implement a Community Safety District through the Local Agency Formation commission (LAFCO) process to sustain the Willow Creek base. The financial feasibility to operate an ambulance service in this area is promising with the formation and support of a Community Safety District.

5. If this request is for the continuation, or expansion, of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

K'ima:w Medical Center funds the Willow Creek Ambulance base from Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private insurance reimbursement from other medical and dental services offered at our facility. In addition, we receive some additional reimbursement from the State of California Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program for Medi-cal reimbursable services. Most of the GEMT funds are not generated in the Willow Creek Area, but the reimbursement improves our sustainability of the ambulance service as a whole.

6. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how will you use them to leverage additional grants, contributions, or community support?

The *Measure Z* funds are being used to develop baseline costs for operating an ambulance service out of the Willow Creek Area. The Tribe has provided this service for many years without any contributions from outside agencies. The Hoopa Tribe can no longer fully fund the ambulance service solely. The *Measure Z* funds provide a stop-gap (continuation of the service) to assess the viability and support of a Community Safety District as determined by the County of Humboldt.

7. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, please describe.

This is not a new or expanded activity; this is an existing service.

ATTACHMENTS—Please include the following with your application

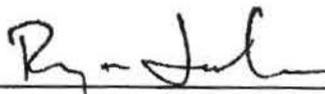
Proposal Narrative: Brief description of your request for *Measure Z* funds – Please explain how it is an essential service or for public safety. (one page maximum)

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with *Measure Z* in FY 15-16, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Use budget form provided

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE: 2/17/2017

SIGNATURE: 

SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 111
Eureka, CA 95501-1153.

Attachment 1: Proposal Narrative

The Hoopa Valley Tribe respectfully requests financial assistance through Measure Z for continued operation of its Willow Creek ambulance base. Our request is for \$357,801 for year three representing operational expenses and LIFEPAK equipment purchase. We understand that funding may be provided for additional periods through year 5; annual recurring funding will be needed to maintain the Willow Creek Ambulance Base.

The need for this funding has been a high level of concern of the citizens of Eastern Humboldt County. An article in the Times-Standard demonstrates the importance of emergency ambulance services in this remote area of Humboldt County: "Kim Willis was alone when she nearly lost her life. While staying at a friend's cabin in the Willow Creek Area in July, Willis had a heart attack. She said the symptoms came on suddenly. "I was sitting on the bed, and it felt like somebody poured a bucket on me, and then I started blacking out," Willis said. Eventually, she was able to get to the phone and call a neighbor. The neighbor called the Willow Creek Ambulance Service, which arrived in about 15 minutes. Willis, 57, said the call saved her life. : I just wouldn't have made it," she said. "It's really important to have the Willow Creek Ambulance service right there." Even though Willis lives in Eureka, she often visits Willow Creek and is concerned about the service leaving the area."

In a letter dated Feb 16, 2016, Lieutenant B.M. Fabbri, Acting Command for the Department of California Highway Patrol for Humboldt Area wrote: "The Hoopa Valley Ambulance Service is a critical element in the goals and objectives of the CHP to reduce death and injuries on state routes and county maintained roadways. Our success is incumbent upon an ambulance service with advanced life-saving equipment, and reliable response times as low as possible. The CHP supports your efforts and are hopeful that the Hoopa Valley Ambulance service receives the funding they need to maintain services to the Hoopa Valley and beyond." (Copy of letter available upon request)

In addition to serving Willow Creek, the ambulance service responds to car accidents along State Route 299 (from Redwood Creek to portions of Trinity County), and covers Weitchpec and Orleans. There is an average daily traffic volume of 3,950 vehicles; and this particular segment of highway has recently been recognized by the State, that Highway 299 is a high fatal and injury collision area, resulting in approximately 1.7 times higher than the state average for similar area.

The Hoopa/Willow Creek ambulances responded to 1,289 calls in 2016. Of the 1,289 calls, 310 of those calls generated from the Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, and Salyer area. Of the (310) calls (49) calls were Motor Vehicle Accidents and of the (49) MVA's (23) were over-the-bank. Of the (49) MVA's (3) people were taken by helicopter. The result of losing the service that is based in Willow Creek could potentially be devastating; resulting in either a complete lack of coverage for the area or an increased wait time for an ambulance to arrive.

The Willow Creek satellite service, which has been in the area for about two decades, may come to an end if additional funding isn't secured since the Tribe can no longer financially support this area due to low reimbursement rates, increased expenses, low volume of runs, and other economic factors. Plans to sustain the project after Measure Z funding include more aggressive collection processes and the development and support from a Community Safety District.

Attachment 2: Prior Year Results

The funding K'ima:w Medical Center receives from Measure Z has enabled us to keep the Willow Creek base operational while Humboldt County staff work on the development of a Community Safety District. Our second ambulance (based in Willow Creek) is fully staffed with ALS coverage 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The ambulance base is located just out of Willow Creek with ease of access to State Highway 299. The 2015 ambulances are equipped with the highly advanced ALS equipment, which includes 12-lead heart monitors, external pacing, auto blood pressure cuffs, and pulse oximeters, advanced intubation equipment, C-pap (advanced breathing equipment), and interosseous (advanced IV equipment). Our crews are trained in low angle rope rescue and the ambulance carries 800 foot of rope, hardware to descend/ascend with the patient, and equipment to extricate the patient when needed. We are also equipped with water rescue equipment.

Hoopa Ambulance has been based in the Willow Creek area for many years. The Measure Z monies are enabling us to maintain complete emergency ALS coverage in an area that is 50 minutes away from any advanced medical care. Hoopa is always looking into modern ways and new technology to improve care and meet the highest level of emergency care in a super rural area. Ambulance Paramedics maintain high skill levels and ongoing continuous education training consists of 48 hours every 2 years. Field care audits are conducted every 2 months, and ongoing patient care auditing done is performed internally.

The last two years of funding have kept the Willow Creek Base operational. Revenue recovery has improved with the service having its own biller dedicated to billing and collections. The program also bills the State of California and recovers some funds through the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program.

For 2016

Hoopa/Willow Creek Ambulances responded to 1,289 calls.

Of the 1,289 calls, 310 of those calls generated from the Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, and Salyer area. Of the 310 calls 49 calls were Motor Vehicle Accidents and of the (49) MVA's (23) were over-the-bank. Of the (49) MVA's (3) people were taken by helicopter and 18 of the MVA's were code 3 transports.

The average transport time is 4 hours round trip. When both the Willow Creek and Hoopa ambulances are out of the response area due to transports to the hospital, K'ima:w Medical Center contracts with Arcata-Mad River Ambulance for response to the Willow Creek area with ALS standby coverage. Hoopa does their best to provide necessary coverage to meet the community's needs for our super rural response area.

The Measure Z funds provide a stop-gap while the County of Humboldt develops and analyzes the viability of a Community Safety District.

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COUNCIL
WILLOW CREEK AMBULANCE BASE
MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUEST - FY 17/18

DESCRIPTION	
PROJECTED REVENUE	200,000
(Less 5% Trinity County)	<u>10,000</u>
ESTIMATED HUMBOLDT COUNTY REVENUE	<u>190,000</u>
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	
WAGES	265,406
FRINGE BENEFITS	
FICA	20,304
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INS	2,604
HEALTH INSURANCE	48,590
RETIREMENT (401K)	10,382
WORKERS COMPENSATION INS	<u>26,620</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	373,906
OPERATING EXPENSES	
AMBULANCE LEASE/REPAIRS	8,930
Equipment	35,000
Auto Expense	26,000
Standby Services-Arcata Amb	6,000
SUPPLIES	15,275
SUPPLIES-HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	2,500
RENT-Facility	8,100
UTILITIES	
ELECTRICITY	4,500
PROPANE	1,750
WATER	-
WASTE REMOVAL	-
COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH	36,250
TRAINING /TRAVEL	2,500
MISCELLANEOUS	4,750
LEASES	1,932
ADMIN FEE (Excludes Equip)	<u>49,239</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	202,726
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	576,632
(Less 5% Trinity County)	<u>28,832</u>
ESTIMATED HUMBOLDT COUNTY EXPENSES	547,801
HUMBOLDT CO. DEFICIT - FUNDING REQUEST	<u><u>357,801</u></u>