



County of Del Norte
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Re: Proposal to Create a Committee Supported by Staff to Maintain the City of Crescent City and County of Del Norte's Sister City Relationship with the City Rikuzentakata, Japan

The City of Crescent City and the County of Del Norte memorialized on April 16, 2018 the creation of a Sister City Relationship with Rikuzentakata Japan. This relationship has fostered widespread community support both by our youth, citizens and elected leaders. This relationship which was developed through extraordinary circumstances tells a story of community resiliency and strength to overcome what appear to be insurmountable obstacles forced upon us by natural disaster.

In recognition of this relationship and the significant number of events and opportunities that have developed for the City of Crescent City and the County of Del Norte over the last five years, it is prudent for the County and City to consider the importance of a joint standing committee of elected and staff to help insure the continuity of this relationship. To that end, the joint committee would provide input and ideas to staff to assist the governing agencies and key staff in maintenance of this relationship and ongoing efforts as they relate to education, economic development, cultural awareness and emergency preparedness.

This relationship in the past two years has moved at an unprecedented pace making it difficult for elected leaders that do not function in a full-time capacity to insure this vital relationship is maintained. With guidance and input from this committee and as directed by the Board and Council, staff would carry out local community outreach, communication with Rikuzentakata and appropriate State and Federal agencies including the US Embassy in Japan and Counsel General of Japan in San Francisco.

We have seen cultural exchange now occurring on a biannual basis both between our students and community. This relationship is creating economic opportunities for local business around dairy, cheese, aquaculture and beer, as well as invitations to participate in emergency preparedness discussions at a local, state, federal and now global level with the City and County's invitation to the United Nations. This has allowed us to tell our unique and moving story across the world as a way to inspire and foster new relationships around the world.

We are in a unique and unprecedented period in this community's history. We now have the opportunity to take the initiative to insure all aspects of this relationship are fully recognized and supported. We can most effectively do this through the creation of this ongoing Joint City County Sister City focused committee with direct staff involvement that the importance of this relationship does not falter as elected leaders move on from office.

Chris Howard, District 3 Supervisor
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California