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Letter of Support for Whale Song/Pakeke Waiata Charitable Trust

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Ngahina Developments and Ngahina Trust members in support of the Whale Song / Pakaka Waiata Charitable Trusts application to the New Zealand Lotteries for funding support to build 'Whale Song'.

In particular we affirm the support of our Wahine Rangatira and Chairperson Kura Taylor, PhD for this project.

The Ngahina Trust is the original landowner and retains a major interest in our long-time Ngahina Developments Ltd company, who have made available the land in perpetuity to the Charitable Trust where the proposed sculptures are to be installed, Ngahina Trust saw this inspirational public sculpture as a unique opportunity to raise the profile of our Puketapu Hāpu of Te Atiawa.

The Ngahina Trust members are direct descendants of Ngāti Puketapu Hāpu, a sub-tribe of Te Ati Awa iwi who have continuously occupied their ancestral lands in Kāpiti since 2 principle migrations of Te Atiawa from Taranaki to Kāpiti between 1822 and 1832. Ngāti Puketapu resided in their own pā including Kenakena pā and Uruhi pā, the communal village of Puketapu Hāpu.

At the time of partitioning of the Kāpiti Coast lands 1884-1887 our ancestor Ihakara te Ngarara claimed for Ngāti Puketapu hapū based on having conquered the land and then continuously occupying it. Title was awarded to Puketapu Hāpu by the Court setting a line from Kenakena to Ngatoto trig in the east to Pukahu in the south, which is essentially the area now known as Paraparaumu.

This historical association of Puketapu Hāpu of Te Āti Awa in its establishment of mana whenua rights throughout Paraparaumu area is not widely known. However we hope 'Whale Song' will provide our tamariki and mokopuna with a tangible representation of our aroha for our whenua, our moana and our ancestors who regularly travelled between the Te Atiawa settlements of Taranaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Whanganui-ā-Tara, Waikawa, Arapawa in the Tory channel and Whare Kauri (Chatham islands), undoubtedly many times blessed by the company of Tangaroa's children.

In particular Kapiti Island was also located in an advantageous position for whalers, being one of the best anchorage points in the area. At least five whaling stations were located on Kapiti Island, located at Kahu o te Rangi, Rangatira, Taepiro, Wharekohu, and Waiorua, as well as on the offshore islands of Motungarara and Tohoramaurea. We have many stories relating to Tupuna who lived on the island alongside those of Ngati Toa Rangatira.

We see 'Whale Song' as a strategic link in Paraparaumu's cultural revitalization.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou
Nāku,

Na Takiri



Takiri Cotterill (Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Puketapu, Ngāti Te Whiti)
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