



# HOPLAND

## MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

**Action Minutes**

**Regular Meeting – Hybrid**

December 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Hopland Fire Protection District Community Room

21 Feliz Creek Road, Hopland, California

*The Hopland Municipal Advisory Council (HMAC) meetings are held in-person and virtually via Zoom Video Communications. Meeting access information is available on the Agenda for this meeting.*

Members: Julie Golden, Amy Frost, Hannah Bird, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Rebecca Dalske - LACO Associates

**1. Call to order & roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Julie, Hannah, Dale, and Bernadette were present.

**2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items**

No discussion/comment

**3. Consent Calendar**

*The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted on by the HMAC in a single action without discussion, unless a request is made by a Council Member or a member of the public for discussion or separate action.*

- a. Approval of the November 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette motioned to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Julie. All council members present voted in favor.

**4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues**

- a. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: *General updates from Sheriff Kendall*

Sheriff Kendall shared that the number of homeless individuals has appeared to decrease. He is concerned that this may be due to overdoses. Additionally, this year the Sheriff's Office introduced a web-based platform, "Citizen Connect," to allow community members to research calls for service that have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office. To access the tool, visit [MendocinoSheriff.org](https://MendocinoSheriff.org), click on 'Publications,' then 'Citizen Connect.'

- b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*

Delani Waller, a firefighter with the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD), shared that the HFPD recently acquired, for free, a piece of heavy equipment to help move trees and vehicles when needed. She also shared that the HFPD has not received updates from the County of Mendocino (County) regarding the in process permits for the training tower and a carport, as discussed at previous Hopland MAC meetings.

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[www.hoplandmac.com](https://www.hoplandmac.com), or email [info@hoplandmac.com](mailto:info@hoplandmac.com)



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- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*  
No update/discussion
- d. Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG): *General updates from Nephele Barrett*  
No update/discussion
- e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates from Katharine Cole*  
No update/discussion
- f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*  
Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD), Board of Directors*] shared that the HPUD met with Caltrans at the end of November to discuss the list of improvements that Caltrans requested the HPUD complete before the Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project (Project) can be implemented. The HPUD is still waiting for a final list following that discussion. The HPUD submitted a grant request to the County by a December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for \$2 million to cover a portion of the needed improvements.
- g. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*  
No update/discussion
- h. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*  
No update/discussion

### 5. Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project

Based on the HPUD meeting with Caltrans at the end of November (see item 4.f., above), Joan Norry (HPUD) shared that Caltrans may be removing non-ADA improvements from the Project due to cost concerns. Construction is anticipated to take 18 to 36 months; however, prior to construction beginning, PG&E and AT&T will have work to complete related to utilities. Additionally, Caltrans does not plan to place detour signs to Old River Road. Julie and others expressed concern that passersby will utilize Old River Road as an unofficial detour route.

Julie is concerned that if utilities need to be replaced on individual properties, the property owners will need to pay. Glenn McGourty (*Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS), District 1*) offered to look into it and speak with Marie Brady (*Caltrans, Project Manager*).

### 6. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project

*Updates from Board of Supervisors GRTA ad hoc: Maureen Mulheren & John Haschak*  
Maureen Mulheren (*Mendocino County BOS, District 2*) and John Haschak (*Mendocino County BOS, District 3*) are members of the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) Board of Directors (Board) and shared updates on the GRTA overall and how the Hopland Rest Stop Project fits in. The GRTA is currently developing a Great Redwood Trail Master Plan to capture the community's desires, concerns and ideas for the trail conceptualized through Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties. The trail through Sonoma and Marin Counties will be planned and constructed by Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART). The GRTA held engagement sessions in 2023 and currently has more planned both in person and online. In addition to engagement sessions,



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community members can engage in the GRTA's plans on the GRTA website ([thegreatredwoodtrail.org](http://thegreatredwoodtrail.org)). There is no deadline for comments and community members can sign up for email notifications. The GRTA just appointed Elaine Hogan as Executive Director. Additionally, the GRTA Board will meet every other month in 2024. The GRTA Board is comprised of leadership from Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. According to Maureen, the GRTA Board is quick-acting and supportive of community projects. Funding for projects will come from a variety of sources, depending on the work area and project type.

Maureen shared that the GRTA is currently working on railbanking the rail line. According to Maureen, it is cheaper to build on, instead of adjacent to rails. Julie asked how railbanking, which would remove the immediate possibility of rail transportation, is compatible with climate change (carbon emission reduction goals) that would require removing diesel trucks from the road. Maureen responded that the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), who previously owned the railroad now under GRTA ownership tried for years to bring back freight, but were unsuccessful, and that people will continue to transport goods, with more environmentally friendly vehicles.

Maureen shared that the GRTA is also currently working on scheduling a meeting with Devon Jones (*Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Executive Director*) to talk about the AG RESPECT trail program in Napa County and how the GRTA might develop a similar, or inspired program. Julie expressed concern with the AG RESPECT program as a model for Mendocino County as she attended a presentation on this program and learned that property owners pay each year to participate in the program, as one of its purposes is to bring in agritourism and provide their own security for their sections of the trail system.

Julie shared that the Hopland Farmers Market has applied to the GRTA to host the market from May to October in the pear packing sheds on GRTA land near the intersection of Highways 101 and 175. This area is full of potholes and there are ongoing discussions about filling them in. Visit Mendocino has volunteered to pay for a restroom (conceivably at the old building on the GRTA land on Center Street) if Destination Hopland will be the local operator. Julie shared that one of the primary purposes of the Hopland Rest Stop Project is to get people to stop in inland Mendocino County, rather than driving straight to the coast. Maureen envisions the rest stop as a gateway to the trail, along with, possibly, the Real Goods property.

Additionally, for projects in downtown Hopland, Maureen shared that murals and events are always great for attracting community support.

**7. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan**

No update/discussion

**8. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting**

No update/discussion

**9. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Grange**

No update/discussion

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**10. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest**

a. Water Committee Updates

No update/ discussion

**11. Discussion on agenda items for January 17, 2024 HMAAC meeting**

Julie would like to invite Howard Dashiell [*Director, Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)*] to discuss the County roads and the MCDOT's funding, Marie Brady [*Caltrans, Project Manager*] to provide ongoing updates on the Project, and Elaine Hogan [*GRTA, Executive Director*] and Louisa Morris [*GRTA, Coastal Conservancy Project Manager for Mendocino County*] to discuss the GRTA and Hopland Rest Stop Project.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.