



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

July 19, 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, *Vacant*

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Rebecca Dalske, Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm. All council members were present except for Amy Frost and Jane Cupples.

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 May 17, 2023 and June 21, 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*

No update/discussion

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

Chief Franklin gave an update for the Hopland Fire Protection District (HPFD). The HPFD is trying to obtain an after-the-fact building permit for the training tower; however, since the training tower is in the Feliz Creek floodway, the County will not approve a building permit. Chief Franklin asked the HMAC for a letter of support to keep the training tower.

Julie provided direction to add this to the August agenda for further discussion and consideration of a letter of support for the HPFD.

For HMAC information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAC on Facebook, at

www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



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c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Glenn McGourty*

Glenn shared that during the July 25th meeting, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will be discussing possible direction to staff to develop a contingency plan for creation of a Department of Finance, with a Financial Services Director, and a proposed cannabis exclusion zone in Redwood Valley. Glenn shared that discussions regarding the creation of a Department of Finance are preliminary and if this approach were to move forward in the future, the department creation would require a ballot measure to be approved by the voters.

d. Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG): *General updates from Nephele Barrett*

Nephele Barrett (Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Executive Director) introduced Marie Brady (Caltrans, Hopland ADA Project Manager) and George Tokmakov (Caltrans, Senior Transportation Engineer) to share a brief update on the Caltrans ADA Project.

Marie shared that Caltrans has made modifications to preliminary site designs of three (3) intersections on Highway (Hwy) 101 to decrease pedestrian exposure, and address safety issues. George shared that the intersection at Hwy 101 and Mountain House Road will have a new layout with a pedestrian island and shorter crossing. The intersection at Hwy 101 and Hwy 175 has been reconfigured to remove previously proposed slip lanes and pedestrian islands and shorten the pedestrian crossing. Additionally, a pedestrian crossing has been added at the Country Porch Antiques, along with parallel parking. Marie shared that Caltrans is additionally working with a landscape architect to include monitor aesthetic improvements in the project. They are utilizing the recommendations for Hopland provided in the Hopland Main Street Corridor Engineered Feasibility Study prepared for MCOG, dated October 6, 2015.

Caltrans is planning hold a public meeting in Hopland the fall to share additional updates with the community. She would like to maintain an open line of communication with the community and provided her phone number for those interested in engaging about the project: (707) 296-5511.

Julie asked about the current project timeline and about ongoing discussions between Caltrans and the Hopland Public Utility District (PUD) regarding the requirement for the PUD to upgrade its infrastructure due to the Caltrans project. Marie stated that Caltrans aims to have 95% design in December and expects to have an approved contract by December 2025. Construction would occur over a projected 2-year timeline. On the infrastructure question, Marie briefly shared that the Caltrans project team is working with the PUD to research grant opportunities to reduce the financial burden on the PUD.

Nephele shared that the MCOG will have the draft Mobility Solutions Study (Study) by the end of the month. One of the recommendations of the Study is to form a volunteer reimbursement program for needy populations. MCOG is currently looking for an organization to apply for a grant (with applications due end of August) to support this



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program. The Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) is also working on updating their Short-Range Transit Development Plan and are considering increasing their regular service due to public demand.

- e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates from Katharine Cole*
No update/discussion
- f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/discussion
- g. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
No update/discussion
- h. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*
Hannah shared that the Hopland Research and Extension Center had a small fire the prior week that was put out promptly.

5. Discussion and possible action on updates from the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

Emily Tecchio (*Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), County Coordinator*) shared that the MCFSC, with matching funds from PG&E, awarded \$104,000 to Fire Departments and Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils around Mendocino County. The HPFD was awarded approximately \$14,000 for the installation of two (2) 2,500-gallon emergency water supply tanks. Additionally, the MCFSC is receiving funding from PG&E to fund the Defensible Space Assistance for Income-Eligible (DSAFIE) Program to provide free defensible space services to people who are physically and financially unable to do it themselves. The program is open to seniors and people with temporary or permanent physical limitations.

Emily also shared that the County was recently awarded a grant from Calfire to complete the environmental review for certain projects to make them shovel-ready. The MCFSC is subcontracted to complete this environmental review work. The two (2) projects in Hopland are the Old River Roadside Clearing from Ukiah to Hopland and the Western Hopland Shaded Fuel Break, which starts at Legions Hall and ends at Hewlett Sturtevant Road. These two (2) projects were identified in the Hopland Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Emily stressed the importance of having projects named in community planning documents because the County is more easily able to take action.

Bernadette asked what it meant to have a project "shovel ready. Emily explained that being shovel ready means that a project has completed environmental review so that the County can apply for implementation funding. If/when implementation funding is secured, these projects would be ready for implementation.

The MCFSC also developed a Wildfire Mitigation Project tracker online mapping program to inform residents and partnering agencies of fuel reduction projects in Mendocino County. The Wildfire Mitigation Project tracker is available at: <https://firesafemendocino.org/mendocino->

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[county-project-tracker-map/](#) The website also contains a survey to give feedback, provide project updates, or post a project idea. In the future, the MCFSC hopes to include data on proposed projects.

Julie asked Emily to share the DSAFIE Program with the community.

6. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project

Julie shared that the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) is having a public workshop on July 27th from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm at the Brutocao Cellars Hopland Tasting Room. There was a brief discussion on potential entities that could be responsible for long term maintenance of a public space like the Hopland Rest Stop Project.

7. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

No update/discussion

8. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

No update/discussion

9. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Grange

No update/discussion

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

a. Water Committee Updates

No update/discussion

b. HMAV Vacancy

No update/ discussion

c. MCOG Rural Mobility Public Meeting

Nephele Barrett shared an update during the MCOG update agenda item (item 4.d.).

11. Discussion on agenda items for August 16, 2023 HMAV meeting

Julie proposed adding the following items to the August agenda:

- Consideration of a letter of support for the HFPD;
- Bella Vista Housing Project proposed in Ukiah; and
- Willow Water.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.