



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

October 16, 2024 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, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew, Vacant, Vacant

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm. All members were present. No member attended virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No comment/ discussion

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 September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Dale. All 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 announced the addition of four (4) new deputies to the Sheriff's Office, all joining from other agencies. He also provided an update on the jail construction, stating that the foundation is currently in progress. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office successfully apprehended a suspect in Laytonville, who was involved in two pharmacy robberies. The theft resulted in the seizure of \$100,000 worth of narcotics. Finally, Sheriff Kendall shared that the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and PG&E are collaborating to send alerts of the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). The PSPS is expected to affect around 16 homes due to high winds and the potential for power lines to start fires. The event is scheduled to begin on October 17th and continue through the 20th. Julie mentioned receiving a Nixle alert about the PSPS. Sheriff Kendall recommended that people sign up for Mendocino Ready updates and Nixle alerts to stay informed about emergency notifications for Hopland.

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

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HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chief Franklin shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District (District) is preparing for the PSPS previously mentioned by Sheriff Kendall. Chief Franklin stated that PG&E has been more active with shutoffs this year. Dale asked what areas should expect power outages, and Bernadette added that PG&E provides alerts based on your zone, address, or location. Chief Franklin stated that the District plans to provide the community with resources, such as water, at the fire house. Chief Franklin shared that the District recently responded to an incident in which a big rig hit a K-rail, causing a fuel spill, and that the fire season is nearing its end.

Julie asked about the Firewise Fire Preparedness meeting, and Chief Franklin confirmed that it will be held on October 27th at 4:00 pm at the fire house. Bernadette plans to distribute informational flyers and suggested contacting community liaisons to share the news about meeting within their respective areas. Julie will reach out to community liaisons.

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

Glenn reported that the new jail construction is progressing smoothly and on budget. The psychiatric unit of the jail is currently under construction, with the foundation nearing completion. The unit will provide a space for individuals with mental health issues and offer necessary treatment. Julie inquired about the availability of doctors for competency evaluations within the psychiatric unit. Glenn confirmed that a psychologist from Lake County will be providing these services.

Glenn stated that the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Agency (UVBGSA) received a grant of \$1.3 million from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to assess the Ukiah Basin. Glenn reported that the Ukiah Valley Basin groundwater is in good condition, even during drought years, and has recovered after rainfall. The UVBGSA is collaborating with a consultant and the City of Ukiah.

Glenn stated that the Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) will help provide access to municipal water for smaller districts that rely on surface water. Julie highlighted the significant funding opportunities available for infrastructure projects, noting that smaller agencies may not have the same access.

Lastly, Glenn discussed the ongoing negotiations within the Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA) regarding water transfers from the Russian River. The process involves closed sessions and is complex due to competing water rights. The parties involved are working towards a resolution.

d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*

No update/ discussion

e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*

No update/ discussion

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HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

- f. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
No update/ discussion
- g. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*
Hannah shared that the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) plans to conduct a prescribed burn on October 24th and 25th, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah at (707) 744-1424.
- h. Hopland Farmers Market: *General update*
(Public Comment): A member of the public shared that the Hopland Farmers Market has relocated next to Brutocao Cellars. The new venue seems to be a popular choice and is proving to be a successful change.

5. **Discussion and possible action on 2026 Regional Transportation Active Transportation Plan**
Nephele Barrett [*Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Executive Director*] presented an overview of the 2026 Regional Transportation & Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) that MCOG is in the process of updating. The RTP/ATP outlines the needs, goals, policies, and action plans over the next 20 years. The RTP/ATP will emphasize a multi-modal approach to transportation. Nephele stated that the update is underway and MCOG is currently in the initial outreach phase.

Dale asked about the process for updating the RTP/ATP. Nephele explained that updates occur every four (4) years, involving revisions to goals, policies, and project plans. Madeline Cline (*Public Comment*): Madeline (*Board of Supervisors, District 1 Supervisor-Elect*) inquired about the extent of changes, and Nephele clarified that while the updates are not drastic, they do include significant revisions.

Julie inquired about the current state of transportation infrastructure in Hopland and the status of current funding for infrastructure. Nephele stated that community members can contribute feedback on Hopland's infrastructure by submitting comments on the interactive Priorities Project map found at: <https://greendotmaps.com/mendocino-rtp-atp-2026>. Nephele also stated that funding for infrastructure is indeed limited. While Senate Bill (SB) 1 increased the gas tax, the revenue is now affected by improvements in vehicle fuel efficiency, leading to lower fuel consumption and reduced tax revenue. The State is exploring alternative funding options like usage charges, but these would not generate significant revenue. Julie asked if the sales tax is the only way to generate funding for transportation projects. Nephele confirmed that it is currently the primary source of revenue.

6. **Discussion and possible action on Establishing a School Zone**
Julie mentioned that at last month's meeting a member of the public expressed interest in establishing a school zone or placing traffic signs across from the Shanél Valley Academy on Mountain House Road. Julie mentioned that many children walk in the area, but there are currently no signs to slow down traffic.



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Madeline Cline (*Public Comment*): Madeline inquired if anyone knew the location of the previous signs and clarified that establishing the prior existence of signs would strengthen the case for requesting new ones from the County. Madeline added that the County is not responsible for funding signs on private roads. Julie stated that she would contact Amy Frost (*SVA, Board President*) to see if she has any photos of signs in that area.

Madeline also stated that the typical requirements for school zones generally include a 500-foot distance from the school unless physical barriers are present. Madeline added that no additional steps are required to establish a school zone; however, the County had indicated that a study would be needed for Mountain House Road, as it is a private road.

Nephele Barrett (*Public Comment*): Nephele added that Howard Dashiell (*County of Mendocino Department of Transportation, Director*) is knowledgeable about the requirements of establishing a school zone.

- 7. Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting**
No update/ discussion
- 8. Discussion and possible action on County of Mendocino Financial Reporting Process**
No update/ discussion
- 9. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting**
No update/ discussion
- 10. Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project**
No update/ discussion
- 11. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project and GRTA Master Plan**
No update/ discussion
- 12. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan**
No update/ discussion
- 13. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest**
 - a. HMAC Vacancies
No update/ discussion
- 14. Discussion on agenda items for November 20, 2024 HMAC meeting**
No update/ discussion
- 15. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.