



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

April 16, 2025 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, Dale Andrew, Chelsea Arnold, *Vacant*

Alternate: *Vacant*

Administrative Support: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:43pm. All members were present except Amy Frost. No member attended virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No comment/ discussion

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dale moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Chelsea. All 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*

No update/ discussion

- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Madeline Cline*

Madeline Cline provided a written comment:

"Assembly Bill 830 by Assemblymember Rogers is up at the Transportation Committee on Monday, where I will be testifying on its importance to rural communities like Hopland. Fingers crossed we can get this across the finish line."

After our conversation at the last HMAC meeting, I sat down with the Assessor's office to discuss their role in supplemental and escape bills. It was a productive meeting and we will be continuing the conversation to hopefully make a dent in this issue. Outreach still needs to be done with the Auditor-Controller office and Treasurer-Tax Collector office as each has a role in this. I asked the Assessor's office to provide more information on the

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website as well as look for other ways to help educate constituents about this issue. Hopefully more to come.

On May 19th from 6 to 8pm at the Mendocino College Theater, I will be hosting a Wildfire Preparedness Townhall for the first district in conjunction with Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, UC Cooperative Extension, and CAL FIRE. We are still confirming details, the panelists, and logistics but save the date! This townhall will focus on fire insurance, home hardening, neighborhood fire safe council activities, and an overview of our current ecological landscape.

The County's budget outlook is still grim. The [Board of Supervisors (BOS)] has discussed the projected \$17 million deficit, with options including a workforce reduction or hiring freeze as well as a variety of smaller operational cuts. We will have to learn to do with less, and still focus on service delivery for our communities."

- d. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
No update/ discussion
- e. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion
- f. Hopland Farmers Market: *General updates*
Chelsea shared that the Hopland Farmers Market is currently seeking vendors for this season and is in the process of renewing permits and insurance.
- g. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion
- h. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on California Assembly Bill (AB) 1014

Tricia Sarmiento (*Legislative Aide, Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers*) shared information on Assembly Bill (AB) 1014, which Assemblymember Rogers has proposed to allow Caltrans to reduce speed limits on State highways that are not freeways by 5 miles per hour (mph) with the aim of improving safety. Hopland has previously expressed concerns about the speed limit on Highway 101 through the middle of the community, and Tricia shared that other jurisdictions in the State have similar concerns, including Duncan Mills, a town in Sonoma County that is bisected by Highway 116.

Julie asked if the passing of AB 1014 would allow for the reduction in the speed limit on Highway 101 from 35 mph to 30 mph and whether a request from the community should be directed to the County. Tricia explained that a request would have to be submitted to Caltrans. She further

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elaborated that while existing laws allow for some speed limit reduction by Caltrans, AB 1014 would significantly expand this authority, enabling reductions averaging 12 mph. This could facilitate lowering the Highway 101 speed limit through Hopland to 30 mph. Chelsea inquired about the process Caltrans would employ to lower speed limits if the bill were enacted. Tricia stated that, under the current language, it is a highly collaborative process. Julie asked if Caltrans has a speed department. Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) shared that speed limits are managed by the Traffic Safety group.

Tricia shared that AB 1014 is being heard by the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 21st and Assemblymember Roger's office would appreciate a letter of support. Tricia provided a template AB 1014 Support letter and shared that signed letters can be submitted online via the California Legislature Position Letter Portal. The HMAc reviewed the letter and discussed adding the following: HMAc's description of work, HMAc's mission statement, the phrase "small communities" before "State and National Recreation Areas" throughout the letter, the phrase "community members, residents, tourists" before "kayakers, rafters, hikers, bicyclists, and fishermen", and the phrase "public facilities, commercial establishments, neighborhood parks, local businesses" before "or campsites".

Julie moved to authorize the HMAc to submit the AB 1014 Support letter using the template from Tricia with the suggested text added. Dale seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Julie directed Melissa to submit the signed letter via the California Legislature Position Letter Portal.

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

Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) reported that the engineering plan sets are being finalized. The next step, once finalized, is the California Transportation Commission's review and approval in August.

7. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

Julie shared that the St. Francis Church at the corner of Spring and Center Streets is for sale. The church was previously managed by the St. Francis Guild (Guild). Upon closing the church, the Guild transferred approximately \$100,000 of community-raised operating funds to the Mendocino Community Foundation. These funds are restricted for use in Hopland and will be held in trust for 18 months before they can be awarded. Julie proposed utilizing the funds for the Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting Plan, which, in the January 2025 HMAc meeting, Caltrans indicated was necessary for conduit installation prior to the start of Phase 2 of the Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project. Julie asked Jen Buck if Caltrans maintains a list of approved pedestrian lighting. Jen Buck shared the Pacific Gas & Electric LED Decorative and Area Streetlighting Guidelines, dated December 2020.

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

- a. Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council Gas Station Letter

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Julie reported that the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RVMAC) requested that the HMAC consider endorsing their letter to the BOS advocating for a moratorium on gas stations in Mendocino County. Dale stated he had reviewed the letter and did not consider a moratorium on gas stations a viable solution. Chelsea concurred, noting that a blanket refusal of gas stations is a bold statement. Julie indicated that the HMAC's foundational goal is to improve economic growth and therefore does not support signing the letter. No action was taken.

b. HMAC Officers

No update/ discussion

c. HMAC Vacancies

Dale shared that he has spoken to his neighbor about possible interest in joining the HMAC. He will share updates in the future, if any. Julie received a referral to an individual who may be interested in joining the HMAC, however, Julie has not yet contacted them. Chelsea informed the group that the individual from the Russian River Estates that she was in touch with declined the invitation to join the HMAC.

9. Discussion on agenda items for May 21, 2025 HMAC meeting

Julie would like to discuss the possibility of utilizing St. Francis Church as a community center.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.