



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

July 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 5:34pm. All members were present except Dale Andrew. Amy Frost attended the meeting virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No comment/ discussion

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of the June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chelsea moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Julie. 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 shared the following updates:

- The Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in burglaries throughout Mendocino County. One suspect has been arrested who is believed to have committed at least six (6) burglaries. This person will likely be sent to a state prison.
- Recently, a shooting incident occurred in which a deputy shot a person who had assaulted another person. The Sheriff's Office is required to release the body camera footage, though the Sheriff is concerned about this due to the graphic nature of the videos. He is concerned with how the videos may impact people, and is not sure if the release is worth it, despite understanding the legislative intent behind the law that requires it.
- Construction of the jail is progressing well. February 2026 is the expected move-in date.
- The Sheriff's Office is conducting an audit for the County, and the Sheriff's anticipate this will be straightforward as all expenses and revenues are already tracked.
- Within the past 45 days, the Sheriff's Office has observed an increase in overdoses.

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

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



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Julie asked how the community can support the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Kendall recommended that citizens install Ring doorbell cameras or similar systems. He stated that the footage they collect can be used to help solve crimes. The Sheriff's Office is able to download the video directly using a link such that deputies no longer need to physically retrieve it.

b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates*

Chief Franklin reported that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HPFD) has recently been busy responding to medical calls and traffic accidents. He reminded everyone that fire season has arrived, and the HPFD is actively fighting local fires. These fires are spread throughout the district, including locations like River Road and Highway 101. Most are caused by carelessness, such as lawnmowers. Lastly, the HPFD has good volunteer numbers but would welcome more.

Julie asked if the Highway 101 landscaping project would be helpful for reducing the number of fires. Chief Kendall believes that it will offer some benefits, but thinks the project area could be bigger.

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

Supervisor Madeline Cline (District 1) addressed recent emails regarding concerns with Caltrans maintenance signs posted in downtown Hopland, along Highway 101. Madeline shared the details of an email she received from Caltrans: *"The project is paving scheduled for July 21 through July 25 along [Highway] 101 in downtown Hopland. I believe work will occur during the day on Monday from [8am to 4pm] then Tuesday through Friday from [4pm until] midnight with one way-controlled traffic, [hence] no parking during paving, and signs have been posted in the impacted area. This project is for pavement preservation [until] the ADA project next year."*

Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) (*Public Comment*): Jen stated she was surprised to hear about the upcoming maintenance on Highway 101 and first heard about it from Julie rather than through other Caltrans staff. She has since spoken with the maintenance supervisor, who explained that the pavement is in such poor condition that Caltrans must repair certain areas as they likely won't survive another winter. She asked the maintenance team to select the areas that truly cannot wait until the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project (ADA Project) begins to avoid duplicate work, and they selected five (5) potholes. Jen expressed disappointment that this will cause impacts on the community just months before the ADA Project begins but believes these disruptions will be minimal.

Madeline shared that she suggested that the maintenance team make the text on the signs, especially times and dates, larger for drivers to read more easily. Chelsea expressed concern that signs placed in the street may discourage parking, potentially leading to fewer customers at nearby businesses. Chelsea then asked Jen if there was a map of the maintenance areas. Jen will look into it and share a map, if available.



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Lastly, Madeline stated she read the response from Howard Dashiell regarding the letter that the HMAC sent to him on May 23rd about school zone safety improvements. Madeline asked Amy Frost how the new signs look and if she had received any complaints. Amy Frost replied that the road striping was already peeling off.

- d. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
No update/ discussion

- e. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD) President*] shared that the rate study is finished, and residents should have received letters about upcoming rate increases. The letter details a tiered rate increase over the next few years. Joan noted that if Assembly Bill (AB) 830 passes, which would mandate Caltrans to fund utility line relocation within its right-of-way, it will likely change how much the HPUD will raise rates. The HPUD had considered raising rates during the COVID-19 pandemic but decided against it due to the uncertainty at the time. Joan stated that the rate increase is necessary because the HPUD needs a specific credit rating to qualify for loans that are needed to fund HPUD projects.

- f. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
Joan Norry [*Hopland Cemetery District (District) Board member*] shared that the District has been cleaning the storage shed before the Boy Scouts of America come to redo the roof. The District has also recently removed poison oak at the cemetery.

- g. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates*
Hannah Bird [*Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC), Community Education Specialist/ Community Outreach*] shared, via a written comment, the following update for the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC):

"The HREC has increased their sheep flock by 200 ewes to support flock health research and increase fire fuels reduction.

Research in the 2025-26 cycle includes:

- *Impacts of smoke taint on wine grapes.*
- *Flock health, including impacts of Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) on sheep health.*
- *Prescribed and Vegetation Management Plan burning.*
- *California grassland research and nutrient cycling.*
- *California poppies, gene flow and adaptation to climate change.*

Hope that gives you a taste of some of the work here!"

5. **Discussion and possible action on County of Mendocino 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Report - Planning & Building Services Structural Issues: Exposing the Cracks**
No update/ discussion



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- 6. Discussion and possible action on Rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign**
No update/ discussion

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

Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) reported that there is no new information on the ADA Project. However, Jen offered to share updates on future Caltrans projects if the HMAc is interested. Both Julie and Chelsea agreed that updates on Caltrans projects would be helpful, with Chelsea noting that any information would make the community feel more at ease when new projects arise.

Julie asked if, should AB 830 pass and become law, Caltrans could complete the entire project at once instead of in phases. Jen replied that no, this wouldn't be possible since the project design is already finished. Doing so would cause delays because new designs for rectangular flashing beacon (RFB) lights would need to be added. However, Jen noted the bill would benefit the community by preventing financial impacts on HPUD. Julie then asked if Caltrans could delay Phase 1 until Phase 2 was ready. Jen explained that this would not be possible as Caltrans would lose the Phase 1 funding that has already been allocated, making the project even more expensive.

8. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

Julie shared that the St. Francis Guild (Guild) transferred approximately \$100,000 of community-raised operating funds to the Mendocino Community Foundation when the St. Francis Church closed. Julie stated that ideally the Hopland Lighting District would request these funds specifically for a Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting Plan (Lighting Plan). Julie would like to create a committee to get this project moving. The primary objective is to have the Lighting Plan completed and ready before Caltrans starts its Phase 2 work on the ADA Project. For the upcoming meeting, Julie will gather the past research on lighting in Hopland.

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

- a. HMAc Vacancies

Julie stated that the HMAc is seeking two (2) additional members to join.

10. Discussion on agenda items for August 20, 2025 HMAc meeting

Julie would like to continue the discussion of the County of Mendocino 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Report - Planning & Building Services Structural Issues: Exposing the Cracks, and add the rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign to the August meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.