



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

November 19, 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 5:31pm. All members were present. None attended virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

Ryann Arnold (*Public Comment*): Ryann shared that she is the secretary for the Hopland 4H program. Currently, 4H is doing Wreaths Across America, a national organization that places wreaths on veteran's graves. Wreaths will be placed on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the Hopland Cemetery at 10 AM. They are \$17 each. You can buy one at the Wreath Across America website at: <https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/Shop/Product/597?tid=35D3BC6A-F561-4347-925C-D6669C27B165>, and use the code CAHPC to specific the Hopland Cemetery.

Joey Mertle (*Public Comment*): Joey introduced themselves as the new property owner on Old River Road. Joey wants to get involved and looks forward to being a part of the Hopland community.

Vernon Budinger (*Public Comment*): Vernon addressed the HMAC members regarding Item 4.e. of the October 2025 Draft Action Minutes, stating that he recalls Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD), President*] stating that the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project (ADA Project) would cost the HPUD approximately \$3 to \$7 million and would like that reflected in the approved minutes. He offered to provide audio recording of the October 2025 HMAC Meeting to show where this was stated.

A member of the public reported that the issue with abandoned couches at the roundabout has been resolved after they contacted the City of Ukiah and the couches were removed. They also contacted Caltrans, which agreed the roundabout requires maintenance. The member shared that they spent a week doing landscape work, including weeding, trimming rose bushes, and cutting dead branches.

Amy Frost (*Public Comment*): Amy apologized for her conduct and response during the last meeting. She then urged the community to get involved and welcomes new participants.

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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 October 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
This item is continued to the December 17, 2025, meeting.

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 shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) recently received a donation from a museum in the Bay Area. Current burnings are allowed with permits from CAL FIRE and the local air quality district. When asked by Julie if the HFPD is aware of burns, Chief Franklin noted that most people call in to notify the HFPD. He added that on designated burn days, neighbors know not to call if they see smoke from another property.

Regarding the HFPD's billing practices, Chief Franklin confirmed that the HFPD bills individuals and their insurance for specific emergency responses, such as DUI incidents. He clarified that fire districts often differ on this practice; some will bill, while others avoid it due to the time commitment required for insurance claims.

- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Madeline Cline*
Madeline Cline shared that she attended the recent HFPD BBQ. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is currently discussing special districts in Mendocino County because the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is performing a service review of the County's 22 special districts, which includes analyzing the agency and providing recommendations. Regarding the Potter Valley Project, the BOS had two discussion meetings and put forward two resolutions: one to keep discussing it and one to advance it without more discussion. A project workshop hosted by the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC) is scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center and the deadline to submit a public comment to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) will be November 30, 2025. Madeline encouraged interested parties to provide their input and to reach out if they have any questions.

Julie asked if the Inland Water Policy Council (IWPC) would provide a link to submit comments to the FERC. Madeline stated that she will provide the website link (<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>).



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d. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*

Amy from Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) shared the following updates:

- Teachers attended a training session to learn new tools for improving students testing performance because the SVA must ensure students maintain good academic performance to keep its charter. SVA also uses an internal test at the start of the school year to find out students' learning needs.
- SVA has applied for a grant for after-school programs and will hear the results in two weeks. If granted, SVA will hire program educators. Applicants need a 4-year college degree and must apply through the Mendocino County Office of Education.
- SVA is seeking feedback on its preschool program (for 2- to 4-year-olds) due to new State laws. Options include offering a full-day or a full-year program (including summer).
- Plans for two new playgrounds at the SVA are being finalized.
- Lastly, Campa Vida is doing one monthly fundraising event for local non-profits. SVA was the recipient last month. The next event is December 12, 2025.

e. California Department of Transportation: *General updates*

Amy shared that she spoke with a contractor who submitted a bid for the ADA Project. The contractor noted that the project documents did not include details about the project staging. Julie pointed out that businesses should know the construction schedule to prepare for any impacts on their work. Dale stated that he would like to hear from Jen and the awarded contractor.

f. Hopland Band of Pomo Indians: *General updates*

No update/discussion.

g. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*

No update/discussion.

h. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*

No update/discussion.

i. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates*

No update/discussion.

5. Discussion and possible action on Senate Bill 105, Assembly Bill 830, and Assembly Bill 1014

Monica Barragan (*Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers, Field Representative*) shared that Assembly Bill (AB) 1014 passed and AB 830 was vetoed by the Governor. Currently, Assemblymember Roger's office is working on the next steps regarding AB 830.

Madeline Cline (*Public Comment*): Madeline reported on a meeting she attended with Julie and Melissa and with staff from Senator McGuire's Office regarding SB 105 and funding for the HPUD. She stated that Senator McGuire's Office will draft an agreement with Assemblymember Roger's

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Office and Caltrans to transfer the funding to the HPUD. She confirmed that the HPUD can still use the set-aside funds for the ADA Project, even though AB 830 did not pass.

A member of the public commented that AB 1014 is a significant new law for Hopland, as it creates a way to lower speed limits on Highway 101. The member of the public suggested seeking community feedback on this issue. Julie asked Monica how Hopland can proceed with reducing the speed limits. Monica stated that she will check with Tricia Sarmiento (*Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers, Legislative Aide*) and will provide a follow-up answer in a few days.

6. Discussion and possible action on the Mendocino's Council of Government's Public Review Draft 2026 Regional Transportation/Active Transportation Plan

Public Review Draft 2026 Regional Transportation/Active Transportation Plan and Appendices:
<https://www.mendocinocog.org/2026-regional-transportation-active-transportation-plan>

Julie encouraged everyone to review the Mendocino's Council of Government's Public Review Draft 2026 Regional Transportation/Active Transportation Plan and provide their input.

7. Discussion and possible action on County of Mendocino 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Report - Planning & Building Services Structural Issues: Exposing the Cracks

Planning & Building Services Structural Issues: Exposing the Cracks:
<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/71866/638852267775074764>

No update/discussion.

8. Discussion and possible action on Rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign

Chelsea stated that she came up with a new plan to improve the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland sign, including some concrete work with Pete.

9. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

Julie shared that she received an email from Jen Buck stating that Caltrans staff will review utility information to help determine future lighting locations. Amy suggested the HMAC begin selecting lighting fixtures. Julie added that in the memorandum from Howard Dashiell (*County of Mendocino, Lighting District Coordinator*), dated April 4, 2022, it lists lighting pole options to choose from with estimated costs between \$11,000 and \$20,000 each. Amy then suggested the HMAC narrow the choices to five and hold a community vote on the final selection.

Amy inquired whether the Hopland Lighting District (HLD) could apply for grant funding. Madeline Cline confirmed that the HLD can apply for and accept the grant.

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

- a. HMAC Vacancies
- b. Hopland Community Liaisons Update

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No update/ discussion.

11. Discussion on agenda items for December 17, 2025, HMAC meeting

Dale stated that he would like to hear from Jen Buck and the project contractor regarding project staging.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.