



# HOPLAND

## MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

**Regular Meeting – Hybrid**

January 21, 2026, 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**

No comment/discussion.

**3. Consent Calendar**

- a. Approval of the December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Dale moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Chelsea. All members 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 that the Sheriff's Office has had a slowdown in calls which is typical in the winter months. Recently, the Sheriff's Office recently worked with federal law enforcement to apprehend an individual suspected of having committed burglary. Lastly, Sheriff Kendall stated that the jail build is going well.

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

Chief Franklin shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HPFD) has been busy and volunteer numbers are decent. The HPFD has positioned the winter strike teams for storms. Chief Franklin shared that Campovida will be hosting line dancing fundraiser and the proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the HPFD. The HPFD also has scheduled the Annual BBQ on May 2, 2026, and will likely serve approximately 500 meals. Lastly, Chief Franklin shared that one of their vehicles stopped working and the HPFD recently got a replacement vehicle.

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

Madeline Cline, shared via a written comment, the following update:

*"The Board of Supervisors convened a two-day workshop last week with the goal of strategizing and aligning priorities for the year ahead. It was a successful workshop, and*

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

[www.hoplandmac.com](http://www.hoplandmac.com), or email [info@hoplandmac.com](mailto:info@hoplandmac.com)



# HOPLAND

## MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*the Board also spent time reviewing the State Auditor's report that was released December 18th. The report found that 1) the County continues to have structure budget deficits that must be addressed, 2) the County lacks policies and procedures to safeguard against waste, fraud and abuse (regarding procurement), and 3) vendor and elections department staff led to errors in the March 2024 Primary Election. The Board agreed with all findings and is working to implement all recommendations, with some already underway ahead of the audit. CEO Darcie Antle announced her retirement in June, I appreciate all of CEO Antle's work for the County as she has made progress on important county operations and finances. I am here in Sacramento for a few days this week, discussing topics like the Caltrans Hopland ADA Project and the Potter Valley Project. Finally, I have reconvened my Constituent Conversations series and will have a meeting in Redwood Valley at Testa Coffee and Wine on Friday, February 13th from 12-1pm and the next in Hopland at McNab Winery's Tasting Room on Friday, March 6th from 12-1pm."*

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

Amy shared that Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) secured several contractors for infrastructure improvements and is developing plans for the school garden. In February, the Northern Farmers Convergence (NFC) will tour various "Farm to School" schools throughout Mendocino and Lake County. The SVA hosts a tour of the campus and will provide breakfast and present Phase 1 of the Back-to-School Program. These tours aim to connect local farms with schools. Additionally, the SVA is finalizing the design and utility connections for a new barn, with installation expected this spring. Amy also announced that SVA was awarded an \$800,000 infrastructure grant, which will be finalized next week. These funds are allocated for infrastructure improvements, such as a new roof and HVAC system.

Julie announced a fundraiser scheduled for January 31st at Campovida from 1pm to 4pm. The SVA will host a raffle during the event, with 50 percent of the raffle funds will be allocated to the SVA.

e. *California Department of Transportation: General updates from Jen Buck*

Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) reported that Caltrans recommends award of the contract to RC Jones. Both parties are currently working to execute the contract, which is expected to be finalized by the end of January. Following execution, the contractor will have 55 days to submit the project schedule and required documentation. The sequencing of work will start in March with utility relocation by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), followed by broadband installation by the California Department of Technology. The Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project (ADA Project) will commence in mid-June. Additionally, Jen will coordinate with Caltrans construction staff to ensure their attendance at the March HMAC meeting. Additionally, in response to a public inquiry regarding asphalt recycling, Jen clarified that per the contract, all removed asphalt becomes the property of RC Jones and as such, any specific requests regarding the material would need to be directed to the contractor.



# HOPLAND

## MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chelsea and Julie suggested using mailers and informational flyers for the upcoming construction schedule to reach the Hopland's businesses and visiting travelers. Jen will also look into the Caltrans website and portal updates. For the March meeting, Jen confirmed that Steve Tissell will attend to serve as the main point of contact for construction-related questions and Caltrans will develop a fact sheet and rendering for the ADA Project. These materials will outline the scheduling and benefits to help local businesses prepare for construction.

f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*

Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utility District (HPUD), President*] stated that the HPUD is aware of the leaking water line and work will be done to fix it.

g. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*

Joan Norry [*Hopland Cemetery District (District), Board Member*] shared that she would like to reach out to Madeline Cline (*Board of Supervisor, District 1*) to discuss the lack of infrastructure at the Hopland Cemetery.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on Rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign**

Dale stated that he has plans to meet with "Concrete Pete" and believes the repairs will be simple.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting**

Jen Buck provided an update on the installation of conduits for pedestrian lighting along Highway 101. She noted that if the opportunity arises, Caltrans might cover the installation costs of the conduits in coordination with the ADA project, depending on final pricing. While this appears to be a low-cost option, the administrative process remains uncertain. Additionally, by law and policy, both PG&E and the Hopland Lighting District (HLD) must be involved. PG&E is required to serve as the lead for the conduit installation, and a formal request must be submitted through their intake process to have a contact person assigned. Caltrans expressed willingness to work with both HLD and PG&E to facilitate the project where possible. Lastly, Jen stated that he will be seeing who the contact is for PG&E.

Julie proposed meeting with Howard Dashiell (*County of Mendocino, Lighting District Coordinator*) to determine the necessary approvals. The goal is to identify the PG&E contact and coordinate with the County. Dale noted that the conduit locations would be needed. Julie stated that PG&E's utility maps may assist in determining those placements.

**7. Council Members' and Staff Reports Regarding Assigned Tasks, Committee Meetings, and Other Items of General Interest**

a. HMAC Vacancies

No discussion/update.



# HOPLAND

## MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

### 8. Discussion on Agenda Items for February 18, 2026, HMAC meeting

Amy suggested a proposal for Assemblymember Rogers' office regarding the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) Neighborhood School Site provision. Currently, certain schools can serve all families in their community regardless of income; however, charter schools are not currently afforded this same opportunity. Amy noted that this creates a financial and operational challenge, as SVA has the capacity to serve more students but must turn families away due to strict income eligibility caps. Amy intends to advocate for legislative changes that would allow charter schools to qualify for the neighborhood school eligibility status. She will follow up with an email to Monica Barragan (*Office of Assemblymember Chris Rogers, Field Representative*) in the Assemblymember's office to propose amending the preschool eligibility criteria.

### 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.