



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

March 18, 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 5:35 pm. All members were present. Chelsea attended the meeting virtually.

2. Public Comment & Announcements on Non-agenda Items

No comment/discussion

3. Consent Calendar

Dale moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Amy. 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 as warmer weather approaches, the County is seeing a higher volume of traffic, which puts an increased strain on emergency response services. Residents are urged to practice defensive driving this summer. Sheriff Kendall also reported a rise in burglaries and warned that mail theft has become a significant issue; he urged residents to secure their mail daily. Additionally, Sheriff Kendall noted that the new jail facility is now physically complete and undergoing system testing. The new jail, which includes State-mandated behavioral health features, is on track for final completion in March with an expected opening in mid-April or early May. Finally, the Sheriff addressed the growth of Internet crimes against children, stressing the importance of parental oversight and open dialogue regarding online safety.

b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates*

Clayton Zimmerman [*Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD), Engineer*] provided a general update for the HFPD, noting that operations remain business as usual for the HFPD. The HFPD is currently preparing for its annual fundraising BBQ, which will be held on Saturday, May 2nd. Clayton invited the community to support the event, noting that the HFPD is actively seeking sponsors. Interested parties or those wishing to provide donations are encouraged to contact the HFPD or reach out to Erika with the HFPD for more information.

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

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



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- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Madeline Cline*
Supervisor Madeline Cline provided an update on the proposed noise ordinance, a project originally initiated by former Supervisor McGourty. Following prior direction from the Board of Supervisors (BOS), staff have developed a draft ordinance that was presented to the current BOS and the public in March and will soon return for additional review and a vote. A formal proposal is expected to be presented at an upcoming BOS. Madeline encouraged everyone to submit feedback to her for consideration.
- d. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*
Amy shared that the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) has begun Phase 2 of its garden expansion project. In addition to campus improvements, teachers and students are currently focused on preparing for upcoming State testing. Amy also announced that the SVA Drive-up BBQ Dinner fundraiser is scheduled for March 21st, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and invited the community to support the event.
- e. California Department of Transportation: *General updates from Jen Buck*
Jen Buck (*Caltrans, Office Chief of Project Management*) and Dan Kraft (*Caltrans, Resident Engineer*) provided an overview of the Highway 101 ADA Project. Construction signs are being deployed in the evenings and removed each morning when no daytime activity is scheduled. Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) utility relocation work has begun and is now confirmed to continue through August. Jen stated that Lydia Haake (*PG&E, Senior Outreach Specialist*) is the primary in-field contact for questions and/or concerns. During sidewalk construction, two traffic lanes will remain open 24 hours a day and vehicle speeds will be reduced to 25 mph. Work will proceed block-by-block, with construction in front of any single parcel limited to approximately three weeks. Pedestrian access will be maintained using plastic barriers, while driveway access will be maintained by using rapid-setting concrete, steel plates, or temporary asphalt ramps. Dan noted that drainage patterns and the curb rate will not change, as the utility relocation originally planned for the ADA Project was removed from the scope of work due to a lack of funds by the Hopland Public Utilities District (HPUD).

Amy expressed concern that the community felt "caught off guard" by the PG&E signs. She noted that community members have been asking for communication from Caltrans and would like a clearer communication plan moving forward. Jen responded that the mid-March date for PG&E's utility relocation work was communicated through notices distributed to property owners and the general public. She noted that project flyers and the website are being used to communicate changes to traffic and parking. Julie followed up, noting that she had only recently received notification despite owning two parcels in the area. Dan Kraft clarified that PG&E is currently working in the street, not on driveways, and that specific driveway notifications will follow when that phase begins.



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Julie inquired about the handling of street parking, noting that downtown Hopland is already at capacity and expressing concern that businesses will lose customers during construction. Jen stated there is no temporary mitigation for lost parking, though businesses losing revenue can file a "Loss of Business Goodwill" claim. Dan suggested seeking permission from private owners for alternative parking and using directional signs. Jen clarified that Caltrans cannot direct traffic to private property or County roads without prior agreements and/or permits. Madeline Cline agreed to discuss County-led signage with the BOS and Howard Dashiell (*County of Mendocino, Lighting District Coordinator*).

A member of the public raised concerns regarding a loud generator placed in close proximity to their residence. Chelsea asked if the generator could be moved to the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) or Tribal property to mitigate the noise. JulieAnn Diestler (*PG&E, Project Manager*) explained that the generator cannot be moved off-site because PG&E has formal written agreements to utilize the generator on specific properties. She noted that relocating the staging area would require new environmental tests and lead to multi-month delays. However, she committed to relocating the generator to the opposite side of the property by the following morning to increase the distance from the residence.

Nephele Barrett (*Mendocino Council of Governments, Executive Director*) requested the use of Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) to ensure that residents and visitors receive immediate notification of changing conditions, as phasing impacts will fluctuate weekly. Jen and Dan confirmed that PCMS are a contract requirement and will be utilized for nighttime flagging and project milestones. Additionally, Dan stated that he has received the proposed phasing schedule. Jen and Dan will upload an initial phasing schedule to the website. At Nephele's suggestion, specific dates will be removed from the online schedule before it is posted to ensure the information remains accurate even if construction shifts.

Julie asked about the options for canceling the project. Jen explained the State would lose millions in funding and the ADA work would eventually be forced regardless.

- f. Hopland Public Utility District: General updates
No update/discussion
 - g. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
No update/discussion
- 5. Discussion and Possible Action on Rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign**
No update/discussion



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6. Discussion and Possible Action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

In conjunction with the Highway 101 ADA Project, Jen Buck shared that Caltrans is exploring the installation of a longitudinal conduit under the proposed sidewalk, behind the curb, and along all areas where sidewalk will be removed to accommodate future connections. Madeline Cline requested that herself and Howard Dashiell be looped into the conversation. Julie stated that this idea makes sense and asked how many light poles the conduit might support. Jen stated that she would look into it.

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

- a. HMAC Vacancies
- b. Water Resources Update

No update/discussion

8. Discussion on Agenda Items for April 15, 2026 HMAC meeting

No update/discussion.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm