



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

April 15, 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 5:36pm. All members were present. No member attended virtually.

2. Public Comment & Announcements on Non-agenda Items

No comment/ discussion.

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of the March 18, 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 reported the following:

- The Sheriff's Office recently responded to three calls for services in Hopland; however, it was noted that two of these calls pertained to the same incident. Sheriff Kendall also noted that the number of overdoses in the County has generally decreased.
- Construction of the new jail is now complete, and final inspections are underway. These inspections are expected to be finalized within the next month.
- Lastly, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has officially passed a new Noise Ordinance, amending the Mendocino County Code. Sheriff Kendall clarified that this ordinance applies to residential noise rather than agricultural noise. This ordinance came about because the County previously lacked the legal authority to cite individuals for loud residential parties and similar disturbances.

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

Clayton Zimmerman [*Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD), Engineer*] announced that the annual fundraising BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Tickets are available for purchase online at the following link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/hopland->

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[fire-association-2026-bbq-and-raffle](#). Additionally, Clayton noted that the HFPD has already responded to its first fire of the year and they are preparing for the upcoming fire season.

Julie asked if there was a way to check if there are controlled burns happening in the area. Clayton recommended using the Watch Duty app. Sheriff Kendall added that CAL FIRE typically posts updates on its Facebook page regarding planned burns. Clayton added that the HFPD will also repost these updates if the burn is located within Hopland.

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

Madeline Cline acknowledged the ongoing work on the Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project (ADA Project) and appreciated the continued communication from Caltrans. Regarding the new Noise Ordinance, Madeline stated that it officially goes into effect on May 7th. Enforcement will be handled by both Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Office, though the Sheriff's Office will be primarily responsible for addressing violations.

Julie asked about the progress of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) search and if the BOS is currently reviewing applicants. Madeline stated that the County has received several applications and hopes that the position will be filled soon. She noted that the current CEO is set to retire at the end of June and that while there might be a gap of a few months before a permanent CEO is seated, an interim individual would fill the role in the meantime.

Julie highlighted the upcoming June 2nd primary elections, specifically noting four open Ukiah Unified School District Board seats and the Fifth District BOS seat. She urged community members to attend forums to inform their votes. Amy suggested that the HMAC host its own meet-and-greet, and Julie shared that one is scheduled for James Gallagher, who is running for a seat on the California State Assembly, on May 15th at Brutocao Cellars.

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

Amy shared the following updates:

- The Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) is installing new garden beds and has completed the installation of new playground equipment.
- The SVA is also expanding its Farm to School program; it is currently seeking contractors to construct a new barn and has plans to build a chicken coop.
- In a collaborative effort with a local hatchery, students have been raising steelhead trout and are scheduled to release them into the Russian River later this spring.
- The SVA has launched a track and field team, marking the school's first official athletic club.
- Lastly, the preschool program is also being expanded to a full-year term.



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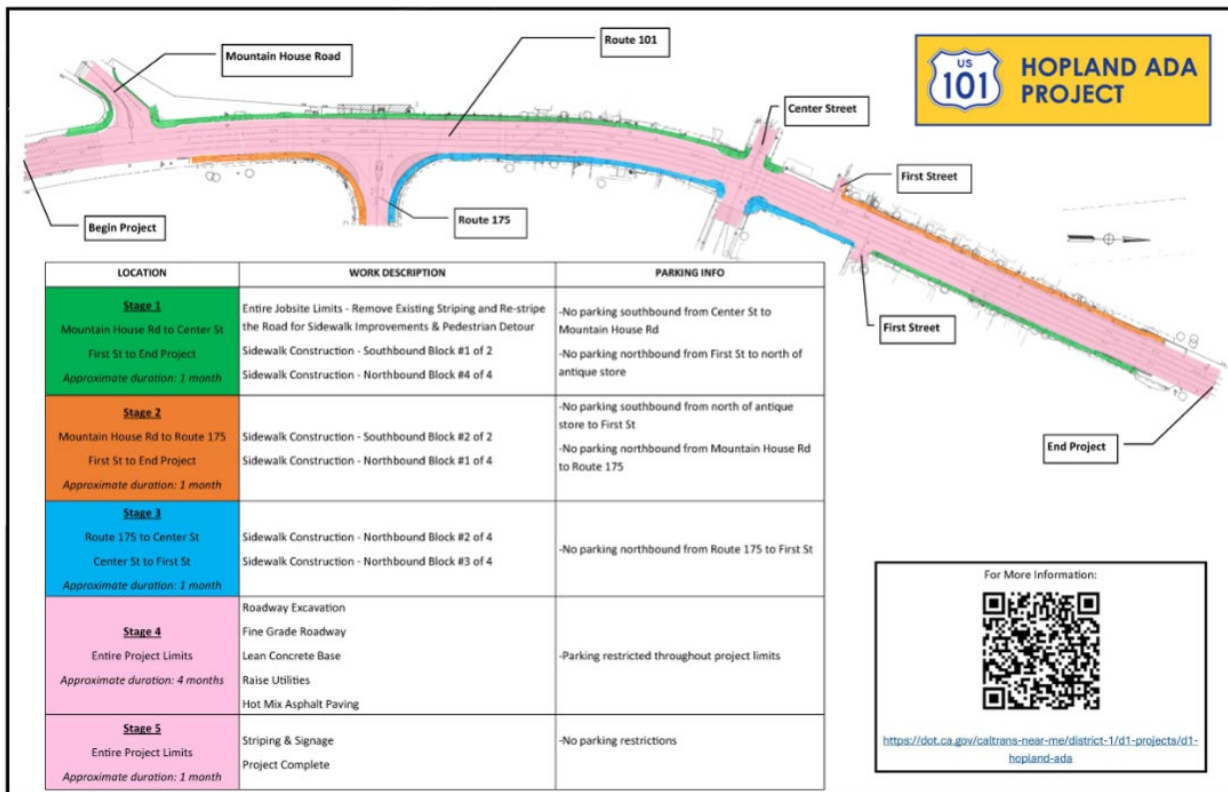
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Chelsea asked what enrollment looks like for next year. Amy responded that the preschool expects 16 students, the highest number to date, the Kindergarten class is projected to be full for the first time, and the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) enrollment is currently light. Amy clarified that overall enrollment remains stable with some fluctuations.

- e. Caltrans – Highway 101 ADA Project: *General updates from Jen Buck*
 Matt Solano (*Caltrans, Senior Transportation Engineer*) reported that QR codes are being distributed/posted to direct the public to the project website. The ADA Project website includes project information, Pacific Gas & Electric’s (PG&E) schedule, and the overall construction timeline. Additionally, a dedicated hotline for concerns or questions is now active, and updates are also being posted on Facebook and Instagram. Lydia Haake (*PG&E, Senior Outreach Specialist*) serves as the primary contact for PG&E, while Dan Kraft (*Caltrans, Resident Engineer*) is the interim point person for Caltrans until a dedicated community liaison is hired to provide on-site updates. The dedicated representative will be in the field to speak directly with residents and business owners.

Regarding schedule and phasing of work, Matt stated Caltrans is prioritizing parking, pedestrian access, and traffic flow during construction. Efforts are being made to work with contractors and PG&E to expedite the schedule and complete the work as quickly as possible. Construction will proceed in segments (indicated by color-coded sections: green,

Hopland ADA Project Schedule



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orange, blue and pink) (see Hopland ADA Project Schedule, above). Matt added that Caltrans will know more about specific dates for certain milestones by mid-May.

Amy and Julie expressed concerns regarding the timing of construction overlapping with the grape harvest (typically June through November). They noted that large grape trucks and distributors may struggle with shortened turning radii at intersections and longer traffic times from closed road lanes. Matt stated he would look into the harvest start and stop dates and explore opportunities in the construction schedule to expedite the work.

Madeline Cline stated that she has been working with the Offices of Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Rogers for a contract regarding signage directing traffic to parking areas and added that Brutocao Cellars has offered parking space to help alleviate the loss of street parking. Matt added that while he doesn't know where the staging area will be located yet, he assured that no construction equipment will be placed in parking spaces. Madeline offered to help identify staging area properties further away from Highway 101. Matt stated he will coordinate with OC Jones, the ADA Project contractor, regarding the staging area, and Julie added that she would like the staging area location to be out of the way of local traffic and businesses.

Dale asked about PG&E's progress. Julie noted, that as a business owner, she has had frequent interactions with the PG&E team and that lines of communication have been open. This transparency has allowed her staff to stay informed and effectively explain project developments to customers. Madeline added that PG&E has been highly responsive, resolving issues quickly, and credited Brian Gerving (*PG&E, Humboldt Division Regional Senior Manager*) for being a strong advocate for the community. Brian reiterated that Lydia remains the primary contact and shared that work on the gas main is continuing following the completion of excavations. New distribution and service lines are scheduled for installation next week, pending Caltrans approval. With the Pole Barn now removed, PG&E is moving some equipment to that site from the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians' property. Brian requested clarity on whether the community desires screening for the staging area, noting that only one business has expressed concern so far. Chelsea stated that the staging area does not bother her and Julie suggested that additional screening would be beneficial to prevent the area from looking too much like a construction zone. Finally, Brian stated that Caltrans has been an excellent partner in this process. While the project is currently slated to continue through August, Brian expressed hope for schedule improvements, and Matt stated that he will provide a schedule update at the May HMAC meeting.

- f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/discussion.
- g. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
No update/discussion.



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- 5. Discussion and Possible Action on Rehabilitation of the Highway 101 Northbound Hopland Sign**
Dale reported that the project is progressing and the next step will be to pour the concrete on the sign's posts.
- 6. Discussion and Possible Action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting**
Matt reported that Caltrans plans on installing conduit under the sidewalk, and Jen is currently seeking approvals. Julie asked whether the existing conduit could handle 12 additional lights. Jen confirmed that if the current conduit is insufficient, a new one will be installed to reduce the need for disturbance to the sidewalks in the future.
- 7. Discussion and Possible Action on County of Mendocino Hazard Mitigation Plan**
No update/discussion.
- 8. Council Members' and Staff Reports Regarding Assigned Tasks, Committee Meetings, and Other Items of General Interest**
 - a. **HMAC Vacancies**
Dale asked if Kipp has been added to an upcoming BOS agenda. Madeline Cline stated that she will look into it.
 - b. **Water Resources Update**
No update/discussion.
- 9. Discussion on Agenda Items for May 20, 2026 HMAC meeting**
Madeline recommended the HMAC provide an update on upcoming ballot measures either through a guest speaker or a written comment/report.
- 10. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.