

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Monday, August 17, 2020

Teleconference Only
In compliance with Governor's Executive Order N-29-20

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:
Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. with Directors Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), Jim Brown, Larry Stranske, Richey Wasserman, John Haschak, Michael Carter and Dan Gjerde present by Zoom teleconference; Chair Gjerde presiding. Tess Albin-Smith arrived at 1:41 p.m. during #3a.

Staff present on the call: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Lisa Davey-Bates, Transportation Planner; James Sookne, Program Manager; Alexis Pedrotti, Project Manager; Danielle Casey, Transportation Planner, and Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant.

Note: Public comment was invited via email or online comment form; staff monitored for incoming comments throughout the meeting, reporting periodically.

2. Convene as SAFE

3. Mendocino SAFE Staff Recommendations:

- a. Call Box Program Update. Ms. Pedrotti reported that of the 141 call boxes operated throughout Mendocino County, 97 are traditional cellular call boxes and the remaining are newer boxes using satellite technology. While satellite boxes cost more to run, they reach areas of the county that cellular boxes cannot. All cellular boxes will need to be upgraded to 4G service beginning December 31, 2020. Ms. Barrett noted that the SAFE is due for a new five-year plan. Information only; no action taken.
- b. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020/21 Mendocino SAFE Program Budget. Ms. Pedrotti reviewed the draft SAFE budget. New estimated revenues of \$109,500 are expected to cover operational costs, while the carried-over fund balance of \$167,233 would pay for equipment upgrades. Total expenditures are estimated at \$252,875, leaving a balance of \$23,858.

Upon motion by Brown, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the FY 2020/21 SAFE Program Budget is approved as recommended by staff.

- c. Adoption of Resolution To Approve Agreement with the State of California Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP). **Upon motion** by Carter, second by Albin-Smith, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is adopted.

Resolution No. S2020-01

To Approve Agreement with the State of California
Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP)
(Reso. #S2020-01 is incorporated herein by reference)

4. Recess as SAFE

5. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

6. Public Expression. None.

7. Acceptance of Final Mendocino County Fire Vulnerability Assessment, Public Outreach Plan, and Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Plan. Ms. Ellard gave an update on the presentation by Category Five Professional Consultants at the public forum held on June 22, 2020, attended by about 100 people. The plans were finalized after receiving public comments. A presentation to the Board of Supervisors is pending. Ms. Barrett listed some of the other agencies that worked on the projects, such as the Brooktrails Fire Department. Ms. Ellard added that MCOG is involved in this project because the county executive office had requested that MCOG be the applicant for the plan. Board discussion followed, with Bob Neumann of Category Five Professional Consultants participating.

Director Haschak expressed appreciation towards Category Five for communicating with many communities in Mendocino County to complete this project. He reported speaking with the chief building official to learn how Mendocino County's building codes are addressing ways to efficiently build to prepare for emergencies in the future. Most of the CalFire requirements are already in the County's codes.

Director Carter noted he works with Office of Emergency Services on communications and that the report did a good job of addressing that issue.

Director Albin-Smith asked Mr. Neumann what he changed in response to her comments on the draft, particularly noting the Pygmy Forest along the coast, to which he responded that the Mendocino and Fort Bragg section of the study had been strengthened. Discussion continued on access routes and evacuation/shelter concerns. Mr. Neumann praised the new Fire Safe Council director, Scott Cratty.

The Chair invited public comments. Zomala Abell pointed out that a coastal group known as Hubs and Roads has been using mapping and alternative hub tools and asked if the plan contained similar approaches. She also listed possible shelter locations that had not been included in the plan.

Ms. Barrett added that the county is large and diverse and the plans are a good starting point for more localized efforts. Mr. Neumann thanked staff and all involved for their support throughout the project. Chair Gjerde noted the plans are even more relevant today than when the grant was started.

Upon motion by Carter, second by Albin-Smith, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*); IT IS ORDERED that the Fire Vulnerability Assessment, Public Outreach Plan, and Evacuation Plan are accepted as presented by Category Five Professional Consultants.

8. Adoption of Resolution Approving the Programming of Phase 2 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds Under the FTA Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Program for Mendocino Transit Authority Operating Assistance. Ms. Barrett gave a brief description of the CARES Act eligibility and reported that MTA was the only applicant for the second round of funding through the program. MTA applied for the full amount of \$1,068,573. Board discussion included:

- Will the senior centers be apportioned any amount of CARES funding through MTA? (Wasserman) – No, the funding is only available for general transit. Senior centers specialized transportation programs are thus ineligible. However, the funds could indirectly protect the contracts by offsetting MTA losses.

- Will this amount bring MTA's funds back to normal? (Haschak) – It is currently too soon to know.

The Chair invited public comment. In response to a question from Ms. Abell, Ms. Barrett further explained that MCOG has issued allocation instructions to the County Auditor that ensure local funds for the senior centers of Mendocino County. Jacob King, acting MTA director, noted he had reached out to the centers.

Upon motion by Haschak, second by Wasserman, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent); IT IS ORDERED that the follow resolution is adopted.

Resolution No. M2020-08

Approving the Programming of Phase 2 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds Under the FTA Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Program for Mendocino Transit Authority Operating Assistance (Reso. #M2020-08 is incorporated herein by reference)

9. Presentation: ArcMap Planning Portal. Director Jackman gave a presentation on how to use Caltrans' ArcMap Planning Portal mapping tool, developed by ESRI in a suite of Geographic Information System (GIS) software, to find status of projects. Director Albin-Smith commented that she had tested the tool and that it proved to be easy and effective. A brief discussion followed. MCOG staff will post a link at www.mendocinocog.org. No action was taken.

10. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Carter, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

10. Approval of June 1, 2020 Minutes – as written

11. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Wasserman, second by Brown, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Stranske, Carter, Wasserman, Albin-Smith, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

12. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Chair Gjerde mentioned that the SR 20 Safety Alignment Project and SR 1 Resurfacing Project are progressing well. Director Wasserman added that there is also a resurfacing project underway in Point Arena which will stretch to the Sonoma County line. Director Haschak expressed appreciation for the electronic signs posted by Caltrans for traffic advisories. Director Jackman noted ADA projects in Point Arena and Hopland.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. None.
- c. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported that per Senate Bill 1029, CalSTA, the state transportation agency, is working with Caltrans on finalizing an overall assessment of the NCRA, whose results should be posted soon.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to her written report. She told the board that all meetings continue to be held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

e. MCOG Administration Staff

- i. *Status of Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement.* Ms. Orth reported that all five member agencies had approved the amendment by resolution to add housing matters as a specific power, and that she had circulated the final document for signatures. Ms. Barrett added that staff is now working on a Regional Early Action Program housing grant application for the initial funding to allow staff to work administratively with the local planning representatives to develop a proposal for utilizing the available state grant funding.
- ii. *Municipal Advisory Council Meetings Attended (Laytonville, Round Valley, Gualala).* Ms. Barrett provided an update on prospective projects that were discussed in each meeting.
- iii. *California Transportation Foundation (CTF) Forum – July 23, 2020 Webinar.* Ms. Orth summarized her written report, noting recurring themes in statewide meetings attended throughout the summer concerning transformational shifts brought on by the pandemic. Revenue sources are deeply impacted and few solutions available. Funded construction projects are moving forward, with emphasis on virus safety compliance. It is predicted that telecommuting and remote work will continue into the future.
- iv. *Miscellaneous.* None.
- v. *Next Meeting Date.* Monday, October 5, 2020.

f. MCOG Planning Staff. None.

g. MCOG Directors. None.

h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. None.

13. Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9), Dewey-White v. Mendocino Council of Governments, Mendocino Superior Court Case No. SCUKCVPT 18-70179. Adjourned to closed session at 3:29 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 3:53p.m. Chair Gjerde reported that information and update were received from legal counsel.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant