MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
APPROVED MINUTES
Monday, June 1, 2026

Primary Location:
County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers
Room 1070, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

Teleconference Locations:
525 S. Main St., Ste. B, Ukiah
Fort Bragg City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg
Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits
Point Arena City Hall, 451 School St., Point Arena
Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union St., Eureka

General Public Teleconference by Zoom

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Directors present: John Haschak, Heather Criss, and Maureen Mulheren in Ukiah; Director Rafanan in Fort Bragg; Tatiana Ahlstrand for Caltrans/PAC in Eureka. Directors absent: Matthew Alaniz and Jeff Hansen. Chair Haschak presiding.

Staff present in Ukiah: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Michael Villa, Deputy Director; James Sookne, Program Manager; Julie St. Pierre, Administrative Assistant; and Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager.

Staff present by Zoom: Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst.

Guests present by Zoom: Jacob King, Executive Director, Mendocino Transit Authority

2. **Assembly Bill 2449 Notifications and Considerations.** This item is to receive and address requests from Board members to participate in the meeting from a non-posted location, subject to conditions set forth in AB 2449. There were no such requests.

3. **Regional Housing Needs Allocation – Adoption of Methodology & Issuance of Draft Allocation.** Nephele Barrett, Executive Director, reported that the draft methodology was approved by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

James Sookne, Program Manager, presented the Staff Report, and summarized the process. Initially, MCOG received a determination from HCD for 6,456 units over the next eight years. MCOG attempted to appeal this number but was unsuccessful. After several drafts and meetings with the HCD and the Methodology Committee, the most recently submitted draft methodology was accepted. Mr. Sookne described a disagreement with the HCD regarding the amount of units to be developed in Ukiah. HCD required shifting of units to the City of Ukiah before their approval due to lower average VMT per capita in the City as compared to other areas of the region. This led to questions and discussion from the Board regarding concerns with the units expected in Ukiah as well as potential annexation impacts on the allocation. There was no public comment on this item.

Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Rafanan, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(4 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the Resolution No. M2026-08 Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology is adopted, and the Draft Allocation is issued.

[Clerk's Note: Director Ahlstrand's name was called on the Roll Call in error for Agenda Items #3 through #5; as a PAC Member, Director Ahlstrand is not eligible to vote on these agenda items, so her vote is not listed in the official vote record.]

4. Acceptance of the FY 2026/27 Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Work Plan. Orion Walker, Energy Program Manager, summarized the plan and described the six main program categories: the Home Energy Advisor Program, a residential program focused on educational outreach activities; the Home Energy Upgrade Program, which identifies potential energy efficient home upgrades; the Commercial Energy Services Program, identifies potential larger-scale projects with businesses; the Finance Program, currently focused on implementing a region-wide loan program; Public Services, which involves rebate incentive programs for local municipalities, government buildings, and school districts; and Energy Career Education and Training Program, which organizes activities and trainings for career development. The Work Plan outlines overall tasks for the upcoming fiscal year within these programs. Mr. Walker summarized some upcoming events and trainings, marketing updates, and new staffing updates. Finally, he reported that they were accepted into the Civic Spark Internship Program.

Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, provided public comment. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Walker's report.

Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(4 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the FY 2026/27 Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Work Plan is accepted.

5. Convene as SAFE – Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies.

a. <u>Report of Motorist Aid Call Box Program Status.</u> Michael Villa, Deputy Director, reported that SAFE has completed around 80% of the 4G upgrades across the county. SAFE has been working alongside Nightscope to address any technologically complicated upgrades, but the main technician with Nightscope is no longer providing services, and so ongoing technological support is unknown. Staff is working with other SAFEs throughout California to explore options for ongoing maintenance.

b. <u>Adoption of FY 2026/27 Mendocino SAFE Budget.</u> Mr. Villa summarized budget changes, including new installations and upgrades, and a decrease in cost for the cellular and satellite service. Several budget elements could be subject to change depending on the status of Nightscope. Ms. Barrett provided further information on uncertainty with Nightscope across the state of California, and future fund balances. In response to a question from Chair Haschak, Ms. Barrett explained that the fund balance will be available to continue with upgrades and repairs/modifications as well as increases to service costs.

Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(4 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the FY 2026/27 Mendocino SAFE Budget is approved.

6. Recess as SAFE – Convene as RTPA; Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.

7 - 8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Director Criss, second by Director Mulheren, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(5 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

7. **Approval of June 1, 2026, Minutes –** *as written*
8. **Approval of the corrected April 13, 2026, Transit Productivity Committee Minutes –** *as written*

9. Public Expression. Steve Henderson, a.k.a. Gizmo, expressed the importance of using funds from registration fees (for commercial vehicles, in particular) for safer roads and capturing revenue from vehicles registered elsewhere but operating within Mendocino County. He also described air quality concerns about commercial vehicles idling.

10. Adoption of Resolution #M2026-09 Approving Mendocino Transit Authority's SB 125 Long-Term Financial Plan. Mr. Villa described the SB 125 program, which provided about $11 million to the region for transit and required a long-term financial plan for transit operators. He summarized the long-term financial plan, a financial forecast of the transit operator once SB 125 money is no longer being received and described projected shortfalls. Upon acceptance, the plan will be submitted to CalSTA by June 30. Ms. Barrett provided some corrections and recommended that they be incorporated into Board approval—page 5, FY 24/25 ridership should be 172,142 rather than the year-to-date number listed, a year over year increase of 2.5%; on page 9, Senior Center Administration funding is part of reimbursement to MTA; and page 10, systemwide savings should be increased by 5% each year.

Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(5 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the Resolution #M2026-09 Approving the 2026 Mendocino Transit Authority's SB 125 Long-Term Financial Plan is adopted with the recommended changes.

11. Adoption of Resolution #M2026-10 Approving the 2026 Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Mr. Sookne reported that a few scheduling changes and date changes for completed projects have been made to the plan.

Dave Shpak provided public comment. He expressed concerns about issues not being properly addressed in the plan, particularly the flooding on State Route 1 at the Garcia River and Gasker Slough.

Ms. Barrett provided more information on the Sea Level Rise Study following Mr. Shpak's comments. She explained the problems outlined should be included in the Caltrans Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments. Additionally, Caltrans has received approval for funding to complete further analysis of the issue. She explained that while a specific project is not listed in the RTP since a specific adaptation has not been identified, a need for correction of the problem is included in the Short Range Action Plan of the State Highway Element of the RTP. Finally, she noted that Mr. Sookne has met several times with Mr. Shpak and have considered his concerns and made consequent changes when developing the Plan as appropriate

Ms. Barrett read a portion of a letter Mr. Shpak submitted as part of his public comment. The letter had been submitted to the Board previously and was entered into the record.

Director Mulheren thanked Mr. Shpak and staff.

Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Criss, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(5 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, Ahlstrand/PAC and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the Resolution #M2026-10 Approving the 2026 Mendocino County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is adopted.

12. Fiscal year 2026/27 RTPA and COG Budget. Mr. Villa summarized the budget process so far, including a few changes that have been made to the document since the May 4 MCOG meeting. The budget package was made available as a separate electronic document along with the agenda packet.

The changes that have been made include an additional unmet need that was recommended as reasonable to meet by the SSTAC and already funded in the budget, an approximate $70,000 increase in amount for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, and a finalized SB 125 Formula Transit Program budget.

Additionally, funds for a potential grant from Caltrans were included in the budget. This grant has since been awarded.

It was confirmed that funding and allocations in the budget has been reviewed and recommended by the Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Transit Productivity Committee, and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and staff.

Upon motion by Director Criss, second by Director Rafanan, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(4 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the budget and six allocating resolutions are adopted as recommended by staff and committees:

a. <u>Adoption of Resolution Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Funds and 2025/26 Carryover Funds for Reserves, Administration, Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities, and Planning</u>

Resolution No. M2026-02

Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Funds and 2025/26 Carryover Funds for Reserves, Administration, Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities, and Planning
(Reso. #M2026-02 is incorporated herein by reference)

LTF Reserve	639,000	
Local Transportation Fund (LTF)		
MCOG Administration & Other Direct Costs	613,366	
2% Bicycle & Pedestrian	72,913	
Planning Program – new funds	125,000	
Planning Program – carryover	108,194	
Total LTF		1,558,473
Surface Trans. Block Grant Program – Admin.		95,499
ATP Infrastructure Grants & Complete Streets Program – Admin. carryover		471,146
PPM Funds - Planning		154,000
RPA Funds - Planning		409,500
SHA Grant - Planning		265,590

FTA Grant - Planning		188,800
Total Allocations		**3,143,008**

b. Adoption of Resolution Finding That There Are No Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable to Meet for Fiscal Year 2026/27

Resolution No. M2026-03
Finding That There Are No Unmet Transit Needs
That Are Reasonable to Meet
for Fiscal Year 2026/27
(Reso. #M2026-03 is incorporated herein by reference)

c. Adoption of Resolution Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Local Transportation Funds, State Transit Assistance, and Capital Reserve Funds to Mendocino Transit Authority

Resolution No. M2026-04
Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Local Transportation Funds,
State Transit Assistance, and Capital Reserve Funds to
Mendocino Transit Authority
(Reso. #M2026-04 is incorporated herein by reference)

Local Transportation Fund (LTF)		
MTA Operations	2,923,652	
Unmet Transit Needs	0	
Senior Center Operations	641,777	
Total LTF		3,565,429
State Transit Assistance (STA)		
MTA Operations	876,829	
MTA & Senior Center Capital	0	
Capital Reserve Fund	0	
Total STA		876,829
Capital Reserve Program		
Current Year - MTA	0	
Current Year – Senior Centers	0	
Long Term – MTA and Seniors	308,575	
Total Capital Reserve		308,575
Total Transit Allocations		**4,750,833**

d. Adoption of Resolution Allocating Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Funds for Fiscal Year 2026/27 MCOG Partnership Funding Program, Local Assistance, and Distribution By Formula to Member Agencies

Resolution No. M2026-05

Allocating Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Funds
for Fiscal Year 2026/27 MCOG Partnership Funding Program,
Local Assistance, and
Distribution by Formula to Member Agencies
(Reso. #M2026-05 is incorporated herein by reference)

MCOG Partnership Funding Program		100,000
Local Assistance – Project Delivery		90,000
Formula Distribution to Members		
Mendocino County DOT	190,362	
City of Ukiah	256,186	
City of Fort Bragg	171,050	
City of Willits	160,545	
City of Point Arena	106,111	
Total Formula Distributions		884,255
Total STBG Allocations		**1,074,255**

e. Adoption of Resolution Allocating SB 125 Formula-Based Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and Zero Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP) Funds for Fiscal Year 2026/27

Resolution No. M2026-06

Allocating SB 125 Formula-Based Transit & Intercity Rail Capital
Program (TIRCP) and Zero Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP)
Funds for Fiscal Year 2026/27
(Reso. # M2026-06 is incorporated herein by reference)

MCOG Administration & Management – Year 3	27,659	
Project 1 – MTA Facilities, Vehicle Improvements and Service Expansion	648,043	
Total FY 2026/27 TIRCP and ZETCP Allocations		**675,702**

f. Adoption of Resolution Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Funds for Northern Rural Energy Network Programs

Resolution No. M2026-07
Allocating Fiscal Year 2026/27 Funds for
Northern Rural Energy Network Programs
(Reso. #M2026-07 is incorporated herein by reference)

2026/27 Dow & Associates Staffing Contract	670,401		
2026/27 Other Direct Costs	109,600		
2026/27 Subtotal		780,001	
Total FY 2026/27 NREN Allocation			**780,001**

13. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Director Mulheren, second by Director Rafanan, and carried unanimously on roll call vote *(5 Ayes – Rafanan, Mulheren, Criss, and Haschak; 0 Noes; 2 Absent – Alaniz and Hansen)*: IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

14. Reports – Information – *No Action*

a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. Director Ahlstrand reminded the Board about a Caltrans Customer Service Request Portal, where topics such as encampments, graffiti, fire hazards, litter and potholes can be reported. csr.dot.ca.gov

Director Ahlstrand provided updates on several projects and grants. The Ukiah Rehabilitation Project is underway on US 101 through Ukiah, north of Robinson Creek, to Pomo Lane undercrossing. This includes upgrading guardrails, lighting and TMS facilities. The Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project will be going to the California Transportation Commission for allocation in August. The Ridgewood Class 1 Pavement Project on US 101 near Willits is anticipated to start work and will be completed in November. A few other projects will begin work soon, including the Covelo Pavement Project along State Route 162 from the intersection of US 101 to Covelo, the Eel River Bridge Replacement Project on State Route 162, and the Albion River Bride Project. An updated Quarterly Milestone Report will be shared in the following weeks. An award meeting will be scheduled with MCOG and the City of Willits to discuss next steps after the Sustainable Planning Transportation Grant was awarded (aforementioned by Mr. Villa). Finally, the Caltrans District 1 Transportation Planning Open House will be held in Ukiah at the Office of Education on July 15.

Chair Haschak inquired about Clean California funding.

b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Jacob King, Executive Director, reported that the MTA has applied for Cycle 8 of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding to fund the transit center, the mixed-use transit center and the senior housing project in Ukiah. Award announcement takes place in September.

c. Great Redwood Trail Agency. Chair Haschak reported that a contract for a consultant to form a Tribal Advisory Committee was approved.

d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to the written report.

e. MCOG Administration Staff
   i. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Barrett expressed appreciation for staff—Mr. Ortega, Mr. Villa, Mr. Sookne, and Mr. Walker—for their hard work reflected in this meeting.
   ii. *Next Meeting Date.* Monday, August 24, 2026.

f. MCOG Planning Staff
   i. *Work Element 5 – Mendocino County Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study*. Hector Ortega, Regional Project Analyst, reported that there were no significant updates since the last report, but MCOG continues to work with the consultant team on the project.

   ii. *Work Element 11 – Pavement Management Program (PMP) Update.* Mr. Ortega reported that field data collection activities concluded in May. Preliminary PCI scores for the City of Fort Bragg and the City of Willits will be available at the next project status meeting, along with discussion on a walking survey training.

   iii. *Work Element 8 – Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Regional Mitigation Study.* Mr. Ortega reported that proposals have been received and a Consultant Selection Committee has been formed to evaluate submissions, with selection to come in the following weeks.

   iv. *Miscellaneous.*

g. Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) Staff. The update was provided as part of Agenda Item #4.

h. MCOG Directors. Chair Haschak reported that the Board of Supervisors will discuss sales tax for road improvements in July.

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

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR