

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Monday, October 4, 2021

Teleconference Only
Pursuant to Brown Act and Assembly Bill 361

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 1:30 p.m. with Directors Jim Brown, Greta Kanne, Tess Albin-Smith, Scott Ignacio, John Haschak, Tatiana Ahlstrand (Caltrans/PAC), and Dan Gjerde present by Zoom teleconference; Chair Gjerde presiding. [Clerk's note: the Public Appointee seat was vacant.]

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

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

2. Adoption of Resolution Making Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 to Continue Remote Public Meetings for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies During the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Ms. Barrett referred to her written report and noted the Governor's executive orders that modified or waived portions of the Brown Act open meeting requirements due to COVID-19 had expired September 30. Staff researched actions allowed by AB 361 to continue meeting remotely, with findings to be made by resolution immediately and monthly thereafter. Requirements include a proclaimed state of emergency (currently still in effect) and recommendations by state or local authorities for social distancing.

In board discussion, Director Ignacio asked whether special meetings are required when more than 30 days have passed; Ms. Barrett replied that legal counsel attending a Rural Counties Task Force meeting advised that the intent would be met if the findings are made at the start of each regular meeting. Director Albin-Smith noted public comments are encouraged and in many cases made more accessible via the teleconference method.

The Chair invited public comment. Jessica Stull-Otto expressed hope that when meetings eventually resume in person, remote virtual attendance will remain available to the public.

Upon motion by Director Haschak, second by Director Albin-Smith, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is approved.

Resolution No. M2021-12

Making Findings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
to Continue Remote Public Meetings
for MCOG's Legislative and Advisory Bodies
During the COVID-19 State of Emergency
[Reso. #M2021-12 is incorporated herein by reference]

3. Convene as RTPA

4. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

5. Public Expression. None.

6. Adoption of Resolution Approving the FY 2021/22 Project List for the California State of Good Repair Program – Mendocino Transit Authority – Purchase of Three Battery-Electric Busses with Associated Charging Infrastructure. Ms. Orth gave background on the program and reported this is the fifth year of funding allocations. MCOG has available SGR funds of \$544,614. MTA’s proposal comes to \$537,203 of SGR funds, matched with \$344,475 from three other sources, for total project costs of \$881,678. The previous annual list was approved for a new Ukiah Transit Center hub. This year’s list eliminates that project, as SGR funds have a limited time for expenditure.

Jacob King, MTA Executive Director, reported that the first two new electric busses could be in service in Willits by month’s end, and the third running by Spring 2022 in Fort Bragg.

The Chair invited public comment. Peter McNamee of Grassroots Institute expressed support for the project.

Upon motion by Director Brown, second by Director Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is approved.

Resolution No. M2021-13

Approving the FY 2021/22 Project List for the
California State Of Good Repair Program

[Reso. #M2021-13 is incorporated herein by reference]

7. Authorization to Approve Setting Just Compensation and Commencement of First Written Offers and Negotiations for Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project. Ms. Barrett gave an update on the project. At this stage, a process of right-of-way acquisition is being conducted. Mr. Peter Field of the contracted consultant firm Bender Rosenthal, Inc. (BRI) was present to answer questions, and agreed with staff’s summary and recommendation.

In board discussion, Ms. Barrett and Mr. Sookne took questions, describing the trail location and service area. The total project cost is estimated at about \$6 million from all sources.

Upon motion by Director Haschak, second by Director Ignacio, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that authority is delegated to the Executive Director to 1) Set Just Compensation to acquire the necessary land rights for the Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail Project based upon the Fair Market Value established by the certified appraisals for each subject parcel identified in staff’s report, and 2) execute the Approval to Set Just Compensation forms as required.

8. Consent Calendar. Upon motion by Brown, second by Ignacio, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, Haschak, Ahlstrand/PAC, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved.

8. Approval of August 16, 2021 Minutes - as written

9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Albin-Smith, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – Brown, Kanne, Albin-Smith, Ignacio, 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.

10. Reports - Information

- a. Caltrans District 1 – Projects Update and Information. There was no news to report. Director Kanne inquired about status of the Blosser Lane project in Willits; Ms. Ahlstrand will research and report back.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Executive Director King reported that new bus drivers have been hired and are in training to restore routes that had been cut back over the past year or so.
- c. North Coast Railroad Authority. Director Haschak gave an overview of the September 13 meeting. The Governor signed SB 69, which begins the transition of NCRA to become the Great Redwood Trail Agency in 2022. Now the “coal train” proposal for the corridor remains to be addressed; the Board of Supervisors has expressed opposition to it.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to her written staff report.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. *Financial Update – Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues for FY 2020/21*. Ms. Orth reported a surplus at fiscal year end of \$835,284 in Local Transportation Funds, which by policy will remain in reserve until the FY 2022/23 budget is developed. This unrestricted balance is a full 20 percent above the official budget estimate of these sales tax revenues. Discussion followed on her report of the California Road Charge Pilot.
 - ii. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Barrett reported a grant funding opportunity for wildfire evacuation routes, sent to the Technical Advisory Committee. Discussion followed on related mobility issues.
 - iii. *Next Meeting Date*. Monday, November 1, 2021.
- f. MCOG Planning Staff
 - i. *2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Action Transportation Update*. Ms. Ellard referred to her written report. The public review draft is to be posted for comments on October 15. A presentation will be made to the Council at the November 1 meeting.
 - ii. *Local Road Safety Plans Update*. Ms. Ellard reported progress, with several stakeholder workshops held by the consultant TJKM in the five community areas. She answered questions concerning crash data in Covelo.
 - iii. *Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants – Applications due October 27, 2021*. Ms. Ellard reported on the program.
 - iv. *2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Project Submittals*. Mr. Sookne reported that a proposal was received from Mendocino County Department of Transportation to add right-of-way funds to the North State Street interchange project.
 - v. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- g. MCOG Directors. Director Gjerde reported discussions with Grassroots Institute and with Sonoma County’s Regional Climate Protection Authority. He then appointed himself, Director Albin-Smith and Director Haschak to serve as an ad hoc committee for research into the possible formation of a Regional Energy Network or similar model to dispense rebates on home energy efficiency improvements.
- h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Albin-Smith briefly reported highlights of the September 17 meeting with legislative updates.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant and Janet Orth, Deputy Director