

2/2/2026 1:17 PM

SKUNK SHOULD BE REMOVED

To info@mendocinocog.org

From MCOG Transportation Plan!

The Skunk company, its leadership, is/are not good stewards for our local community. DO NOT include Skunk or any of its leaders in the MCOG Transportation Plan!

Carolyn James
Fort Bragg Property Owner and Registered Voter
Hocker Ln
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

2/2/2026 1:01 PM

Mendocino Railway

To info@mendocinocog.org

Dear Commission:

The Skunk Train is an excursion ride. WHEN Mendocino Railway gets the tunnel open and WHEN the railway starts freight/passenger service between Willits and Ft. Bragg, THEN, maybe, that designation could be revisited. This is not any kind of public transportation. It goes nowhere, and the cost is through the roof. It caters to tourists, pretty much ONLY to tourists, not to locals. I bet most locals have never taken the train without out-of-town visitors in tow, and I wouldn't be surprised to hear most locals have never taken it.

Please revise the Mendocino Railway's designation. It is NOT public transportation in any way, shape, or form.

Jean Arnold
Mendocino

2/2/2026 1:01 PM

Comment Against Mendocino railroad

To info@mendocinocog.org

There seems to be no way that they can be considered a real railroad.
They take no cargo anywhere. They are an amusement ride in masquerade as
a real railroad. They Are not a real railroad. Sam Gitchel

2/2/2026 12:29 PM

Mendocino Railway

To info@mendocinocog.org

I urge you not to include Mendocino Railway in our transportation plan. They do not provide public transportation. They are now just an excursion train, providing amusement. Our dollars could be better spent on this city's infrastructure. IF they ever become a viable transportation or freight provider the designation can be changed.

Please stand up to this corporation that is trying to run our town for their profit..

Leslie Lucco

2/2/2026 12:26 PM

STOP THE TRAIN!

To info@mendocinocog.org

I am a local and have lived in Fort Bragg for decades and have been watching the Mill Site and train issues closely. Sadly, the lack of transparency concerning the purchase of the mill site and the clean-up of toxins has blurred the whole issue. The growing mistrust of the process from the beginning and up until now (2/2/26) is obvious and frustrating.

Outside of some of the local business owners and people "tied" to the train, most people I talk to are against the train. Our understanding is that MCOG has been strongly lobbied by money interests and has itself joined in in OVERSTATING Mendocino railway's benefit to the community of Fort Bragg and surrounding area.

There are many days when the train doesn't run or is running with very few riders. The interruption of traffic is a real problem which is only going to get worse and the blaring whistle at three rail crossings in town is a City wide noise pollution. And now they are running until we'll past 10 pm on the weekends.

I ride bicycle and walk EVERY DAY through town and to the coast trail and it is obvious that the benefit to our area is way overstated. Other issues like bullying our town and misrepresenting their goodwill are hanging over this corporate intrusion into our community. Emphatically I along with many of my neighbors believe that the skunk train is wrong, completely wrong for our City and it must be checked at every turn!

To think that the train is a plus for our community is a lack of vision.

Sincerely,

NickLucco

Sent from my iPad

██████████ Liz Helenchild

2/1/2026 8:00 PM

My comments re Mendocino Railroad's inclusion in MCOG final Transit Plan

To info@mendocinocog.org

Dear MCOG Board Members,

Please count me as being in complete agreement with Peter McNamee's thoroughly researched objections to Mendocino Railway being included in (& receiving subsidies through) your Transportation Plan.

The Skunk Train is clearly a tourist amusement. It does not carry passengers or freight to/from inland to the coast, & (despite promises) will not foreseeably connect Ft Bragg with Willits. Only in arcane legalese can it be defined as a common carrier.

Please note that California's Attorney General has filed an appeal in the courts to overturn the Surface Transportation Board's ruling that the Skunk is a "federally authorized railroad".

As a taxpayer, I would much prefer my dollars be spent on repairing & maintaining our worn, torn, potholed County roads. Expanding, improving & connecting public transit with other systems is a crying need in Mendocino County; the Skunk Train is obviously not part of the solution.

I urge you to act in behalf of the common good: Remove the Skunk Train from the Transit Plan.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Liz Helenchild, former MTA driver & frequent cross-country Amtrak rider

2/1/2026 11:29 AM

Skunk Train

To info@mendocinocog.org

Please remove the Skunk train from the county's transportation plan. The skunk train is strictly a tourist attraction and should not receive taxpayers dollars.

1/31/2026 4:05 PM

Remove the Skunk Train from the MCOG's transportation plan

To info@mendocinocog.org

PLEASE...reconsider including the Skunk Train in the MCOG transportation plan.

They are a TOURIST attraction. Not a public service for transportation to anywhere useful to the citizens of Fort Bragg or Willits.

Stop perpetuating the ability of the Skunk Train to abuse Federal funding. In the 16 years living in Fort Bragg, I have yet to see the Skunk Train do anything to enhance public transportation.

In actuality, they cost other residents and businesses that are adjacent to the numerous railroad crossings time and money.

The addition of the rail bikes, another commercial attraction of the Skunk Train, has increased the number of times during the day that traffic is backed up and delayed---for the convenience and profit of the Skunk Train, not to the benefit of the local residents and businesses.

Enough lining the pockets of the Skunk Train enterprise and all who benefit outwardly or covertly from their practices and intentions.

With hopes that Fort Bragg can regain some control over how our city develops and influence how our Federal dollars are NOT spent.

With respect,
Melissa Parks
532 West St.
Fort Bragg, CA

1/30/2026 10:50 PM

Mendocino Railways

To info@mendocinocog.org

Dear Mendocino Council Board of Directors,

Mendocino Railways must be stopped from being considered a public transport utility.

The facts are that Mendocino Railways is a private, overpriced amusement ride for tourists and does not serve the Fort Bragg community. Currently, the amusement ride MR sells is under ten miles and does not offer freight or transport services, as public transports are required.

Despite these facts, Mendocino Railways continues to mislead the courts, their customers and the community in pretending to be a public transport. MR is not. Instead, it is a well-funded corporation that has already received over \$21 million in our tax dollars ... and is looking to waste more tax dollars in fighting their ill-advised law suits as they masquerade as a public transport utility.

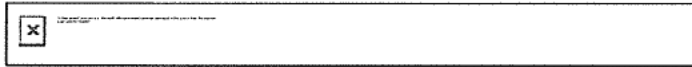
Dear Board of Directors, do not condone Mendocino Railways' actions and behavior. Choose to stand with our community that does NOT wish to subsidize Mendocino Rainways' growth or boondoggles. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laurel Krause

Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Kirk Vodopals

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: skunk train

Message: Please remove the Skunk Train from your transportation plan and support the State Attorney Generals filing to rescind the Skunk Trains assertion that it is a freight and passenger rail system worthy of government loans via the Surface Transportation Board.

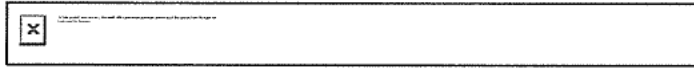
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Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Christine Franks

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mendocino Railway

Message: Including the Mendocino Railway in the transportation plan is a complete folly. It was determined years ago by the Public Utilities Commission that it is not a public transport. Please consider it as it truly is - a tourist attraction and nothing more. In no way is it a public transport worthy of public funds. Thank you.

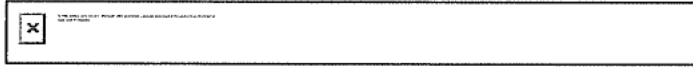
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Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Jennie Sandberg

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Skunk train

Message: I do NOT feel that the Skunk Train should be included in the Transportation Plan. They are entertainment, not public transportation. Feels like fraud!

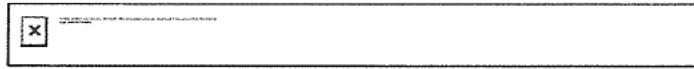
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Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Sakina Bush

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Please remove Mendocino Railway

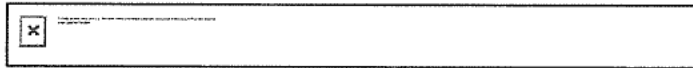
Message: Please remove Mendocino Railway form the transportation plan. They are not providing public transportation. They are providing entertainment in the form train rides. Really, how does this serve the real transportation needs of citizens?

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From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Jonathan Peakall

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: The Skunk Train

Message: It is truly absurd that the Skunk Train is considered anything but an excursion train. Using eminent domain to take property and as an excuse to develop the headlands is a travesty. While we all love the Skunk as a tourist activity and reason to visit, it simply isn't a common carrier and should not be allowed to do as it pleases.

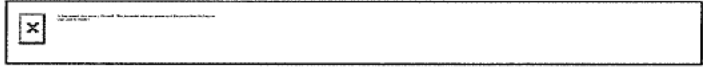
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Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Tom McFadden

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mendocino Railway

Message: I am writing to urge MCOG to sop including Mendocino Railway and the tourist oriented skunk train from the MCOG Transportation Plan.

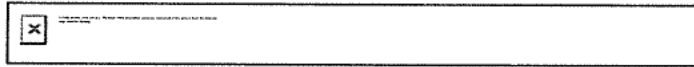
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Nephele Barrett

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Nephele Barrett
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: Contact Us



Contact Us

Your name: Martin Sexton

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Skunk Train

Message: The Skunk Train is not a legitimate railroad and therefore should not enjoy the luxury of benefits currently granted to them. The current operation of the Skunk Train is a business of entertainment. The entertainment of tourist and locals is likely beneficial for the tourism industry. I fail to see how they differ from a fishing party boat or the Coast Cinemas. Please cut the cord of public funds to support a private business venture.

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Nephele Barrett

From: Janet Orth
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 4:19 PM
To: Nephele Barrett
Cc: James Sookne (jsookne@dbcteam.net)
Subject: FW: New form submission received: Contact Us

FYI: Correspondence received through MCOG website. - jmo

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 4:03 PM
To: Janet Orth <orthj@dow-associates.com>
Subject: New form submission received: Contact Us

Contact Us

Your name: Evan Mills

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mendocino Railway should not be categorized as public transportation

Message: The privately owned Mendocino Railway is inappropriately capturing political and economic benefits as an ostensible provider of public transportation. Their "Skunk Train" is nothing more than a tourist attraction, and an overpriced one at that. As locals, we stopped riding it years ago. At your upcoming meeting on February 2, please do not grant this entity inclusion in your Transportation Plan, as doing so would divert taxpayer money into private pockets that could instead be used for legitimate public transportation. Even if there are ways in which Mendocino Railway could make contorted arguments in its defense, it is clearly a highly cost-inefficient way to provide much needed public transport in our county.

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Nephele Barrett

From: Janet Orth
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Nephele Barrett
Cc: James Sookne (jsookne@dbcteam.net)
Subject: FW: New form submission received: Contact Us

FYI: Correspondence received through MCOG website. - jmo

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:58 PM
To: Janet Orth <orthj@dow-associates.com>
Subject: New form submission received: Contact Us

Contact Us

Your name: Karl Young

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mendocino Railways

Message: I would like to respectfully request that MCOG refrain from supporting any activities of Mendocino Railways. Their unconscionable attempts at trying to commandeer federal funds, grab land via eminent domain, and trying to stop the development of the Great Redwood Trail by posing as a legitimate railroad is an affront to the citizens of Mendocino County and an insult to our intelligence. Please refrain from any support of this continuing charade. Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

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Nephele Barrett

From: Janet Orth
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 4:17 PM
To: Nephele Barrett
Cc: James Sookne (jsookne@dbcteam.net)
Subject: FW: New form submission received: Contact Us

FYI: Correspondence received through MCOG website. - jmo

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 8:49 AM
To: Janet Orth <orthj@dow-associates.com>
Subject: New form submission received: Contact Us

Contact Us

Your name: Eri Thunen

Your email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Skunk Train

Message: The Skunk Train is NOT public transportation and should not receive tax payer dollars. Those funds should be spent on actual public transport issues, like fixing roads and actual public means of transport. Please consider de-funding the Mendocino Railway (a tourist attraction at best!). Thank you for your consideration in this matter, Eri Thunen.

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