

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES
Monday, April 6, 2020

Audioconference 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 1:34 p.m. with Directors Rex Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), Jim Brown, Richey Wasserman, Larry Stranske, Tess Albin-Smith, John Haschak, Michael Carter and Dan Gjerde present by telephone; Chair Gjerde presiding.

Staff present on the call: Nephela Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director/CFO; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Lisa Davey-Bates, Transportation Planner; and Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant.

Note: Public comment was invited via online comment form; staff monitored for incoming comments throughout the meeting, reporting periodically; no public comments were received.

2. Convene as RTPA

3. Recess as RTPA – Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee

4. Public Expression. Diana Clarke, Executive Director of the Ukiah Senior Center, reported that the center is still providing services such as take-out meals and bus rides. The senior center provided 374 rides in the month of March, which included 165 door-through-door passengers. She expressed gratitude for being able to continue to serve seniors and disabled persons during the shelter-in-place.

5. Regular Calendar.

5. Adoption of Resolution #M2020-14 Approving an Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement to Add Housing Matters as a Specific Power – *subject to Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) procedures for authorization by the respective legislative bodies of all parties to the Agreement.* Ms. Barrett described how the Regional Early Action Planning Program, created by Assembly Bill 101, is a program that provides funding directly to regional agencies and multi-county agencies for planning related to housing. MCOG needs to approve an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in order to move forward with allocating funding under this program. The Executive Committee recommended moving forward with the amendment in February as did the MCOG Board in March. The JPA identifies the specific powers of MCOG, which includes transportation planning and economic development. An amendment would add power to undertake housing planning and related activities in the region. The proposed amendment text and sample template for member jurisdictions were provided in the agenda packet.

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

Resolution No. M2020-03
Approving an Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement to
Add Housing Matters as a Specific Power
(Reso No. M2020-03 is incorporated herein by reference)

6-7. Consent Calendar. Ms. Orth and Ms. Barrett commended Diana Clark for her diligent work in the Senior Center as well as on the Transportation Productivity Committee and the Social Services Technical Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Albin-Smith, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (8 Ayes – *Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter, Albin-Smith, Haschak, Jackman/PAC, and Gjerde*; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 0 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

6. **Approval of March 2, 2020 Minutes – as written**
7. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes – as written**
8. **Approval of City of Ukiah Request to Utilize Cost Savings from Awarded Local Transportation Fund Two Percent Bicycle & Pedestrian Program: ADA Ramp Project and Amend Scope of Work**
9. **Appointments to Transit Productivity Committee – Senior Center Representatives -**
Richard Baker, Executive Director of Willits Harrah Senior Center, as Representative;
Jill Rexrode, Executive Director of Redwood Coast Seniors as Alternate
10. **Recognition of Diana Clarke, Ukiah Senior Center Director for Service on MCOG’s Transit Productivity Committee and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council – Certificate of Appreciation**

Director Albin-Smith was excused for another meeting.

11. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee – Reconvene as RTPA – Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee. Upon motion by Carter, second by Haschak, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (6 Ayes – *Brown, Stranske, Wasserman, Carter, Haschak, and Gjerde*; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - *Albin-Smith*): 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. Director Jackman reported that he has listed updates from project managers for various projects and is working on getting more updates for projects scheduled to be doing construction work at this time. In response to a question from the Chair, Director Jackman gave an update on the Caltrans web portal and plans to give a presentation demonstrating how to use this tool at the next physical meeting.
- b. Mendocino Transit Authority. Chair Gjerde gave a brief overview of the last MTA meeting, held by teleconference. Overall ridership is down 80%. MTA has cut trips between Mendocino and Sonoma counties down by more than half. MTA is concerned over the movement of transients, who could unknowingly spread the virus. Intercity bus routes are to be suspended beginning April 7. Anyone left without transportation is to call MTA.
- c. North Coast Railroad Authority. Director Haschak gave an overview of last month’s meeting. The main discussion was between NCRA staff and the Judicial Council of California about unpaid bills, which came without a resolution. Meetings will be held in Ukiah from now on at the Supervisors Chamber. The NCRA will now be holding quarterly meetings rather than monthly meetings.
- d. MCOG Staff - Summary of Meetings. Ms. Barrett referred to her written report.
- e. MCOG Administration Staff
 - i. MCOG Response to COVID-19. Ms. Barrett referred to her written report.

ii. *Miscellaneous*. Ms. Orth pointed out that changes would need to be made to the first draft of the budget recommended by the Executive Committee, due to the new economic conditions. Staff will be bringing that to the Transit Productivity Committee meeting on Monday, April 13. Staff expects to see recommended amendments.

Ms. Barrett reported that staff is currently working with stakeholders on creating a new distribution formula for Senior Centers funding, also to be addressed by the committee.

iii. *Next Meeting Date*. Monday, May 4, 2020. This meeting was originally planned to include a project tour, but will instead be held as a regular teleconference due to COVID-19.

f. MCOG Planning Staff.

i. *SB 743 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Regional Baseline Study*.

ii. *Fire Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Plan*. Ms. Ellard referred to her written staff reports for both the VMT study and the Fire Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Plan, inviting questions. Director Haschak asked if the Fire Plan will be delayed because of the virus. Ms Barrett and Ms. Ellard replied that the public outreach forums are the most likely to be delayed. It is still likely that all other aspects will be on time.

iii. *Miscellaneous*. There were no further reports.

g. MCOG Directors. Director Haschak expressed appreciation toward MCOG staff for going to the Round Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) and presenting about the Covelo SR 162 Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail. Also he met with Richard Baker, Executive Director of the Willits Senior Center and talked about transportation they still offer, such as door-through-door services. Mr. Baker expressed desire to have a truly collaborative relationship with MTA.

h. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Ms. Orth reported that the CALCOG conference that staff and delegate Albin-Smith had planned to attend this week in Riverside has been postponed to next year. Ms. Barrett reported that CALCOG has been a good resource for COG directors and helps them stay connected.

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Monica Galliani, Administrative Assistant