

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Fort Bragg Town Hall, 363 North Main St., Fort Bragg

ADDITIONAL MEDIA:

[Mendocino County Video](#) or find
[YouTube link at http://www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org) under Meetings

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 and Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. with Directors present: John Haschak, Mike Carter, Greta Kanne, Lindy Peters (Alternate), and Dan Gjerde. Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Josefina Duenas absent by prior arrangement; Director Jeff Hansen absent; Tatiana Ahlstrand (Caltrans/PAC) excused as the Policy Advisory Committee was not convened.

Guests present: Commissioners Jay Bradshaw, Lee Ann Eager, Hilary Norton, and Bob Tiffany; and Tanisha Taylor, CTC Executive Director.

Speakers present: Nephele Barrett, MCOG; Jaime Matteoli, Caltrans District 1; Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, Chris Bartow and Joe Scriven, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD); Maureen Doyle, Caltrans District 3; Rygg Larson, Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT); Chantell O’Neal, City of Fort Bragg; Dusty Duley, City of Willits; Tim Eriksen, City of Ukiah; James Sookne and Janet Orth, MCOG; Bob Butler, Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA); Captain Thomas O’Neal, Fort Bragg Police Department.

Staff present: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO; James Sookne, Program Manager; Loretta Ellard, Deputy Planner; Michael Villa, Project Coordinator; and Jody Lowblad, Administrative Assistant.

2. Convene as RTPA

3. MCOG Town Hall Hosting California Transportation Commissioners – Welcome, Introductions and Presentations. Ms. Barrett served as M.C. for the day, with a welcome to all and recognition of Gold event sponsors Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) and LiUNA (Labor International Union of North America) Local 324 with LECET Southwest, and Silver sponsor SHN Engineering.

Opening remarks were made by Chair Gjerde, Fort Bragg Councilmember Peters, Director Haschak, Commissioner Tiffany and Commissioner Bradshaw.

A series of presentations were made as listed on the attached Agenda Summary; note updated list of speakers in these minutes above. (Slides will be posted on [MCOG’s website](#).) These topics took up most of the day’s agenda:

- Overview of the Mendocino Region (MCOG)
- State Highways & Projects – Connecting our Communities (Caltrans District 1)
- Enhancing & Preserving What We Love (MCRCD)
- Projects & Issues in Unincorporated Mendocino County – Big Responsibilities on a Small Budget (MCDOT)

- Regional & City Projects – Improving Our Communities Across Modes (Cities of Fort Bragg, Willits and Ukiah and MCOG)
- Transit and ZEV Conversion – A Rural Perspective (MCOG, MTA and Fort Bragg)

4. Public Comment. The Chair opened the floor to comments; the following speakers were heard.

Dave Shpak of Gualala appreciated MCOG, CTC and Caltrans members for traveling here, welcoming all to visit Gualala. He complimented Caltrans District 1 for its advanced mitigation efforts, noting conservation organizations such as Mendocino Land Trust and local projects. State Route 1 has maintenance needs on the South Coast, and he suggested the CTC consider road miles as part of its funding formulae. State routes are often main streets, so safe, multimodal facilities are important to rural areas. He thanked the CTC, MCOG and Caltrans for supporting the Gualala Downtown Streetscape project over many years of development.

Alan Stein of Caspar handed out written comments he produced with Simon Bruce and Stuart Rogers concerning damage to Point Cabrillo Road. He described potential scenarios involving tsunami waves and storms such as the conditions that caused the partial road closure.

Simon Bruce of Caspar spoke about impacts of the Point Cabrillo Drive slide on 300 local households, 120 campsites, school busses and delivery vehicles. Public safety is a primary issue in the tsunami, fire and earthquake evacuation zone at Caspar Beach. A petition to raise awareness has been circulated with over 80 signators to date.

Stewart Rogers of Caspar also spoke about Point Cabrillo Road, adding their request for approval of the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program grant that was submitted by MCOG and MCDOT and supported by local elected officials, which is to address sea-level rise. As local stakeholders, they would like to be informed and stay engaged with the process.

Annemarie Weibel of Albion Bridge Stewards made several points about this listed historic bridge, criticizing perceived failures on the part of Caltrans and the CTC to fund and maintain it. The public needs to be engaged in all decisions made concerning its outcome. Increasing speeds on SR-1 is inappropriate in terms of environment, economics and safety. Revegetation needs to occur as part of any construction work. She distributed photo postcards of Albion River Bridge.

Mary Rose Kaczorowski of Fort Bragg cited her representation as an NGO at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in New York recently, where transportation was among issues raised. As a tourist-serving town, planning needs to consider public transportation between outlying hotels and the commercial areas, for tourists, locals, workers, caregivers and others. She cited problems with lack of evening and weekend transit service to various cultural events and medical facilities. Living in a seniors complex, she has noticed the lack of access for those without personal vehicles.

William Walker, Chair of CTC, Caltrans and CalSTA's Equity Advisory Committee, of San Francisco, drove here from Irvine, California where he attends graduate school. He appreciated the invitation from Ms. Barrett, Chair of the CTC's Rural Counties Task Force, and noted earlier visits to Fort Bragg as well as attending camp as a youth in Jackson State Forest. The Willits bypass had not yet been built. He envisioned rail service for the area. He offered support for community engagement, such as these town halls throughout the state.

Rick Van Zee of Fort Bragg commented on concerns with Caltrans projects: 1) potential illegality of Caltrans funding salaries for a coastal oversight commission and resulting conflicts of interest; and 2) work on SR-1 around Mendocino and Albion is destroying trees unnecessarily, years before construction is to begin.

5. Recess as RTPA. Chair Gjerde made closing remarks and thanked all for coming. No action was taken. To view a recording of this meeting, see Mendocino County Video YouTube playlist with MCOG's regular board meetings: [MCOG 2024 - YouTube](#)

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Submitted: NEPHELE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director & CFO

Attached: "Agenda Summary" of Town Hall presentations and events



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TOWN HALL

APRIL 17-18, 2024

TOWN HALL, 363 NORTH MAIN ST., FORT BRAGG, CA 95437

WELCOMING HONORABLE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA SUMMARY

DAY 1 – Wed., April 17 – Town Hall Meeting 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

1:00 – 1:15	Welcome and Introductions	MCOG Executive Director MCOG Chair & Directors Fort Bragg City Council Member Caltrans District 1 CTC Commissioners Tribal Council members
1:15 – 1:25	Overview of the Mendocino Region	Nephele Barrett, MCOG Exec. Director
1:25 – 1:50	State Highways & Projects – Connecting our Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blues Beach Update ▪ Stakeholder Engagement ▪ Mitigation ▪ Major Projects 	Brandon Larsen, Deputy Director, Planning & Local Assistance Jaime Matteoli, Corridor Manager, Caltrans District 1
1:50 – 2:10	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District – Enhancing & Preserving What We Love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental mitigations & partnerships ▪ Willits Bypass mitigation ▪ Eel River 	Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, MCRCO Executive Director
2:10 – 2:20	BREAK	
2:20 – 2:45	Projects & Issues in Unincorporated Mendocino County – Big Responsibilities on a Small Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major projects ▪ Climate threats ▪ Restoration efforts ▪ System preservation & SB 1 revenues 	Rygg Larsen, Mendocino County Department of Transportation
2:45 – 3:45	Regional & City Projects – Improving Our Communities Across Modes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covelo Trail Project ▪ Noyo Harbor Circulation ▪ Streetscape Projects ▪ Great Redwood Trail Implementation ▪ Coastal Trail ▪ Walkable city streets ▪ Major Projects 	Nephele Barrett, MCOG Exec. Director Chantell O’Neal, Assistant Director, Engineering Div., City of Fort Bragg Dusty Duley, Community Devt. Director, City of Willits Tim Eriksen, Director of Public Works, City of Ukiah



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3:45 – 4:10	Transit and ZEV Conversion – A Rural Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North State ZEV Working Group - infrastructure ▪ MTA – solar-electric fleet transition ▪ North State Transit Working Group – vehicles & fuels ▪ Fort Bragg PD – battery-electric fleet vehicles 	Janet Orth, MCOG Deputy Director & CFO Bob Butler, Mendocino Transit Authority James Sookne, MCOG Program Manager Fort Bragg Police Department
4:10 – 4:30	Public Comment	
4:30 – 5:30	Optional Coastal Trail Walk - <i>from Town Hall</i>	Turn around at Mill Pond or option to walk to reception
5:30 – 7:30	Reception at Noyo River Grill 1011 S. Main St., Fort Bragg	

DAY 2 – Thurs., April 18 – Project Bus Tour 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

8:30	Gathering & Opening Remarks	Gather at Fort Bragg Town Hall for complimentary coffee & pastries
9:00	Tour Begins	Leaving promptly at 9am
12:00	Tour Ends	Return to Fort Bragg Town Hall