



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
2021 O Street, Ste. 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 830 (Rogers) Support Letter - State highways: encroachment permits: relocating or removing encroachments: public utility districts (As Amended August 29, 2025)

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our firm and ongoing support for AB 830. This critical bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund the relocation or removal of utilities owned by public utility districts when necessary for highway infrastructure improvements. This bill would only apply to the Hopland Public Utilities District in Mendocino County. We respectfully request your signature on this measure.

Rural communities, including Mendocino County, often face significant delays in state highway safety projects due to high utility relocation costs. Small public utility districts typically lack the financial resources to manage these expenses, which can hinder crucial state initiatives and extend project timelines.

Currently, state law prohibits Caltrans from using project funds for utility relocation, even when it's vital for safety improvements. This places an unfair burden on smaller communities.

In Mendocino County, Caltrans is slated to fund accessibility and safety improvements to U.S. Highway 101 through the unincorporated community of Hopland. Caltrans discovered during the planning phase of the project that, to complete this project, water and sewer lines maintained and owned by the Hopland Public Utilities District would need to be relocated.

Phase one of the Caltrans project will start next year, but utility relocation poses a significant challenge. If the Hopland Public Utilities District must pay for the relocation, the final phase could be delayed by over 10 years.

The Hopland Public Utilities District serves about 340 ratepayers, making the required significant utility relocation costs difficult to manage. Similar to other districts in the state, they are concerned about the heavy financial burden of relocating utilities for state-managed projects.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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AB 830 provides a fair solution, enabling Caltrans to advance a critical state project while protecting local utilities.

The County of Mendocino proudly continues its support for AB 830 and appreciates your consideration of this critical measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Haschak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Chris Rogers, Member of the California State Assembly
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate