



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

DARCIE ANTLE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

501 Low Gap Rd. Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Email: bos@mendocinocounty.gov
Website: www.mendocinocounty.gov

Office: (707) 463-4221
Fax: (707) 463-5649

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Chris Rogers
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 830 (Rogers) Support Letter - State highways: encroachment permits: relocating or removing encroachments: public utility districts

Dear Assemblymember Rogers,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to reaffirm our strong and continued 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.

Rural communities, such as Mendocino County, often experience delays in implementing state highway safety projects. These delays are not attributable to public opposition; instead, they stem from the substantial costs associated with utility relocation requirements. Small public utility districts often lack the financial resources or customer base necessary to absorb the significant infrastructure expenditures linked to these projects. Consequently, this situation can jeopardize vital state initiatives and result in prolonged delays.

Current law prevents Caltrans from using project funds to relocate utilities, even for essential pedestrian and traffic safety improvements. This places an unfair burden on smaller communities and can diminish the effectiveness of state-funded projects. The situation in Hopland, situated along the Highway 101 corridor, clearly illustrates these challenges.

AB 830 addresses this persistent issue by establishing a more equitable and effective process that allows Caltrans to advance essential projects without imposing penalties on rural agencies or compromising local utility operations. This legislation represents a practical and necessary solution for fostering resilient and equitable infrastructure across the state of California.

The County of Mendocino appreciates your leadership on this bill and urges the Legislature to enact AB 830. We are proud to continue our support for this measure.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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

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