



# 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](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.gov)  
Website: [www.mendocinocounty.gov](http://www.mendocinocounty.gov)

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

March 10, 2025

Assemblymember Chris Rogers, 2nd District  
State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Suite 5130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Rogers:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to express strong support of your bill, AB 830. This bill, if enacted into law, would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund the relocation or removal of utilities owned by a public utility district when Caltrans needs to perform necessary highway infrastructure improvements.

AB 830 would ensure that highway improvements are completed promptly, relieving rural communities of the financial burden of these infrastructure improvements. Public utility districts often struggle with funding significant projects due to their limited base of ratepayers.

As it stands, state law prohibits Caltrans from using their funds to move utilities for construction improvements, including crucial pedestrian safety projects, on state highways. Caltrans may have to delay a critical project to wait for a public utility district to secure the necessary funds to relocate utilities. This delay can cause real harm to a rural community waiting for these improvements.

This bill is especially critical for communities such as Hopland, which has faced significant hardship in the face of costly and burdensome requirements for relocating public utility infrastructure along the Highway 101 corridor. The current encroachment permit process imposes substantial financial and logistical challenges on small local agencies, utility providers, and rural residents. Without a fair and equitable process for addressing these issues, essential services in rural communities like ours remain at risk. By supporting this legislation, the State can help mitigate unnecessary financial strain on small communities, protect public utility services, and promote resilient infrastructure development.

For these reasons, the County of Mendocino supports AB 830, thanks you for authoring this important measure and looks forward to seeing the bill progress into law.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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

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