

GLENN MCGOURTY
DISTRICT 1
JOHN HASCHAK
DISTRICT 3



DARCIE ANTLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

JAMES R. ROSS
INTERIM COUNTY COUNSEL

**MENDOCINO COUNTY
GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2024 - 9:00 AM**

Meeting Location(s): 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA. 95482 (Board Chambers)

Zoom Link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/83420194586>

Zoom Phone Number (if joining via telephone): 1 669 900 9128 ; Zoom Webinar ID: 834 2019 4586

Listed below are some of the Board of Supervisors Public Engagement options. For streaming options and a complete list of ways to interact with agenda items (or more information on any of these listed) please visit: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors/public-engagement>

Written Comment

- Submit online via the eComment platform at <https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Verbal Comment

- Speak in person at any physical meeting location when the Chair calls for Public Comment
- Join the Zoom Webinar and use the "raise hand" feature when the Chair calls for Public Comment (if joining via telephone: press *9 to raise your hand, and *6 to unmute yourself when called)
- Leave a voicemail message, up to 3 minutes in length, by calling 707-234-6333

*Note: Voicemail comments will no longer be played back during Open Session, but are immediately available to the full Board of Supervisors upon submittal.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chair Haschak and Supervisor/Member McGourty**1. CALL TO ORDER****2. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS**

- 2a) **Discussion and Possible Action Including Providing Recommendations to Staff and a Referral to the Board of Supervisors Recommending Approval of the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department Monthly Update for December 2023 (Sponsor: Cannabis)**

Recommended Action:

Provide recommendations to staff and a referral to the Board of Supervisors recommending approval of the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department Monthly Update for December 2023.

Attachments: [2023.12 MCD Monthly Report - December Final](#)
[2023.12 MCD Gantt Chart](#)
[LJAGP Manual](#)
[Mendocino LEEP Equity Criteria](#)
[Mendocino County Map](#)

- 2b) **Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction Regarding the Development of the Mendocino County's 2024 Legislative Platform (Sponsor: Executive Office)**

Recommended Action:

Provide direction to staff regarding the development of Mendocino County's 2024 Legislative Platform.

Attachments: [Legislative Platform 2024.DRAFT](#)
[01-22-24 Leg Platform2024 Proposed Amendments](#)

3. OTHER BUSINESS

- 3a) **Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting**

Recommended Action:

Approve minutes of December 18, 2023 regular meeting.

Attachments: [12-18-23 GGC Minutes](#)

3b) PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Members of the public are welcome to address the Committee on items not listed on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee is prohibited by law from taking action on matters not on the agenda.

Individuals wishing to address the Committee under Public Expression are welcome to do so via any method listed on the front page of this agenda or on our Public Engagement page, at: <https://rb.gy/d3p0>

For more information on any of these methods, please call the Mendocino County Clerk of the Board at (707) 463-4441

3c) ANNOUNCEMENTS**ADJOURNMENT****Additional Meeting Information for Interested Parties**

For a full list of the latest available options by which to engage with agenda items, please visit <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors/public-engagement>

All electronically submitted comment is immediately available to Supervisors, staff, and the general public by clicking this meeting's eComment link at <https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.asp>

LIVE WEB STREAMING OF BOARD MEETINGS is available at <https://mendocino.legistar.com> or visit the Mendocino County YouTube channel. Meetings are also livestreamed from the Mendocino County Facebook page. For technical assistance, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (707) 463-4441. Please reference the departmental website to obtain additional resource information for the Board of Supervisors: www.mendocinocounty.org/bos

The Mendocino County Board of Board of Supervisors complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in appropriate alternative formats (pursuant to Government Code 54953.2). Anyone requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in a meeting of the Board of Supervisors or Affiliate Meeting Body should contact the Mendocino County Clerk of the Boards Office at (707) 463-4441, not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your interest in the proceedings of the General Government Committee.



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Agenda Summary

Item #: 2a)

To: GENERAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

From: Cannabis

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

Department Contact: Sara McBurney

Phone: 707-234-6680

Department Contact: Steve Dunicliff

Phone: 707-463-4441

Time Allocated for Item: 1 Hour

Agenda Title:

Discussion and Possible Action Including Providing Recommendations to Staff and a Referral to the Board of Supervisors Recommending Approval of the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department Monthly Update for December 2023

(Sponsor: Cannabis)

Recommended Action/Motion:

Provide recommendations to staff and a referral to the Board of Supervisors recommending approval of the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department Monthly Update for December 2023.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

On April 19, 2022, the Board directed Department staff to provide a written update during the second Board Meeting of every month. On August 16, 2022, the Board referred the topic of Cannabis to the General Government Committee.

Summary of Request/Referral:

Department staff requests that the General Government Committee provide recommendations to staff regarding the above referenced monthly update and consider a referral to the Board of Supervisors recommending approval of the Department's Monthly Update.

Supplemental Information Available Online At: N/A

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: N/A

current f/y cost: N/A

budget clarification: N/A

annual recurring cost: N/A

budgeted in current f/y (if no, please describe): N/A

revenue agreement: N/A

CEO Liaison: Executive Office

Item #: 2a)

CEO Review: Yes
CEO Comments:

FOR COB USE ONLY

Executed By: Lillian Bearden, Deputy Clerk I
Date: January 31, 2024

Final Status: **Approved**





Mendocino County Cannabis Department Deliverables

DATE: January 24, 2024
TO: Mendocino County General Government Committee
FROM: Mendocino County Cannabis Department
RE: Monthly Activity Report – December 2023

Mendocino County Cannabis Department Mission Statement

“The Mendocino County Cannabis Department’s mission is to issue cannabis cultivation licenses in accordance with regulations as approved by the Board of Supervisors and ensure that all program cultivation sites comply with all applicable environmental, community safety, and regulatory performance standards. The Department shall implement these services fairly and equitably in a timely, professional, and compassionate manner.”

Department Priorities

The Mendocino County Cannabis Department (“MCD”) has identified the following priorities via Board of Supervisor (“BOS”) directives. These priorities are beyond the normal duties required for normal business operations and does not represent the entirety of all assigned objectives.

Planning

Staff Support
Process Management
Streamlining
Priority Reviews (PH. I & II DCC timelines)
Contract Planners
Phase III Applications
Monthly Reporting
Public Meetings

Administration

Staff Support
Process Management
Fiscal and Budget
Grant Management
PRAs

All the priorities listed above shall support the primary function of MCD, as outlined in the mission statement, which is to issue cannabis cultivation licenses within the regulatory framework.

MCD Activity

The total workload of MCD is best reflected by the following two primary data sets:

Active Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Applications submitted to MCD: 371

Active Commercial Cannabis Cultivation Business Licenses (“CCBL”) issued by MCD ¹ :	436
Total:	807

December Breakdown

CCBL Renewals issued:	4
CCBL Initial issuance:	45
CCBL Withdrawn:	10
Total number of CCBLs processed for the month:	59

Issued MCD CCBL Status

When a CCBL application meets all required criteria and is approved by MCD it becomes an issued CCBL. Issued CCBLs are renewed annually and require a state license issued by the Department of Cannabis Control (“DCC”) to actively cultivate cannabis. The main objective is for all applicants and licensees to have an issued county CCBL as well as an annual state license.

Active Commercial CCBLs issued by MCD

MCD Issued License with DCC (Annual):	19
MCD Issued License with DCC (Provisional):	388
MCD Issued without DCC:	20
TOTAL:	427

Annual 2023 MCD CCBL Renewals (Applies to the issued licenses above)

Renewals Issued YTD:	141
Renewals pending (waiting for review by staff):	65

MCD CCBL Applications

Information regarding current “under review” applications is as follows:

Review Data

Number of Applications and Renewals assigned to contract planners:	274
Number of Applications and Renewals assigned to MCD planners:	242

Department Log Jams

CDFW Response Required (Not Less Than Significant) No Response Received and Past 45-Day Deadline:	28 referrals
Total Number of Days Since Referral Sent to CDFW:	Ranges from 226 days to 35 days

¹ Renewals are accounted for within the Issued Licenses data set.

Total Number of Applications the CDFW Past-Due Policy Has Allowed to Move Forward with Issuance: 53 Applications

CDFW Referral Responses Received: 47 Responses

- Longest Response Time: 200 days
- Quickest Response Time: 28 days
- Average Response Time: 74 days

In addition to the outstanding 28 referrals, the Department has become aware that there are extended timelines for some applicants in receiving feedback from CDFW related to additional information requested.

Notice to Applicants without an Active DCC License

As a reminder, even if a CCBL is issued, applicants may not cultivate until they have an active DCC license.

The Department sent out a total of 210 notices to applicants during the month of December as we initiated review of applications without an active DCC license on file. To date, the Department has received 59 responses. The Department is planning to send certified USPS mail notifications in addition to regular USPS mail notifications and follow-up emails to the 151 “non-responsive applicants” January 10-12th, 2024. The Department requests applicants respond to this notification with one of the following actions:

- 1) Submit their current DCC license to MCD via email at mcdpod@mendocinocounty.gov
- 2) Respond to the outreach stating they do not have an active DCC license but wish to remain in program. MCD can continue the review of the application/renewal if there is not a current DCC license.
- 3) Let MCD know they do not wish to remain in program by completing and submitting a withdrawal form to mcdpod@mendocinocounty.gov. MCD would like to remind applicants and current CCBL holders that a withdrawal form must be received by MCD or the applicant/CCBL holder will continue to receive and accrue Annual True-Up Taxes notices from the Treasure Tax Collector.

MCD will continue to review the application or renewal of a CCBL if we receive a response to the outreach by 2/10/2024. Failure by the CCBL applicant or CCBL holder to respond to this notice may result in the Department issuing CCBL Denial or CCBL termination based on non-responsiveness.

New Applications

The Department has completed the Accela scripting update and all new Phase III CCBL applications should once again be applied for online. To start the application process, please visit the Department’s [Accela webpage](#). Please note, the application process may take more than one hour. Applicants may also pause at any time throughout the application process and save their progress.

Furthermore, the Department is excited to announce there is now a total of 7 new “Accela How-To’s” which are published as applicant guidance materials on the Accela webpage.

As a reminder, the submission of a CCBL application through Accela and the assigned license number does not allow you to cultivate until all County and State licenses have been acquired.

Site Inspections

Virtual site inspections are a part of the new streamline ordinance. If approved, the Department plans on using the below CCBL Renewal Quality Control for Inspections:

- New Phase III Applications must complete an initial physical onsite inspection
- A physical site inspection must be conducted at least every 5 years
- Other factors utilized to determine whether renewal or random inspections will be physical or remote may include:
 - Does the CCBL have a confirmed deviation between submitted site plan and aerial imagery and/or history of non-compliance with the Department or other regulatory agencies?
 - If viewed remotely does the CCBL location appear to be consistent with the most current site plan on file?

Number of Inspections Completed Month of December: 14

Miles Traveled Month of December: 1,228

Is MCD on track?

Please find the Department Gantt Chart attached which reflects goals and expected timelines. The Department is working towards the DCC provisional license cultivation deadline of December 31, 2024.

- Internal staff will focus on Phase III applications, site inspections, renewals, and applications with no DCC provisional licenses, and applications with an annual license.
- Contract planners are focused on under-review applications with expiring DCC provisional licenses by order of expiration and renewals with a DCC provisional license as a condition of the contract planner funding source, the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (“LJAGP”). As a part of their review, contract planners will assist with applicable Administrative Permits (“AP”), and essential Accela input.

Environmental Review

Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”):

The DCC intends to lead CEQA review in connection with annual state licensure of cannabis cultivation in Mendocino County. DCC and a consultant, Ascent Environmental, are working to prepare a programmatic EIR addressing state licensure of cannabis cultivation in Mendocino County. As CEQA requires, this process will include opportunities for public review and input. Once complete, this programmatic EIR will allow for streamlined CEQA review of license applicants’ specific cultivation sites in Mendocino County, using site-specific addenda. This process may also result in the identification of specific sites that can satisfy CEQA using other documentation, such as negative declarations or mitigated negative declarations; if so, it may be possible to complete environmental review as to those specific sites without awaiting completion of the programmatic EIR. Meanwhile, and of significant note, while this CEQA review process is

underway, DCC can continue to renew provisional cultivation licenses in Mendocino County that otherwise satisfy applicable renewal requirements through December 31, 2024.

Ordinance Streamlining Update

MCD, in coordination with the General Government Committee, held a special meeting for discussion and possible action including providing recommendations to staff and a referral to the BOS regarding Chapter 10A.17 on October 10, 2023.

The new proposed streamline ordinance is currently scheduled to go to the BOS for discussion and approval on January 23, 2024. If approved, the Department anticipates the new ordinance would go into effect in March 2024.

Local Equity Entrepreneur Program (LEEP) Grant

The State's Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions aims to advance economic justice for populations and communities impacted by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs (WoD) by providing support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity in California and eliminate barriers to entering the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensee. The County has submitted applications for LEEP funding in the four rounds which have opened so far; three of those applications were funded. With \$6 million awarded from the State and administered by the Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development (GO-Biz) and \$100,000 in matching grant funds from the BOS, the program offers applicants waivers of cannabis business expenses, direct grants funds for start-up and ongoing expenses and direct technical assistance based on individual needs and circumstances. The Department has distributed \$5,125,531.55 in LEEP funding to verified local equity applicants via direct grant and waivers to date.

Audit Findings and Funding

This grant program is still under routine audit. LEEP Round 3 (CEG-2022-387) close out was submitted for review to Go-Biz on November 28, 2023. The Department anticipates a total of \$54,819.39 in Direct Technical Assistance funding will need to be returned from Round 3.

No new LEEP direct grant applications or waivers will be accepted at this time as all funding has been exhausted.

The Department has applied for the 2023-24 Grant Solicitation (Round 5). Grant Evaluation and Award announcements will be made by GO-Biz on or before January 22, 2024. The Department recommends priority funding to the Tax Relief applications from verified equity applicants submitted on or before the deadline of April 25, 2023, that were not paid with previous LEEP funds. In addition to providing Direct Grant and Fee Relief support to our locally verified applicants, with Round 5 funding, the application also included funding to update our equity assessment.

Equity Eligibility Criteria (Proposed)

The Department has revamped our Local Equity Criteria which was included as a part of the Round 5 application. If approved by Go-Biz, the Department plans to reopen an eligibility window for our local equity applicants, including those previously qualified under the 5-mile radius criterion.

LEEP Direct Grant Amendments

The Department opened a LEEP amendment window on December 15, 2023 for applicants that have an already approved LEEP Grant funded contract but would like to amend their previously approved Schedule A and B. If an applicant would like to amend their current LEEP contract, they should email cannabisprogram@mendocinocounty.gov to start this process.

Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (LJAGP)

Mendocino County was one of 21 local jurisdictions awarded funds from Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) for the LJAGP. This one-time funding is to assist local jurisdictions with the greatest need to transition provisional licensees to annual licenses. In January 2022, the County was awarded over \$17.5 million in assistance, a portion of which was set aside by County staff to offer direct grants and fee waivers to qualified provisional license holders located within the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County. On February 17, 2023, the County received notification that the LJAGP Grant was under routine audit; to date, this audit has not yet been cleared.

MCD is currently revising the Direct Grant and Waiver Program Manual previously shared with the Board to maximize the effectiveness of this program. MCD is receiving comment from DCC staff and from community advocates. The manual will ultimately guide distribution of \$4.8 million dollars to local operators to assist with the transition to annual licensure. The program manual is currently a reimbursement model with an award amount of up to \$25,000 per applicant. Direct grant funds are intended to support local operators with transition to annual licensure prior to December 31, 2024.

Per Resolution 22-056, the BOS authorized the Cannabis Director to develop, amend, update and implement the program manual. Please find a copy of the LJAGP Program Manual attached.

Department Staffing levels

<u>As of November 2023:</u>	MCD Planners:	4
	Contract Planners:	16 (14 Full Time Equivalent ("FTE"))
<u>As of December 2023:</u>	MCD Planners:	4
	Contract Planners:	16 (14 FTE)
<u>Filled positions:</u>	Department Head (Interim)	
	Senior Program Manager	
	Program Administrator	
	Planner I/II (x3)	
	Planner I/Tech	
	Administrative Assistant	

Current Recruitments: None

For additional and up-to-date information regarding the Cannabis Department Activities please sign up for “Canna-Notes” through the county’s eNotification system at the following link:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cannabis-cultivation/enotifications>

CCBL Application Status

Mendocino County Cannabis Department 12.2023 Update

Department Deadline: December 31, 2024

2023

2024

July August September October November December January February March April May June July August September October November December

Milestone description	Total	Total Months Needed	Hours	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
MCD Assigned Applications																					
Phase 1/2	162	8.4375	25																		
Phase 3	13	0.677083333	25																		
Renewals	23	0.71875	15																		
4Leaf Assigned Applications																					
Phase 1/2	193	2.87202381	25																		
Renewals	42	0.375	15																		
Total Applications																					
CCBL Issued	436																				
Under Review	371																				

Direct Grant and CEQA Fee Relief Program Manual Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grants Program (LJAGP) December 19, 2023

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Purpose of the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grants Program (LJAGP)

I. Direct Grant & Fee Waiver Program for Qualified Provisional License Holders

In October 2021, the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) announced the availability of \$100 million in funding for the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grants Program (“LJAGP”). The LJAGP dedicates funding to local jurisdictions with the greatest need to transition provisional licenses to annual licenses. The LJAGP is authorized by the Budget Act of 2021, Item 1115-101-0001 – For local assistance, found in Senate Bill 129 (2021).

Under the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (“Act”), the DCC licenses and regulates cannabis businesses. The DCC issues annual licenses once an applicant or licensee meets all requirements for annual licensure.

Local jurisdictions eligible to receive grant funding represent those with significant numbers of provisional licenses who are legacy and equity applicants and provisional licensees that are more likely to have arduous environmental compliance requirements associated with CEQA. The LJAGP allocated \$100 million on a one-time basis to aid local jurisdictions and their provisional licensees in completing CEQA compliance requirements necessary to achieve annual licensure. LJAGP funds may also be used to aid local jurisdictions in more expeditiously reviewing provisional licensee local requirements. Allowable uses are intended to encourage local jurisdictions to administer grant funds in ways that allow the DCC to transition provisional licenses to annual licenses more expeditiously without sacrificing California's environmental commitments.

II. Qualifications & Program Eligibility

Additional funding was allocated to local jurisdictions that received grant funding from the State to support an already established local equity program. Grant Program funds are available for encumbrance prior to disbursement at any time during the grant period, but funds shall be expended no later than March 31, 2025.

The county will provide the application materials, including a guidance document, in advance of the opening of the application period, and hold at least one (1) public meeting, within ten (10) days of materials being available, to go over the application process with local licensees.

For the purposes of this grant, 'Equity Operator' includes any provisional licensee who meets the requirements of the County's local equity program.

III. Services

Services to be provided by the LJAGP Direct Grant and CEQA Relief Program may include, depending on need and the availability of funds, the following:

A. Fee Relief related to CEQA compliance.

The LJAGP fee relief program is intended to assist State provisional licensees in meeting annual license requirements by providing LJAGP funding to pay for local permitting fees directly related to CEQA compliance and review, environmental compliance and mitigation measures including water conservation and water quality protection measures. Such fees may include but are not limited to:

1. Special Inspection Fees if one or more additional inspections are necessary to complete environmental and performance standard review.
2. County fees for all CEQA compliance and review including but not limited to grading permits, environmental health permit fees, air quality fees, planning permits (administrative or use permits), or other CEQA related projects as approved by the MCD.
3. State or local commercial cannabis application or license fee relief are strictly prohibited.

B. Direct Grants

The LJAGP direct grant program is intended to provide support to applicants and license holders that have a valid state provisional license in order to achieve state annual licensures. LJAGP direct grant funds may be used for the following reimbursement for allowable expenses dated back to 1/1/22:

1. Improving Air Quality and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Direct Grant funds may be used for reimbursement of costs expended for the purpose of improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating or reducing the commercial cannabis business' use of combustion engines. Projects eligible for reimbursements related to improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions include:
 - a. Generators used to power, in whole or part, commercial cannabis business activities,
 - b. Water pumps used for the purposes of commercial cannabis irrigation and the business' related potable water needs, including multi-use water systems, and
 - c. Other improvements and modifications of operations resulting in reduced

- greenhouse gas emissions including, but not limited to modification of lighting type or converting from nonrenewable or minimally renewable electricity plan to a plan with a greater amount of renewable electricity provided or lower greenhouse gas emissions,
- d. Reimbursable costs include but are not limited to: consultants required for planning and permitting, equipment, installation costs, labor, and any additional items as approved by MCD related to improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Remediation. Direct Grant funds may be used for reimbursement of remediation and environmental correction related expenses including, but not limited to, the following circumstances:
 - a. Remediation of a commercial cannabis cultivation site located within a streamside management area, a wetland, and/or floodplain,
 - b. Remediation of a commercial cannabis cultivation site that is determined to have potential impacts on sensitive species as identified during the Sensitive Species Habitat Review, and
 - c. Remediation of a commercial cannabis cultivation site as compelled by a state agency or as recommended in a biological or any other professional report submitted in the Sensitive Species and Habitat Review (SSHR) or CEQA processes,
 - d. Reimbursable costs include but are not limited to: consultants required for planning and permitting, equipment, installation costs, labor, and any additional items as approved by MCD for remediation.
 - e. Remediation is not permissible if it is already being funded by other means, including any other grant funding.
 3. Premise Modification. Direct grant funds may be used for reimbursement of costs related to partial or complete cultivation premise modification on the same parcel, if retiring and premise modification was required to comply with an agency requirement, including but not limited to:
 - a. Vegetation modification associated partial site closure,
 - b. SWRCB or CDFW related site premise modification,
 - c. Any other partial or complete closure and premise modification of the same parcel as needed for any reason.
 - d. Reimbursable costs include but are not limited to: consultants required for planning and permitting, equipment, installation costs, labor, and any additional items as approved by MCD for premise modification.
 4. Hydrology and Improved Water Quality. Direct Grant funds may be used for reimbursement of costs related to mitigation measures related to water conservation and water quality protection measures. Measures may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) projects and related expenses including but not limited to:
 - i. LSAA permit fees such as notification major and minor amendment, and extension related to transitioning from provisional licensees to annual licensure,
 - ii. Hiring consultants and other professionals to provide technical support for completing notification and/or implementation of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement required for local permitting and State annual licensure, and

- iii. The purchase and installation of water meters is necessary to ensure compliance with surface water diversion and reporting requirements.
 - b. Projects and permits required by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), and the Division of Water Rights, including enforcement of the Cannabis General Order, and/or the Clean Water Act. Such projects and expenses may include but are not limited to:
 - i. Hiring consultants and other professionals to provide technical support for the purposes of filing any required permits including but not limited to section 401 permits, Small Irrigation Use Registrations, and the payment of fees associated with such permits,
 - ii. Hiring consultants and other professionals to provide technical support for the development and/or implementation of Water Resource Protection or Site Management plans, and any other special or annual reporting to any division of the Water Board,
 - iii. The payment of fees associated with annual water reporting and monitoring programs related to transition from provisional to annual licensure, and
 - iv. The purchase and installation of water meters is necessary to ensure compliance with annual monitoring requirements.
 - c. Projects that increase water conservation, and/or reduce reliance on surface water and groundwater resources. Such projects and expenses may include but are not limited to:
 - i. Water availability studies and hydrological connectivity studies required by local and/or state agencies,
 - ii. Planning and design costs,
 - iii. The installation of water storage and distribution systems including but not limited to ponds and water tanks, and rainwater catchment and distribution systems.
 - d. Reimbursable costs include but are not limited to: consultants required for planning and permitting, equipment, installation costs, labor, and any additional items as approved by MCD for hydrology and improved water quality.
- 5. Site specific CEQA and SSHR Related Expenses. Direct grant funds may be used for the reimbursement of expenditures by State provisional licensees in order to transition to a State annual license related to CEQA document preparation and any costs related to demonstrating a less than significant impact to sensitive species and habitat during the SSHR process, but are not limited to:
 - a. Hiring consultants and other professionals to provide technical support for the purpose of preparing CEQA documentation, including the project description and supporting materials.
 - b. Hiring consultants and other professionals to prepare associated studies used as a basis for demonstrating the project has a less than significant impact to sensitive species and habitat and which may be utilized in developing the project description or CEQA review, such as archeologic, biologic, hydrologic, forestry, invasive species management plans, engineering plans, geotechnical reports, soil studies, etc.
 - c. Reimbursable costs include but are not limited to: consultants required for planning and permitting, equipment, installation costs, labor, and any additional items as approved by MCD for CEQA and SSHR work, projects, and studies.

6. Cost of Preparing Grant Application. Direct grant funds may be used for the reimbursement of costs related to the preparation of the LJAG application up to ten percent (10%) of the requested direct grant award amount.
7. Professional Compliance Assistance. Hiring consultants to support cultivators' ability to maintain compliance with every local and state agency for which compliance must be maintained to achieve and maintain local licensing or necessary for state annual licensure.
8. Prohibited and Allowable Uses. Notwithstanding the above, direct grant awards can only be used for those allowable uses identified in the Department of Cannabis Control's *Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program: Guidelines and Application Instructions* dated October 2021 (the "Guidelines"). MCD will not award any direct grant funds for reimbursement of any prohibited uses identified in the Guidelines.

C. Award Thresholds & Disbursement of Funds

Eligible provisional license holders may be awarded up to \$25,000 award which may be used for fee relief related to CEQA compliance and review, direct grants, or both.

1. The grant calls for the prioritization of locally designated Equity operators with State Provisional licenses. To this end the County will allocate 25% of Direct Grant funding (\$1.2M) exclusively to verified local or State licensed Equity Operators. The remaining 75% of Direct Grant funding (\$3.6M), will be available for both equity and non-equity applicants and will be processed and distributed in the order they are received.
2. LJAGP awards may be comprised of direct grant items, eligible fee relief, or both. Fee relief may be applied for and awarded as a part of the total grant budget and will be paid directly to the local permitting agency after submission of the appropriate fee relief forms. Direct grants may be issued as a part of the total grant budget after the approval of a complete application submitted to the MCD on forms, and in a format prescribed by the MCD.

D. Application Requirements

1. Applications for Fee Relief Fee relief may be applied for on a form prescribed by the MCD and applied for at either the time the fee is due or included in the direct grant application. Fee relief must be turned into MCD directly to ensure successful processing.
2. Applications for Direct Grants Reimbursements for allowable expenses may be applied for on a form, or forms, prescribed by the MCD and must include the following information:
 - a. Improving Air Quality and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Applications for reimbursements that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions must include the following information:
 - i. The purpose, type and size of each combustion engine that has been replaced, or had its use vastly reduced, by a renewable resource or the comparison chart of utility provider plans the applicant is switching from and to that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing a greater amount of renewable sources in production of the utility's electricity,
 - ii. A narrative explaining how the renewable resource eliminated or reduced the provisional license holder's reliance on the combustion engine(s) or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through conversion to a partial or total renewable electricity plan from a utility provider,

- iii. Original Receipts of paid invoices for contractor or consultant services, receipts for materials, or fees necessary to substantiate the cost of the work completed, or in the case of conversion to plan that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by switching to a greater percentage of or total renewable production of electricity by a utility, receipts for payment of utility bills showing the plan partial or total renewable electricity.
 - b. Remediation– Applications for reimbursements for the remediation of a cultivation site must include the following information:
 - i. A site plan showing the original site and remediated area,
 - ii. The environmental reasons for remediating,
 - iii. A detailed Remediation plan,
 - iv. If consultants and/or professionals were hired for the project, include a scope of work from the consultant(s) and/or professional(s), an itemized invoice for the work, the total hours worked, and the services provided and,
 - v. Estimates, invoices, and any contractor scope of work necessary to describe the cost of completing the Remediation project.
 - c. Premise Modification - Application for reimbursements for cultivation area premise modification on the same parcel must include the following information:
 - i. A site plan showing the original site and identify the premise modification,
 - ii. The environmental reasons for premise modification,
 - iii. If consultants and/or professionals were hired for the project, include a scope of work from the consultant(s) and/or professional(s), an itemized invoice for the work, the total hours worked, and the services provided and,
 - iv. Estimates, invoices, and any contractor scope of work are necessary to describe the cost of completing the premise modification project.
 - d. Hydrology and Improved Water Quality – Applications for reimbursements for hydrology and improved water quality related projects must include the following information:
 - i. Invoices for any contractor or consultant services, and/or receipts for materials or labor necessary to complete the project.
 - ii. For applications that include reimbursement for LSAA and/or SWRCB license or application fees related to CEQA compliance and review, provide the receipt, applicable agency's fee schedule, and a description of the required fees and why they are required for the proposed project(s). For applications that include professional services related to water availability or hydrologic connectivity, invoices for services to complete the required studies and a narrative describing each project.
 - iii. For applications that include Water Conservation projects must provide the following information:
 - 1. A water budget identifying the amount of water used annually by the commercial cannabis business,
 - 2. The amount of water to be stored,

3. A site plan showing the location of the water source and location of the water storage and distribution system installation,
 4. Invoices and/or receipts for the permits, materials, and labor required to complete the project.
 5. Invoices for professional services related to design of storage and other irrigation conservation systems, water availability analyses, or hydrological connectivity studies.
- e. CEQA and SSHR related expenses – Applications for CEQA and SSHR related reimbursements must provide the following information:
 - i. Invoices for consultants and other professionals to provide technical support for the purpose of creating any CEQA and SSHR materials including the project description and supporting materials, and responses to requests for information or remediations requested in SSHR comment letters during the local licensing process.
 - ii. Invoices for consultants and other professionals to prepare associated studies used in preparation of CEQA materials, the SSHR process, or for completion of an LSAA.
 - f. Cost of Grant Preparation - applications for cost of grant preparation related must provide the following information:
 - i. Invoices, receipts, total hours worked, and scope of work.
 - g. Compliance Assistance - applications for professional compliance business entity, local licensing, and state provisional licensing assistance must provide the following information:
 - i. Invoices, receipts, and scope of work.
3. Timeline for Application Submission Direct Grant applications may be submitted during submission timelines prescribed by the MCD. At the close of the submission timeline, MCD staff will review all complete applications received and award the qualifying applications based on funding availability and according to the equity prioritization described above. Payments will be distributed on a reimbursement basis substantiated by invoices and receipts.

IV. Program Administration

1. Principal Administration and Coordination of Services shall be performed by the MCD, or a contractor selected by the county.
2. The MCD shall promulgate any policies, procedures, grant funding caps, grant agreements/execution deadlines, application windows, and forms necessary for program administration.
3. The MCD shall monitor and report on all program services provided through the LJAGP, as directed by the State grant agreement.
4. The MCD or contractor(s) selected by the County may be designated to receive and process applications to determine eligibility and grant funding of program participants.
5. Pre-application and workshop shall be provided by MCD with contractor participation.
6. This manual, all review criteria, and all rules and processes governing the administration of this grant shall be posted to the MCD website. Reasonable communication with applicants and awardees will be maintained by MCD

throughout the application and award process and questions shall be responded to within a reasonable time period, as staffing permits.

V. Use of Direct Grant Awards

Direct Grant Awardee Obligations to Preserve and Submit Documentation. Direct Grant awardees shall comply with the following:

1. All use of Direct Grant awards shall be documented through invoices, receipts, canceled checks, or other similar means of memorializing the use of such funds.
2. All such documentation shall be retained for at least seven (7) years following the completion of all obligations arising under the grant agreement entered with the County.
3. Use all reasonable efforts to provide any additional documentation requested by staff of the MCD or its contractor that they deem necessary to further support the use of such funds.
4. All requests by staff of the MCD or its contractor necessary to perform a compliance audit to demonstrate that all Direct Grant reimbursements have been used in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement.
5. The Awardee shall submit any additional data and/or information requested by MCD to support the Awardee's reimbursement request and shall submit any additional data and/or information that may be required.
6. Upon MCD's review and approval of the Awardee's reimbursement request, the County will distribute to the Awardee the approved reimbursement amount.
7. MCD may deny part or all of the reimbursement request if it believes that it is not a supportable Project expense per grant guidelines or direction of the DCC.
8. No reimbursement will be made which would cause the distribution of grant funds to exceed, through such payment(s), the limits of grant funds.
9. MCD may withhold payment if the Awardee is not current in its reporting requirements.

Mendocino County's Obligations to Manage Direct Grant funds are following:

- 1) Staff of the MCD or its contractor shall comply with the following:
 - a) Ensure all Direct Grant awardees are notified and agree to the documentation and retention requirements in Section IV.1.
 - b) Retain all such documentation received for at least seven (7) years following the end of each grant agreement.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 14, 2023
TO: William Koch, Deputy Director, Community and Local Equity Grants Unit
FROM: Mendocino County Cannabis Department
SUBJECT: Local Equity Entrepreneur Program (“LEEP”) Round 5 Equity Criteria

Please find the proposed LEEP Round 5 Equity Criteria below which will be presented in Mendocino County’s LEEP Program Manual.

Any individual who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry who has obtained, applied for, or will apply for a cannabis CCBL (commercial business license) in Mendocino County, and owns at least 50% of the business while meeting at least one of the following six equity criteria:

1. Lived in a place for at least five years between 1980 and 2016 that was a California county with drug arrest rates that were higher than the state average drug arrest rates and is within the top 25% for unemployment and poverty; a DCC map tool is accessible to see if applicants reside in qualifying areas;
2. Any individual who was arrested and/or convicted of a non-violent cannabis-related offense prior to November 8, 2016, or who has a parent, sibling or child who was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile) prior to November 8, 2016;
3. Any individual who was personally raided or was subject to asset seizure arising from a cannabis enforcement-related event;
4. Any person who experienced sexual assault, exploitation, domestic violence, and/or human trafficking while participating in the cannabis industry;
5. Any person who has become homeless or suffered a loss of housing as a result of cannabis enforcement.
6. Any person who has a household income that is no more than 60% of the area’s median income, or is eligible to get financial aid through a program such as CalFresh, MediCal, CalWORKS, Supplemental Security income, and Social Security disability. In order to ensure that the funds dispersed will be utilized solely by verified equity applicants, the program only allows equity payments to be made to individuals who have been equity program verified or to businesses that have at least 50% ownership by equity program verified persons.

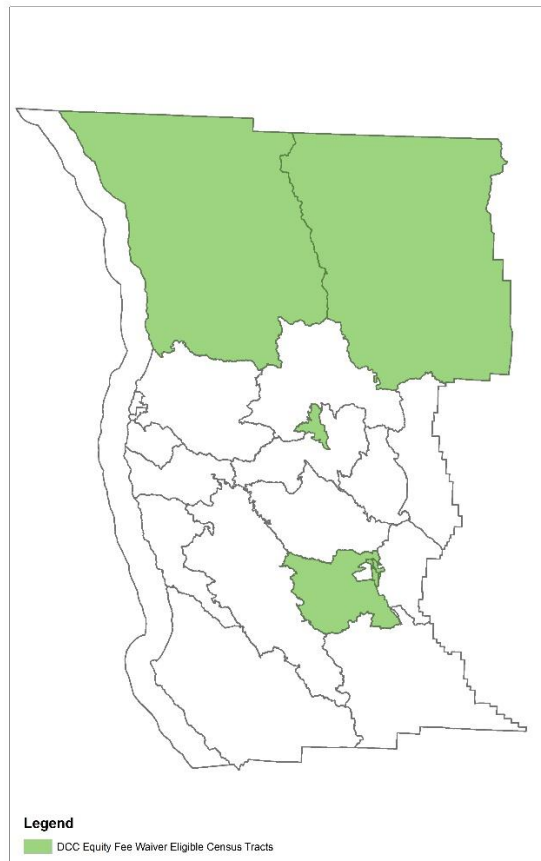
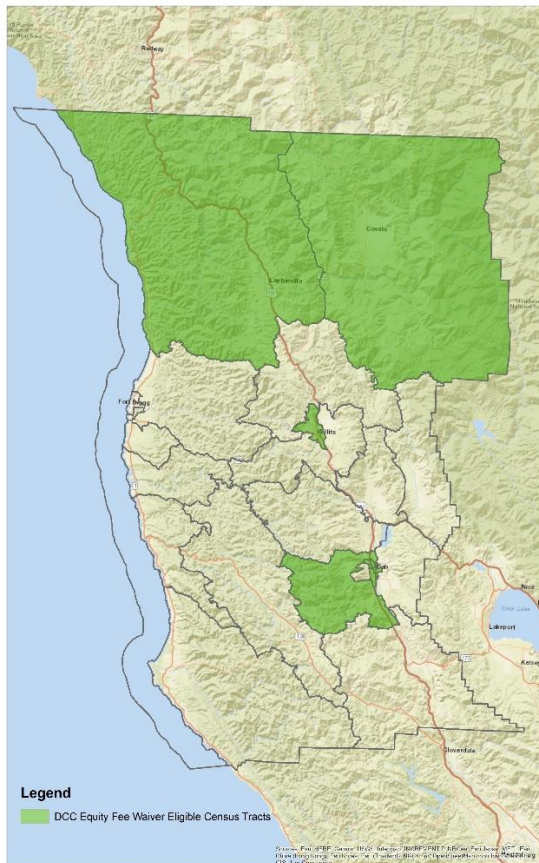


MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2024
TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Mendocino County Cannabis Department
SUBJECT: Local Equity Entrepreneur Program Eligibility – DCC Map Tool

As a part of the newly proposed LEEP Equity Criteria, please find the below Mendocino County Maps for the criterion of having lived in a place for at least 5 years between 1980 and 2016 that was a California county with drug arrest rates that were higher than the state average drug arrest rates and: The top 25% for unemployment and poverty. Applicants can use the [DCC map tool](#) to see if you live in a qualifying area.

Please see below maps created for easy, unofficial, reference by the Mendocino County Cannabis Department.





Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Agenda Summary

Item #: 2b)

To: GENERAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

From: Executive Office

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

Department Contact: Darcie Antle

Phone: 707-463-4441

Department Contact: Kelly Hansen

Phone: 707-463-4441

Time Allocated for Item: 45 Minutes

Agenda Title:

Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction Regarding the Development of the Mendocino County's 2024 Legislative Platform
(Sponsor: Executive Office)

Recommended Action/Motion:

Provide direction to staff regarding the development of Mendocino County's 2024 Legislative Platform.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

Since 2016, the development of the Legislative Platform has been referred to the Board of Supervisor's General Government Standing Committee.

Summary of Request/Referral:

Pursuant to County Policy No. 19, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual Legislative Platform reflecting the County priorities for legislative advocacy, state and federal funding, and issues of interest to local government. The Executive Office requests direction and input from the Standing Committee on legislative priorities for the 2023 Legislative Platform.

Supplemental Information Available Online At: N/A

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: N/A

current f/y cost: N/A

budget clarification: N/A

annual recurring cost: N/A

budgeted in current f/y (if no, please describe): N/A

revenue agreement: N/A

CEO Liaison: Steve Dunncliff, Deputy CEO

CEO Review: Yes

Item #: 2b)

CEO Comments:

FOR COB USE ONLY

Executed By: Lillian Bearden, Deputy Clerk I

Final Status: **Approved**

Date: January 31, 2024





COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



2024 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Adopted By:

Glenn McGourty
District 1

Dan Gjerde
District 4

Maureen Mulheren
District 2

John Haschak
District 3

Ted Williams
District 5

Prepared By:

Chief Executive Officer
Darcie Antle





COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' mission is to create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County. The County's mission is to deliver services that meet: Public safety, health, social, cultural, education, transportation, economic, and environmental needs of our communities. Mendocino County's Strategic Plan guides the critical decisions the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors faces to improve the quality of life for County residents.

MENDOCINO COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

a. An Effective County Government

- i. Define clear roles, responsibilities, and processes for government leadership
Create a thriving organizational culture.
- ii. Implement new approaches to demonstrate our commitment to Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- iii. Improve operational efficiency by streamlining processes and implementing
technology-based solutions.
- iv. Increase transparency in government operations to build trust with employees,
communities, and partners.
- v. Assure financial sustainability of the County.

b. A Safe and Healthy County

- i. Provide a person-centered approach to help under-resourced individuals and
families thrive.
- ii. Deliver culturally relevant public health services that focus on prevention and
are guided by social determinants of health.
- iii. Increase access to behavioral health services.
- ii-iv. Help people feel safe in their communities.
- iii-v. Implement practices that support a sustainable environment and responsible
stewardship of natural resources.

c. A Thriving Economy

- i. Support a vibrant economy.
- ii. Support increased housing stock at a range of affordability levels.
- iv-iii. Ensure that affordable and reliable broadband communications is available to
all County residents.

d. A Prepared and Resilient County

- i. Increase disaster/emergency preparedness and resiliency.
- ii. Ensure access to rural fire protection and emergency medical services.
- v-iii. Improve and maintain transportation and road systems/access routes.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative body of Mendocino County government. The Board adopts policies, establishes programs, appoints certain non-elected department heads, and adopts annual budgets for all County departments. The Board of Supervisors also serves as the governing board for two special districts; the Mendocino County Water Agency, and the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District. Supervisors also serve on regional agencies and as ex-officio members on the boards of county service districts. The Board of Supervisors is a five-member board elected by district on the basis of population, as required by state law. Supervisors are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve for a term of four years. Along with the Board's committee and agency appointments, Supervisors also elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually among themselves.



Glenn McGourty
District 1



Mo Mulheren
District 2



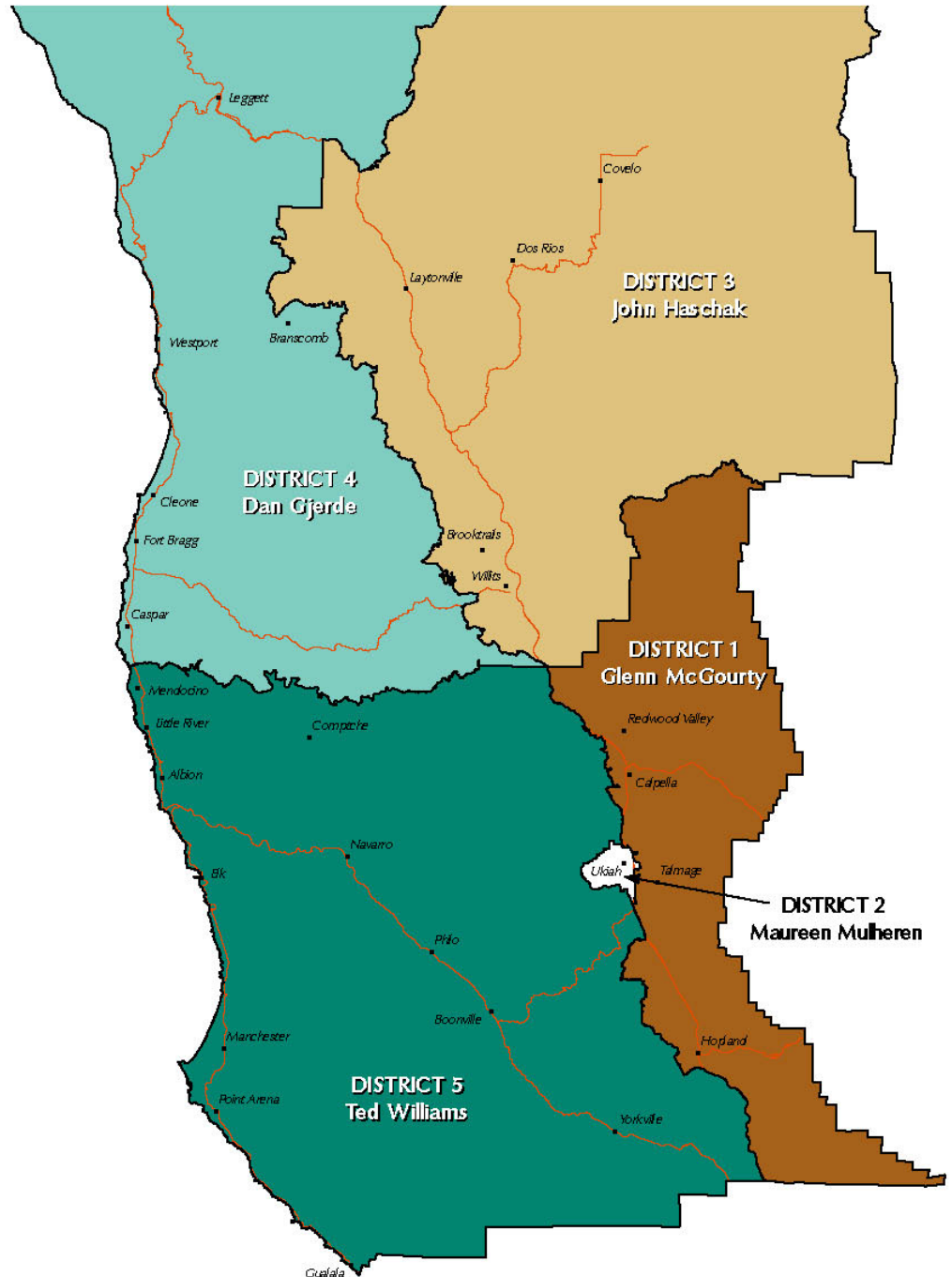
John Haschak
District 3



Dan Gjerde
District 4



Ted Williams
District 5





COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

2024 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OVERVIEW

Local government is uniquely and best positioned to support, serve, and respond to community and individual needs. The ability of the Board to deliver on its mission, “to create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County” requires support from all levels of government. Therefore, State and Federal legislative and regulatory policy and action are often needed to support local government in having this impact. State and Federal action can affect the County’s ability to deliver, shape, and resource services, in addition to removing obstacles to providing those services.

This support has been significant in the County’s recovery from several major disasters and a global health pandemic. To fulfill Mendocino County’s commitment to the community, positive State and Federal action, including the allocation of resources, is sought by county staff. Each year, Mendocino County departments review and recommend state and federal legislation to improve and enhance county financing, operation, and efficiency in service delivery. The platform includes the over-arching guiding principles listed below, prioritizes State and Federal issues intended for specific legislative action, and lays out ongoing general State and Federal issues that the County will monitor for potential action should opportunities arise. The Board of Supervisors adopts these legislative positions as a platform that guides County advocacy to elected state and federal representatives. This advocacy is carried out by county staff, and professional lobbyists hired by the County, the National Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, and the California State Association of Counties.

The numbering and listing of items and order are for tracking purposes and do not denote rank or relative importance. Priority State and Federal Issues have been identified as a focus for staff and state lobbyists during the legislative session. However, action can be taken on any issue as opportunities arise. Additionally, some items identified as State priority issues could yield advocacy opportunities in a federal setting and vice versa.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Through this platform, Mendocino County will rely on advocates, professional associations (such as the California State Association of Counties, the Rural County Representatives of California, and the National Association of Counties), local elected officials, and staff to:

1. Support legislation that furthers the goals identified within the County’s Strategic Plan Priorities:
 - i. An Effective County Government
 - ii. A Safe and Healthy County
 - iii. A Thriving Economy
 - iv. A Prepared and Resilient County
2. Develop, pursue, and support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local governments’ revenues, maximize the County’s access to state and federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility. Oppose any effort to balance the state budget through the removal or recoupment of local government resources, and support legislation that will allow the County to ensure full cost recovery for services provided to other governmental entities.

3. Encourage and seek legislation to facilitate orderly and sustainable economic development, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues, and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
4. Oppose unfunded mandates and any realignment initiatives, which fail to fully fund services mandates cost-shifted to the County, including appropriate cost of living increases and cost increases due to population and caseload growth.
5. Support legislation that preserves local control; oppose legislation that diminishes local control of services and revenues.
6. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation and incorporation that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its residents.
7. Support legislation that provides tax, bond, and other funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources.

Pursuant to Mendocino County Policy No. 19, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual Legislative Platform reflecting the County priorities for legislative advocacy, State and Federal funding, and issues of interest to local government and communities. The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the positions of the County on priority issues and matters that impact the County's ability to operate effectively, while allowing the considerations of legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. In keeping with past practice, the Board referred the development of the 2024 Legislative Platform to the General Government Standing Committee, comprised of Chair John Haschak and Supervisor Glenn McGourty, to work with County Department Heads and Executive Office staff in developing a framework of issues for Board consideration.

On XXXX, the Board adopted the 2024 Legislative Platform reflecting the County's legislative priorities and policies for the upcoming legislative cycle. In adopting an annual legislative advocacy platform, the Board of Supervisors strives to enhance the quality of life in Mendocino County through effective state and Federal legislation.

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & FOCUS AREAS

In adopting this year's legislative platform, the following serve as Mendocino County's priorities and focus areas for Federal and State legislative advocacy:

GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC ACCESS

ISSUE: Article I, Section Three of the California Constitution guarantees that "the people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good." This includes a right to access information concerning the meetings and writings of public officials. To ensure that the right to openly scrutinize public agencies is maintained, the Constitution requires local agencies to comply with certain state laws that outline the basic requirements for public access to meetings and public records.

The Ralph M. Brown Act provides guidelines for how local agencies must hold public meetings. Among other provisions, the Act requires that meetings of the legislative body of a local agency be open and public. The Brown Act was enacted in 1953 first allowed teleconference meetings in 1988. At the time, San Diego County was considering the use of video teleconferencing for meetings and hearings of the board of supervisors due to concerns about the long distances that some of their constituents travelled to participate and were concerned that these distances prohibited some people from attending at all.

In response to the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, including mandatory "stay-at-home" orders, public agencies had to adjust to new ways of conducting business because of the public safety risk associated with meeting in person. In March 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20, which provided local agencies with more flexibility to use teleconferencing without making those teleconference locations accessible to the public. On June 11, the Governor issued Executive Order N08-21 notifying local agencies and the public that previous executive orders concerning the conduct of public meetings would apply through September 30, 2021. The Legislature later enacted AB 361 (Robert Rivas, 2021) which allows, until January 1, 2024, local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with specified Brown Act restrictions in certain state-declared emergencies. In 2022, AB 2449 was passed, allowing the legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the traditional Brown Act teleconferencing rules or the modified AB 361 rules in certain circumstances. Additional flexibility is needed to maximize public participation, further reduce vehicle miles traveled, and to adjust to uncertain events.

Counties and other local governments have also faced a significant increase in the number and size of PRA requests over the past few years. The intensive work required to review records and redact the material that is exempt or prohibited from disclosure has grown exponentially. Further compounding this problem is that counties must make tough judgment calls on whether to release some records, especially when doing so is specifically prohibited, for example because doing so would violate privacy laws or employee confidentiality. Counties have also seen an increase in vexatious litigants using the PRA to grind government work to a halt.

The County of Mendocino supports governmental transparency and public access. However, legislative proposals are needed to address the impacts of these growing issues on local governments capacity to provide this service without impacts other critical services.

STATE ACTION

- Support legislation that balances increased public trust, confidence and access to public meetings and records while realizing the fiscal and operational constraints of local government.
- Advocate for the appropriate utilization of video technologies to increase public participation and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

COUNTY ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

ISSUE: The revenue received from the fuel tax is deposited in the State Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA). This revenue is allocated to the State, counties, and cities, with the majority (56 percent) designated for state highway maintenance. However, more than 80 percent of all road miles in the State are owned and operated by cities and counties. As a result, gas tax revenue is woefully inadequate to cover the State’s local road infrastructure needs, including 54 out of 58 counties where Pavement Condition Indexes are considered to be at risk or poor. Despite dedicated local funding to pavement preservation, Mendocino County is one of these counties.

The implementation of Senate Bill 1 (Beall and Frazier), a landmark transportation funding package that was signed by Governor Brown on April 28, 2017, offered counties a significant influx of new revenue to invest in the local street and road system. Given attempts in 2018 to repeal this law, it is critical that counties stay vigilant to protect investments in our roads and infrastructure and work to inform state partners of impacts on counties that could limit access to SB 1 funds. It is important that State road and infrastructure investments are protected to continue our progress toward a full recovery and to prepare for future disasters.

STATE ACTION

- Oppose efforts that would divert SB 1 transportation funds from road and highway projects.
- Increase and stabilize State revenue to the County.
- Work with federal, state, local, tribal, community and other partners to identify, assess, modify, repair, or construct essential transportation infrastructure for critical County emergency response and evacuation missions.
- Increase and stabilize Federal revenue and reimbursement to the County related to FEMA activities, and the need to restore or replace public infrastructure within the disaster and fire-scarred areas.
- Supports a set-aside in the Cap and Trade funding for preventative maintenance of road systems for all local governments.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & RENEWABLE ENERGY

ISSUE: With over 3,500 square miles of diverse terrain and 129 miles of coastline, Mendocino County is home significant ecosystems, critical biodiversity and a rural population (population density is about 26.1 per square mile (2020 Census). Mendocino County is an at-risk region which necessitates a comprehensive effort and substantial resources, including State and Federal support, to effectively address and support county-wide actions and community resiliency projects. Per FEMA’s National Risk Index, Mendocino County is in the 95.1 national percentile, has a “very high” social vulnerability, and the highest hazard type risk ratings are wildfire (97.3), drought (99.4), earthquake (98.4), landslide (99.5), and riverine flooding

(96.0). In recent years, climate change-related hazards continue to be experienced throughout the County—from the 2017 firestorm through the severe winter storms of 2023.

Hazards generally faced in Mendocino County include but are not limited to wildfire, drought, extreme heat events, severe winter storms and associated flooding, poor air quality due to wildfires, agriculture and forestry pests and diseases, dune and bluff erosion, landslides and debris flows, and sea-level rise. Many hazard types are experienced countywide while other categories occur in distinct climate areas dependent on their geography. Nonetheless climate change is an increasing challenge experienced county-wide, already impacting Mendocino communities, and requiring consistent, dedicated efforts to address it.

California’s 4th Climate Assessment warns that the costs of climate change could climb beyond \$113 billion annually if action is not promptly taken. While the County has identified numerous climate-induced challenges, the investment necessary to fund required resiliency efforts is far beyond available financial resources. Funding is needed to support efforts to reduce emissions, increase the pace and scale of forest health and wildfire resiliency activities, and support other action to increase climate adaptation.

STATE ACTION

- Supports investment in and efforts to support the infrastructure needed in rural areas and Tribal regions to reduce carbon emissions, including strengthening federal, state and local capacity for carbon analysis and accounting, and emissions reduction strategies to support climate resilient planning and decision- making.
- Advocate for projects that improve community resilience to climate impacts and improve electric grid reliability.
- Support investment in infrastructure to facilitate clean renewable energy and transition to electric vehicles and transport, as well as wildfire resilience and land use practices that support carbon sinks and reduced emissions.
- Support legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.
- Supports legislation that encourages research and analysis of renewable energy projects; streamlines the environmental review processes; increases investment in critical infrastructure, and the regional electric grid; allows stakeholder involvement; and supports the development of renewable energy.
- Advocate for support for installation of solar power and hydropower as renewable energy sources.
- Support carbon sequestration programs and projects, including carbon farming and forest management.
- Supports legislation that incentivizes responsible water storage systems for existing new and existing construction.
- Advocate for funding to counties, Tribal Nations and cities along the coast to develop and implement sea level rise adaptation plans and projects.
- Advocate for funding where adaptation requires retreat or moving away from properties.
- Ensure any new State climate action mandates include full cost recovery by counties.

DISASTER PREVENTION, RECOVERY, RESILIENCY & MITIGATION

ISSUE: During the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire, Mendocino County suffered tremendous loss, 36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged, and watersheds were affected. However, this does not touch on the loss of lives. ~~In the midst of disaster recovery,~~ Mendocino communities continue to be hit hard by unprecedented disasters, including significant fires in 2018, 2020 and 2021 along with public safety power shut offs in 2019, drought, COVID-19 public health emergency, and severe winter storms. The devastation of these events will live on for decades. The support of the State and Federal government in both appropriations and policy changes are vital as the County continues to rebuild resilient communities and prepare for the “new normal” of increasingly catastrophic natural disasters.

STATE ACTION

- Support efforts to enact legislation, regulations, and executive orders that ease the burden and promote rapid recovery and preparedness for future disasters.
- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support additional funding at a local level for disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Advocate for the State to evaluate regulations and requirements for grants, housing projects and mitigation projects for opportunities to streamline processes and provide exemption when necessary.
- Advocate and support State protection for homeowner’s insurance availability and affordability in fire prone areas.
- Support funding for Wildfire Prevention including the development and/or improvement of second access routes and emergency egress for communities in the wildland urban interface.
- Support funding for the assessment and removal of dead and dying hazardous trees.
- Support full and flexible, non-competitive funding for enhanced emergency preparedness and all hazard planning to include provisions for establishing a baseline emergency management capability in each county.
- Increase funding and coordination of local government alert & warning systems.
- Provide State financial assistance to support vulnerable communities impacted by disaster; allowing for the swift response to the actual needs of our most vulnerable survivors prior to the receipt of federal funds.
- Increase funding for equitable emergency planning and response specifically addressing the safety of seniors, children, non- English speakers, and individuals with access and functional needs.
- Increase the allocation of grant programs and available funds that would support post disaster immediate response local recovery and resiliency efforts.
- Increase access to funding for local jurisdictions for disaster-related infrastructure and personal property damages, and response costs such as debris removal and property recovery.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents

recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.

- Support implementation of new requirements that limit “funding claw backs” and oppose efforts to withhold disaster recovery payments to Mendocino County.
- Advocate for additional FEMA technical assistance for counties to assist staff in navigating direct assistance programs and regulatory requirements for approved disaster projects.
- Advocate for financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or under-insured necessary expenses and serious needs in non-federally declared disasters.

COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY

ISSUE: Since January 2020, the County has been part of a coordinated public health response involving the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The then Director of Emergency Services/Chief Executive Officer, Carmel Angelo declared a Local Emergency and the then Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency on March 4, 2020. The County’s response efforts to protect human life and minimize the strain on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to exceed \$28 million in 2020. Costs include labor, essential supplies and materials, contracts with public health and technical consultants, testing, education, and outreach, contacting investigation and tracing, motel rooms for homeless individuals, preparation and operation costs for the health emergency alternative care facility, staff overtime costs, and emergency food relief programs.

STATE ACTION

- ~~Support ongoing State provided COVID-19 testing sites to assist Mendocino County in meeting State required testing thresholds.~~
- ~~Support State resources to assist counties in vaccine distribution, which may require special refrigeration and other expenses for distribution.~~
- Support ongoing and increased assistance by the State in providing epidemiologist and bilingual/bicultural contact investigators and tracers.
- Support ongoing operational funding for project HomeKey projects.
- ~~Support continued flexible funding for COVID-19 response and recovery to assist counties in providing services including, but not limited to emergency operations, isolation and quarantine housing, economic development, and testing.~~
- ~~Support maximum reimbursement for the County’s COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.~~
- ~~Advocate for continued support for wastewater surveillance as a new, important method of early and ongoing assessment of community risk from infections.~~

FEDERAL ACTION

- Support ongoing Federal coronavirus aid to local government to support the COVID-19 response including, but not limited to testing, vaccines, isolation/quarantine housing and economic recovery.
- ~~Support maximum reimbursement from FEMA for County COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.~~
- ~~Support additional flexibility for the American Rescue Plan Act~~

NATURAL RESOURCES

ISSUE: Mendocino County supports efforts to conserve and preserve the county's natural resources to help restore its fisheries, maintain healthy forests, support clean reliable water supplies, and ensure agriculture is preserved for future generations. The County supports activities and polices that promote responsible land management that integrate local government involvement in Federal and State land management decisions. The County supports increased State and Federal funding for public land management to address deferred maintenance of infrastructure in forests and fire prevention and mitigation activities.

STATE ACTION

- Support local control in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and development/implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Support State funding for implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).
- Support State funding for storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
- Advocate for recycling and organic waste reduction legislation that take into account the needs of rural communities.
- Advocate for legislation to allow and streamline the process for water districts to consolidate districts. Support State funding for drought response and infrastructure to facilitate water resiliency in rural communities.
- Support State funding for flood response and infrastructure, as droughts happen, floods follow including post-wildfire debris flows.
- Support the restoration of Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act) Subvention funds. Mendocino County, like most other rural counties, is dependent on State funding to offset the loss of property tax revenue to the County. Without a resumption of subvention payments, the County budget will suffer a detrimental impact.
- Support Restorative funding for the Division of Measurement Standards, within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that consumer protection and commercial device accuracy support is maintained.
- Support the development and expansion of Cap-and-Trade funding programs specifically targeted at rural communities.
- Years of extremely dry conditions are taking a toll on forested lands across the State with rapid tree mortality. The County supports State and Federal local assistance, financial resources, regulatory relief and assistance with outreach and coordination efforts to address health and safety risk from dead and dying trees, including areas within the coastal range overseen by the California Coastal Commission.
- Advocate for legislation that would address the formation of a governing authority for the Potter Valley Project.
- Advocate for State funding to assist the Inland Water and Power Commission and Planning Agreement Parties in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing process for the Potter Valley Project
- Advocate for legislation that would address the formation of governing authority for the Potter Valley Project that includes Mendocino County representation.
- Advocate for State funding to assist the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission in preserving the water supply provided by the Potter Valley Project for the thousands of people who use the water domestically, for agriculture, and for environmental uses in the Russian River watershed.
- Prioritize projects that reduce or prohibit development and vehicle miles traveled potential on

conservation lands, open space, agriculture and working lands, and important watersheds.

- Promote new and innovative programs and projects that reduce or sequester greenhouse gases, including vegetation management, urban greening, and land use planning.
- Ensure any new State climate action mandates include full cost recovery by counties.
- Support focusing on parks and open space lands, as public natural resources, in the provision of carbon neutrality.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Engage in the re-licensing process for FERC Project No. 77 – the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project and other related items to achieve Mendocino County goals.
- Support the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Two-Basin Partnership efforts to re-license the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- Monitor the legal challenges to the Waters of the United States rule (by the EPA and Army Corps) aimed at re-defining the definition of "Waters of the US" inside the Clean Water.
 - Continue to advocate for developing a new rule that would not inappropriately or unnecessarily expand coverage to new land features or waters or broaden the overall jurisdiction of the agencies. Additionally, the detrimental impacts and burdens to municipalities and agriculture nationwide could be more thoroughly assessed and minimized.
 - Support Congressional efforts to establish a more effective definition of "Waters of the U.S."
- Support restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates public lands counties for untaxable Federal land.
- Support long-term Federal reauthorization and full funding for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), which provides funding for rural counties and school districts to replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts due to national decline in timber harvesting.
- Engage with United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other Federal land management agencies to ensure that local communities are consulted regarding land management issues including recreation, fire management and law enforcement.
- Engage in the efforts with to preserve the water supply provided by the Potter Valley Project for the thousands of people who use the water domestically, for agriculture, and for environmental uses in the Russian River watershed.
- Support the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission in the efforts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to raise Coyote Dam at Lake Mendocino and secure the related water supply.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: Communities prosper when ideas, programs, and activities aimed at improving its economy and the quality of life of its residents are encouraged. Economic and community development is the creation of wealth from which community benefits are realized. It's more than a jobs or small business program, it's an investment in growing our local economy and enhancing the prosperity and quality of life for all residents. These programs can lead to increased tax revenues, job growth, and increased community prosperity. Jurisdictions are often limited in the types of tools and resources which they can employ for encouraging development activity in their own regions. The County supports legislative efforts designed to foster **economic**-development tools and funding options for effective programs and job creation. The

County supports legislative efforts that promote strategic land use and development practices that maintain ~~and~~/or increase local control. Mendocino County will continue to advocate for economic and community development opportunities suitable for its rural community's unique character—and support from State and Federal partners.

STATE ACTION

- Legislation that positively impacts a jurisdiction's ability to engage in and implement economic development programs and policies.
- Enhancing regional collaboration.
- The development and implementation of a statewide "proactive" California business retention strategy, led by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). The county supports partnerships with local economic development organizations.
- Legislation that increases the competitive position of the State of California, its geographical areas, and its jurisdictions.
- Legislation that incorporates renewable energy and preparedness in economic development efforts.
- Support legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.
- Advocate for support for installation of solar power and hydropower as renewable energy sources.
- Childcare is essential to economic development. The county supports legislation to broaden eligibility and access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning programs, and increase childcare workers' compensation and professional development opportunities.
- The county supports the maximum level of funding for the CDBG program. In addition, the county supports allowing permanent housing to be considered an eligible activity for the program and increased operational flexibilities.
- Legislation that maintains and strengthens tax increment financing tools for communities.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing State funding for mandated planning projects such as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), General Plan Housing Element updates, and other planning initiatives under AB 32 and SB 375.
- Promote a full range of housing in all communities to better address the housing needs and solutions in rural communities.
- Support the repeal of Article 34 of the California Constitution, which would reduce administrative burden on local governments around affordable housing development.
- Support expansion of State tax incentives for the provision of affordable housing. The tax codes and financial industry regulations need to be revised to provide stimulus to produce affordable housing, particularly for median, low, and very low-income households.
- Oppose legislation that creates restrictions on local control of land use and development.
- Oppose legislative actions or reform measures that penalize jurisdictions for non-compliance with state-mandated Housing Element update schedules.
- Broadband Deployment
 - Support "Dig Once/Trench Once" and other policies which streamline the deployment of conduit for underground fiber-optic and electrical cables and minimize regulatory burdens and permitting processes for deployment of internet connectivity.
 - Advocate to maximize broadband infrastructure investment and equitable county-wide connectivity from the delivery of Middle and Last Mile projects under SB 156 and other State and Federal funds. In addition to explore options that would include wireless and satellite

technology in providing internet service delivery where underground fiber-optic is not possible or feasible.

- Support and monitor the development and deployment of a robust county-wide Middle Mile open access fiber-optic backbone to stimulate economic development and affordable broadband availability to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety facilities, health services, and other institutions throughout Mendocino County.
- Advocate for complete and accurate broadband connectivity data needed for smart policy and design decisions required to effectively bridge the growing digital divide.
- Advocate to strongly encourage, if not require, last mile to the consumer broadband providers to supply equitable service to all potential customers as part of a new area service acquisition.
- ~~Advocate for support for installation of solar power and hydropower as renewable energy sources.~~ Supports legislation that provides resources to improve rural counties access to high-speed broadband. The county also supports legislation that protects access to broadband service.
- Advocate for secured, long-term, ongoing funding, maintenance, and planning of the Great Redwood Trail.
- Support community access to local libraries and advocate for broadband equity, the freedom to read and to access diverse points of view, literacy for all ages, and intellectual freedom.
- Advocate for additional grant funding for libraries who provide services to vulnerable populations such as Lunch at the Library which provides literacy-rich activities for libraries working with USDA lunch providers to offer nutritious lunches to children 18 and under who might not have access to lunches over the summer break and JobNow, VetNow, and LearnNow to support education for vulnerable populations.
- Support efforts to promote local school-museum partnerships to providing engaging, hands-on learning opportunities. Advocate for additional state and grant support for regional museum's role as vital education providers and keepers of primary source material.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Support efforts by the Administration and Congress to increase the nation's infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility through a comprehensive infrastructure package, surface transportation reauthorization and water resources bill.
- Advocate for complete and accurate broadband connectivity data, which is necessary to effectively bridge the growing digital divide as the Federal government relies on this information to determine the true need for critical broadband resources.
- Supports the deployment and availability of broadband and emerging technology, to rural communities to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.
- Advocate for Federal funding for rural airport infrastructure projects.
- Advocate for the expansion of Federal tax credits to better meet the statewide need for subsidized affordable housing units.
- Advocate for a change in Federal tax law to eliminate current tax incentives for short term rentals, as these Federal tax incentives are leading to the conversion of housing for year-round residents to a commercial use of housing for the purpose of short-term rentals for visitors.
- Advocate for funding for combatting censorship and aid for libraries and librarians who are encountering challenges.
- Support funding for USDA meal sites for Lunch at the Library.
- Advocate for funding for programs that support services to vulnerable populations from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- Advocate for federal education programs in which the Mendocino Museum participates.

CANNABIS

ISSUE: Mendocino County is a pre-eminent producer county in the State of California, home to a very large number of multi-generational cultivators, manufacturers, and other added-value cannabis industry participants. Nearly 20 years after California voters legalized medical cannabis via Proposition 215 (1996), the State legislature passed the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) in 2015 to license, regulate, and address the impacts of commercial medical cannabis businesses. Then in November 2016, voters passed Proposition 64, the “California Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Initiative,” also known as the “Adult Use of Marijuana Act” (AUMA). These laws have since been consolidated to form the “Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act” (MAUCRSA), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 26000 et seq., which is administered by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC).

As the State continues to develop regulations for this industry, consideration must be given to the difficulties facing small cannabis operators in rural communities, unable to compete in the emerging legal market if it demands large sums of investment to scale up and meet regulatory requirements. Mendocino County will continue to advocate for maintaining local government’s flexibility and authority to address individual community needs through local control measures. As local government implements local and State regulations, funding assistance will be critical to ensuring successful integration of the cannabis industry into the legal economy. Mendocino County supports Federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the Federal prohibition of cannabis and encourages Federal recognition of State laws regulating cannabis.

STATE ACTION

- Advocate for a reduction in the State excise tax as a means to support the economic recovery of small businesses and quell competition with the illicit market.
- Advocate for statutory changes that eliminate project-specific CEQA analysis as an annual licensing requirement and instead allow the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) to accept the CEQA compliance pathways set forth by local jurisdictions, including pathways that provide ministerial permits and principally permit commercial cannabis activities.
- Advocate for cannabis cultivation to be considered an agricultural crop produced for human consumption and regulated in the California Food and Agricultural Code rather than the Business and Professions Code.
- Advocate for the removal of the state regulatory prohibition on cannabis activities within a residence so that local jurisdictions can implement cottage industry codes allowing commercial cannabis businesses the ability to conduct activities analogous to those of non-cannabis related cottage industry businesses.
- Advocate for licensed commercial cannabis business to have access to state-funded disaster relief programs and grant programs.
- Advocate for the simplification of the state’s commercial cannabis regulations in a manner that reduces barriers to entry into the legal market, protects public health and safety, and ensures a regulated environment for commercial cannabis activities that does not impose such barriers as to perpetuate, rather than reduce and eliminate, the illicit market for cannabis.
- Advocate for the ability of licensed cultivators to conduct multiple types of cultivation under a single license.
- Advocate that the DCC establish a simple process for cultivation license holders to conduct cultivation license type changes and cultivation license size changes.
- Advocate that the DCC establishes a process for state cultivation license holders to fallow all or a portion of the allowed mature plant canopy: with a corresponding reduction in fees and taxes without having to modify or expire their license. This allows cultivators to make better decisions about how to position their product in the marketplace or in response to other factors (such as drought), rather than being incentivized to maximize cultivation area.
- Advocate that the DCC allow for “batch tagging” of mature cannabis plants and harvested

- cannabis material in METRC similarly to what is currently allowed for immature plant tagging.
- Advocate for regulatory reform that allows locally permitted and state licensed cultivators to:
 - a) receive genetic material from any permitted and licensed commercial cannabis business entity,
 - b) transfer genetic material to other permitted and licensed cultivators,
 - c) receive genetic material from members of the public, not to exceed personal adult use allowances
 - d) enter no-source cannabis seeds into METRC in unlimited amounts because cannabis seeds are not federally restricted.
 - Advocate for the removal of the 4-acre cap on Cannabis Cooperative Associations to allow economy of scale for small farmers.
 - Advocate for state and federal policy changes that establishes opportunities for cultivators, processors, and manufactures to engage in direct-to-consumer sales, including through on-farm sales, cannabis events, direct to consumer deliver operations, and direct to consumer shipping.
 - Advocate that the DCC conduct annual audits of licensed distribution businesses to monitor how much cannabis material being sold within the supply chain is produced by permitted and licensed cultivators and how much is produced by unpermitted and unlicensed cultivators.
 - Advocate for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop educational materials and guidance document that clarify and support the development of appellation of origin petitions.
 - Advocate for the promulgation of comprehensive labeling requirements for all cannabis geographical indications, including county of origin, city of origin, city and county of origin, and appellation of origin designations.
 - Advocate for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to be sufficiently funded to manage the appellation of origin program and the establishment of a petition review panel.
 - Advocate for state and federal legislation and funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands. Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.
 - Fully fund County cannabis related expenditures including legislation that clarifies that cannabis-related expenditures are reportable expenses for the purpose of calculating unclaimed gas tax reimbursements to County Agricultural Commissioners or cannabis expenditures will not count against maintenance of effort calculations.
 - Support non-competitive or direct allocation of State cannabis tax revenue for small and rural counties.

FEDERAL ACTION

- The county supports federal legislation that allows cannabis to be regulated at the federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. The county takes the position that any change to the legal status of cannabis at the federal level must be accompanied by a thorough regulatory framework that delineates the clear roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions involved.
- Supports the continuation of the Blumenauer amendment, which prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with state medical marijuana laws. The county also supports efforts to expand these protections to state-legal recreational laws.
- Support efforts at the federal level to allow for and make available banking and other financial services to cannabis operators in order to minimize the use of cash.
- Advocate for changes to the Federal Tax Code to ensure that state licensed commercial cannabis

businesses are taxed in the same manner as non-cannabis businesses, including but not limited to, advocating for the elimination of Federal Tax Code Section 280E.

PUBLIC SAFETY

ISSUE: Mendocino County strongly supports community safety by providing high quality public safety services to maintain health and safety standards for its residents. The County supports additional State and Federal funding and tools to enhance law enforcement programs and the safety of its residents and public safety employees. It is recognized that the State, and not the county, is responsible for trial court operations costs and any growth in those costs in the future. Nevertheless, counties continue to be responsible for justice-related services, such as, but not limited to, probation, prosecutorial and defense services, as well as the provision of local juvenile and adult detention facilities. Therefore, it is imperative there is secure, stable, and sufficient funding allocated to Mendocino County to fulfil the State responsibilities mandated to the local level to implement. The County firmly oppose future and further unfunded State mandates.

STATE ACTION

- Ensure that adequate, secure, and stable funding is provided to implement the evidence-based practices mandated by realignment.
 - The County believes that the State should assume cost increases associated with state-imposed program changes and expansions, as well as Federal maintenance of effort mandates.
 - Oppose State and/or Federal funding reductions that shift responsibility for services, administration, or fiscal support to counties.
- Advocate for state and federal funds to offset costs of the Behavioral Health wing of the new jail.
- Support additional State funding for pre-trial service under SB 129.
- Advocate for an increase in funding due to SB 823 and the insufficient funding the formula created.
- Oppose legislation that would directly or indirectly shift costs related to State prisoners that are transferred under realignment to counties.
- Support additional permanent and stable State back-fill to cover the counties revenue loss resulting from AB 1869, the recent removal of criminal justice fines, fee, and penalties by the Legislature.
- Support permanent, stable, and consistent funding of SB 678 in light of AB 1950.
- Oppose any additional State efforts to change criminal justice fines, fees, and penalties without providing a corresponding revenue back-fill that is permanent and stable.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Support amending the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy under the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Veteran’s Affairs health services benefits for pre-trial inmates of public institutions.
- Support policies and programs that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from local jails into more appropriate treatment services.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ISSUE: Counties are mandated to protect Californians against threats of widespread disease and illness and are tasked with promoting health and wellness. Mendocino County supports and encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional approaches to health care. Mendocino County supports the maximum amount of flexibility in managing programs and adequate and secure State and Federal funding to accomplish mandated services. Counties should have the ability to expand or consolidate facilities, services, and program contracts to provide a comprehensive level of service and accountability and achieve maximum cost effectiveness.

STATE ACTION

- Support legislative efforts to provide sustaining wages to IHSS workers while limiting the County's obligation to increases in local required funding.
- Support efforts to sustain or restore funding for Health and Human Services safety-net programs and regulations, including: CalFresh Categorical Eligibility; School Lunch Programs; Health Care Enrollment (inmates); Preventing Elder and Dependent Care Abuse; Fees and Charges for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Program; Childhood Vaccinations; and Child Welfare Services.
- Advocate and support Enhanced Care Management (ECM) provisions and insurers, increasing services to the County Medi-Cal population.
- Support expansion of data sharing agreements for Public Health and other programs as required by the State to improve prevention and intervention care coordination.
- Support expansion of State staffing to facilitate funding for Maternal Child and Adolescent Health programs, for evidence-based Home Visiting (HV) programs promoted by CDPH, and adolescent health and mental health.
- Advocate and fund LHJ health data scientists and epidemiologists in Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Social Services.
- Increased funding for essential local public health responsibilities including workforce development, facilities, communicable disease prevention and response, and public health prevention and health equity activities.
- Support funding for and legislative support of Community Healthcare Workers (CHW) as well as development of career pathways for these CHWs.
- Advocate for increasing allocation to Public Health Emergency Preparedness to build sustainability of preparedness in public health infrastructure and staff.
- Support Statewide single-payer healthcare systems to streamline healthcare delivery and eliminate gaps in coverage.
- Advocate for the allocation of additional realignment revenues. Current cost-sharing ratios no longer reflect counties' long-term ability to control costs in the programs.
- Support sustainable funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems.
- Support funding incentives for homeless providers who develop and implement meaningful and integrated workforce development programs.
- Support funding for small business wage subsidies to hire homeless and recently homeless individuals.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Support for a new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid waivers for California. The new Cal-AIM waiver proposal is essential to enhance services at the local level particularly regarding mental health, substance use treatment services and homeless services.
 - Medicaid/Medi-Cal waiver projects have allowed for substantial funding and local

expansion of services outside of traditional Medi-Cal billable services, including the Whole Person Care waiver pilot that has enhanced mental health and homeless services. And more recently, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Deliver System pilot to expand substance use treatment services.

- Support increased and ongoing federal funding for the OAA programs, with appropriations matching the levels of authorized funding.
- Support funding and seek appropriations to improve senior transportation services.
- Increased federal support in growing and retaining a highly skilled public health workforce.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ISSUE: County behavioral health services are central to many difficult policy issues such as homelessness, housing, and justice system recidivism and diversion. One in five adults experience some form of mental illness in any given year. According to recent studies by the Well Being Trust and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, COVID has increased rates of clinical depression, anxiety, and suicide. Across the population, 1 in every 25 adults is living with a serious mental health condition such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or long-term recurring major depression. Treatment for these conditions is often not sought due to inaccessibility to services, coverage and reimbursement barriers or the patient is unaware that other physical symptoms could be connected to a mental health condition.

State and Federal resources and flexibility are needed to improve access to treatment in rural communities and address racial inequities. Counties need resources to expand access to evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training. Importantly, legislation that helps expand behavioral health workforce is necessary to meet these needs.

STATE ACTION

- Support additional funding and programs that provide improved access to local mental health services, including increased and consistent funding for mental health housing programs, crisis support, and jail diversion programs and services for foster youth with complex needs.
- Support insurance parity for mental health services to ensure residents with private insurance have the same services available as those with Medi-Cal.
- Advocate for the legislature to review the innovation component of the Mental Health Services Act for accountability. Innovation in rural, suburban, and urban counties vary drastically and should be evaluated based on local demographics.
- Advocate for state and federal funds to offset costs of the Behavioral Health wing of the new jail.
- Support the integration of behavioral health into the broader health care system and a balance between state expectations and local authority.
- Advocate for support of mental health initiatives for seniors and other vulnerable residents.
- Lobby for maximization of funding for inmate medical and mental health care services.
- Increased availability of inpatient psychiatric beds.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Advocate for reform of the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion language which bars Medicaid from receiving federal dollars to pay for mental health and substance use care provided in facilities with more than 16 beds which leads to a stark inequity in access to care. Unlike in Medicare or private insurance, Medicaid cannot cover many inpatient psychiatric services, even when they are recommended by a physician or mental health professional.
- Supports federal investment, including funding from court settlements, in mental health and substance use disorder workforce, training, prevention and treatment.

HOMELESSNESS

ISSUE: Mendocino County has a large population of Homelessness although the core of the homeless population is in the city of Ukiah, the majority of resources are also located in Ukiah. Limited housing and rental availability is a large contribution for continued transient and homeless growth within the county. There is a community impact on local businesses, and they are being affected by the homeless population encampments that need to be addressed. There are resources that may be being underutilized because of the lack of knowledge to the homeless population.

STATE ACTION

- ACCESS Integrated Care Management: Fully operationalize the ACCESS initiative care coordination teams to coordinate care for key health and social services (e.g., mental health substance use, MediCal, Social Security, primary health, and general assistance enrollments etc.) which are critical determinants of successful entering and maintaining sheltering and housing placements.
- Increase or sustain funding to prevent and end homelessness through direct allocations to the county directly or the local continuum of care (COC) as the counties are responsible for the broad scope of services and mandates provided to successfully move individuals out of homelessness; Sustainable and flexible State funding sources to enable communities to serve more people with outreach, shelter, eviction prevention, supportive housing, and short term rent assistance programs; Establishment of immediate solutions to address encampments.
- Increased opportunities such as Project Homekey providing funding, separate regulatory rules specific to address immediate needs; multi-element approaches to address homelessness and mental illness including co-occurring substance use disorders; and incentivized alignment of health, human services, and housing programs by facilitating data sharing, and providing one-time funding for systems redesign efforts undertaken by willing counties.
- Create new sources of funding and incentive programs to produce affordable housing through incentivized jurisdictional cooperation and regional housing planning.
- Preserve mobile home parks as a valuable housing resource.
- Improving rent stabilization tools including protections from displacement and unreasonable rent increases for mobile home park tenants.
- Ensuring that code enforcement does not result in closure of mobile home parks (or other affordable housing) unless it is an immediate danger to life, health, and safety.
- Address disparities in housing through: Ensuring that disaster recovery resources reach all impacted households, including those with the lowest incomes who are often the hardest hit by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover.
- Advocate for increasing accessibility to levels of support from Federal and State food programs.
- Advocate for funding to assist local businesses with security, clean up, and restoration due to homelessness.

FEDERAL ACTION

- Homeless Prevention Assistance: Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing Support to prevent individuals at risk of losing their housing, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic that has tremendous financial impacts on low-income individuals and families.



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Legislative Delegations

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM (D) GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA	Website: gov.ca.gov 1303 10 th Street, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841
STATE REPRESENTATIVES	
State Senate	
SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE (D) STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2 200 S. School St., Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone: 707-468-8914	Website: http://sd02.senate.ca.gov State Capitol 1021 O St., Suite 8610 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-651-4002
State Assembly	
ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM WOOD (D) STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2 200 S. School St., Suite D Ukiah, CA 95482 707-463-5770	Website: http://a02.asmdc.org State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249 Phone: 916-319-2002
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES	
United States Senate	
SENATOR ALEX PADILLA (D) UNITED STATES SENATE 501 I Street, Suite 7-800 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-448-2787	Website: www.padilla.senate.gov 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3553
SENATOR LAPHONZA BUTLER (D) UNITED STATES SENATE One Post Street, Suite 2450 San Francisco, CA 94104 Phone: 415-393-0707	Website: https://www.butler.senate.gov/ Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-12 Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3841
United State House of Representatives	
CONGRESSMAN JARED HUFFMAN (D) CALIFORNIA'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 200 S. School St., Ukiah, CA 95482 P.O. Box 2208, Fort Bragg, 95437 Phone: 707-671-7449 (Ukiah) Phone: 707-962-0933 (Fort Bragg)	Website: www.huffman.house.gov 2445 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-5161



Published by the County of Mendocino Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010 • Ukiah, CA 95482
Telephone: (707) 463- 4441 | Fax: (707) 463-5649

Email: ceo@mendocinocounty.org

Website: www.mendocinocounty.org/EO

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2024 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

Disaster Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency & Mitigation

- Support State efforts to strengthen and stabilize California's marketplace for homeowners and commercial property insurance and expand consumer coverage choices, particularly in underserved areas.

Economic & Community Development

- Support and advocate for sustained access to reliable and affordable telecommunication services for the County's diverse communities.



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Agenda Summary

Item #: 3a)

To: GENERAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

From: Executive Office

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

Department Contact: Atlas Pearson

Phone: 707-463-4441

Department Contact: Darcie Antle

Phone: 707-463-4441

Item Type: Consent Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: N/A

Agenda Title:

Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting

Recommended Action/Motion:

Approve minutes of December 18, 2023 regular meeting.

CEO Liaison: Executive Office

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

FOR COB USE ONLY

Executed By: Lillian Bearden, Deputy Clerk I

Final Status: **Approved**

Date: January 31, 2024



GLENN MCGOURTY
1st District
Supervisor
Chair

MAUREEN MULHEREN
2nd District
Supervisor
Vice-Chair

JOHN HASCHAK
3rd District
Supervisor

DAN GJERDE
4th District
Supervisor

TED WILLIAMS
5th District
Supervisor



DARCIE ANTLE
Chief Executive Officer/
Clerk of the Board

CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS
County Counsel

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4441 (t)
(707) 463-5649 (f)
cob@mendocinocounty.org

MENDOCINO COUNTY GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ACTION MINUTES – December 18, 2023

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO - STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
(PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §25150)**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – OPEN SESSION (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL 9:00 A.M.)

Present: Committee Member/Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and Committee Member/Chair John Haschak. Chair Haschak presiding.

Staff Present: Steve Dunicliff, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Christian M. Curtis, County Counsel; Atlas M.A. Pearson, Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board; and Lillian Bearden, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Steve Amato.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – REGULAR CALENDAR

ITEMS 2A AND 2B WERE HEARD BY THE BOARD CONCURRENTLY BY ORDER OF CHAIR HASCHAK

2A) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF AND A REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO CANNABIS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2023 - SPONSOR: CANNABIS

2B) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF AND A REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO CANNABIS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2023 - SPONSOR: CANNABIS

Presenter/s: Sara McBurney, Senior Program Manager, Cannabis.

Public Comment: Steve Amato; Hannah Nelson; and Paul Hansbury.

Committee Action: Upon motion by Supervisor Mulheren, seconded by Supervisor Haschak, IT IS ORDERED that the General Government Committee accepts the reports; and recommends a referral to the Board of Supervisors recommending approval of the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department Monthly Update for October 2023 and November 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 – Supervisor Mulheren and Supervisor Haschak

No: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – OTHER BUSINESS

3A) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2023 REGULAR MEETING - SPONSOR: EXECUTIVE OFFICE/CLERK OF THE BOARD

Presenter/s: Atlas M.A. Pearson, Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Action: Upon motion by Supervisor Mulheren, seconded by Supervisor Haschak, IT IS ORDERED that the General Government Committee approves minutes of the October 30, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 – Supervisor Mulheren and Supervisor Haschak

No: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

3B) PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Presenter/s: Michael Katz; Chantal Simonpietri; and Hannah Nelson.

3C) ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, THE MENDOCINO COUNTY GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 9:52 A.M.

Attest: ATLAS M.A. PEARSON
Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board



JOHN HASCHAK, Chair



NOTICE: PUBLISHED MINUTES OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

- Effective March 1, 2009, Board of Supervisors minutes are produced in “action only” format
- LIVE WEB STREAMING OF BOARD MEETINGS is available via the County’s YouTube Channel, which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@MendocinoCountyVideo>
- Minutes are considered draft until adopted/approved by the Board of Supervisors
- The Board of Supervisors’ action minutes are also posted on the County of Mendocino website at: <https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- For technical assistance or any requests for official meeting records of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, please contact the Clerk of the Boards Office at (707) 463-4441
- Additional resource information: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors>

Thank you for your interest in the proceedings of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors