

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## Approved MINUTES

Monday, November 5, 2012

City Hall, 451 School St./ 24000 Hwy. 1, Point Arena

### **The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) meets as the Board of Directors of:**

Mendocino Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and  
Mendocino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call .** After the Board members' bus tour of Gualala and Point Arena area transportation projects and lunch (approximately 10:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.), the meeting was called to order at 2:28 p.m. with Directors Jesse Robertson (Caltrans/PAC), Holly Madrigal, John Pinches, Lauren Sinnott (Alternate), Carre Brown, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Susan Ranochak and Mari Rodin were excused. Alternate Kendall Smith also attended. Director Terry Hughey attended the tour, but was unable to attend the meeting.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration; Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director; and James Sookne, Regional Project Planner.

### **2. Convene as SAFE**

**3. Adoption of Resolution #S2012-02 To Amend Resolution No. S2005-01 [Committing To Provide Telecommunications Devices For The Deaf (TTYs) On All Call Boxes In Mendocino County] To Exempt Satellite Call Boxes From The TTY Device Commitment.** Mr. Dow summarized his written staff report. The amendment would exempt call boxes that use satellite communications from Mendocino SAFE's previous commitment to provide teletype keyboard devices (known as TTYs) for the hearing impaired on all call boxes in Mendocino County. For technical reasons, the satellite call boxes instead will be equipped only with "Call-Connect" lights, which assure any hearing impaired caller that their call has been answered and location identified. Satellite communication call boxes will be deployed only in areas where either cellular or hardwire service is infeasible, unreliable or non-existent. The first one to be deployed in the nation has been purchased and is being tested in the field by Mendocino SAFE, with successful results so far.

Director Sinnott commented on the value of the SAFE motorist-aid call box system and supported the proposed amendment.

**A motion was made** by Director Madrigal, seconded by Director Brown to approve the resolution as written. **Discussion on the motion:** Director Smith asked Mr. Dow whether he had obtained any current legal assurances for this action. He had not taken the matter to County Counsel, however he had previously consulted at length with a staff attorney at California Center for Law and the Deaf (CalCLAD). The basis for their lawsuit had been that Mendocino SAFE was not using the best technology available at the time, i.e. the TTYs that have since been installed systemwide. However in this case, the SAFE is using best available technology.

**The motion carried** unanimously on roll call vote (*5 Ayes – Madrigal, Pinches, Sinnott/Alt., Brown, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Hughey and Rodin*): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is adopted.

### **Resolution No. S2012-02**

To Amend Resolution No. S2005-01

[Committing To Provide Telecommunications Devices For The Deaf (TTYs)  
On All Call Boxes In Mendocino County]

To Exempt Satellite Call Boxes From The TTY Device Commitment

(Reso. #S2012-02 is incorporated herein by reference)

**4. Recess as SAFE - Convene as RTPA**

**5. Recess as RTPA - Reconvene as Policy Advisory Committee.**

**Public Expression.** None.

**6 - 7. Regular Calendar.**

**6. Discussion of Gualala and Point Arena Area Transportation Planning Projects and Related Matters.** Mr. Dow said he had nothing more to add to the presentations, questions and answers that occurred on the tour, then invited discussion, summarized as follows.

Director Madrigal asked about funding for the various improvement projects visited today on or near State Route 1. Mr. Dow noted the Pacific Coast Bike Route (PCBR) & California Coastal Trail Engineered Feasibility Study currently underway by Caltrans District 1 and MCOG, noting it references several already identified projects from community based plans that MCOG has funded and completed to date, as well as identifying and ranking needed improvements on the corridor, including cost estimates. Director Robertson reported that the project team is getting close to wrapping up the PCBR study. He announced the second round of public workshops in late November and early December, when the public will have an opportunity to review the draft report. In February the final study report will be presented to MCOG for acceptance.

Chair Gjerde emphasized the importance for the Council to continue visiting locations within the countywide region twice a year, seeing projects first hand, and was glad to be able to do so today.

Discussion followed on the Gualala downtown planning issues for property owners and businesses. Mr. Dow said the planning efforts were in recognition of those concerns and described how they would be implemented.

Chair Gjerde made some closing remarks, acknowledging several guests and presenters on the day's tour (*see also Agenda Item #10, Reports*). No action was taken.

**7. Consideration of Request for Endorsement of Jim Mastin for Appointment to the California Transportation Commission.** Mr. Dow reported that a local candidate for the office of commissioner had emerged since last month's report on this issue, as sought by the Council, and that Mr. Mastin had requested MCOG's endorsement.

**A motion was made** by Director Brown, seconded by Director Pinches, to approve the endorsement. **Discussion on the motion:** Director Pinches made supportive remarks. Mr. Dow summarized duties, responsibilities and composition of the CTC. Appointments are made by the Governor for at-large positions. Chair Gjerde invited Mr. Mastin to speak.

Mr. Jim Mastin thanked the motion maker and MCOG, and stated reasons for his desire to serve, summarizing some of his qualifications, such as 20 years of MTA board service, and serving as an officer of the California Transit Association. If appointed, he intends to work with all commissioners on the CTC for the benefit of everyone in California, having an interest in public transit and transportation matters as a whole. He then answered questions of the Council about timing of appointments, his chances and available openings on the Commission now and in the future.

Mr. Dow hoped a Council endorsement would not have a time limit on it and made further remarks on the long-term outlook. Chair Gjerde noted that a currently elected official is not eligible.

**The motion carried** unanimously on roll call vote (*6 Ayes – Robertson/PAC, Madrigal, Pinches, Sinnott/Alt., Brown, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent – Hughey and Rodin*): IT IS ORDERED that Jim Mastin is endorsed for appointment by the Governor to the California Transportation Commission.

**8. Consent Calendar.** Upon motion by Smith (Alt.), second by Pinches, and carried unanimously (6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved: \*

**8. Approval of October 1, 2012 Minutes – as written**

*\* Clerical note: After the meeting, it was confirmed that the Alternate was not voting in the quorum, however the vote was unanimous and considered noncontroversial, so staff recommends the motion stand.*

**9. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Pinches, second by Madrigal, and carried unanimously (5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 2 Absent): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

**10. Reports - Information**

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. Dan Baxter, MTA Transportation Manager, reported details of General Manager Bruce Richard's previously announced retirement on December 28.  
At Director Pinches' request, Mr. Dow described how the STIP allocation of \$1.2 million for vehicles had been accomplished recently. Director Pinches reported that some of MTA's capital funds were freed up as a result, which MTA's Board then voted to transfer within its Capital Program to fund design work on the planned new administration building.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard reported highlights of the most recent NCRA board meeting, which she had attended, including continued discussion of possibly leasing property to allow cell phone towers in the railroad right-of-way from Healdsburg to Samoa, to generate revenues. Director Pinches commented and asked about details of this issue.
- c. MCOG Administration & Planning Staff
  1. *Summary of Meetings.* Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report. He highlighted a recent facilitated Mendocino County LAFCO workshop that he was glad to have attended, noting there are some issues of shared concern with MCOG.
  2. *U.S. 101 Bypass of Willits Update.* Mr. Dow had notified the Council members last week of the judge's denial of a request for injunction to stop the project's construction. The existing lawsuit will go forward, however. The October 31 groundbreaking ceremony that was postponed will likely be rescheduled for late winter or early spring. Vegetation removal is part of early construction activities, before nesting season. He answered Council members' questions.
  3. *Vision Mendocino 2030 Workshop Schedule – Regional Blueprint Plan, Phase 3.* Staff's written report was noted and Mr. Dow summarized the purpose of these workshops. Attendance, or lack thereof, also was reported for the events to date. Chair Gjerde announced the November 15 workshop in Point Arena.
  4. *Miscellaneous.* None.
- d. MCOG Directors. There were no reports.
- e. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. Director Brown reported she would not attend the annual fall delegates meeting in Newport Beach, due to scheduling conflict, and offered to share the meeting agenda with anyone interested in it. Director Pinches asked whether CALCOG had endorsed the high-speed rail project. Director Brown and Mr. Dow stated the association had not yet addressed that issue, nor was it on the current agenda.

Director Madrigal expressed appreciation for the morning's tour. Director Pinches reported Supervisor Smith's assistance with funding new kitchen equipment for the veterans' building, where today's MCOG meeting was held and where Point Arena's City Council regularly meets. Executive Director Dow then recognized those who had assisted with today's transportation tour: Jeff Schwein of Lumos and Howard Dashiell of Mendocino County Department of Transportation who guided parts of the tour; and Dan Baxter of MTA who drove the bus. He added a few closing comments about the tour. Ms. Orth thanked Point Arena's City Clerk-Administrator for her hospitality and assistance in setting up the meeting space for MCOG.

**11. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration