

# MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Approved MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2013

County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers

**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.** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with Directors Jackman (Caltrans/PAC), Benj Thomas, Holly Madrigal, Doug Hammerstrom, John Pinches, Susan Ranochak, and Dan Gjerde present; Chair Gjerde presiding. Director Terry Hughey was excused. With the PAC member present and no one expected to call in from Eureka, the audio-conference link was not connected.

Staff present: Phil Dow, Executive Director; Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration; Loretta Ellard, Assistant Executive Director; and Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner.

Director Jackman (PAC) introduced Jaime Hostler, Caltrans District 1 Associate Planner, who replaces Jesse Robertson as staff planner serving Mendocino County. Mr. Robertson had served for many years and recently transferred to another position within the Department of Transportation.

**2. Convene as RTPA**

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

**Public Expression.** None.

**4 - 6. Regular Calendar.**

**4. Public Hearing: Adoption of Resolution Approving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grant Program Regional Priority List.** Ms. Barrett described the program, process and timeline. This is a capital program to fund private non-profit agencies to help provide transportation services to the elderly and people with disabilities. No local match is required this year, as statewide "toll credits" are available in lieu of the match. Two applications were received this year, from Ukiah Senior Center and Redwood Coast Seniors, Inc., both requesting wheelchair accessible vehicles. A Regional Evaluation Committee (a subcommittee of MCOG's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council) scored the applications; Caltrans will conduct state scoring and notify MCOG of any significant discrepancies. A revised draft resolution with corrected scores was handed out; one additional revision was noted verifying the proposed projects' consistency with both the Regional Transportation Plan and the Mendocino County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Ms. Barrett then answered questions about the relative scores, levels of funding for grant awards, and schedule.

The Chair opened the public hearing at 1:37 p.m. The hearing was closed at 1:48 p.m. with no one wishing to speak.

**Upon motion** by Ranochak, second by Hammerstrom, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (7 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Thomas, Madrigal, Hammerstrom, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - Hughey): IT IS ORDERED that the following resolution is adopted, and the Executive Director is authorized to sign the required certifications and assurances, and to forward all required documentation to Caltrans for further processing.

**Resolution No. M2013-07**  
**Approving FTA Section 5310 Grant Program**  
**Regional Application Scoring & Priority List**  
(Reso. #M2013-07 is incorporated herein by reference)

**5. Fiscal Year 2013/14 RTPA Budget Presentation & Workshop.** Mr. Dow reviewed the purpose of this workshop and, as usual, advised adoption of the budget in June. Ms. Orth made a slide presentation that covered her written staff report, including the following recommendations, and an overview of context and trends affecting the proposed budget. Questions and discussion by councilmembers and staff were encouraged throughout the presentation. No action was taken.

- a. Report of Revenues Fiscal Year to Date 2012/13. Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenues from quarter-cent sales tax July-April are in excess of the budget estimate by \$103,637 (4.2%).
- b. Executive Committee Recommendations of February 28, 2013. The first draft budget prepared by staff was recommended for approval, with one revision to establish the LTF Reserve fund balance at \$92,000 (3% of the County Auditor-Controller's LTF estimate), releasing for allocation \$151,571 of the FY 2011/12 unrestricted balance of excess revenue, and to restore the Reserve to five percent by FY 2014/15. Total estimated revenues are \$5,741,371 and total proposed allocations are \$5,360,779.
- c. TAC Recommendation of February 20, 2013. Ms. Ellard reported funding allocations from various sources for the Draft Transportation Planning Overall Work Program (OWP) that the TAC recommended for approval and summarized each proposed work element. The total draft program at \$626,350 is expected to rise as carryover amounts and grants are known.
- d. Transit Productivity Committee Recommendations of April 22, 2013. Allocations to fund Mendocino Transit Authority's Annual Transit Claim were recommended for approval, for a total of \$3,800,236. The TPC recommended a finding that "there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2013/14.

**6. Consideration of Request by California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) to Participate and Contribute to Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities to Represent Regional Agency Interest in Cap & Trade Fund Distribution.** Mr. Dow reviewed this issue, noting Chair Gjerde was also informed as a CALCOG delegate. At issue is the regional agencies' position that Cap & Trade greenhouse gas emissions program revenues generated from the transportation sector should be returned to the transportation sector. This coalition would not only lobby but also work on designing regulations for the program. The funding source is important now that the federal Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds have disappeared in the new MAP-21 bill, replaced by Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which will be allocated by statewide competition, placing rural agencies at a new disadvantage. MCOG planning studies have positioned certain eligible projects for funding, however we now have a diminished capacity to deliver them and to deal with GHG emissions impacts. Therefore staff recommends approval of the concept of joining this lobbying effort and a contribution of \$500 as proposed by CALCOG. Discussion included:

- Support expressed by Directors Pinches and Thomas.
- High-speed rail as a problem if these funds were diverted to it. (Pinches)
- Whether this coalition effort would go forward if MCOG did not contribute (it most likely would). Whether MCOG might be excluded from revenue benefits if it did not participate and this lobbying effort were successful (it would not). (Madrigal, Dow)
- CALCOG's goal to find a regional benefit from the program. (Gjerde)

**Upon motion** by Pinches, second by Thomas, and carried unanimously on roll call vote (*7 Ayes – Jackman/PAC, Thomas, Madrigal, Hammerstrom, Pinches, Ranochak, and Gjerde; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent - Hughey*): IT IS ORDERED that 1) the concept of participation in a lobbying effort to secure revenues generated from the transportation sector through the State of California's Cap & Trade program for transportation projects is approved, and 2) the Executive Director is authorized to expend \$500 of local funds to participate in the first year of CALCOG's coalition for this purpose.

**7 - 9. Consent Calendar.** Upon motion by Madrigal, second by Thomas, and carried unanimously (*7 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that consent items are approved:

**7. Approval of March 4, 2013 Minutes – as written**

**8. Approval of February 28, 2013 Executive Committee Minutes – as written**

**9. Amendment of MCOG Bylaws: Article V, Section 4 - Location of Meetings – regular Council meetings changed from Ukiah City Council chambers to County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors chambers.**

**10. Recess as Policy Advisory Committee - Reconvene as RTPA - Ratify Action of Policy Advisory Committee.** Upon motion by Thomas, second by Ranochak, and carried unanimously (*6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstaining; 1 Absent*): IT IS ORDERED that the actions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee are ratified by the MCOG Board of Directors.

## **11. Reports – Information**

- a. Mendocino Transit Authority. There was no one present from MTA to report.
- b. North Coast Railroad Authority. Ms. Ellard announced upcoming meetings and reported that NCRA's representative from County of Marin called for an agency-wide comprehensive performance review or audit (refer to MCOG's information packet). Caltrans is concerned about two issues (refer to letter in the information packet), which were postponed to the next NCRA meeting. One deals with the Ukiah Depot property. The other is an objection to NCRA rescinding major portions of the 2011 certified Environmental Impact Report, which was funded by the State's Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP). Director Jackman (Caltrans/PAC) added that, as noted in the letter, District 1 has a concern that the EIR would be rendered incomplete as a funded project; they will be evaluating the situation to decide how to proceed. Director Pinches decried the lack of accountability.
- c. MCOG Administration & Planning Staff
  1. *Summary of Meetings*. Mr. Dow referred to his written staff report, noting the long list and highlighting (Page 3 of 4), Sheriff Allman's quarterly meeting held in Hopland that he had attended. The community would benefit from a transportation planning grant and Caltrans will be funding an engineering feasibility study there with a similar focus. He and Director Jackman confirmed it would involve safety related improvements such as traffic calming and pedestrian crossings, with stakeholder engagement similar to other community based planning projects. A Project Study Report will be developed, a step beyond planning on the way to construction. Director Jackman added that also a microsimulation is funded for the greater Ukiah area, one of only two such statewide projects, both in District 1.
  2. *Regional Project Management Activities*. Mr. Dow referred to James Sookne's written report. Currently there is not much funding of projects to be managed, so he is also

- working on SAFE motorist aid call boxes, which will be ramping up soon with new installations. Also he is assisting Mr. Dow with speed zone studies in Lake County. Both activities are funded by separate budgets, not by Regional Surface Transportation Funds (RSTP) allocated for regional project management activities.
3. *Status of Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)*. Ms. Barrett summarized her written staff report. A committee of planning representatives from the five MCOG member jurisdictions had met to evaluate the housing unit numbers issued by the state's Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD). These must be allocated among the five jurisdictions by household income level, as required for planning purposes in the local agencies' General Plan housing elements. The total number for Mendocino County is only 250, down from nearly 3,500 for the last cycle in 2008, as a result of 2010 Census data. All five agencies have housing elements approved by HCD. She and Mr. Dow answered questions about this process. The RHNA will be presented to the Council for adoption at the June meeting.
  4. *Miscellaneous*. None.
- d. MCOG Directors. Chair Gjerde noted that legislation is anticipated for the State's Cap & Trade program. Also he plans to prepare a draft letter for the next Council agenda relative to the new federal TAP funds, suggesting a percentage set-aside of the revenues for rural areas to engage in a separate competition for project allocations, rather than compete against the entire state. Mr. Dow said he had conveyed that message to the program's working group for consideration.
  - e. California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Delegates. There was no further report (see also Agenda Item #6).

**12. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Submitted: PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Janet Orth, Deputy Director for Administration