

February 9, 2005

## **MCOG Elects New Board Officers**

At its annual organizational meeting on Monday, February 7, the Mendocino Council of Governments elected Marsha Wharff as Chair and Tami Jorgensen as Vice Chair for calendar year 2005. Wharff, County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder, is the countywide elected official appointed to MCOG by the Board of Supervisors and now the longest serving member at six years. Jorgensen, Mayor, is the City of Willits' appointed representative. Dan Gjerde, Fort Bragg City Councilmember, was appointed by MCOG to the Executive Committee.

"Over the next year or so we will be working with other regional transportation planning agencies, Caltrans, and legislators to ensure that transportation funding is once again stabilized. These transportation funds are essential to moving forward with our top local priorities, which include the Willits bypass, the Hopland bypass, as well as our continued emphasis on street and road maintenance," reported Wharff. "The outlook may improve when Congress reauthorizes the federal transportation bill in their upcoming session."

With numerous official terms ending after the November general election, MCOG has had significant turnover on the seven-member Board of Directors. New members are Supervisors David Colfax and Hal Wagenet, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, and Councilmember John McCowen, appointed by the City of Ukiah.

Leslie Dahlhoff, Point Arena Mayor, continues to serve and was appointed along with Jorgensen to MCOG's Transit Productivity Committee.

Acting as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, MCOG programs or allocates various types of state and federal transportation funds to Caltrans, the County of Mendocino and the four incorporated Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Arena. In addition to projects on state highways and within its five member jurisdictions, MCOG helps support transportation activities of the North Coast Rail Authority, California Western Railroad, Mendocino Transit Authority, local airports, and others. Projects involve planning, capital improvements, rehabilitation and maintenance, fleet replacement, and intermodal transit centers. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463-1859 or consult the agency's web site at [www.mendocinocog.org](http://www.mendocinocog.org).

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