



MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
367 North State Street~Suite 206~Ukiah~California~95482

PHILLIP J. DOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Telephone 707-463-1859
Fax 707-463-2212
www.mendocinocog.org

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To: Mendocino County News Media

Contact: Phil Dow, Executive Director, Mendocino Council of Governments, 463-1859

New MCOG Board Members Seated

Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) met Monday in its first regular meeting of the year. As a result of the November election, several new members of the Council's Board of Directors were seated, as a joint powers agency of the four incorporated cities and the County of Mendocino. Each jurisdiction makes appointments for representation on MCOG's board.

Continuing board members are Dan Gjerde, Fort Bragg City Councilmember; John Pinches, 3rd District Supervisor; and David Colfax, 5th District Supervisor.

New members are Mari Rodin, Ukiah City Councilmember; Larry Stranske, Mayor of Willits; and Lauren Sinnott, Mayor of Point Arena.

There is a vacancy in the remaining seat of "Public Appointee," an at-large countywide position to be appointed annually by the Board of Supervisors. According to the joint powers amendment made by the MCOG member jurisdictions in 2008, "*...the Board of Supervisors shall give first preference to a countywide elected official. If a countywide elected official does not apply for the position, then the Board of Supervisors may appoint any registered voter of Mendocino County who has an interest in regional transportation issues.*" Application forms are available from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 463-4221, or at their website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/appointments.htm.

At the February 2 meeting, Councilmember Gjerde was elected by the group to serve as MCOG's Chair for calendar year 2009, and Supervisor Pinches was elected Vice Chair. Both had served on MCOG's Executive Committee, with Gjerde having served as Vice Chair.

"With new leadership in Washington, we are seeing strong support to rebuild America's aging infrastructure. My goal is for MCOG to work with towns in every corner of Mendocino County, so that we can create a civic renaissance in every community," Gjerde said.

MCOG typically meets the first Monday of the month at Ukiah Civic Center in the council chambers, nine or ten times a year. The next meeting will be held March 2. MCOG's calendar and further information is available at their website, www.mendocinocog.org, or by calling the office at 463-1859.

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. All federal Economic Stimulus funds that are available for transportation projects in Mendocino County are expected to flow through MCOG. In addition to supporting projects within its five member jurisdictions, MCOG helps support transportation activities of the Mendocino Transit Authority, North Coast Railroad Authority, local airports, and on state highways, among others. MCOG is responsible for preparing the Regional Transportation Plan, and funded projects are to be consistent with the Plan. Projects involve planning, capital improvements, rehabilitation and maintenance, public transit fleet replacement, and intermodal transit facilities.

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