



COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Mulheren
Chair

County Member

Gerald Ward
Vice Chair/Treasurer
Public Member

Madeline Cline
County Member

Gerardo Gonzalez
City Member

Candace Horsley
Special District Member

Susan Mahoney
Special District Member

Mari Rodin
City Member

Barbara Burkey
Alternate City Member

Adam Gaska
Alternate Special District Member

John Haschak
Alternate County Member

Bruce Alfano
Alternate Public Member

STAFF

Executive Officer
Uma Hinman

Senior Analyst
Larkyn Feiler

Analyst
Jen Crump

Counsel
Marsha Burch

REGULAR MEETINGS

First Monday of each month
at 9:30 a.m. in the
Mendocino County Board
of Supervisors Chambers
501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

Approved October 5, 2026

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting of Monday, September 14, 2026

County Board of Supervisors Chambers 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, California

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL (Video Time 02:33)

Chair Mulheren called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Regular Commissioners Present: Gerald Ward, Madeline Cline, Gerardo Gonzalez, Candace Horsley, Susan Mahoney, Maureen Mulheren

Regular Commissioners Absent: Mari Rodin

Alternate Commissioners Present: Barbara Burkey (remote)

Alternate Commissioners Absent: Bruce Alfano, Adam Gaska, John Haschak

Staff Present: Uma Hinman, Executive Officer; Jen Crump, Analyst; Marsha Burch, Legal Counsel

2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION (Video Time 03:12)

None

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3a) AB 2449 Notifications and Considerations (Video Time 03:39)

None

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (Video Time 03:47)

4a) July 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Summary

- Correction under Item 1; Chair Mulheren should be recorded as absent.

4b) Ratify July Claims & Financial Report

In response to Commissioner Ward's inquiry, EO Hinman clarified that Counsel Burch's charges related to the City of Ukiah's Corporation Yard Annexation were absorbed by LAFCo because it was related to a processing a correction necessitated by staff error.

July 2026 Claims totaling:	\$ 26,023.42
Hinman & Associates Consulting	\$15,126.13
Marsha Burch Law Office	\$2,722.50
Streamline	\$115.00
CALAFCO	\$2,744
SDRMA	\$3,831.29
City of Ukiah (UVCC) (Office Space, Postage & Copies)	\$607.75
Commissioner Stipends	\$92.56
Mendocino County IS (Televised Meetings)	\$455.06
Newspapers (Publications and Legal Notices)	\$329.13

4c) August Claims & Financial Report

In response to Commissioner Ward's inquiries, EO Hinman noted the monthly rate increase for the Quickbooks service from \$115 to \$140, and confirmed that the Phone.com invoice is an annual fee.

August 2026 Claims totaling:	\$ 29,120.06
Hinman & Associates Consulting	\$22,908.92
Marsha Burch Law Office	\$1,417.50
Streamline/CivicPlus	\$115.00
CALAFCO	\$4,050.00
City of Ukiah (UVCC) (Office Space, Postage & Copies)	\$628.64

4d) Ratify Letter Opposing SB 1312 (Richardson, 2026) Cemeteries

The following discussion points and questions were raised by the Commission:

Commissioner Horsley

- Requested clarification on whether the letter means religious organizations shouldn't be able to operate a cemetery district (pg. 31 of the agenda packet). EO Hinman explained that the bill as proposed would require abandoned private cemeteries to be formed as a cemetery district or annexed into an existing cemetery district. EO Hinman clarified that CALAFCO's proposed changes to the bill are to maintain consistency with current state law and ensure the process outlined in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH) is not circumvented.

Chair Mulheren noted that special districts operate differently than religious organizations in that they must be open to the public, and have different accountability and transparency requirements.

4e) Ratify Letter Supporting Governor's Signature on SB 1439 Local Government Omnibus Bill

There were no public comments.

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar (Items 4a – 4e).		
Motion Maker: Cline	Motion Second: Mahoney	Outcome: Passed unanimously
Roll Call Vote: Horsley, Gonzalez, Ward, Cline, Mahoney, Mulheren (6)		

5. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS (Video Time 14:50)

None

6. WORKSHOP ITEMS (Video Time 14:51)

None

7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7a) Proposed Amendments to Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Policies (Video Time 14:52)

EO Hinman presented the proposed amendments to Policy 6 *Conflict-of-Interest and Financial Disclosures* to conform with recent changes in the Political Reform Act and Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regulations. Government Code section (§) 87306.5 requires local agencies to review their Conflict-of-Interest codes biennially in even-numbered years to determine whether amendments are necessary.

The following discussion points and questions were raised by the Commission:

Commissioner Horsley

- Asked whether filers are notified where to send Form 700 filings and whether the filings are kept with the Mendocino County Clerk. EO Hinman responded that staff maintain the Form 700 filings in office by direction of the FPPC. Additionally, agencies may now submit electronic filing in addition to the hardcopy filing.

Commissioner Cline

- Commented appreciation for inclusion of the item for public knowledge and transparency.

There were no public comments.

Motion: (1) Adopt Resolution No. 2026-27-03 approving the amendments to Policy 6 Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosures; (2) Direct staff to update the Mendocino LAFCo Policies & Procedures Manual and post the amended version on the Mendocino LAFCo website; and (3) Authorize staff to complete and submit the 2026 Local Agency Biennial Notice to the appropriate code reviewing body.

Motion Maker: Gonzalez

Motion Second: Horsley

Outcome: Passed unanimously

Roll Call Vote: Horsley, Gonzalez, Ward, Cline, Mahoney, Mulheren (6)

7b) Work Plan Implementation (Video Time 18:31)

The Commission received EO Hinman's informational report on status and implementation of the annual Work Plan.

The following discussion points and questions were raised by the Commission:

Commissioner Ward

- Recommended reviewing the work plan to identify agencies that may be eligible for the streamlined review process while staff waits for responses to information requests from agencies for which comprehensive studies are being conducted.
- EO Hinman noted that staff has a heavy workload with the scheduled 18 fire and emergency medical service (EMS) Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) studies.
- Upon inquiry, EO Hinman reported that staff sent a letter to the Mendocino Coast Health Care District (MCHCD) Board of Directors to initiate the MSR process and request consideration of developing a funding MOU to prepare the study. In 2025, at the Executive Committee's direction, staff developed a draft funding MOU for preparation of a Grand Jury-recommended MSR. Preparation of the MSR is estimated at \$25,000-\$30,000 and is expected to be outsourced. The draft funding MOU has been shared with MCHCD staff for input. Once district staff responds, the EO intends to present the draft funding MOU to the Executive Committee for review and recommendation to the Commission. The MCHCD Administrator indicated the district board will discuss the letter at their October meeting.

Commissioner Horsley

- Requested clarification on the purpose of the fire and EMS regional overview. EO Hinman responded that the intent is to develop a standalone document that will describe fire and EMS service provision throughout the County, including identification and discussion of common challenges and identification of service gaps. The document will inform the individual analyses for each of the fire and EMS agency MSR/SOI updates.

Commissioner Cline

- Requested a timeline for conducting the Fire and EMS MSR/SOI studies. EO Hinman reported that the multi-year project was initiated in late 2025 and is anticipated to roll out over an approximately 15-month timeline.

Chair Mulheren

- Shared that the County fire and EMS supervisors will be attending the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for September 15. Chair Mulheren will share this information with the supervisors and recommends that staff follow up with the supervisors next week.

There were no public comments.

7c) Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Video Time 31:31)

The Commission received the Mendocino LAFCo FY 2025-26 Annual Report. The following discussion points and questions were raised by the Commission:

Chair Mulheren

- Noted that the annual report is a point of reference when constituents ask about the work LAFCo is performing.

Commissioner Ward

- Requested clarification on which agencies would qualify for a streamlined review (pg. 53 of the agenda packet). EO Hinman responded that an initial screening assessment is needed to identify which agencies would be eligible for the streamlined review process, which could be conducted as part of the annual budget development process.
- Inquired upon the MSR/SOI tracking chart (pg. 53 of the agenda packet). EO Hinman noted that the graphic shows the general five-year target for all agencies, noting that local policy prioritizes specific municipal services since it is not feasible to conduct service reviews for all 54 agencies every five years.
- Upon inquiry, EO Hinman reported that the Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC) annexation application has been publicly noticed for the October meeting.

Commissioner Cline

- Upon inquiry, EO Hinman noted that the City of Ukiah could keep its Pre-Application request open to continue coordination for a modified proposal.

Commissioner Horsley

- Requested clarification on why the approved City of Ukiah and Ukiah Valley Sanitation District Outside Agency Service Agreement (OASA) continues to be tracked (pg. 54 of the agenda packet). EO Hinman responded that the OASA was approved with conditions, which require tracking and follow up.

There were no public comments.

8. INFORMATION AND REPORT ITEMS

8a) Work Plan, Current and Future Proposals (Video Time 44:51)

EO Hinman reported that the public hearing notice was published for the RRFC's proposed annexation of the Redwood Valley County Water District's (RVCWD) Complete Service Area for October 5, 2026.

8b) Correspondence (Video Time 45:17)

Correspondence was provided to the Commission by email; the MCHCD letter.

8c) CALAFCO Business and Legislation Report (Video Time 45:30)

EO Hinman reported that Commissioners Gonzalez, Mahoney, Cline, and Burkey are registered for the 2026 California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Annual Conference scheduled in October. CALAFCO Board candidate information is expected to be available before the Commission's regular meeting in October.

8d) Executive Officer's Report (Video Time 46:03)

EO Hinman reported updates from around Mendocino County as they relate to LAFCo.

The following discussion points and questions were raised by the Commission:

Commissioner Cline

- Upon inquiry, EO Hinman responded that it's currently unknown whether the \$150,000 grant for Covelo Fire Protection District (CFPD) will cover the entirety of the hydrant feasibility study including engineering. The grant funding will be managed by the County on behalf of the community; it remains unknown which district will ultimately take on the hydrant project and service.

Chair Mulheren

- Commented appreciation for the report, noting that it's an opportunity for the Commissioners and members of the public to hear what's happening around the County.

8e) Committee Reports (Executive Committee, Policies & Procedures) (Video Time 51:41)

None

8f) Commissioners Reports, Comments or Questions (Video Time 51:48)

Commissioner Ward reported that the Commission has nominated EO Hinman for a CALAFCO Achievement Award.

Chair Mulheren reported that the Great River Trail Agency (formerly the North Coast Association) has hired an executive director and will be hiring additional staff, which will support public outreach for the 216-mile plan. The Agency is also addressing challenges in the Ukiah area regarding currently unmaintained portions of the trail sections, with one team handling brush maintenance and another in both Mendocino County and Humboldt County monitoring for unauthorized persons on properties. Anyone with questions is encouraged to review the Great Railroad Master Plan, ask questions, and provide feedback.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT (Video Time 54:59)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Monday, **October 5, 2026**, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format to accommodate both in-person and remote participation. The in-person meeting will be held in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah.

Live web streaming and recordings of Commission meetings are available via the County of Mendocino's YouTube Channel [September 14, 2026](#) YouTube meeting recording. Links to recordings and approved minutes are also available on the [LAFCo website](#).