



## COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Mulheren  
Chair  
County Member

Gerald Ward  
Vice Chair/Treasurer  
Public Member

Gerardo Gonzalez  
City Member

Candace Horsley  
Special District Member

Glenn McGourty  
County Member

Mari Rodin  
City Member

Vacant  
Special District Member

Francois Christen  
Alternate Special District Member

Douglas Crane  
Alternate City Member

John Haschak  
Alternate County Member

Vacant, Alternate  
Public Member

## STAFF

Executive Officer  
Uma Hinman

Clerk/Analyst  
Larkyn Feiler

Counsel  
Marsha Burch

## REGULAR MEETINGS

First Monday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Chambers 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

*Approved September 9, 2024*

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

### Regular Commission Meeting

#### Regular Meeting (Hybrid) of Monday, July 1, 2024

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** (Video Time 09:50)

Chair Mulheren called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Regular Commissioners Present:** Maureen Mulheren, Gerald Ward, Gerardo Gonzalez, Mari Rodin

**Regular Commissioners Absent:** Glenn McGourty, Candace Horsley

**Alternate Commissioners Present:** Francois Christen (immediately seated)

**Alternate Commissioners Absent:** John Haschak

**Staff Present:** Uma Hinman, Executive Officer; Larkyn Feiler, Analyst; Jen Crump, Analyst/Clerk; Marsha Burch, Legal Counsel

**2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION** (Video Time 10:30)

None

**3. OTHER BUSINESS** (Video Time 11:00)

None

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR** (Video Time 11:10)

**4a) June 3, 2024 Regular Meeting Summary**

**4b) June 2024 Claims & Financial Report**

<b>June 2024 Claims totaling:</b>	<b>\$21,900.11</b>
Hinman & Associates Consulting	18,175.32
Marsha Burch Law Office	720.00
Streamline	63.00
Newspaper	989.58
Mendocino County IS	1,263.46
Ukiah Valley Conference Center	688.75

**4c) Certificate of Appreciation for Commissioner Cole**

**Motion:** Approve the Consent Calendar (Items 4a – 4c).

**Motion Maker:** Ward | **Motion Second:** Gonzalez | **Outcome:** Passed unanimously

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: (5) Ward, Gonzalez, Rodin, Christen, Mulheren

**5. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**5a) PUBLIC HEARING Mendocino County Waterworks District No. 2 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study** (Video Time 12:33)

EO Hinman provided a brief presentation on the MSR/SOI Study; following is a summary of discussion points for this item.

Commissioner Ward

- Clarified status of the District’s finances; encouraged the District to continue exploring consolidation opportunities with the Gualala Community Services District and potentially the North Gualala Water Company.
- Inquired about the treated wastewater discharge point into the Pacific Ocean and whether there were any current violations.
- Requested staff develop an internal system for more frequent check-ins with the small districts.

Commissioner Christen

- Expressed support of a consolidation between MCWWD2 and GCSD.
- Inquired why CEQA is not applicable to this MSR. Counsel Burch clarified that MSRs are planning studies and categorically exempt from CEQA; however, SOI studies are subject to CEQA and a Notice of Exemption has been prepared for this study.

Commissioner Gonzalez

- Noted the importance of tracking rate studies and increases as the board of directors change.

Commissioner Rodin

- Asked for clarity on if consolidation is being recommended between MCWWD2 and GCSD and noted two clerical revisions to be made. Counsel Burch confirmed there is a process for LAFCo-initiated consolidations under specific circumstances, one of which is supporting determinations in the MSR.

**Motion:** (1) Find the Mendocino County Waterworks District No. 2 Municipal Service Review is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) §15306 (Class 6 Exemption), and find the Mendocino County Waterworks District No. 2 Sphere of Influence Update is exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR §15061(b)(3) (General Rule), and approve the Notice of Exemption for filing; and 2) Adopt LAFCo Resolution 2023-24-09, approving the Mendocino County Waterworks District No. 2 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update Study and adopting the proposed sphere of influence.

<b>Motion Maker:</b> Rodin	<b>Motion Second:</b> Gonzalez	<b>Outcome:</b> Passed unanimously
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<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Ayes: (5) Gonzalez, Ward, Rodin, Mulheren, Christen
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**5b) PUBLIC HEARING Gualala Community Services District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study** (Video Time 34:25)

EO Hinman provided a brief presentation on the MSR/SOI Study; following is a summary of discussion points for this item:

Commissioner Ward stated his support for consolidation of GCSD and MCWWD2.

Commissioner Rodin requested clarification on why the Gualala Regional Park is included in GCSD’s service area; EO Hinman clarified that the District has provided service to the Park since it began operations.

**Motion:** 1) Find the Gualala Community Services District Municipal Service Review is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) §15306 (Class 6 Exemption), and find the Gualala Community Services District Sphere of Influence Update

is exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR §15061(b)(3) (General Rule), and approve the Notice of Exemption for filing; and 2) Adopt LAFCo Resolution 2023-24-10, approving the Gualala Community Services District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update Study and adopting the proposed sphere of influence.		
<b>Motion Maker:</b> Gonzalez	<b>Motion Second:</b> Rodin	<b>Outcome:</b> Passed unanimously
<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Ayes: (5) Gonzalez, Rodin, Ward, Christen, Mulheren		

**6. WORKSHOP ITEMS** (Video Time 46:32)

None

**7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**7a) Master Tax Share Agreement** (Video Time 46:35)

Chair Mulheren reported the agreement has been approved by all required agencies, which includes the County and the four incorporated cities. Commissioner Ward asked if the anticipated dollar amount for future agreements can be assumed and Chair Mulheren noted that no dollar amounts were exchanged as part of the agreement; the Master Tax Share Agreement establishes the parameters for the exchange of taxes resulting from future reorganizations.

**7b) Report from University of Berkeley on LAFCO and Water System Consolidations** (Video Time 46:35)

EO Hinman provided an informational summary of a recent research study conducted by the University of Berkeley, which analyzed LAFCOs role in the state’s ongoing discussion on water availability the human right to water. Commissioner Gonzalez asked why Mendocino LAFCo did not participate in the survey as part of this research, EO Hinman responded that many of the LAFCo agencies thought the request was a scam and response rates were low. Commissioner Ward inquired if this type of research and findings could apply to wastewater services; EO Hinman responded that this study is specific to the State’s human right to water directive. EO Hinman also noted that Mendocino LAFCo has already initiated conversations with the State Water Resources Control Board as it relates to the service providers in the County of Mendocino.

**7c) New Website Requirements and Updated Terms from Streamline** (Video Time 1:04:33)

EO Hinman provided an update on Streamline’s notification of increased rates for hosting and maintaining LAFCo’s website. Rates are increasing as a result of recent federal and state requirements for greater website accessibility standards. Commissioner Ward asked if there are other providers that could maintain the website; EO Hinman explained Streamline’s specialty is supporting local government agencies’ and providing assurance that accessibility and content requirements are maintained. Commissioner Rodin noted that website accessibility is important.

**8. INFORMATION AND REPORT ITEMS**

**8a) Work Plan, Current and Future Proposals** (Video Time 1:08:34)

EO Hinman provided an update that all applications on file are pending tax share agreements, the work plan is progressing with Caspar South WD MSR/SOI, which recently provide more data; a workshop will be scheduled soon. The MSR/SOI studies for Irish Beach WD, Elk CWD, Westport CWD are also progressing and will be scheduled for workshop in the next few months.

Commissioner Ward asked why the Russian River Flood Control District is annexing the Redwood Valley County Water District in light of the Ukiah Valley Water Authority’s efforts to consolidate the Ukiah Valley water providers. EO Hinman responded that the Russian River Flood Control District wishes to expand their boundary to match their Place of Use and also wishes to provide raw water to the Redwood Valley County Water District under contract rather than having to rely upon “excess water.” Further, the Authority’s focus is on drinking water.

**8b) Correspondence** (Video Time 1:11:02)

None

**8c) CALAFCO Business and Legislation Report** (Video Time 1:11:14)

EO Hinman reported that the nomination period is open for the fall election to fill two Northern Region seats on the CALAFCO Board of Directors; nominations are due September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The 2024 CALFCO conference will be held October 16-18, 2024 in Yosemite.

Commissioner Ward asked for clarify on SB 1209; Counsel Burch offered to report on the legislation at the next meeting.

**8d) Executive Officer's Report** (Video Time 1:13:14)

EO Hinman reported the following

- Announcement of the current vacancy for the Special District seat and nomination period will be distributed soon. Commissioner Christen will be seated as the Regular Special District Member until the vacancy is filled through the election process.
- There have been no applications submitted for the Alternate Public Member vacancy; the deadline has been extended another 60 days.
- Hinman & Associates Consulting has hired a new Analyst. Jen Crump will support Mendocino LAFCo with application processing, work plan studies, and clerk duties.

**8e) Committee Reports (Executive Committee, Policies & Procedures)** (Video Time 1:14:45)

None

**8f) Commissioners Reports, Comments or Questions** (Video Time 1:14:50)

None

**ADJOURNMENT** (Video Time 1:14:56)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Monday, **August 5, 2024** at 9:00 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 [July 1, 2024](#) YouTube meeting recording. Links to recordings and approved minutes are also available on the [LAFCo website](#).*