



GUALALA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 67, GUALALA, CALIFORNIA 95445

Minutes for 6 August 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC) was held on Thursday, 6 August 2015 at the Gualala Community Center in Gualala, California. Council Members present were Ron Eckert, Charles Ivor, Robert Juengling, Eric Mills, and Jeff Watts. Council Member Barry DuCharme was absent. Administrator Mary Mober and five members of the public were also present (see sign-in sheet and speaker's cards). Council Chair Watts convened the meeting at 18:34.

1. **Introductions and Announcements:** Council Members introduced themselves.
2. **Consent Agenda: Minutes of 4 June and 9 July 2015. and Correspondence:**
 - a. it was moved by Council Member Juengling, seconded by Council Member Ivor, and unanimously carried that the 4 June Minutes be approved as presented.
 - b. it was moved by Council Member Juengling, seconded by Council Member Mills, and unanimously carried that the 9 July Minutes be approved as presented
 - c. Correspondence: None
3. **Approval of the Agenda (see attached):**

It was moved by Council Member Juengling, seconded by Council Member Eckert, and unanimously carried that the Agenda be approved as presented.
4. **Public Input on Non-agenda Items:** None.
5. **Monthly Report: Mendocino County Law and Code Enforcement:** None.
6. **Readdress CDP #19-2014 (CalTrans) Location: west side of State Route (SR) 1 at Post Mile 2.4 to 2.5 approximately 1 mile north of Gualala;** to repair storm damage along SR1 between 2.34 to 2.53 in Mendocino County, one mile north [of] Gualala. The project will construct a soldier-pile retaining wall and install metal beam guardrail; reconstruct the roadway; and improve drainage along the highway. See project application questionnaire for additional detail (Council Chair Watts).

Council Chair Watts gave a summary of the CDP. John Bower, Gualala-area resident, had requested the item be readdressed at this meeting, especially since, he noted, the final site plans seem to indicate the extra asphalt located on the east side of the highway in the area known as the "bend/ jog/ kink" is slated for removal. At the 2 October 2014 meeting (see excerpt, attached), the Council had listed its concerns, among them that the "kink" should be left as a pullout for slower traffic and emergency parking. Cindy Graham, CalTrans Area Construction Engineer from Sacramento, agreed to the idea and said she would do so.

Mr. Bower, of the North Gualala Water Company (NGWC), stated that the company needed to go through the *Freedom of Information Act* in order to obtain a set of plans that normally would have been sent along because the NGWC water line was intended to be a part of the CalTrans repair project. The Geo-tech representative at CalTrans did send a set and, although Mr. Bower had not viewed the plans, he understood that the excess asphalt placed on the east side of Highway One at the "kink" would be removed.

The plans to eliminate the asphalt at the "kink" and to re-align the highway may be tied to ESHA regulations, even though the "kink" could be a "fine asset" for the highway and people traveling north looking to pass. The nearest "official" turnout is seven to eight miles north. Mr. Bower said It seemed the

CalTrans Eureka office “is asleep” and the Fort Bragg office “is barely aware” of the situation.

Council Chair Watts said that, if CalTrans plans were viewed, the length of the section of Highway One from the beginning to the end of the project, they would likely reveal the answer. **Council Member Juengling** asked that the minutes of the 2 October 2014 GMAC Meeting be read so the Council could know what was discussed. **Administrator Mobert** read from the excerpt copy:

a) page 3, paragraph 3, Item e., “the ‘kink’ to the east of Highway One should be retained as a pullout,” and;

b) page 1, paragraph 3, “Mary Mobert, Gualala-area resident, asked that the ‘kink’ in the east side of Highway One remain as a turnout for slower traffic and law enforcement use.”

Council Member Juengling noted that, in accordance with the *Complete Streets Act*, a bike lane and a walkway would be installed on the west side of the highway; so, a turnout could be placed on the east side of the highway. The Council should write a letter to CalTrans stating that, when it addressed the CDP, GMAC had recommended the retention of the “kink” on the east side of the highway. He asked Mr. Bower if Caltrans had met all of North Gualala Water Company’s (NGWC) water line concerns.

Mr. Bower stated they were “not addressed at all.” CalTrans even questioned why he had wanted copies of their plans and for what reason; he had to obtain the plans through the *Freedom of Information Act*. **Council Member Ivor** was puzzled about CalTrans not addressing the waterline issue. The lines were already in the area and would be impacted by any construction there. **Mr. Bower** said NGWC was asked to move their 250 feet of pipe away from the project, which they did. They will have an opportunity to reinstall the pipe after construction is completed.

Mr. Bower explained the soldier wall will be bored and 25 foot soldier piles driven to hold it, but “this is not a standard ground-slide situation.” It was a “geologic formation of vertical sub-faults that meet at the roadway.” Any construction crossing over that vertical line “will fall into the ocean someday.” The wall will be built ten feet west of the highway fog line, leaving enough room for the bikeway and hiking trail/walk-way but that is only for 300 feet, the length of the project, and doesn’t continue into Gualala.

The project was scheduled to start late April of May 2015 but has been delayed because of extra seasonal costs on other projects. Since CalTrans will not start a project they can’t complete due to weather or other factors, this project will probably start in April or May 2016. Ms. Graham, who attended GMAC’s 2 October 2014 meeting, has moved to a different CalTrans office. The person in charge now knows nothing of the history or location of the project. “The ‘kink’ probably cost \$250,000 to \$300,000 when built; why tear it up and throw it into the ocean with the rest of the dirt that went into the ocean out there?” Since Mr. Bower has water lines in the area that need constant attention, he is there weekly and hasn’t seen any ESHA problems at present.

Council Chair Watts read from the 2 October 2014 minutes; page 1, paragraph 2, starting at line 3: “Ms. Graham stated the retaining wall will be 150 feet long, a maximum of 10 feet in height with tapering on both sides, a 36 inch culvert traveling through it, and a guardrail across the top. When construction is finished, the road will be straightened and returned to its original alignment.” He felt that that was pretty straightforward. He asked Mr. Bower if the Council could view the plans NGWC got from CalTrans. **Mr. Bower** said he couldn’t do that because of how he got them—through the *Freedom of Information Act*—he was hesitant to share.

Council Member Watts suggested GMAC send a message about their concerns via e-mail to the CalTrans website. He suggested the item be tabled until the 3 September meeting and GMAC request a copy of the CDP’s plan view looking from above and down on the road.

It was moved by Council Member Ivor, seconded by Council Member Juengling, and unanimously carried that, in readdressing CDP #19-2014 (CalTrans), there were community con-

cerns that:

- 1) the existing “kink” on the east side (northbound lane) of Highway One would be eliminated;
- 2) there had been no consideration taken regarding NGWC’s waterlines located in the area, and;
- 3) the item be tabled until the 3 September meeting or whenever the plans are made available to the Council.

Council Member Mills will request CalTrans send a copy of the CDP’s plan view of the roadway, via the *Freedom of Information Act* if need be.

7. **Discussion: THPs # 1-15-042 SON & 1-15-033 SON; Recommendation to extend the public comment closure date on the project.** **Council Chair Watts** referred to the Independent Coast Observer’s (ICO) article on the Timber Harvest Plans (THP) in the 31 July issue (see attached) Administrator Moberg noted GMAC didn’t receive a recent notice from CalFire of this THP being filed.

GMAC’s sphere of influence was discussed. **Council Member Ivor** felt GMAC’s “sphere of influence included the entire Gualala watershed” and any THP taking place there; all Council Members agreed. There have to be specific reasons given for a comment/request before CalFire will even address, let alone grant it; that’s not easy to do. **Mr. Bower** agreed, “There had better be solid information within the request or it will be ignored.”

Council Member Ivor said the ICO printed a map of the area to be harvested (see ICO 2 August) . He felt CalFire didn’t give state and county agencies, conservation groups, or the public enough time to comment on the plan. He listed the following reasons why the request should be granted:

- a) the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rated the Gualala River as “polluted”—because summer temperatures rise enough to threaten the habitat of salmon and steelhead—and too much sediment lies along the river’s bottom.
- b) the THP’s plan of pumping 25,000 gallons of water a day during the entire project, from 1 April to 15 November 2016, to control dust did not take into consideration the present and continuing, severe drought throughout California and would further reduce fish and wildlife habitats, putting more pressure on endangered species;
- c) the entire THP is along the river’s floodplain where ESHAs and critical habitat for endangered species are located and will cause erosion and other hazards that threaten habitat and put more stress on already endangered species;
- d) the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Administration and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) have yet to comment on the THPs; they should be allowed time to do so, and;
- e) the THPs would ruin lands that could be included in a future extension of the Gualala Park system “Cutting the really large trees right down to the root doesn’t make any sense right now.”

Council Member Juengling noted that California Department of Fish and Wildlife visited the Gualala River yesterday to see how the river and the THP site looked. He then described his understanding of the “drafting of water” process—the proposed method employed by the THP to obtain water from the Gualala River for dust suppression. It involves digging a hole in the riverbank and pumping the water that seeps into it to a water storage truck. He said that the Sonoma County Planners, in their general Plan proposals from the 1960s, had included the idea of a Gualala Riverfront Park from the existing Gualala Point Regional Park along the South Fork of the Gualala River to the Twin Bridges area at Annapolis Road. “Logging in the flood plain and along the river bank doesn’t make sense.”

Linda Bell, Director of the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy (RCLC), requesting a time extension. She stated the THP’s logging process was something different than what’s been seen before in a

flood-plain THP. There was a new owner and operator of Gualala Redwoods and the public was unfamiliar with their harvest procedures. **Iris Feldman**, reporter for the ICO, said the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society sent a letter to CalFire three weeks ago also asking for an extension.

Council Chair Watts suggested the Council request CalFire extend the public comment closure date to give the community enough time to respond on the THPs. CalFire's Santa Rosa office should be phoned to ask if the letter should be e-mailed or sent by post.

It was moved by **Council Member Juengling**, seconded by **Council Member Ivor**, and unanimously carried that the Council write a letter to CalFire asking that there be a 30 day extension period for public comment on the two THPs, list the concerns and reasons for the request (above), and send copies to various agencies, including: California State Water Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, State Senator Mike McGuire, U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and 5th District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Efren Cabrillo, Friends of the Gualala River, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, and California Native Plant Society. Council Members Ivor and Mills will write the letter to Calfire and Council Member Juengling will e-mail it to various organizations.

8. Drought: State of Emergency and Status of the Gualala Water Moratorium:

Council Member Ivor asked what the Gualala River's cubic-feet-per-second (CFS) water flow at the gauge located on the North Fork of the Gualala River was to date compared to last year. **Council Member Juengling** stated June 2014 was above 6 cubic feet per second; June 2015 it's around 3 cubic feet per second.

9. Council Chair Watts' Report:

Council Chair Watts stated he will resign as Chairman this evening after the meeting but remain on the Council. The Board of Supervisors still has to appoint him for another four-year term but he should know by next week. A discussion on- and Election of officers followed.

Chairman:

It was moved by **Council Member Watts**, seconded by **Council Member Ivor**, and unanimously carried that **Council Member Juengling** be elected to the office of **Council Chairman**.

Vice-chairman:

It was moved by **Council Member Juengling**, seconded by **Council Member Eckert**, and unanimously carried that **Council Member Ivor** be elected to the office of **Council Vice-chairman**.

Secretary

It was moved by **Council Member Ivor**, seconded by **Council Member Juengling**, and unanimously carried that **Council Member Watts** be elected to the office of **Council Secretary**.

Treasurer:

It was moved by **Council Member Juengling**, seconded by **Council Member Ivor**, and unanimously carried that **Council Member Eckert** will continue as **Council Treasurer**.

10. Council Matters:

Gualala Community Action Plan (GCAP Streetscaping) and Discussion of Downtown Gualala Parking Issues:

Council Member Juengling, acting as a citizen, reported on the first Gualala Parking Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 21 July. Attendees were: Mr. Juengling, Diane Agee, Director of Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS); David Caley, California Life Support District Director; and Committee Chair Steve May. He stated at that meeting that "parking in the downtown core of Gualala can be an issue at times." Opinions were shared about how additional parking

could be created, especially during peak demand times and seasonally.

The Refined Gualala Streetscape Plan and its status as an “Active” CalTrans project, along with increasing tourism, has brought focus to remote parking area possibilities just east of Highway One and to a potential town parking lot facility on CalTrans right-of-way/Gualala Redwoods Lands at the southern end of town.

Mr. Juengling showed the Council an “assembled Caltrans/Streetscape Map” that he introduced at the Parking Committee meeting for reference purposes. On the map, he depicted the newly-proposed RCMS parking facility plans and a Google image of a roughly-sketched parking area design at the CalTrans pullout just south of the Sandbar Restaurant.

Council Members, **Mary Mobert**, Gualala-area resident, and meeting attendees all felt a Gualala Bluff Trail connection, with future trail expansion, could occur at this location if parking were developed. It would draw tourist’s interest and bring business to local shops. Gualala was the gateway to the Point Arena-Stornetta Lands.

Mr. Juengling noted the concept of incorporating the use of a town shuttle for Gualala’s local transportation and parking needs was discussed at the Parking Committee meeting. “The idea of a town shuttle is catching on,” and has been working well, as again was most recently demonstrated at the Gualala Arts Auto Show to link the Arts Center with downtown shops and restaurants so attendees could leave their cars parked all day and still shop and dine in Gualala.

During the Parking Committee meeting, the Jenner boat launch, restroom, and parking area was discussed; it was believed to have been funded by the U.S. Department of Boats and Waterways. An area similar to Jenner’s, yet tailored for Gualala, is an idea Mr. Juengling has promoted since the development of the “Refined” Streetscape Plan of 2012 and could be well suited for Gualala’s needs. Diane Agee volunteered to research these types of grants to remodel the CalTrans/Gualala Redwoods Land location into a Jenner-style parking area. The Gualala Parking Committee will be meeting again in September 2015.

a. Various CalTrans & County Issues: None.

11. Treasurer Eckert’s Report:

Treasurer Eckert reported an account balance to date of \$4,100.74; this includes payment of Administrator Mobert’s July Invoice, the P.O. Box annual rent, and Ms. Mitchell’s remaining \$200 in full for her website work. He also stated he may not be able to attend the 3 September meeting.

12. Website Maintenance Report:

Treasurer Eckert stated he had asked members to visit the new website and send him any input and suggested changes before this meeting. He had received only one comment from Council Member DuCharme who had favorable comments. **Members** had not realized they were to do so and apologized for the misunderstanding.

Council Member Mills had seen the site and liked the home page layout, though he thought the County Seal should be at the top of the home page rather than at the bottom. **Administrator Mobert** had been to the site but didn’t see the home page layout as described, so felt she was accessing the old site instead. She will send Ms. Mitchell the approved June and July Minutes to post.

Council Member Eckert suggested a “Get Involved” button be added at the bottom of the home page listing committees to join and meetings to attend. **Administrator Mobert** suggested a writable .PDF form of the GMAC Membership Application also be posted so interested parties can complete and e-mail it to Supervisor Hamburg’s before leaving the site; everyone agreed.

It was moved by Council Member Ivor, seconded by Council Member Juengling, and unani-

mously carried that the website be activated.

13. Administrator Mobert's Report:

Administrator Mobert reported she worked 18.27 hours, with materials of \$7.96, for a total of \$281.97. She sent the letter with the Council's meeting dates through December 2017 to Suzanne Brearcliffe, Reservations Coordinator for the Gualala Community Center (see attached), She also paid the \$38 Post Office rent on Tuesday night but the box was not open at 17:50 today when she checked mail. Tomorrow, she will make sure staff got the payment and request the box be unlocked.

Council Member Mills asked why the monthly invoice was being sent to all the Members rather than just the Treasurer. **Administrator Mobert** said she was requested to do so at last month's meeting.

14. Agenda for the next meeting Thursday, 6 September 2015:

Council Secretary Watts will contact the various Law Enforcement agencies to ask if an officer could attend and/or report at the next meeting. **Administrator Mobert** stated a 45 MPH speed limit sign was lying on the side of Old Stage Road just south of Bower Park that needed to be re-erected. **Secretary Watts** said he would contact Howard Dashiell, Director of Mendocino County Department of Transportation to ask the sign be reinstalled.

Administrator Mobert reminded everyone that the Sheriff's *Meet and Greet* event for three new Coastal officers will be held at the Gualala Community Center on 19 September. Setup will start at noon, the Meet and Greet will run from 13:00 -15:00, and cleanup will last till 16:00. Everyone in the community is invited. She will send word to all her organizational affiliates and ask friends to do the same. The Sea Ranch residents will also be invited. **Council Member Mills** will announce the event at this week's Lions Club meeting.

Agenda for the next meeting:

- i. CDPs received before the 20th of the month
- ii. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
- iii. Various CalTrans and County Issues (Council Member Juengling)
- iv. Water Issues and the California Drought (Council Members Ivor and Juengling)
- v. Gualala Community Action Plan (GCAP) Update (Council Member Juengling)
- vi. Gualala Parking Issues (Council Members Juengling and Watts)
- vii. Council Chair Juengling's Report
- viii. Council Secretary Watts' Report
- ix. Treasurer Eckert's Report
- x. GMAC Website Report
- xi. Administrator Mobert's Report

15. Adjournment: It was unanimously agreed the meeting adjourn at 20:23.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Mobert, GMAC Administrator