



Gualala Municipal Advisory Council

P.O. Box 67, Gualala CA 95445

www.gualalamac.org

Regular Meeting Summary Minutes DRAFT

Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Coast Life Support District Building; 38901 Ocean Drive, Gualala, CA, 95445

*A verbatim recording of this meeting is available from the
Gualala Municipal Advisory Council website at this Internet address:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU1pXY8COeo>

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
- Council members present: Kevin Evans, Robert Juengling, Dave Shpak, Dan Lewis, Henry Mayer, Nicole Everett, Zachary Hayward. Council member Finley was absent.
- Mendocino County personnel present: Sheriff Deputy Chris McNally.

2. Agenda Approval

- Motion and second to approve as drafted: Hayward, Lewis. Vote: Ayes unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion and second to approve July 2, 2026 Regular Meeting Summary Minutes: Everett, Lewis. Vote: Ayes 5; Abstain 2 (Mayer and Hayward were not present on 7/2/26).

4. Correspondence

- Correspondence as reported on the approved agenda.

5. Mendocino County Sheriff or Code Enforcement Report

- Sheriff Deputy McNally summarized recent south coast actions and investigations.
- Public Comment
 - Jane Head asked for description of welfare checks and reporting. Deputy McNally described welfare check purposes and reporting.
 - Karen Ellowitz asked for detail on a fraud case. Deputy McNally responded that he did not have information about the investigation.

6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Mark Escajeda
 - Asked questions about a potential roundabout on State Route 1 at the intersection of Old State Highway.
- Jane Head
 - Described garbage and expressed concern about continuing dumping at the "boathouse property" on Old Stage Road and previous cleanup efforts by Mendocino County. Councilmember Juengling stated he expected the County would be auctioning the property.

- Expressed concern about illegal garbage dumping and litter in Gualala area, in particular the car abandoned at the connector street between Gualala Road and Old Stage Road.
- Helen Pataki
 - Described a recent garbage cleanup project on Fish Rock Road that was coordinated by the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy.
- Karen Ellowit
 - Reported that the list of partners on the Fish Rock Road garbage cleanup could be found in an article published by the Independent Coast Observer newspaper.
- Randy Birk
 - Expressed “shout out” for the Bottle Bank recycling operation at the Sundstrom Mall.

7. Public Agency Referrals

7.1. [CDP-2024-0030 Chrisman](#)

- Council member Evans summarized the proposed project and his review, and recommended GMAC support CDP approval.
- Council member Shpak asked if any of the project features would have raised concerns if considered pro-actively, rather than after the fact. Council members Evans and Everett reported no concerns.
- Public comment: none.
- Motion and second to recommend that CDP-2024-0030 be approved as proposed: Everett, Shpak. Vote: Ayes unanimous.
- Council member Everett will report to Mendocino County Planning and Building Services.

7.2. [CDP-2026-0009 Canonge](#)

- Council members Lewis and Juengling summarized the proposed project and their review, and recommended GMAC support CDP approval.
- Council members discussed the salient coastal zone issues: (1) proposed change of use from commercial to residential (consistent with mixed use zoning) and (2) proposed change of trim color to dark green (compatible with dominant earth tones in scenic area). There were no concerns with either change.
- Public comment: none.
- Motion and second to recommend that CDP-2026-0009 be approved as proposed: Lewis, Juengling. Vote: Ayes unanimous.
- Council member Juengling will report to Mendocino County Planning and Building Services.

8. Old Business - Discussion or Action

- None.

9. New Business - Discussion or Action

- None.

10. Committee Reports

10.1. Bower Park Renovation

- Council member Evans reported Board of Supervisors approval on 7/21 for funding the complete renovation project scope.
- Council members Evans and Shpak noted the current County budget does not assign funding for park operation and maintenance. Shpak reported that the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District has expressed interest in an operation and maintenance partnership with the County.
- Council members discussed park operation and maintenance funding obligation, distinction between post-construction maintenance and normal maintenance, and desire for construction completion schedule information at the next GMAC meeting.
- Public Comment
 - Jane Head asked about deadline to complete construction. Council member Evans explained schedule uncertainty, December completion target. Council member Mayer explained history of recent closures due to hazard tree removals and renovation.

10.2. Caltrans SR1 Gualala Downtown Enhancement Project

- Council member Juengling recused himself from council discussion, due to potential conflict of interest.
- Council member Shpak presented an update per recent conversation with the Caltrans project manager, Ms. Katie Everett.
- Council member Mayer summarized previous consideration of a roundabout at the intersection of Old State Highway during planning for the streetscape project.
- Public Comment
 - Mark Escajeda
 - Reiterated interest in a roundabout at Old State Highway.
 - Randy Birk
 - Asked about the project budget amount. Council member Shpak responded his recollection of approximately \$10 million, including the southbound left turn pocket at Ocean Drive.
 - Asked about the China Gulch emergency culvert replacement. Council member Shpak summarized the project and post-construction conditions.
- Council member Juengling returned to the dais after conclusion of the agenda item.

10.3. Local Coastal Program and Town Plan Update

- Council member Shpak summarized information shared at the next GrassRoots Institute LCP Update webinar on 7/16 and next steps anticipated for developing baseline policies for sea level rise resilience.
- Shpak also summarized content in the SR1 traffic capacity analysis final report related to further consideration of a roundabout on State Route 1 at the intersection of Old State Highway as a feature in the LCP update.
- Public Comment
 - Mark Escajeda

- Reiterated interest in a roundabout at Old State Highway.

10.4. Economic Development

- Council member Everett reported coordination with Visit Mendocino.

10.5. Website, Social Media, Telecommunications, Community Broadband Access

- Council member Mayer stated intent to prepare invoice for purchase of room monitor speakers from Don Hess.

11. Treasurer Report

- No report.

12. Councilmember Comments, New Business for Future Agenda

- Council member Evans summarized recent correspondence with County Supervisors Haschak and Williams, Interim County Executive Officer Pierce, and County Department of Transportation Director Dashiell regarding south coast road repair in 2010 and subsequent maintenance.
 - Public Comment
 - Randy Birk
 - Expressed concern about County road maintenance practices.
 - Council member Mayer and Evans discussed the Board of Supervisors' decision to decline putting a 1% sales tax measure for road maintenance on the November general election ballot.
 - Council member Lewis remarked upon the recent death of Donna Bishop.

13. Adjournment

- Motion and second to adjourn in honor of the memory of Donna Bishop: Lewis, Hayward. Vote: Ayes unanimous.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.