Gualala Municipal Advisory Council

P.O. Box 67, Gualala CA 95445
www.gualalamac.org

Regular Meeting Summary Minutes
DRAFT

Thursday, October 1, 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=8PLWVaDx5co

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.
- Council members present: Kevin Evans, Robert Juengling, Dave Shpak, Dan Lewis, Henry Mayer, Nicole Everett. Council members Finley and Hayward were absent.
- Mendocino County personnel present: Sheriff Matt Kendall (remote), Sheriff Lieutenant Brandon Lee, Sheriff Deputy Chris McNally, Principal Planner Nash Gonzalez, Planner Liam Crowley, Coastal Planning Manager Shannon Fiala, Outreach Principal Vanessa Blodgett.
- Caltrans District 1 personnel present: Associate Transportation Planner Dan Gjerde.

2. Agenda Approval

- Secretary Shpak described corrections to agenda item 4. Correspondence.
- Motion and second to approve as amended: Lewis, Everett. Vote: Ayes unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion and second to approve August 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Summary Minutes as drafted: Juengling, Mayer. Vote: Ayes 5; Abstains 1 (Evans due to absence on 8/6/26).

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. McNally also reported recent visits to the "boatyard" site on Old Stage Road and observations of nothing new in the past month.
- Council member Juengling acknowledged the "boatyard" update and intent to relay the information to concerned community members.
- Sheriff Kendall gave updates on new jail construction, negotiation with the California Department of State Hospitals on shared funding for behavioral health staff, and Sheriff Department staffing. Kendall also advised on continuing wildfire hazards and needs for fire-safe actions.
- Sheriff Lieutenant Lee reiterated Department attention to south coast staffing and operations.
- Public Comment:

- Pat Chaban asked about nighttime staffing. Lieutenant Lee answered that there is nighttime staffing on the south coast 3 to 4 nights per week.

6. Presentation

6.1. Caltrans Milestone Update for the State Route 1 Downtown Gualala Streetscape Project

- Council member Shpak introduced agenda item.
- Caltrans District 1 Project Manager Katie Everett gave update on project funding approval, readiness to solicit construction contract bids, schedule for contract award and construction start, and current utility relocation work by PG&E.
- Council members Mayer, Shpak, Juengling, Lewis, and Evans asked questions and received answers from Katie Everett about the single construction season, community information, status of right-of-way acquisition or control, consideration of a roundabout at the intersection of Old State Highway, construction schedule coordination with the seasonal Farmer's Market, and decorative landscaping.
- Public Comment:
  - John Bower expressed concerns regarding on-highway and off-street parking, state purchase of prescriptive easements from Bower Limited Partnership, motorist speed controls, and traffic calming.

6.2. Bower Park Master Plan and Application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program

- Council member Shpak, who also serves as chair of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, described collaboration with Mendocino County to apply for grant funding to complete the 2024 Bower Park Master Plan capital improvements. Shpak mentioned that the District is attending meetings in south coast communities and has published an on-line public survey to affirm the park master plan and gather other ideas for park features or programs. Shpak asked that the MCRPD survey flyer be posted to the GMAC website for community reference.

7. New Business - Discussion or Action

7.1. Workshop on the Mendocino County Local Coastal Program Update Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy

- Council member Shpak and Principal Planner Gonzalez introduced the agenda item.
- Coastal Planning Manager Shannon Fiala explained the technical study and draft strategy.
- Council members and county staff exchanged questions and answers during the presentation.
- Caltrans District 1 Associate Transportation Planner Gjerde asked a question about LCP exemptions. Gonzalez answered that discussion of LCP exemptions with the Coastal Commission is anticipated and further consideration would be part of LCP implementation actions.
- The public workshop was conducted informally after remaining items in the meeting agenda.

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- John Bower reported overnight SR1 construction activity in Gualala by PG&E and expressed concern about accurate location of sewer infrastructure owned by Gualala Community Services District.

9. Public Agency Referrals

- None.

10. Old Business - Discussion or Action

- None.

11. Committee Reports

11.1. Bower Park Renovation

- Council member Mayer conveyed progress reported by Kirk Vierra, Mendocino County construction manager. Estimated timeframe to re-open the park is the end of this year.

11.2. Caltrans SR1 Gualala Downtown Enhancement Project

- Council member Juengling recused himself from council discussion, due to potential conflict of interest.
- Council member Shpak referred to the project update by Caltrans project manager, Ms. Katie Everett (agenda item 6.1).
- Public Comment:
  - John Bower referred to his extensive ownership of downtown property, stated concerns about parking and traffic in the south part of town, and stated his desire for a roundabout at the Old State Highway intersection.
- Council member Juengling returned to the dais after conclusion of the agenda item.

11.3. Local Coastal Program and Town Plan Update

- Council member Shpak referred to and thanked the Mendocino County team for the Local Coastal Program Update Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy presentation (agenda item 7.1). Shpak mentioned that the last GrassRoots Institute LCP Update webinar was conducted on 9/17 and referred council members to the GRI website for a recording.
- On a topic related to sea level rise resilience, council member Shpak reported that Caltrans District 1 has established a public engagement webpage for the SR1 Garcia River Feasibility Study that provides access to published study materials and an opportunity for public comment. Shpak encouraged council members and south coast residents to provide feedback to Caltrans on the impacts of flooding closures and importance of resilient access to lifeline travel on SR1.

11.4. Economic Development

- Council member Everett reported that Visit Mendocino has designed a gateway sign on northbound SR1 at the Gualala River bridge pull-out. Preliminary review of a confidential draft raises concerns about compatibility with the scenic character of the site. Everett will provide feedback to Visit Mendocino.
- Council member Juengling reported outreach to the Sonoma County Chamber of Commerce on possibilities for promoting Gualala business.

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

- No report.

12. Treasurer Report

- No report.

13. Councilmember Comments, New Business for Future Agenda

- Council member Mayer thanked Mendocino County staff and consultants for travelling to Gualala for the presentation and workshop on sea level rise resilience.
- Council member Lewis described the Simple Gesture food donation program and encouraged participation.
- Council members Shpak and Everett noted they will not be able to attend the November GMAC meeting due to travel.
- Chair Evans reminded council members to check their term end date and take timely action to apply for appointment renewal, if desired.
- Chair Evans reported that council member Hayward has tendered resignation from the council, effective immediately. Evans mentioned that GMAC Bylaws allow 2 alternate members and that Mendocino County will advertise the vacancies.

14. Adjournment

- Motion and second to adjourn meeting: Lewis, Mayer. Vote: Ayes unanimous.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.