

Board of Directors  
NATALIE ARROYO  
County of Humboldt  
LESLIE CASTELLANO  
City of Eureka  
STEVE LADWIG  
City of Trinidad  
ALEX STILLMAN  
City of Arcata  
TAMI TRENT  
City of Fortuna  
MIKE WILSON  
County of Humboldt  
JULIE WOODALL  
City of Rio Dell

HTA Board Staff  
GREG PRATT  
General Manager  
CONSUELO ESPINOSA  
Secretary to the Board



Humboldt Transit Authority  
Governing Board of Directors  
HTA Conference Room - 133 V Street Eureka  
**AGENDA**

Public Participation In-person or Teleconference  
Microsoft Teams  
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Meeting ID: 257 063 927 537  
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**Board Members Attending Remotely**

Supervisor Natalie Arroyo will attend the meeting from remotely from:  
Embassy Suites San Rafael, Tiburon Meeting Room, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael CA 94903

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September 6, 2023	9:00 AM	Regular Board Meeting
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**A. Call Meeting to Order**

**B. Roll Call & Introductions**

**C. Community Members Communication**

Members of the community are invited to comment on items or issues not on the agenda.

**D. Special Presentations**

**E. Consent Calendar**

By motion, recommend the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the consent calendar upon request and will be heard separately.

1. Minutes from August 2, 2023, Regular Board Meeting and August 21, 2023, Special Board Meeting.

Page 00

***Action Recommended: Approve Minutes***

**F. Items Removed from Consent Calendar**

## G. New Business

1. Classification and Compensation Study  
Bryce Consulting, Inc. Shellie Anderson  
Staff: Greg Pratt

Page 00

A Classification and Compensation Study was recently completed by Bryce Consulting, Inc. Their representative will present the findings to the Board. In addition, Staff is requesting the allocation of an additional part-time Vehicle Service worker.

**Action Recommended: Approve the Unrepresented Salary Schedule and Represented Allocation Plan by adopting Resolution 23-13**

2. Mendocino Forest Products (MFP) Letter of Support  
Staff: Greg Pratt

Page 00

MFP is requesting a letter of support for an upcoming Grant through CALFIRE'S Wood Products and Bioenergy Business and Workforce Development program.

**Action Recommended: Approve the Letter of Support for Mendocino Forest Products and Authorize the General Manager to Sign.**

*~Information regarding the Wood Products and Bioenergy 2022 Annual Report attached.*

3. Reconnecting Arcata Letter of Support  
Staff: Greg Pratt

Page 00

Caltrans is requesting a letter of support for both the Federal Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN) and also the State Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards.

**Action Recommended: Approve the Letters of Support for Caltrans and Authorize the General Manager to Sign.**

4. Free Rides Request from the Humboldt Equity Consortium  
Staff: Greg Pratt

The Spanish language fair, Festejando Nuestra Comunidad will be at Cal Poly Humboldt on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The event hosts are requesting free rides to /from their event.

*~Informational Brochure Enclosed*

**Action Recommended: Approve Free Rides for Members of the Public Attending the Festejando Nuestra Comunidad**

5. HTA Projects Update  
Staff: Jerome Qiriaz

Page 00

Staff will update the Board on current and future projects.

**Action Recommended: Review, Discuss, and Make Recommendations if Necessary.**

## H. Reports

1. Draft May 2023 statistics and financial statements for all systems operated by HTA  
Staff: Katie Collender

Enclosed

## I. Board Communications

## J. Staff Communications

## K. Closed Session:

1. Public Comment
2. The Board will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) (employee performance evaluation); General Manager, and Government Code Section 54957.6 (meeting with designated representative, unrepresented employee General Manager); Designated representative Board Chair.
3. Report out of closed session.

## L. Adjournment

*Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) is committed to a policy of non-discrimination pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Persons who require special accommodations, accessible seating, or documentation in alternative formats under the American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact HTA at least two days prior to the meeting.*

*Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) se compromete a una norma de no discriminación de acuerdo a los requisitos del Artículo VI del Acto Derechos Civiles de 1964. Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial de acuerdo con el American with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de traducción (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse con HTA al menos dos días antes de la reunión.*

**MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**August 2, 2023**

**PRESENT**

Board Members

Tami Trent, City of Fortuna  
Alex Stillman, City of Arcata  
Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka  
Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad  
Natalie, Arroyo, County of Humboldt  
Debra L. Garnes, City of Rio Dell

**ABSENT**

Julie Woodall, City of Rio Dell  
Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt

Staff

Greg Pratt, General Manager

Brian Connors, Operations Manager

Consuelo Espinosa, Human Resources Manager  
Katie Collender, Finance Manager  
Carolann Aggeler, Admin. and Finance Assistant  
Andi Evans, Bookkeeper  
Sherry Dunlap, Safety & ADA Coordinator

Jim Wilson, Director of Maintenance  
Jerome Qiriazzi, Transit Planner

Also in attendance were Nancy Diamond, HTA Legal Counsel; Oona Smith, HCAOG; and Colin Fiske, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Arroyo called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**ROLL CALL & Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION**

None

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**By motion, recommended the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the Consent Calendar upon request and will be heard separately.**

***Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Councilmember Trent to approve the Consent Calendar.***

***Motion carries unanimously.***

1. Minutes from July 5, 2023, Regular Meeting.

**Action Recommended: Approve Minutes**

### **Items removed from Consent Calendar**

None

### **Reports**

1. Draft May statistics and financial statements for all systems operated by HTA  
Finance Manager Katie Collender gave the board an update on the financial statements for all systems, and that all systems are showing good growth and overall improvement. Katie Collender also made mention that HTA learned at the Symposium that using pre-covid numbers is now in the past. HTA is looking for growth with the new normal, as ridership improves. Moving forward, stats will no longer display pre-covid numbers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2. 2021/2022 Fiscal & Compliance Audit  
Finance Manager Katie Collender informed the board that the Humboldt Transit Authority is audited on an annual basis to determine compliance. Additionally, that although there were no findings in the audit and added that no excess TDA funds were received. The Finance Manager also explained that although Assembly Bill 90 provides a waiver for the imposition of penalties for not maintaining the required ration of 10% farebox, HTA's farebox was at 13.6% during the pandemic.

***Motion by Councilmember Castellano, second by Councilmember Trent to Authorize Staff receive and file 2021/2022 Fiscal & Compliance Audit. Motion carried unanimously.***

3. Clam against HTA  
General Manager Greg Pratt announced that this is the second claim presented by Attorney Erik V. Kirk against the Humboldt Transit Authority on behalf of Ted Sheets and Charles Edwards on July 3, 2023. A Notice of Insufficient Claim was sent out on July 18, 2023, and on July 27, 2023, and an amended claim was received. Nancy Diamond, HTA's legal counsel requested that the board reject this claim

No public comment was made.

***Motion by Councilmember Ladwig, second by Councilmember Castellano to Authorize Humboldt Transit Authority to Reject the Claim submitted by Attorney Eric V Kirk on behalf of Ted Sheets and Charles Edwards and moved to closed session. Motion carried unanimously.***

4. HTA Projects Update

Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi gave the board an update on the following project updates:

1. The Redwood Coast Express system is on track for January 1, 2024.
2. HTA's Legal Counsel Nancy Diamond presented the delegation of authority to HTA Board TIRCP Grant Ad Hoc Committee to make interim decisions concerning hydrogen fueling station design-build Contractor procurement.
3. The hydrogen pilot bus is on track for delivery in December 2024.
4. HTA's Legal Counsel Nancy Diamond is working with staff to develop a draft MOU amongst the City of Eureka and CalPoly Humboldt for the Earth Center.
5. HTA is still working on simplifying the fare structure and unified branding.
6. The credit card validators for the Arcata & Mad River Transit System are on hold due to the completion of Wi-Fi installation in the buses by the end of August 2023.

Councilmember Leslie Castellano recommended event planning around the roll out plan for hydrogen buses. General Manager Greg Pratt announced that HTA is working with HCAOG on a marketing plan.

Member of the Public Colin Fiske thanked staff and is excited for the future to better serve underserved areas using micro-transit. He asked that HTA remember areas like Trinidad and CalPoly during the routing process.

5. Microtransit Pilot Program

General Manager Greg Pratt proposed utilizing downtime on the Dial-a-Ride (DAR) system to open rides to the general public. HTA is looking to explore the use of microtransit to provide service within the DAR service area including the Peninsula. Greg also announced that staff received \$100,000 from the State Assistance Fund for operating assistance to provide another DAR vehicle. The additional vehicle will focus on the Eureka Service area where demand is expected to be highest. Additionally, Greg announced that staff are proposing fares at \$4.00 per zone for microtransit users with no cap, and that staff seeks to focus on improvements to the overall transportation system in Humboldt County.

***Motion by Councilmember Castellano, second by Councilmember Ladwig to approve the Microtransit Pilot Program, Service Area and Fare Structure. Motion carried unanimously.***

6. Marketing to Promote Ridership

General Manager Greg Pratt announced that HTA is brainstorming marketing ideas for promoting ridership by working with HCAOG. More information and strategies to be announced in the next couple of months.

7. Delegation of authority to HTA Board TIRCP Grand Ad Hoc Committee to make interim decisions concerning hydrogen fueling station design-build Contractor procurement.

Legal Counsel Nancy Diamond announced that HTA staff and its contract partners have begun RFQ development on an accelerated timeline, necessitated by the multifaceted nature of the project and the protracted California Transportation Commission (CTC) grant fund allocation approval process. Staff requested that the Board authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to approve the design build contractors and authorize the General Manager to issue the RFQ for construction of the hydrogen fueling station.

***Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Councilmember Ladwig that Humboldt Transit Authority delegate to the HTA TIRCP Grant Ad Hoc Committee:***

***1) approved the short list of qualified design build contractors, and 2) authorized the General Manager to issue a RFP for construction of the hydrogen fueling station. Motion carried unanimously.***

8. Humboldt Transit Authority Personnel Policy for Unrepresented Employees

Human Resources Manager Consuelo Espinosa presented changes to the Personnel Policy Manual for unrepresented employees. All changes require board authorization, and the majority of the changes were made due to CalPERS Circular Letter; 200-003-20, which identified that HTA will only contribute the employers share for PEPRAs members as well as additional clean up language.

***Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Supervisor Arroyo to approve Amendment to the Humboldt Transit Authority's Personnel Policy for Unrepresented Employees by Adopting Resolution 23-11. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

NONE

## **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

General Manager Greg Pratt reported that people from the Far North Group and Caltrans collaborated with HTA while hosting the Transit Symposium in July. HTA's Finance Manager Katie Collender and HTA's Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi gave a great presentation. Greg also thanked staff Carolann and Andi for doing a great job in the overall planning with the symposium. HTA looks to host one again in the next couple of years.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

No public comment on this item.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (a), the board met in Closed Session to discuss pending litigation filed by Charles Edwards and Ted Sheets dba ADS in MOTION.

And, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative: Greg Pratt; Employee organization: Local 1684, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the board went into closed session at 10:45 am.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1, at the conclusion of the closed session, HTA's Legal Counsel reported that there was nothing to report on either item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

**MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**August 21, 2023**

**PRESENT**

**Board Members**

Tami Trent, City of Fortuna  
Alex Stillman, City of Arcata  
Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka  
Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad  
Natalie, Arroyo, County of Humboldt  
Debra L. Garnes, City of Rio Dell

**ABSENT**

Julie Woodall, City of Rio Dell  
Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt

**Staff**

Greg Pratt, General Manager  
Consuelo Espinosa, Human Resources Manager  
Katie Collender, Finance Manager  
Carolann Aggeler, Administration and Finance Assistant  
Andi Evans, Bookkeeper  
Brian Connors, Operations Manager  
Jerome Qiriazzi, Transit Planner

Sherry Dunlap, Safety & ADA Coordinator  
Jim Wilson, Director of Maintenance

Also in attendance was Nancy Diamond, HTA's Legal Counsel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Stillman called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**ROLL CALL & Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION**

None

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

By motion, recommend the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the consent calendar upon request and will be heard separately.

1. Side Letter Agreement Between Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSME), AFL-CIO  
General Manager Greg Pratt announced that HTA and AFSME negotiated a wage increase for Drivers, Extraboard Drivers, and Vehicle Service Workers. Additionally, with the new increase HTA will be able to promote and recruit.  
***Motion by Councilmember Ladwig, second by Councilmember Trent to approve the Side Letter Agreement Between AFSCME and HTA and authorized General Manager to sign the agreement.***  
***Motion carried unanimously.***



2. Federal Transit Administration Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964

General Manager announced that every three (3) years the Federal Transit Administration requires that HTA update its Title VI plan, and that CalTrans recently approved a draft plan submitted by staff.

***Motion by Councilmember Ladwig, second by Councilmember Trent to Approve the updated Humboldt Transit Authority Title VI Plan by adopting Resolution 23-13. Motion carried unanimously.***

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Debra Garnes, City of Rio Dell, announced that temporarily she will be attending monthly board meetings in place of Julie Woodall.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

As a request by the Collation for Responsible Transportation Priorities, to support “car free week”, HTA’s Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi invited the board to try getting around without a car for a week.

General Manager Greg Pratt announced that effective August 21, 2023, AMRTS will begin running three (3) routes, Gold, Red, and Green/Gold.

**CLOSED SESSION**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.



133 V Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

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TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: September 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Unrepresented Employee Compensation Study

1. Salary Schedule

A study of unrepresented wages has not been done in over 20 years, as other salary studies performed only included represented employees. It found that HTA was around 25% below market for total compensation compared to the median values of other surveyed agencies. To remain competitive in a tight labor market and continue to accomplish ambitious upcoming projects, HTA's ability to recruit and retain high performing staff is critical. Going forward, it is recommended to refresh this data on an annual or bi-annual basis to avoid falling this far below market again.

This report has no impact on the adopted fiscal year 2023-2024 budget as accurate estimated increases were already incorporated when it was drafted. Staff recommend accepting the compensation study and implementing changes effective this pay period, which began on September 3, 2023.

2. Allocation Plan

Since the pandemic, HTA has changed its cleaning and sanitizing procedures to make sure buses in-service are safe for the drivers and the public. For safety reasons, the Maintenance Department always has two people working together. There are still two shifts that are filled by mechanics that are unable to perform all their tasks.

Adding another part-time Vehicle service worker will allow HTA mechanics to be paired together and complete more maintenance/pre-maintenance jobs.

***Action Recommended: Approve the Unrepresented Salary Schedule and Represented Allocation Plan by adopting Resolution 23-13***

<i>Classification</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i> <i>10 Year</i>	<i>G</i> <i>15 Year</i>	<i>H</i> <i>20 Year</i>
General Manager	\$12,555.26	\$13,183.03	\$13,842.18	\$14,534.29	\$15,261.00	\$16,024.05	\$16,825.25	\$17,666.52
	\$72.43	\$76.06	\$79.86	\$83.85	\$88.04	\$92.45	\$97.07	\$101.92
Operations Manager	\$7,981.86	\$8,380.95	\$8,800.00	\$9,240.00	\$9,702.00	\$10,187.10	\$10,696.46	\$11,231.28
	\$46.05	\$48.35	\$50.77	\$53.31	\$55.97	\$58.77	\$61.71	\$64.80
Finance Manager	\$8,776.59	\$9,215.42	\$9,676.19	\$10,160.00	\$10,668.00	\$11,201.40	\$11,761.47	\$12,349.54
	\$50.63	\$53.17	\$55.82	\$58.62	\$61.55	\$64.62	\$67.85	\$71.25
Maintenance Director	\$7,860.92	\$8,253.97	\$8,666.67	\$9,100.00	\$9,555.00	\$10,032.75	\$10,534.39	\$11,061.11
	\$45.35	\$47.62	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$55.13	\$57.88	\$60.78	\$63.81
Human Resources Manager	\$7,779.47	\$8,168.45	\$8,576.87	\$9,005.71	\$9,456.00	\$9,928.80	\$10,425.24	\$10,946.50
	\$44.88	\$47.13	\$49.48	\$51.96	\$54.55	\$57.28	\$60.15	\$63.15
Transit Planner*	\$6,640.85	\$6,972.90	\$7,321.54	\$7,687.62	\$8,072.00	\$8,475.60	\$8,899.38	\$9,344.35
	\$38.31	\$40.23	\$42.24	\$44.35	\$46.57	\$48.90	\$51.34	\$53.91
Administrative and Finance Assistant	\$5,210.17	\$5,470.68	\$5,744.22	\$6,031.43	\$6,333.00	\$6,649.65	\$6,982.13	\$7,331.24
	\$30.06	\$31.56	\$33.14	\$34.80	\$36.54	\$38.36	\$40.28	\$42.30
Safety & ADA Coordinator	\$5,210.17	\$5,470.68	\$5,744.22	\$6,031.43	\$6,333.00	\$6,649.65	\$6,982.13	\$7,331.24
	\$30.06	\$31.56	\$33.14	\$34.80	\$36.54	\$38.36	\$40.28	\$42.30
Bookkeeper	\$4,736.30	\$4,973.11	\$5,221.77	\$5,482.86	\$5,757.00	\$6,044.85	\$6,347.09	\$6,664.45
	\$27.32	\$28.69	\$30.13	\$31.63	\$33.21	\$34.87	\$36.62	\$38.45
Administrative Assistant II	\$3,893.03	\$4,087.68	\$4,292.06	\$4,506.67	\$4,732.00	\$4,968.60	\$5,217.03	\$5,477.88
	\$22.46	\$23.58	\$24.76	\$26.00	\$27.30	\$28.67	\$30.10	\$31.60
Administrative Assistant I	\$3,539.12	\$3,716.07	\$3,901.88	\$4,096.97	\$4,301.82	\$4,516.91	\$4,742.75	\$4,979.89
	\$20.42	\$21.44	\$22.51	\$23.64	\$24.82	\$26.06	\$27.36	\$28.73

\*\$5,000 per year added to base due to incumbent's extensive knowledge of hydrogen fuel cell buses, battery electric buses, and zero emission infrastructure



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September 6, 2023

HTA Allocation Plan			
<u>Allocations</u>			
Unrepresented Positions	Current	Filled	Proposed
General Manager	1	1	
Operations Manager	1	1	
Director of Maintenance	1	1	
Human Resource Manager	1	1	
Finance Manager	1	1	
Administrative & Finance Asst.	1	1	
Safety & ADA Coordinator	1	0	
Bookkeeper	1	0	
Administrative Assistant II	1	1	
Administrative Assistant I	1	1	
Transit Planner	1	1	
Supervisor/Night Shift	1	1	
Represented Positions	Current	Filled	Proposed
Shop Supervisor	1	1	
Lead Mechanic	1	0	
Senior Mechanic	1	1	
Equipment Mechanic	3	2	
Equipment Technician I	1	0	
Equipment Technician II	2	2	
Vehicle Service Worker	3	3	
Vehicle Service Worker (part-time)	1	0	2
Cleaner/Janitor	1	0	
Cleaner/Janitor (part-time)	1	0	
Driver Trainer	1	1	
Driver	32	24	
Extraboard Driver	12	3	
Extraboard Driver (part-time)			

**RESOLUTION 23-13**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**AMENDING THE ALLOCATION PLAN AND SALARY SCHEDULE**

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2012, Humboldt Transit Authority adopted Resolution 12-01 implementing the Personnel Policy for unrepresented employees; and,

**WHEREAS**, this document has been amended by Resolution 16-05, 16-12, 18-11, 19-03, 20-11, 21-05, 21-09 and -21-17; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of Directors of the Humboldt Transit Authority desires to amend its Personnel Policy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Humboldt Transit Authority Governing Board of Directors as follows:

1. Resolution 21-17 is hereby rescinded and replaced by Resolution 22-13
2. Adding a second part-time Vehicle Service Worker to the Represented Allocation Plan.
3. Adopting the Salary Schedule for Unrepresented Employees effective September 3, 2023.

Classification	A	B	C	D	E	F 10 Year	G 15 Year	H 20 Year
General Manager	\$72.43	\$76.06	\$79.86	\$83.85	\$88.04	\$92.45	\$97.07	\$101.92
Operations Manager	\$46.05	\$48.35	\$50.77	\$53.31	\$55.97	\$58.77	\$61.71	\$64.80
Finance Manager	\$50.63	\$53.17	\$55.82	\$58.62	\$61.55	\$64.62	\$67.85	\$71.25
Maintenance Director	\$45.35	\$47.62	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$55.13	\$57.88	\$60.78	\$63.81
Human Resources Manager	\$44.88	\$47.13	\$49.48	\$51.96	\$54.55	\$57.28	\$60.15	\$63.15
Transit Planner*	\$38.31	\$40.23	\$42.24	\$44.35	\$46.57	\$48.90	\$51.34	\$53.91
Administrative and Finance Assistant	\$30.06	\$31.56	\$33.14	\$34.80	\$36.54	\$38.36	\$40.28	\$42.30
Safety & ADA Coordinator	\$30.06	\$31.56	\$33.14	\$34.80	\$36.54	\$38.36	\$40.28	\$42.30
Bookkeeper	\$27.32	\$28.69	\$30.13	\$31.63	\$33.21	\$34.87	\$36.62	\$38.45
Administrative Assistant II	\$22.46	\$23.58	\$24.76	\$26.00	\$27.30	\$28.67	\$30.10	\$31.60
Administrative Assistant I	\$20.42	\$21.44	\$22.51	\$23.64	\$24.82	\$26.06	\$27.36	\$28.73

*\*\$5,000 per year added to base due to incumbent's extensive knowledge of hydrogen fuel cell buses, battery electric buses, and zero emission infrastructure.*

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this sixth day of September 2023, on the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

---

Chair of the HTA Governing  
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

---

HTA Secretary to the Board



133 V Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

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TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: September 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Mendocino Forest Products Letter of Support

The Mendocino Forest Products are in the process of developing plans for a wood waste-to-hydrogen plant at their sawmill in Ukiah, California. Their proposed biomass-to-energy plant would convert wood waste into biomass using a process called gasification. Gasification is a process that can convert the wood waste into carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide. Adsorbers or special membranes can separate the hydrogen from this gas stream.

Mendocino Forest Products is seeking grant funds from "CALFIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Business and Workforce Development Grant program" to help fund front-end loading engineering work on this project.

***Action Recommended: Approve the Letter of Support for Mendocino Forest Products and Authorize the General Manager to Sign it.***



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September 6, 2023

***Re: Support for Mendocino Forest Products Company's Application to fund Biomass-to-Hydrogen Plant FEL2 Engineering***

To Whom it May Concern:

Humboldt Transit Authority is excited for the opportunity to work with Mendocino Forest Products (MFP) as they continue to develop plans for a mill wood waste-to-hydrogen plant at their sawmill in Ukiah, California. These types of projects improve local economic conditions, develop new markets for biomass resources, and reduce waste. As an organization that is transitioning its fleet to zero emissions with hydrogen fuel cell electric buses, we are in support of this proposed project.

We understand that MFP is applying to CALFIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Business and Workforce Development Grant program to help fund front-end loading engineering work on this project. MFP's proposed biomass-to-energy plant would contribute to the program's goal of supporting "the creation of a robust and diversified wood products industry to facilitate the economic and sustainable management of California's forests" by filling a gap in the availability of biomass-to-energy facilities in the North Coast region, creating jobs, and providing locally produced sustainable energy in underserved communities.

We look forward to working with MFP on this exciting opportunity to increase the amount of biomass-based hydrogen produced in California. We believe that this project meets many of the goals of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, California Hydrogen Business Council, and other stakeholders within California.

Should you have any questions or clarifications, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
Sincerely,

Humboldt Transit Authority

Greg Pratt  
General Manager  
(707) 443-0836



**Annual Report**  
**Wood Products and Bioenergy Team**  
**Climate and Energy Program**  
**Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**2022 Calendar Year**



January 13, 2023

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## The 2022 Wood Products and Bioenergy Team



John McCarthy is the Program Manager for Wood Products & Bioenergy. Prior to joining CAL FIRE, he spent 20 years at Garcia and Associates, providing CEQA, NEPA, and permitting services to State and federal agencies and public utilities. Before that he was a Registered Professional Forester at Sierra Pacific Industries, where he wrote Timber Harvest Plans and managed reforestation activities in Trinity and Humboldt counties. He also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia working as an agroforestry extension agent in rural communities. John earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Business Administration from the California State University at Chico.



Justin Britton is the Operations Forester for Wood Products & Bioenergy. He supports project management efforts with existing business and workforce development grantees. Justin joined CAL FIRE in 2019 as an inaugural forester in the Climate and Energy Program. Prior to CAL FIRE, he spent 5 years working as a Registered Professional Forester in private industry, managing lands in Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity counties. Justin earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a Master of Science in Forest Ecology from Utah State University.



Robin Bellows is the Planning Forester for Wood Products & Bioenergy. She supports workforce development and wood utilization infrastructure projects statewide, including prescribed fire and forestry training, biomass utilization, and sawmills. Robin joined the CAL FIRE Climate & Energy Program in 2019. She spent three years managing Forest Health Grants for thinning, planting, burning, and implementing forest restoration. Before CAL FIRE, Robin worked in timber and carbon offsets for New Forests and in guest hospitality in Yosemite National Park. Robin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Harvard College and a Master of Forestry from the University of California at Berkeley.



Sunoy Nandi is the Grants Analyst for the Wood Products & Bioenergy team. Beyond reviewing grant applications and development of agreements, he serves as a resource for grantees in helping them prepare accurate invoices and progress reports. Before joining CAL FIRE in November of 2022, he graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. He has always had a keen interest in climate economics and policy, which eventually led to his commitment towards helping wildfire prevention programs and other projects focused on mitigating the effects of climate change.

## Introduction to the Wood Products Program

The Wood Products and Bioenergy Team is part of CAL FIRE's Climate and Energy Program. Our mission is to maintain and enhance the wood products infrastructure of California to support healthy resilient forests along with the people and ecosystems that depend on them.

The Team doubled in size over the course of this year. Initially, Justin Britton and John McCarthy served as foresters in planning and operations. John was then promoted to the new program manager role in March. Robin Bellows later came over from Forest Health to backfill John's vacant position. In the fall, Sunoy Nandi joined the Team in a new position as grants analyst.



Wood Products started a new grant program in 2022. Grants were offered to fund forestry-sector businesses and workforce development projects in California. More than 180 people attended the first grant workshop seeking support for their projects to make California a more competitive place to conduct forest-sector business. Grantees were attracted to financial incentives to invest in clean technologies, develop innovative ways to process wood products, and support the growth of a strong-forest sector workforce.

The grant program had four primary areas of responsibility, including existing and emerging technologies:

1. Business development, including solid wood and biomass processing and manufacturing, in-woods operations, and tree nurseries.
2. Bioenergy business and workforce development, including forest bio-material power generation and biofuels for domestic use and export.
3. Forest-related workforce development at all levels including in-woods, transportation, and manufacturing.
4. Research and development that is ancillary to forest-related business and workforce development.

Through the hard work of its Team members, Wood Products was the first grant program at CAL FIRE to manage every step of a grant process through the 3rd party platform eCivis, which was new to CAL FIRE. The experience demonstrated to other CAL FIRE programs the utilities of the platform. The program was also unique in that it accepted applications on a continuous basis and made three rounds of awards during the year.

## Grants

Over the course of the first year of the grant program, it received 114 applications for a combined request of \$140 million. Of those 114 applications, 51 projects were awarded \$54 million in grant funds, which break down as follows:

- \$21 million for 15 workforce development projects.
- \$25 million for 21 business development projects.
- \$4 million to 10 business R&D projects.
- \$4 million for five projects to expand native tree nurseries and cone collection operations.

### Anticipated impacts of these new grant projects

Workforce development grants will create 40 jobs and train over 5,700 people in the next four years.

Business development grants will enable businesses to create approximately 165 direct, full-time jobs over a 4-year period. Those jobs are expected to persist beyond the life of the funding.

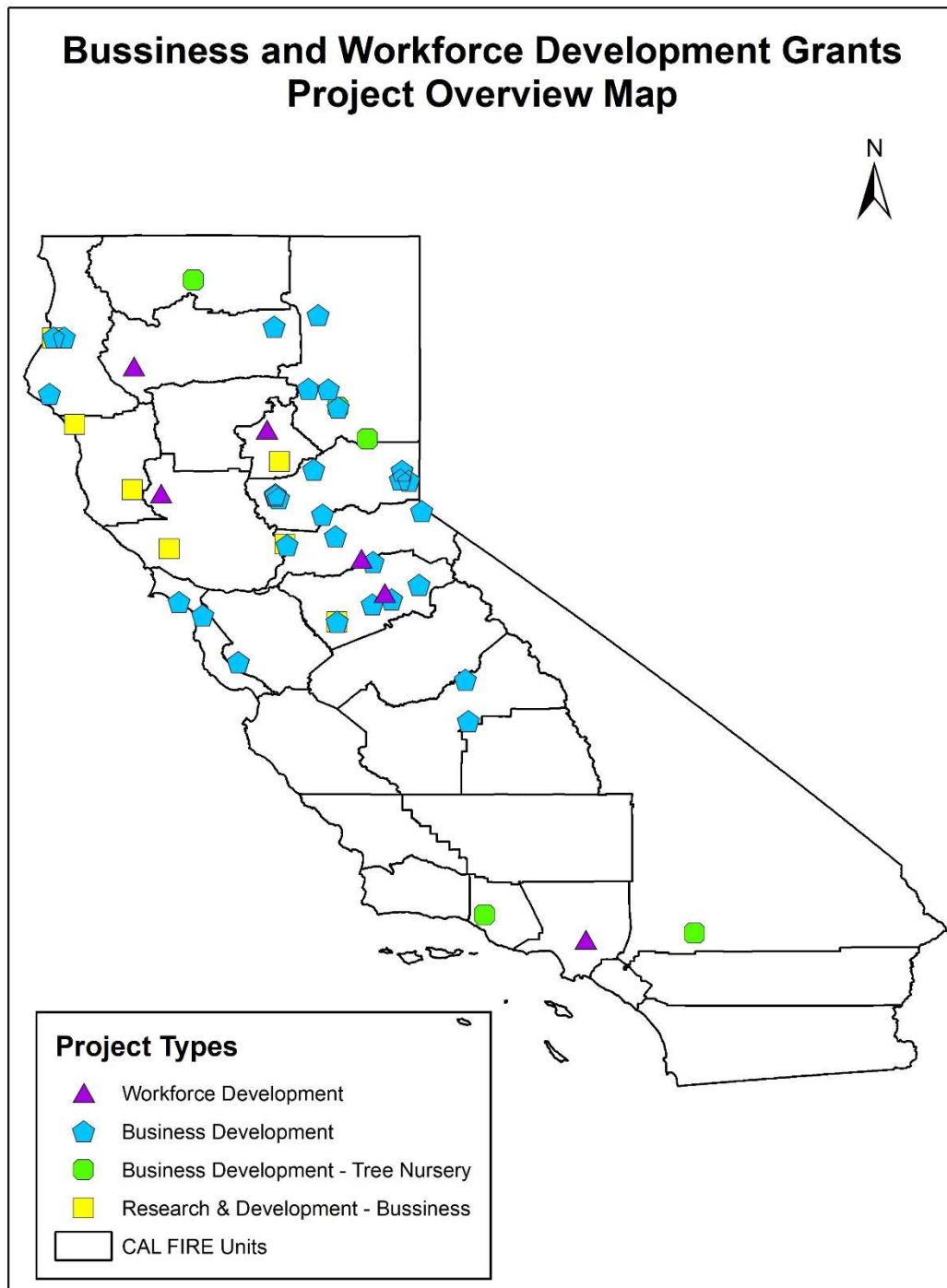
Over 1,100,000 tons of biomass processing capacity will be developed from these grants, representing an opportunity to utilize biomass generated from 110,000 acres of forest treatments that would otherwise remain in the woods.

Business research and development projects will assist in the design and development of new technology for facilities whose operations are projected to consume approximately 1,000,000 tons of forest biomass annually.



Workforce grants will benefit K-12 teachers, high-schools, community colleges and State colleges. Projects will target early-career foresters and justice-involved individuals. Recipients include tribal members and small, disadvantaged businesses who can now receive assistance in writing grants and expanding business capacity.

Figure 1. Map of Awarded Grants





## Technical Outreach

Staff collaborated with State and federal agencies and served on panels of well-attended conferences covering many forestry-sector subjects. Some of the more notable events attended are listed below:

- Organized and hosted four quarterly coordination meetings with representatives from other State agencies to update each other on wood products business development efforts. Attendees included the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank), Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Department of Conservation (DoC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), Department of Energy (DOE), the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and the Board of Forestry's Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation.



- Collaborated with the East Bay Regional Park District in their 1,200-acre wildfire hazard reduction and biomass processing and utilization project.
- Hosted a Wood Products table at the in-person Forest and Wildfire Resilience Task Force meeting in Santa Rosa in March.
- Represented CAL FIRE at the Hydrogen Leadership Summit in Sacramento in June.
- Represented CAL FIRE at the Forestry Education & Workforce Development Summit at Tahoe Community College in May.
- Presented the Workforce Development program to the Colorado Timber Industry Association in July.
- Collaborated with CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry to present career pathways to formerly incarcerated individuals at a Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program event in September.
- Represented CAL FIRE at the Forest Innovation Summit, sponsored by the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, which was held in San Francisco in October.
- Represented CAL FIRE at the California Resilient Careers in Forestry Kick-off event in November.

## Interagency Outreach

- Presented regular updates at the quarterly Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation meetings.
- Hosted regular coordination calls with USFS Wood Innovations Group, Ad Hoc Forest Biomass Working Group, Department of Conservation, GoBIZ, and the Climate Catalyst Fund.
- Facilitated Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (WFRTF) Working Group on Workforce Development and other conversations to develop a statewide Forestry Workforce Strategic Plan.

## Accomplishments

Within the Climate and Energy Program at CAL FIRE, the Wood Products Team complements Forest Health Grants Program in its goal of increasing the pace and scale of fuels reduction projects in California forests. While Forest Health's grant program funds the in-woods activities, Wood Products Team works to build the businesses and expand the workforces needed to meet the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's *Roadmap to Million Acres*, which is to treat one million acres annually by 2025.

The new grant program generated interest right away; a January grant workshop drew 189 participants. Following the workshop, businesses that had never sought grant funding began to come forward with creative and impactful business ideas. Foresters met with wood products manufacturing facilities in Truckee, Chester, Yuba City, Anderson, and Weaverville to evaluate expansion opportunities. They also traveled to meet loggers in Willow Creek, Quincy, Redding, and Blue Lake to evaluate business and workforce development opportunities.

In the first quarter of 2022 alone, the Team met in person and virtually with more than 50 entities that were preparing applications for grant funding.

Staff also met with five national and international companies that are exploring opportunities in California for large biomass energy facilities.

Additionally, staff drafted a white paper titled "An Evaluation of Forest Biomass Transportation Subsidies" that will be used to inform proposal preparation and grant selection for the related FY 22-23 grant awards.





### Acknowledgement to Partners

- Thank you to the team in Forest Health! The Wood Products Team built the new grant program based on the guidelines and reporting requirements that initially developed. Also, we appreciate funding from Forest Health that also enabled awards of additional grants to some excellent projects that otherwise would not have been successful.
- The Wood Products Team appreciate the CAL FIRE Grants Management Unit for helping us develop the first grant application process managed through the 3<sup>rd</sup> party platform, eCivis.
- A partnership with CAL FIRE's Wildfire Resilience program enabled the Wood Products Team to solicit and award five nursery and cone collection projects during the year. Of note, a \$3 million grant to Sierra Pacific Industries will help develop a new seedling nursery in Siskiyou County that will produce up to 25 million trees annually.
- The CAL FIRE Northern and Southern Region Chiefs and their Units provided excellent local knowledge and feedback in reviewing grant applications.
- The Program's interagency grant review team included participants from U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Conservation, the California Workforce Development Board, The Department of Energy, I-Bank, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

## Feedback from Grantees

"As climate change puts a greater strain on forestry and fire personnel, CAL FIRE's investment in our Program has helped us to increase wildfire personnel who were formerly incarcerated or from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds," commented **Cari Pang Chen, Bay Area Director of the**

### **Forestry and Fire Recruitment**

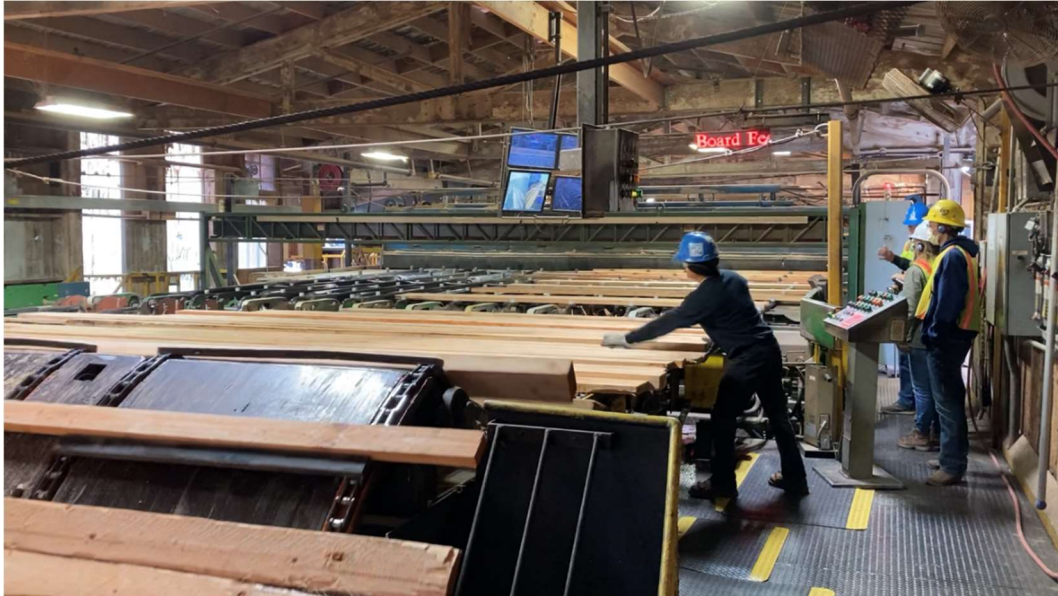
**Program**, a nonprofit that was awarded a workforce development grant.

"Our 2022 grant supports expansion to the Bay Area and deepens our work across the State in providing the necessary training and preparation for helping our participants transition

successfully to forestry and fire careers with family-sustaining wages."



"Healthy, growing forests provide clean water and air, important wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and jobs for rural economies," said **Jessica Hinojosa, Sierra Pacific Industries Tree Improvement Manager**. "SPI is making this investment to help meet our State's growing needs for high-quality, native conifer seedlings. We appreciate CAL FIRE's support for this immense endeavor. We look forward partnering with public and private organizations across the State that are working to recover and restore California's forests."



“Our Workforce Development award from CAL FIRE enables us to offer the Forestry Challenge Program free of charge to high school students throughout the State,” said **Diane Dealey Neill, Executive Director of Forestry Educators, Inc.** “Removing this barrier to participation has increased our student numbers and will provide technical training and career awareness to over 500 students each year.”

## Summary of Grants Awarded in 2022

Table 1. Grants Awarded in 2022

Grant Type	Grantee	Award
Bus Dev	Aemetis Advanced Products Keyes, Inc.	\$ 2,000,000
Bus Dev	Alpenglow Timber LLC	\$ 2,000,000
Bus Dev	BMEC	\$ 1,000,000
Bus Dev	Collins Pine Company	\$ 1,973,000
Bus Dev	Earth Foundries, Inc.	\$ 783,000
Bus Dev	Earth Foundries, Inc.	\$ 297,827
Bus Dev	Force Energy Corporation	\$ 1,000,000
Bus Dev	Hat Creek Lumber, Inc.	\$ 2,000,000
Bus Dev	Peterson Timber, Inc.	\$ 65,000
Bus Dev	Trinity River Timber Company dba North Fork Lumber Company	\$ 2,000,000
Bus Dev	Tuolumne Biomass LLC	\$ 2,000,000
Bus Dev	Unity Forests Products, Inc	\$ 420,000
Bus Dev	Auberry Sawmill, Inc.	\$ 499,999
Bus Dev	Del Logging, Inc.	\$ 1,334,509
Bus Dev	Kodama Systems Inc.	\$ 299,898
Bus Dev	West Forest, LLC	\$ 480,000
Bus Dev	J&C Lumber Inc	\$ 449,485
Bus Dev	American Wood Fibers, Inc.--Marysville [Olivehurst], CA	\$ 1,700,000
Bus Dev	Mt. Lassen Power Inc.	\$ 1,500,000
Bus Dev	Northstar Community Services District	\$ 2,000,000
Nursery	New Growth Forest Management	\$ 414,211
Nursery	San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust	\$ 275,000
Nursery	Sierra Pacific Industries	\$ 3,000,000
Nursery	Ojai Valley Land Conservancy	\$ 152,331
Nursery	The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	\$ 70,530
R&D Business	Aemetis Advanced Products Keyes, Inc.	\$ 499,999
R&D Business	Atlas Tree Surgery Inc.	\$ 118,266
R&D Business	Fabric Workshop	\$ 429,055
R&D Business	Mendocino Redwood Company	\$ 230,000
R&D Business	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District	\$ 342,944
R&D Business	Yosemite Clean Energy	\$ 500,000
R&D Business	California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt and Schatz Energy Research Center	\$ 499,999
R&D Business	Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.	\$ 95,000
	SUNY	
R&D Business	Northern Sonoma Air Pollution Control District	\$ 37,000
R&D Business	Lignum Support	\$ 62,904



Grant Type	Grantee	Award
Workforce	Fire Forward, Audubon Canyon Ranch	\$ 1,999,995
Workforce	Forestry Educators Incorporated	\$ 454,000
Workforce	Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation	\$ 492,563
Workforce	Mattole Restoration Council	\$ 482,677
Workforce	Placer County Resource Conservation District	\$ 250,880
Workforce	Reedley College	\$ 2,302,553
Workforce	Sierra Nevada Alliance	\$ 2,499,998
Workforce	The Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program (FFRP)	\$ 3,700,000
Workforce	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 2,418,224
Workforce	University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$ 397,156
Workforce	Headlands Environmental	\$ 499,854
Workforce	The Watershed Research and Training Center	\$ 1,251,159
Workforce	Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance	\$ 1,386,777
Workforce	Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board/Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation	\$ 1,973,615
Workforce	Chico State Enterprises	\$ 1,210,615
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$53,850,023</b>

## Goals for 2023

- The ongoing workforce and business development grant solicitation has new grant guidelines. The next deadline for applications is March 31, 2023, and we intend to award up to \$12.5 million for the quarter.
- The 2023 grant solicitation includes new funding of \$5 million specifically to subsidize transportation of forest biomass from the woods to processing facilities, supporting hazardous fuels reduction, reforestation, and wood utilization.





- Together with grantees the Team intends to develop efficient processes in submitting timely and accurate invoices and progress reports.

- As new grant projects kickoff, the Team will visit grantees to see their new projects take shape.



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[www.hta.org](http://www.hta.org)

TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Greg Pratt, General Manager

DATE: September 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Reconnecting Arcata Letter of Support

For the last couple months, HTA Staff has been meeting with Caltrans District 1 and Co-Applicants Cal Poly Humboldt, City of Arcata, and Humboldt Area Association of Governments. Caltrans District 1 is requesting a letter of support for both on the State and Federal level.

*~Attached is a Fact Sheet explaining the project.*

***Action Recommended: Approve the Letters of Support for Caltrans and Authorize the General Manager to Sign.***

## Caltrans District 1- RCN- Reconnecting Arcata (Arcata Freeway Cap & Humboldt Area Transit Improvements)

### Request for Congressional Letter of Support

#### Project Fact Sheet

**Project Location:** The Reconnecting Arcata- Arcata Freeway Cap & Humboldt Area Transit Improvements Project (Project) is located in Caltrans District 1, within Humboldt County in the City of Arcata. The Project study area is located on US 101 in the City of Arcata from postmile 86.49 to 86.96, between 14th Street and Sunset Avenue. Cal Poly Humboldt is adjacent to the east of the study area, the Arcata Heights/Norhtown neighborhood is adjacent to the west, and downtown Arcata is southwest of the project area.

**Project Type:** Community Planning

**Transportation Barrier:** The Arcata Freeway facility is US 101, which in the study area is a four-lane freeway approximately 20-feet below the grade of the adjacent land and road network. There are currently four places to cross the US 101 freeway between 14th Street and Sunset Avenue, and all have pedestrian and bicycle deficiencies. This barrier was created in the 1970's through the construction of the US 101 freeway through Arcata and the subsequent removal of hundreds of multifamily housing units.

**Project Description:** The goal of the project is to restore community connectivity in Arcata through exploring opportunities to cap the freeway, use the reclaimed land for affordable housing, increase mobility options across US 101 and improve access to high quality transit. The proposed Project will build on existing planning efforts with a focus on comprehensively addressing mobility and accessibility needs disrupted by the US 101.

This project is a high priority for Caltrans as well as the community and regional partners. The State Highway System (SHS) is the largest barrier to mobility through Arcata. It separates Arcata residents from the Cal Poly Humboldt campus; it surrounds low-income, BIPOC, and student-housing neighborhoods, which poses health risks and limits active transportation options; it disrupts ecological corridors between the Arcata Community Forest, the Mad River, and Humboldt Bay; and it hampers circulation in locations prime for development of affordable housing and mixed-use development.

The culmination of the Project will be a plan that will develop options for

- new and improved connections to existing and proposed affordable housing;
- improved access and expansion of public transportation;
- new and improved access to green space and parklands;
- new and expanded multimodal and active transportation options;
- new and improved connections to higher education, employment, services, recreation and healthcare and generally removing barriers to access for low-income residents.



**Disadvantaged Community:** The Project is located in an area that is designated as disadvantaged through a number of different criteria including both State and Federal designation. As based on the USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer, the project area is considered disadvantaged under the Environmental, Social Vulnerability, and Transportation Insecurity components. Additionally, the project area is designated as an “Area of Persistent Poverty” by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The State of California has also designated the project area as disadvantaged as being a “low-income Community” through the California Climate Investments for Priority Populations 2023. Arcata—and in particular, the areas adjacent to Cal Poly Humboldt—is among the most diverse and low-income locations in Humboldt County. Fifty-five percent of Cal Poly Humboldt students are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). This contrasts with the population in Humboldt County as a whole, which is only 27% BIPOC. The Arcata Freeway Cap study area meets all three definitions of economic disadvantage outlined in the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. The two block groups in the study area are in the 93rd percentile for low income compared to the state.

**Community Involvement:** Co-Applicants include:

- Cal Poly Humboldt
- City of Arcata
- Humboldt Area Association of Governments

Project partner includes:

- Humboldt Transit Authority

There are a variety of planning efforts currently underway that this study will build upon including the Humboldt Transit Development Plan update, the City of Arcata’s Local Road Safety Plan, and Cal Poly Humboldt’s infrastructure buildout plan. This proposed study directly supports the university’s expansion. District 1 is participating in a working group of partner agencies collaborating to support a wide range of regional housing and transportation solutions.

Solutions to address the freeway barrier will be driven by meaningful partner and public input, capitalizing on the momentum of diverse groups already engaged in hyperlocal planning efforts, and building their capacities. Early conversations support improvements such as a new transit center, a freeway cap and/or new freeway crossings, and active transportation improvements.

A Public Engagement Plan will be prepared at the start of the planning process following the public engagement guidance from DOTP. Emphasis will be placed on engaging historically disadvantaged communities, vulnerable road users, and the community-based organizations that work with these populations. **Estimated Cost:** The total project cost is \$250,000. Caltrans is requesting \$200,000 in RCN Grant funding and will be supplying an in-kind match of \$50,000.



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Fax: (707) 443-2032  
[www.hta.org](http://www.hta.org)

August 24, 2023

Re: Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg:

As the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency for Humboldt County, Humboldt Transit Authority is pleased to support Caltrans' application for the Arcata Freeway Cap and Humboldt Area Transit Improvements Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program planning grant. Humboldt County's transit-dependent population percentage is higher than both state and national averages and is increasing. Providing robust service to Humboldt County's dispersed population is challenging. We look forward to partnering with Caltrans to explore innovative ways—including bus rapid transit elements, first- and last-mile improvements, integrated transportation management systems, and mobility hub concepts—to connect rural and tribal communities with essential services, education, and employment in the Humboldt Bay area. Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Humboldt Transit Authority

Greg Pratt  
General Manager



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Fax: (707) 443-2032  
[www.hta.org](http://www.hta.org)

August 24, 2023

Re: Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program 2023

Tony Tavares  
Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 955814

Dear Director Tony Tavares:

As the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency for Humboldt County, Humboldt Transit Authority is pleased to support the City of Arcata's application for the Arcata Freeway Cap and Humboldt Area Transit Improvements Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program grant. Humboldt County's transit-dependent population percentage is higher than both state and national averages and is increasing. Providing robust service to Humboldt County's dispersed population is challenging. We look forward to partnering with the City to explore innovative ways—including bus rapid transit elements, first- and last-mile improvements, integrated transportation management systems, and mobility hub concepts—to connect rural and tribal communities with essential services, education, and employment in the Humboldt Bay area. Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Humboldt Transit Authority

Greg Pratt  
General Manager

Karen Paz Domínguez  
Event Coordinator  
Email: [festejando@latinonet.org](mailto:festejando@latinonet.org)



Release Date: August 3, 2023

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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

For immediate release

### **"Festejando Nuestra Comunidad", a Spanish Language Fair, Returns**

Arcata – On Saturday, September 16, the crowds will come together for “Festejando Nuestra Comunidad” (Celebrating Our Community), a Spanish language fair held at Cal Poly Humboldt from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. “Festejando Nuestra Comunidad” is the reignited and reimagined form of “Festejando Nuestra Salud”, a beloved Spanish language health fair in Humboldt County that ran for 11 consecutive years.

"Festejando" has been a cornerstone of our local Spanish-speaking community, bringing together residents, organizations, and businesses to celebrate our shared values and foster community solidarity by connecting existing resource providers in Humboldt County with the Latino population that resides here on the North Coast. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever before, offering a wide range of activities and experiences that showcase the vibrancy, richness, and diverse heritage of our community.

The theme for this year's “Festejando” is focused on our community's health, education, and culture, emphasizing the idea of celebrating intersectionality and coming together to build a more inclusive and connected society. The six-hour event will offer a variety of all-age activities, campus tours, cultural performances, and resources that cater to the diverse interests and needs of our residents. Additionally, the event will host interactive workshops, fitness demonstrations, and informational sessions led by local educators, thought leaders, and experts to promote the value of education in our community.

What's more, admission to the event is **free**, ensuring that every member of our community can participate and enjoy the festivities. This event reflects the strong bonds that tie our community together, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to join us.

**Event Details:** An all-ages event welcoming all families, community members, and visiting and returning students in Humboldt County

**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Time:** 11 am – 5 pm

**Location:** Cal Poly Humboldt's East and West Gyms

**Event Hosts:** LatinoNet, Cal Poly Humboldt Office of Diversity & Inclusion, CUMBRE Humboldt, Equity Arcata, El Centro Académico Cultural, and Playhouse Arts

To enhance the experience for attendees, we have partnered with local businesses and organizations that share our vision for a vibrant and united community. Additionally, a "Sponsor Incentive Sheet" is available for those interested in contributing to the event's success and gaining valuable exposure.

For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, and the complete schedule of activities, please contact us at [festejando@latinonet.org](mailto:festejando@latinonet.org). You may also find us on facebook at \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's come together to celebrate our community's strength, diversity, and shared aspirations at "Festejando Nuestra Comunidad." We can't wait to see you there!



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[www.hta.org](http://www.hta.org)

TO: Chair Arroyo  
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Jerome Qiriaz, Transit Planner

DATE: September 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Humboldt Transit Authority Project Updates

#### TIRCP Cycle 5 Grant Process and Timeline

This project funds the purchase of fuel cell electric city buses, construction of a hydrogen fueling station, upgrades to maintenance bays, and construction of an intermodal transit center.

- Redwood Coast Express (RCX)
  - a. On track for a January 1, 2024, start date.
  - b. Working on a RFP with HCAOG to procure marketing services to promote the RCX route, and general transit services
- Hydrogen Fueling Station
  - a. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ), the first step in the design build procurement process, is nearly ready for release. The RFQ will be posted at the following website: <https://hta.org/procurement-opportunities/rfq-23-02/>
- Hydrogen Buses & Pilot Bus
  - a. HTA staff have planned a pre-production meeting visit to New Flyer's production facility in Anniston, Alabama for the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - b. On track for delivery of the pilot bus in December, 2024
- Intermodal Transit Center
  - a. Draft MOU circulating amongst the City of Eureka and CalPoly Humboldt

#### TIRCP Cycle 6 Grant Awarded

This project will fund the development and testing of a fuel cell electric over-the-road coach.

- Waiting for CalTrans project manager to reach out and initiate the contracting process

#### Microtransit

This topic captures various microtransit-related projects.

- Humboldt Bay Region
  - a. HTA is currently planning to open up the Dial-A-Ride fleet to microtransit rides in October. The microtransit service area will mirror the current Dia-A-Ride service area.
- Samoa-Manila Service Area
  - a. Microtransit service is planned as part of the roll-out for the Humboldt Bay Region in October.
  - b. HTA will be using awarded STA funds to purchase an electric microtransit vehicle that will be assigned just to the Eureka and Samoa-Manila service zones. The arrival of this vehicle is unknown at this point.
- Eureka Service Area



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- a. The City of Eureka, Linc Housing, and Humboldt Transit Authority were successfully awarded a \$30.1M grant for the Eureka Scattered Sites Project. Award announcement can be seen at <https://sgc.ca.gov/news/2023/08-30.html>
  - i. Project elements directly related to transit include:
    - 1. Two electric microtransit vehicles and in-yard charging
    - 2. Operational funds for microtransit within City limits
    - 3. Installation of transit signal priority technology
    - 4. Installation of shelters, lighting, bus bulb outs, bicycle parking, bicycle lockers, real-time signage, and concrete bus pads at multiple stops throughout the City
  - ii. Additional infrastructure that will benefit transit riders include
    - 1. Improvement of sidewalk infrastructure along Myrtle Ave
    - 2. Improved pedestrian lighting
    - 3. Construction of a G St bicycle boulevard
    - 4. Installation of L St. to M St. trail and a Cooper Gulch trail
- McKinleyville Service Area
  - a. Microtransit service is planned as part of the roll-out for the Humboldt Bay Region in October.
  - b. No update on the REAP 2.0 grant which would provide microtransit service within McKinleyville, and between McKinleyville and Arcata.

#### First Mile / Last Mile Service

This topic captures various projects related to first mile / last mile mobility.

- Eureka Oldtown Service
  - No update
- Bikeshare Integration with Popular Bus Stops
  - HTA has been in discussion with our current payment processor LittlePay that manages payments on our tap-to-pay system. LittlePay and the Cal-ITP program is exploring the ability to expand our existing tap-to-pay system to facilitate payment processing for bikeshare programs. This could open up the possibility of HTA streamlining the multimodal experience and removing the common requirement for users to download one more app on their phone.

#### Operations

This is a catch-all for various projects related to operations.

- Simplified Time-Based Fare Structure
  - a. No update
- Credit Card Validators
  - a. Exploring issuing transit passes as QR codes that are scanned by the validators
  - b. Ordered validators for A&MRTS buses
- System Planning and Scheduling
  - a. No update
- Real-time System Data - Swiftly



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- a. As of last week, all real-time data systems are installed in A&MRTS buses. Riders can now see in real time where A&MRTS buses are via the HTA website or on third party apps like Transit App.
- Passenger-Facing Trip Planning Tools
  - a. No update

#### Facility Redesign

This project captures the long term goal of redesigning the HTA Administrative and Maintenance Facility, including replacing the majority of buildings which are reaching their end of useful life.

- HTA is working with consultant LDA Partners on a quote for starting the environmental review process now.
- HTA is working on a funding strategy for the next round of grants

#### North State Intercity Bus Coordination

This project captures work with CalTrans, North State transit agencies, and bus-to-rail operators to coordinate routes, schedules, and operators to achieve the California State Rail Plan and the California Intercity Bus Study.

- No updates

#### *Action Recommended:*

- *Review, discuss, and make recommendations of other items if necessary.*