

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee
May 15th 1:00 - 4:00
Via ZOOM
Draft Agenda

Zoom Meeting Information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://higg.zoom.us/j/96442169357?pwd=SzJXWmVSUnI3WU1mZW9Kd25PZnVyQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 4216 9357

Password: 908269

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,96442169357# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 964 4216 9357

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
3. Climate Action Committee Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Consider Approval of Minutes from the March 16th MCCAC. (See Attachment Item 3).
4. Receive Report and Consider Adoption of a Resolution Declaring that Climate Change is an Emergency and Consider Recommending that the Board of Supervisors Adopt Same (Action). - Presented & Facilitated by Cathy Monroe. (See Attachment Item 4).
5. Receive Report and Consider Possible Action on Climate Change Baseline Analysis (Committee presentation) (See Attachment Item 5)
6. Receive Brief (10 minute each) Presentation from each Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Proposed Work Plan and Activities to Date. Presented by Ad Hoc Committee Chairs Michael Potts, Walter Smith, and Susan Sher
7. Receive Brief Presentation and Prioritize First Recommendation Action Items and Develop Strategy to Present the Items to the Board of Supervisors Presented by Coast Ad Hoc Group (See Attachment Item 7)
8. Receive Report and Consider Proposal to Work on Establishing a Public Bank. Presented by Patrick Hentschel. (See Attachment Item 8)
9. Discuss ways to better involve the public and develop a strategy to track and record specific ideas and suggestions from the public. Discussion facilitated by Michael Potts and Jennifer Mayne.
10. Election of Officials: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (Action).
11. Seat Elected Officials (Action).
12. Discuss possibly Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Provide Direction to the Chair (Action).
13. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for July (Action).
14. Adjournment (Action)

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

March 16th Meeting DRAFT Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by the Chair

- Present: Tess Albin-Smith, Susan Sher, Shai Larsen, Marie Jones, Ellen Drell, Walter Smith, Michael Potts, Cathy Monroe & John Nickerson, Patrick Hentschel
- Absent: Jen Mayne, Raul Gardea, Javier Silva, Mac Lojowsky, Jade Swor

II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Comment from Richard Huback - just learned about meeting recently, wants to get notifications out to his email list of contacts. Chair asked him to send his email list of contacts for future notification.

III. Climate Action Committee Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Consider Approval of Minutes from the January 10th MCCAC

- A motion was made and seconded to reorder the agenda as follows - move #8 to #5 and consider forgoing #6 and #9. The motion was approved by 7 to 2.

The minutes of January 10th were approved unanimously.

IV. Receive Report from Shai Larson and Consider Adoptions of the Climate Action Committee Operating Principles (Action) -

- This item was Presented by Shai Larsen and a motion to adopt was made by Susan and seconded by Cathy and the Operating Principles were adopted unanimously by the committee.

V. Receive Presentation and Discuss Mendocino County's Commitment and Mission to Fight Climate Change

- This item was presented & facilitated by Walter Smith. It was noted during the discussion that the BOS set up a structure for the committee with a list of tasks to be accomplished. This effort was focused on establishing a sustainability office/unit in the County and to include climate policies in the General Plan. Walter wanted everyone on the Committee to be aware of this list, but recognized that new people bring new interests and so the list would likely evolve.

VI. Receive Presentation of Draft By-Laws Prepared by the By laws Ad Hoc Committee and Consider Adoption of the Climate Action Committee By-Laws (Action)

- This item was presented & facilitated by Tess Albin-Smith. A motion was made by Cathy, which was seconded by Tess to adopt the By laws.
- Comments were received from Richard Hubacek that he would like [a link to the document](#).
- It was noted that the document would be made available for review by the public at the website which Michael Potts created as a [document repository](#) for the effort.
- The motion to approve the by-laws was passed unanimously.

VII. Receive Report and Consider Adoption of a Resolution Declaring that Climate Change is an Emergency and Consider Recommending that the Board of Supervisors Adopt Same (Action).

- This items was presented & facilitated by Cathy Monroe.
- It was noted that the resolution should be adopted by the BOS.

VIII. Receive Brief (10 minute each) Presentation from each Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Proposed Work Plan and Activities to Date.

- This item was presented by the Ad Hoc Committee Chairs Michael Potts, Walter Smith, and Susan Sher.
- The Coast Ad Hoc Committee presented an update of activities: The Coast Ad Hoc Committee has met three times, developed a document to share with the MCCAAC and scheduled a virtual Think Tank Climate Workshop for the middle of March. The Coast Ad Hoc's presented [their write up of some "low hanging fruit"](#) climate actions (e.g. items that would be relatively easy for the County to act on in the first year). The low hanging fruit included the following:
 1. Recognize Global Climate Change (all)
 2. Wildfire Safety through Prescribed Fire (Tess Albin-Smith)
 3. Wildland Safety Egress (Tess Albin-Smith, Shai Larsen)
 4. Encourage Renewable Energy by Permit Streamlining (Marie Jones)
 5. Efficient Energy Use & Accessibility (Marie Jones, Michael Potts)
 6. Build and Buy for Energy Efficiency (Marie Jones)
 7. Eliminate Wasteful Paper and Travel (Jen Mayne)
 8. Create & Maintain a Resiliency Information Portal (Shai Larsen)
 9. Habitat Protection (Tess Albin-Smith)

10. Oak Woodland and Carbon Sequestration (Tess Albin-Smith)

11. Energy Security (Michael Potts)

- The document was discussed by the Committee and the Coast Ad Hoc Committee encouraged other members of the MCCAAC to [submit additional ideas to the Coast Ad Hoc Committee](#) for consideration and inclusion in the document. The hope is that the document would be polished and expanded for our next MCCAAC meeting at which time the committee as a whole could prioritize the actions and prepare to submit them to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.
- The Willits Ad Hoc Committee met once and developed a list of activities that they would like to work on, which included: Green House Gas Emissions Baseline study; hold a community workshop in the fall on food security, Zero Waste and transportation, work to re-establish the pedestrian trail between Willits and Brooktrails, a carbon sequestration project, and work with local companies to reduce commuting.
- The South County/Ukiah Ad Hoc Committee met once and had a discussion which covered the following points: hold open meetings in Ukiah, look at Land use Transportation and education, baseline study, Resource Conservation District, have members act as liaisons to other County activities, education about idling vehicles, seek partnerships, reduce emissions.
- The following public comments were made:
 - Rick - likes the topics, appreciate hard work of the committee
 - Karen - Loves doing this meeting by zoom. Supports Oak Preservation.
 - Elisha - likes list of possible activities.

IX. Facilitated Discussion of the Mission and Mandate of the Climate Action Committee Including Review of Items from the Board of Supervisors and Prioritization of Action Items for First Year (Action).

- This item was postponed until more of the committee members are present.

X. Receive Report and Discuss the Holding Climate Action Committee Meetings On-line.

- This item was presented by Shai who noted that the Committee should have its own ZOOM account at \$15/month.

XI. Election of Officials: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (Action).

- The Committee decided to wait to elect permanent officers until more of the committee is present. In the meantime, the Committee elected an Interim Vice Chair - Micheal Potts and an Interim Secretary - Shai Larson.
- It was also suggested the Chair follow up with the members who were absent from the meeting to determine if they are going to stay involved.

XII. Seat Elected Officials (Action).

- As this was a virtual meeting, this action was not possible.

XIII. Discuss possibly Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Provide Direction to the Chair (Action).

- The following agenda items were identified for our May meeting:
- Revisit Emergency Resolution
- Hear from the people working on a baseline analysis
- Ad Hoc Committee reports
- Hold the next in person meeting in Fort Bragg, which may be this meeting or a later meeting
- Prioritize low hanging fruit action items and develop a strategy to present the items to the Board of Supervisors
- Discuss ways to better involve the public and develop a strategy to track and record specific ideas and suggestions from the public.

XIV. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for May (Action).

- Shai volunteered to send around a doodle poll to the committee members to identify a date in May for the meeting.

XV. Adjournment (Action)

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Jones

Interim Chair

PROPOSED DRAFT
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
ENDORISING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- 5 WHEREAS, July 9th, 2019 Mendocino County Board of Supervisors passed RESOLUTION NO. 19-207 creating a Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding implementation of a Mendocino County Sustainability and Climate Action Program; and [CM]
- 10 WHEREAS, the October 8, 2018 special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that curtailing warming to 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) to reduce the risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, economic growth and plant and animal life this century, will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and
- 15 WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the State of California’s Governor Brown issued an executive order establishing a 2045 statewide target to achieve carbon neutrality, and on the same day, Senate Bill 100 was passed, which sets a 100% clean electricity goal for the State by 2045; and
- 20 WHEREAS, [California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#)¹ warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicting increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declined water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the U.S. economy and human health, unless greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- 25 are curbed; and
- WHEREAS, the California Legislature has set clear climate objectives for the next decade, including a 40% reduction in 1990 level GHG emissions by 2030; 50% renewable energy; 50% reduction in petroleum use in vehicles and a doubling of [energy efficiency savings in existing buildings](#)²; best
- 30 current research shows that if present trends continue, the total cost of global warming will be as high as 3.6 percent of United States’ gross domestic product (USGDP). Four global warming impacts alone – storm damage, real estate losses, energy costs, and water costs – will come with a price tag of 1.8 percent of USGDP, or almost \$1.9 trillion annually (in 2020 dollars) by 2100.³
- 35 WHEREAS, Mendocino County has been profoundly affected by several natural disasters due to climate change including severe drought, devastating wildfires (and accompanying days long power outages), flooding, coastal sea rise with severe impacts on coastal near shore ecosystems; and
- 40 WHEREAS, [protecting public health should not depend solely on our responses to emergencies that result in loss of tax revenue and costs of increased staff time; rather, the County should focus on preventative measures affecting human activity that threatens climate stability and that have profound effects on the overall health of our County residents; and \[SS\]](#)

¹ <http://www.climateassessment.ca.gov/>

² <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/pillars/pillars.htm>

³ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/cost.pdf>

45 WHEREAS, the residents and businesses of Mendocino County have proven through ballot initiatives,
voluntary sustainability initiatives and corporate sustainability commitments a readiness and
willingness to meet the challenges of remedying climate change; County residents have voted to
eliminate growing GMOs; the County has been on the leading edge of organic and biodynamic
farming, natural gas and organically fed food animal production, solar power use, stream and habitat
50 restoration and voluntary forestry certification; and [CM]

WHEREAS, the current pace and scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial
damage to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and [CM]

55 WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach net zero
greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the
excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species; and

60 WHEREAS, in order to avoid irreversible, catastrophic climate change impacts, we cannot only focus
on reducing emissions but must also dramatically increase and enable meaningful carbon
sequestration while preparing communities now for significant ecological and economic impacts due to
climate change;

65 WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide – such as people of color, immigrants,
indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, the unhoused – are already
disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable
and equitable economy; and

70 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, Mendocino County and the State of California,
demonstrated a remarkable capacity to protect human health in the face of a crisis, based on early and
preventative actions in response to evidence and warnings issued by scientists. We must apply those
lessons by heeding to scientific expertise, planning for the future and asking residents to make
sacrifices in order to protect our communities from the similarly devastating effects of climate change.
[SS]

75 WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino must do everything in its power to swiftly convert to an
ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable economy. [P]

80 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the COUNTY OF MENDOCINO declares that a climate
emergency threatens humanity and the natural and built environments; and

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the COUNTY OF MENDOCINO joins a worldwide call for a just
transition away from fossil fuels and an urgent collaborative climate mobilization effort focused on
enacting policies that dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly catalyzing a
mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the COUNTY OF MENDOCINO commits to insuring that our actions
remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an urgent global climate mobilization effort to reverse global
warming is needed to achieve net zero emissions as quickly as possible and that full community
participation, inclusion and support is integral to our efforts to draw down carbon from the atmosphere
safely and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying
climate impacts; and

Date: May 5, 2020

From: MCAAC Baseline ADHOC Committee

To: Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee

Subject: Recommendations for the Development of Baseline GHG Emissions for Mendocino County

Baseline Ad hoc Committee Members: Walter Smith, Cathy Monroe, Ellen Drell, Javier Silva, John Nickerson

Frequent Public Members: Elisha Hardy

The Baseline ad hoc committee has held three virtual meetings since the last full committee meeting. We offer the following recommendations and findings:

1. Rational for a baseline of emissions/carbon storage at the county level.

A baseline of county-level emissions and carbon storage is critical to prioritizing mitigation activities which will enable the county to develop and achieve emission reduction targets. Furthermore, the MCAAC has a mandate to establish a baseline of emissions and carbon storage.

2. Definition of baseline.

The baseline will be a composite of selected (prioritized – see Section 5- Prioritized Sinks and Sources) GHG sinks and sources. The baseline will be developed from historical and current data to enable a trend of emissions and carbon storage to be projected to 2030 and perhaps 2050, which is aligned with State of California targets for emissions reductions. Figure 1 displays an example using fictitious data to display how inventories from historical and current emissions will be projected to a future target date.

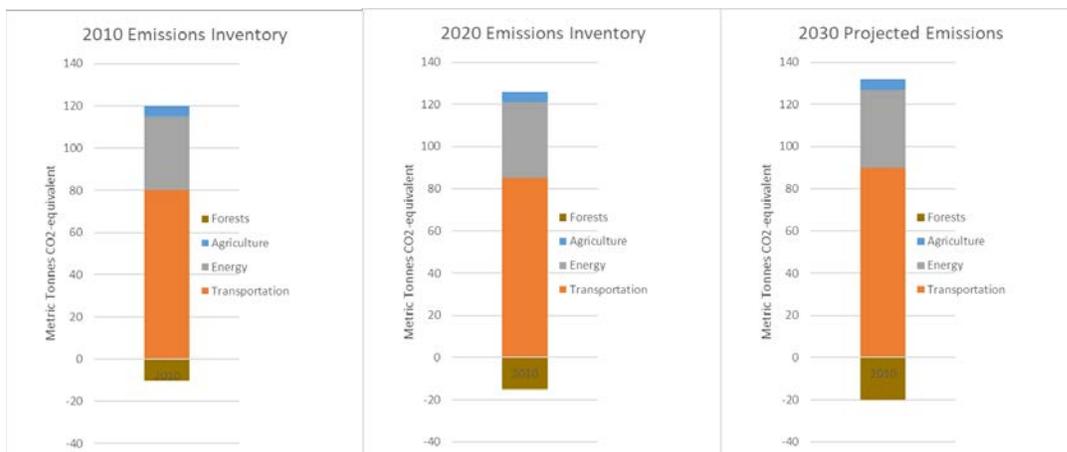


Figure 1. Example of approach to the use of historical and current emissions/carbon storage inventories (fictitious data for example only) will be projected to future target date.

3. Included gases

The baseline will be based on the inventory of methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Ozone (O₃) may also be included if found to be critical for any of the inventories of GHG sinks and sources. All emissions will be standardized as CO₂-equivalent, using conversion numbers from the International Panel on Climate Change.

4. Inventory methodological approach

Each selected GHG sink and source will utilize a sound inventory methodology. Specifically, inventory methodologies will be sought that have precedent in other county reports, is specifically sanctioned by the State of California, is a sub-unit of existing state-wide inventories, or is validated by the California Air Resources Board prior to use. Specific qualities sought in the selection of GHG inventories include:

- Completeness
- Transparency
- Replicability
- Ability to be applied in the future as a monitoring strategy
- Ease of use (preferably can be accomplished ‘in house’)
- Alignment with California GHG inventories

The ad hoc committee recommends that the baseline development process be used to document, coalesce, and archive all methodological approaches in a public repository so a consistent approach to inventory develop can occur in the future to facilitate monitoring efforts.

5. Prioritization of Sinks and Sources

Table 1 displays the prioritized sinks and sources to be included in Mendocino County’s baseline. Additional thoughts are added to the table to communicate how the data is likely to be presented and the status/approach to methodological development and analysis.

Sector	Sub-sector	Notes	Status of Inventory Development
Transportation	Commercial	Transportation accounting to include transportation of solid waste	Ad hoc committee is investigating methodologies used in other counties and will recommend an approach upon completion of analysis.
	Personal/Commuting		
Energy	Heating	May be broken out more based on approach to inventory methodology. Energy use for managing solid waste to be included here.	
	Industrial Use		
	Residential Use		
Natural and Working Lands	Coniferous Forests	Forests to be further sub-divided within sector by broad species, size, and density classes, which will enable further trend analysis	
	Hardwood Forests		
	Brush/Chaparral		
	Grasslands		
Urban Forests	Urban Forests	Urban Forests	Data to be generated using approach in Sonoma and Merced Counties. Analysis to begin shortly.
Agriculture	Row Crops	May be broken out by more specific crop/orchard type based on data availability	Mendocino Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been given the lead in the county and is contracting with Ascent Environmental. Baseline ad hoc committee is coordinating with the RCD.
	Orchards		
	Vineyards		
	Irrigated Pasture		
	Marijuana		

Following considerable analysis and review of previous efforts in Mendocino County, the ad hoc committee has determined that methodologies and data need to be developed and/or updated to align with the ad hoc committee's recommendations identified in this report. That is, we are generally starting from scratch.

Sinks and/or sources that are considered to be a lower priority at this time include:

- Concrete manufacturing
- Wetlands
- Sewage
- Farm ruminants
- Landfills
- Oceans

Immediate Purpose

[new material]

5 Our intention is to provide the County Board of Supervisors (BoS) with a few easily achieved yet meaningful policy actions that help establish the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) as an effective entity.

Recognize Global Climate Change – (Susan Sher)

Resolve that global climate change is a local (county) challenge, and that all measures to reduce the Mendocino County Greenhouse Gas emissions will be a small but worthwhile contribution to mitigating the Climate Crisis. **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

10 **Wildfire Safety through Prescribed Fire – (Tess Albin-Smith)**

The California Dept of Forestry (CDF) has a Vegetation Management Program (VMP) with highly trained professionals using best management practices (BMPs) to conduct prescribed burns. Yet there are many institutional and social barriers to overcome before such burns can be implemented, and these barriers have in some cases halted burning in some areas of California altogether. Barriers include landowner fears, multi-agency jurisdictional hurdles, insurance hurdles, and even internal resistance due to possible unexpected outcomes and costs associated.

- Mendocino County, should be working with CDF and stakeholders to help identify and schedule burns in the highly flammable dense vegetation types, including the coast Pygmy vegetation on the Mendocino Coast and Inland, where there has never been any prescribed burning and where alternative egress is mostly nonexistent.
- The County should be working with insurance companies to develop a financial carrot for stakeholders to encourage removal of fuels through prescribed burning and other methods.

Wildland Safety Egress – (Tess Albin-Smith, Shai Larsen)

25 Recent fires, unprecedented in size and impact, resulted in many human deaths due to a lack of warning communication methods, homes built with no thought to fire escape routes, lack of water sources to wet down the areas, and fuel buildup in rural neighborhoods.

At the very least, the County of Mendocino must work with CDF and local fire agencies to provide early warning systems, support firesafe councils for neighborhood safety contacts, and identify or construct multiple evacuation routes in rural neighborhoods. This is especially important in areas with constricted access and high wildfire isolation risk, such as in the highly flammable dense Pygmy vegetation (e.g., Simpson Lane, Roads 408 and 409, Fern Creek Drive (Caspar), Little Valley Road (Inglenook), Comptche-Ukiah Road, Gibney Lane East to Mitchell Ck, and Little River-Airport Road, Albion Ridge and Middle Ridge)

Encourage Renewable Energy by Permit Streamlining – (Marie Jones)

35 Recognizing that the County currently has regulatory barriers that limit the ability of businesses and residents to implement 21st century energy efficiency technology such as photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and water storage systems, the County shall implement a forward-thinking regulatory framework to address Climate Change at the local level, to include:

- 40 • Develop a Programmatic Coastal Development Permit and a programmatic CEQA document to enable more cost and time efficient permitting for roof top and ground mounted solar panels, EV Charging Stations, and water storage tanks. The Programmatic CDP will set forth standard environmental mitigations for the installation of these climate positive technologies in order to enable cost effective installation. Currently, businesses and residences in the Coastal Zone must pay for individual Coastal Development Permits which 45 can cost more than \$8,000 and they must wait for 8 to 12 months to receive approval for these permits.
- 50 • Identify and resolve other regulatory barriers to local climate-positive action, for example, the County could allow two parking spaces to be turned into one EV charging station even if it results in the loss of one code required parking space. Explore the zoning code for other similar limitations.
- Seek funding to install one or more EV charging stations in all existing County facilities with parking lots of more than ten spaces, to bring these facilities up to current building standards.

Efficient Energy Use & Accessibility – (Marie Jones, Michael Potts, Susan Sher)

55 Sonoma Clean Power offers “EverGreen service” that is 100% local AND renewable and costs a small amount (2.5¢/kWh) more. Mendocino County should immediately convert ALL County electrical service to SCP’s 100% local/renewable service, and institute measures to reduce electrical usage in all departments sufficiently to keep the total electricity cost revenue neutral.

Encourage Energy Accessibility:

- 60 • Facilitate permitting for EV Charging Stations County-wide
- EV charging stations at all County Points of Presence
- Phone and device charging stations at public locations during PSPS and outages

Encourage Energy Efficiency (Susan Sher)

- 65 • The County and municipalities within the County must establish a  protocol for government employees to refrain from idling government vehicles, thus modeling behavior for protecting the health of residents and not wasting tax payer funded resources.
- 70 • The County and municipalities should place a moratorium on issuing permits for drive-thru restaurants, coffee shops etc. and establish a policy of encouraging drivers to get out of their vehicles and park rather than use drive-thrus.
- The County and municipalities should enact laws regulating idling such as been passed in twenty-nine states and numerous counties and local jurisdictions throughout the U.S.

Build and Buy for Energy Efficiency – (Marie Jones)

75 The County should maximize opportunities for energy efficiency in all county projects and purchases including:

1. all proposed County remodels and new construction projects; and
2. all major equipment of more than \$2,000.

80 County Staff should include an energy analysis for all construction projects and equipment purchases of more than \$2,000 in all staff reports that are brought forward to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) for their consideration. The staff report should include both an analysis of the

purchase costs and the operating costs related to energy use (taking into account likely rising energy costs) over the life of the construction project and/or equipment. Staff and Department Heads shall also consider energy costs when making purchases or investments which are not referred to the BoS for direction or decision.

85 **Eliminate Wasteful Paper and Travel** – (Jen Mayne)

Reduce paper use by posting meeting packets online and eliminating duplicative printing of documents already in circulation.

Encourage and enable virtual public meetings by developing a network of internet-ready Brown-act eligible public meeting spaces, and eliminating meetings in venues without internet access.

90 **Create & Maintain a Resiliency Information Portal** – (Shai Larsen)

Develop an information portal for relevant references, resources, and initiatives relating to climate change in and around Mendocino County. The portal will include, among other items, a county-wide clearinghouse of Mendocino County community preparedness best practices, local successes and resources from local fire departments and neighborhoods. (Can this be a part of the County official website? Can CAAC members work with the County to publish and maintain this resource on the County's website? For CAAC discussion: should this portal include a comment / feedback mechanism?)

Habitat Protection – (Tess Albin-Smith)

100 Several Mendocino wildlife habitats are imperfectly identified and protected. Oak Woodlands are important for wildlife habitat, watershed stability, and environmental health. Hillslope protection is urgently needed in Mendocino County to protect water quality and downhill property. Good Oak Woodland management offers important opportunities for carbon sequestration.

Energy Security – (Michael Potts)



105 Distributed electricity is uncertain. This is especially important to County residents when so-called "Public Safety Power Shut-Offs" and seasonal outages make a minimal level of electrical autonomy desirable, if not critical, at County installations as well as businesses and private residences. County policy should be:

- Electrical storage, in support of basic operations at every County facility
- Facilitate acquisition and maintenance of electrical storage capacity for rural homes and businesses
- Facilitate the establishment of "micro-grids" and "islanding" in residential areas where there are many homes have photovoltaic or wind generation capability. (Randal Stuart MacDonald)
- Proscribe night-time generator use during "PSPSes"
- 115 • Require generator permits, fuel storage protections, and noise abatement mitigations for all generator installations
- Work with Sonoma Clean Power and PG&E to eliminate "PSPS" incidents

120 Distributed electricity is likely to be around for awhile, but after a century of above-ground distribution, with its attendant dangers and failures, small and large, it's time to do better. Undergrounding is feasible, yet utilities habitually maintain that it's prohibitively expensive. However, if the whole cost of above-grounding, including wildfire losses in Paradise, Santa Rosa, and eastern Mendocino County are included in the accounting, the picture shifts. Mendocino County should lead the effort to force utilities to (1) identify the highest risk portions of their grid, and (2) immediately begin planning to underground those portions in the very near future.

125 **Oak Woodland and Carbon Sequestration** – (Tess Albin-Smith)

Mendocino County has approximately 374,000 acres of oak woodlands according to the Ca. Dept. of Forestry. This ecotype is home to more than 50% of all vertebrate species, but sadly Oak species have no legal protections in California except in a few cities and counties that chose to protect them. Mendocino County does not have any restrictions to cutting and converting the land to other uses, nor does the county require an erosion control plan for any type of developments. Oak Woodlands are among the most fragile soil types in terms of watershed stability—it is generally highly erodible shallow soils perched on top of bedrock.

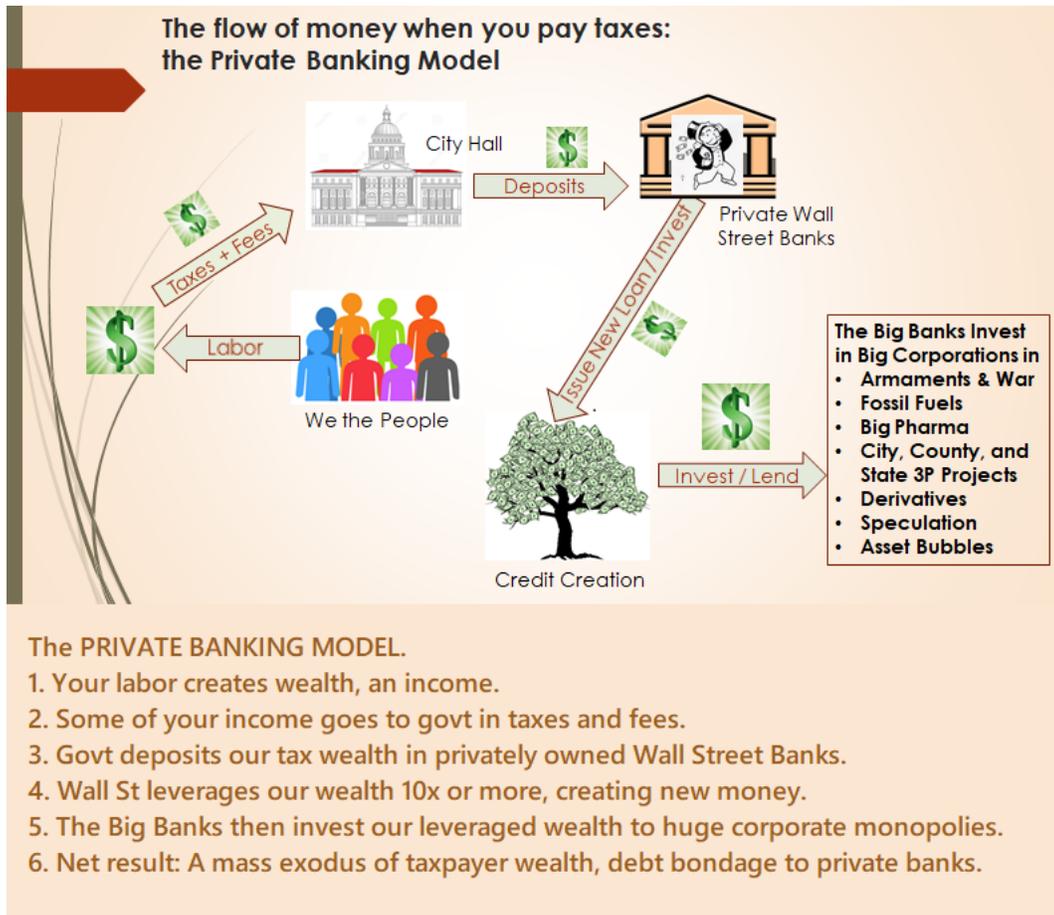
The county must protect oak woodlands by restricting cutting of oaks, encouraging planting and regeneration, discouraging conversion of oak woodlands to land uses involving removal of oaks, and requiring erosion control plans for any new land uses permitted on Oak Woodlands.

Last edited by Michael, 14 April 2020 – please send suggestions to Michael at mpotts@mcn.org
[A one page \(both sides\) printable PDF pamphlet of this document is available here](#)

Establishing a Mendocino County Public Bank

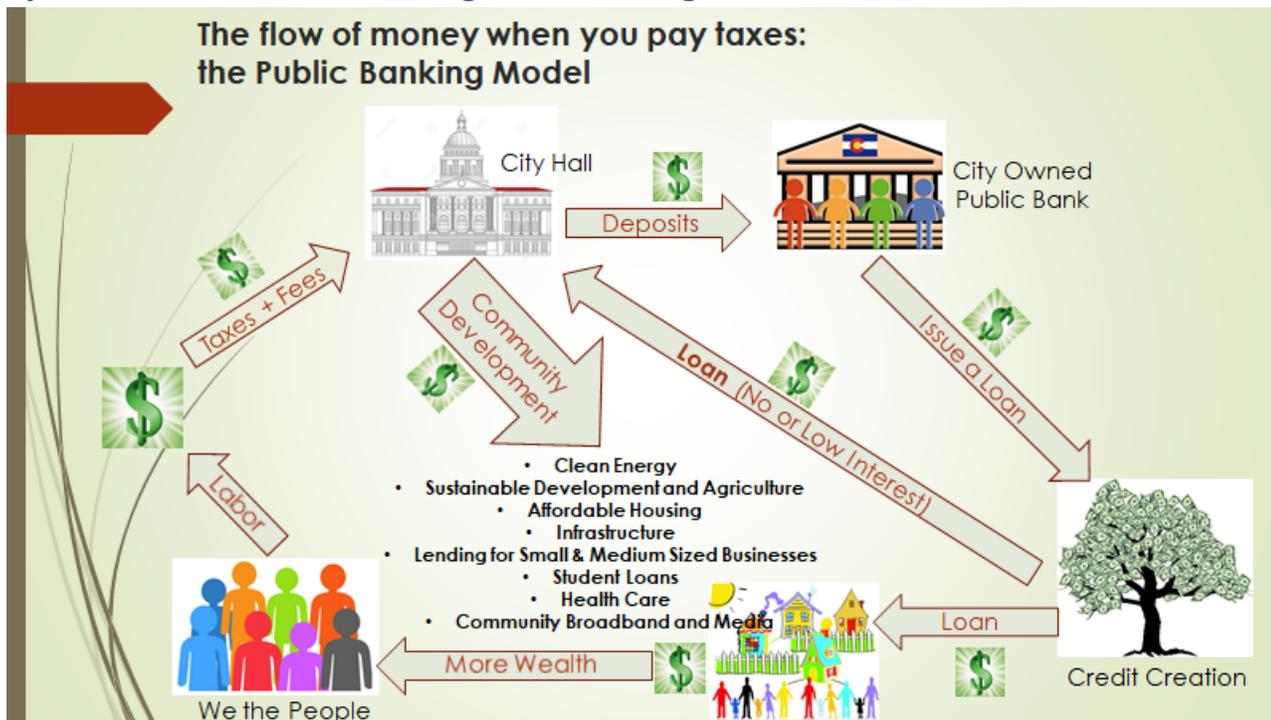
The Current Flow of Money When Paying Taxes – The Private Banking Model

The private banking model is the overwhelmingly dominant model used by every city, county, and state, with a few exceptions (State bank of ND, Chickasaw Tribe, American Samoa).



- In addition to the above points, cities, counties, and states, after depositing our taxes in Wall Street banks, turn once again to the same private banks when they need money for infrastructure projects, costing taxpayers huge sums in interest payments alone, often doubling the cost.
- In this model, Credit Creation, that enormous power to create money, is in private hands, serving the private interests of Wall Street bankers, and the monopolies they create in fossil fuels, petrochemicals, plastics, and armaments.
- Studies show that the Giant Wall Street banks invest in Big Corporations, often creating monopolies in every sector of the economy, in fossil fuels, in petrochemicals, in plastics, and in armaments – namely, the very industries responsible in large measure for this Climate Crisis, and the 6th Mass Extinction Event. Source: https://www.ran.org/bankingonclimatechange2020/?fbclid=IwAR3801js2wi_5PSu-TgnmhNmS1rljhoz1MAzIJ2GcLq9ZkZkPNvC8G-bl08#data-panel

By Contrast, The Public Banking Model is Designed to Serve the Public Good



The PUBLIC BANKING MODEL

1. Your labor creates wealth in the form of money or an income.
2. Part of your money is paid in taxes to your city, county, or state government.
3. Your government deposits your taxes in a publicly owed, City-, County-, or State-Public Bank, chartered to serve the community being taxed.
4. The public bank, working with local community banks, issues loans to the community, and provides no-interest loans for government projects, leveraging taxpayer taxes 10x or more, making a Green New Deal a real possibility.
5. The circle of money is complete, an engine for a sustainable economy is created.
6. More wealth is added to the community, and a dynamic feedback loop ensues.

- In the Public Banking Model, taxpayer taxes are directly invested in the community being taxed, through a bank owned by them, and chartered to serve the public good. Small Business loans, low-cost or no-cost student loans, and city, county, and state infrastructure projects can easily be financed as taxpayer wealth is leveraged 10 times or more.
- In this model, the powers of Credit Creation are rightfully returned to the people who benefit directly from their tax contributions. Money is kept in the city, or county, or state, instead of taking flight to Wall Street as it presently does.

A Mendocino Public Bank – The Broad Contours

- In October of 2019, Governor Newsome signed into California Law, the Public Banking Act (AB 857), which allows for the creation of city and county Public Banks. The Bill can be read here: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB857
- Unfortunately, the Bill restricts the establishment of public banks to 2 per calendar year.
- The bill also requires applicants to be, as I read it, a Charter City or Charter County. Mendocino presently is not a Charter County. But it can be.
- [I'm consulting with other PBI members with other options.]