

**Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee**  
**Friday February 12, 3:00 - 5:00**  
Via ZOOM  
**Meeting Agenda**

Topic: **Climate Action Committee Meeting**

Time: **Feb 12, 2021 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/84731066708>

Meeting ID: 847 3106 6708

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 847 3106 6708

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 January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 MCCAC. (Attachment 1)
4. Run through of Committee presentation to the Board of Supervisors (20 minutes)
  1. Introduction (4 minutes): Marie Jones will do the introduction, and Randy MacDonald will provide a presentation on the latest in climate change.
  2. Baseline Study (5 minutes): John Nickerson to present
  3. First Policy Recommendations (5-10 minutes): Michael Potts to present
  4. Grant writing (5 minutes) - Marie Jones to present
5. Receive Report and Consider Approval of Comment Letters from the Climate Advisory Committee re: and Oak Woodlands Ordinance. (Elen Drell & Tess Albin-Smith) (Attachments 2 and 3)
6. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for March.
7. Adjournment

**Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee**  
**Friday January 15, 3-5pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- **Present:** Cathy Monroe, Marie Jones, Michael Potts, Shai Larsen, Susan Sher, Tess Albin-Smith, Ellen Drell, Randy MacDonald, John Nickerson
- **Absent:** Mac Lojowsky, Javier Silva

**2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- Members of the public on the call: Richard Hubaceck, Eileen Mitro, Steven Wayne, Richard Clump
- Lana Cohen representing KZYX

**3. Climate Action Committee Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Consider Approval of Minutes from the December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 MCCAC.**

(Attachment 1)

- Agenda:
  - As Tess Albin-Smith will be joining the meeting late, suggestion to move the Oak Woodlands Ordinance Comment Letter discussion to after Agenda Item 6.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 Minutes:
  - One correction from Cathy Monroe to the December 11 minutes: Eileen Mitro and Margot Frank have been spearheading the Ukiah-based Climate Action Group, not Cathy Monroe.
  - A motion was made by Cathy Monroe and seconded by Susan Sher to approve the December 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes with the correction. The minutes of the December 11, 2020 MCCAC meeting were approved unanimously.

**4. Run through of Committee presentation to the Board of Supervisors**

- ACTION: Shai Larsen to create editable version of the presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- ACTION: Marie Jones to develop a one pager.
- ACTION: Marie Jones to ask County to add Shai Larsen as a co-host on Zoom meeting.
- The MCCAAC ran through the presentation elements and suggested feedback to one another.
- ACTION: Michael Potts to create slides.

- ACTION: Cathy Monroe, Marie Jones, Susan Sher, Eileen Mitro, Randy MacDonald to get endorsements for the First Policy Recommendations by our next meeting.
- ACTION: Once slides are final, put up on the MCCAAC website.

Tess Albion-Smith joined the meeting.

**5. Receive Report and Consider Approval of Comment Letters from the Climate Action Committee re: Cannabis Ordinance and Oak Woodlands Ordinance.** (Elen Drell & Tess Albin-Smith) (Attachments 2 and 3)

- **Cannabis Ordinance Comment Letter:**
  - Marie Jones and Shai Larsen suggested edits to the letter. Ellen Drell to make the edits and send the revised version to Shai Larsen for signature.
  - MOTION TO APPROVE the Cannabis Ordinance Comment Letter with revisions: Cathy Monroe moved to approve the letter, Randy MacDonald seconded the motion. The Cannabis Ordinance Comment Letter passed unanimously with the suggested revisions.
- **Oak Woodlands Ordinance Comment Letter:** Delayed on the agenda per above.

**6. Receive Report and Consider Adoption of a Resolution Regarding the East Caspar, Simpson Lane and Woodlands Timber Harvest Plans (Marie Jones).** (Attachment 4)

- Marie Jones reviewed the letter for approval by the MCCAAC.
- Tess Albin-Smith and John Nicherson discussed reasons they are not in support of the letter as written, discussion of demonstration forest and a larger vision for the North Coast.
- SUGGESTION: Visit this at the next meeting - John Nickerson, Tess Albin-Smith and Marie Jones to discuss offline.
- NOTE: Oak Woodlands Ordinance discussion delayed until February meeting.

**7. Discuss our Ukiah General Plan Amendment Strategy (group)**

- Discussion delayed until February meeting.

**8. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for February.**

- February 12, 2021 @ 3pm

**9. Adjournment**

## Mendocino County Climate Action Committee Guiding Principles

### In Our Committee We Are Committed to ...

**Focusing on our Mandate & Mission.** We honor and commit to understanding our mandate, staying mission and issue focused, meeting our goals, and planning and working efficiently towards successful, measurable outcomes.

**Building Consensus.** We listen with open minds, value all voices, and take every idea seriously. We strive to build consensus for our group, the community and the planet.

**Communicating Respectfully.** We question courteously, brainstorm freely, and treat all ideas as valuable. We thank people for their time and contributions, and celebrate achievements.

**Resolving Conflict.** We address conflict directly and expeditiously with individuals in the group and the group as a whole. We challenge one another with respect on issues, recognizing and valuing our diversity as well as our common goal.

**Accountability.** We willingly take on tasks, share workloads and hold each other accountable. We come to meetings prepared to work and follow through on our assignments. We document solutions with research and facts, and strive to produce timely and measurable results.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

The County has conducted a series of workshops to develop an Oak Woodland Protection Ordinance, under Section 1. Chapter 20.248 of the Mendocino County Code.

The Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) wholeheartedly agrees with the stated intent of the Oak Protections, which reads as follows:

*It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to protect oak woodlands and individual oak trees as sensitive and unique natural communities within the County of Mendocino. California native oak trees are a culturally integral part of the County of Mendocino identified in the General Plan as diverse habitats for wildlife. The goal of this Chapter is to retain and manage the oak resources of the County and provide adequate regulation sureinto(?) perpetuity of oak trees and oak woodlands within Mendocino County.*

MCCAAC would like to emphasize the urgency of adopting and enforcing this ordinance and applying it to every project on (of or with) Oak Woodlands as soon as possible.

Please be aware that in the State of California there are NO legal protections of oaks except at the local level (city, county). The Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire)'s jurisdiction is commercial timberland. Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies only regulate habitat modification when permits require their input.

Following are four key reasons to move forward with protections as soon as possible.

1. Oak woodlands are THE most important habitat type for the most numbers of wildlife species. This is well-documented. (Attach documentation?)
2. Any-tree cover, especially oaks, is our most important natural mitigation tool to combat global warming. Carbon Sequestration is key to mitigation for Climate change, because trees create a carbon sink. California's iconic oak ecosystems have great capacity to store atmospheric carbon in tree biomass and soil.
3. Oak woodlands soils are among the most fragile soil types in terms of watershed stability... and there is no erosion control ordinance in

Mendocino County to protect the integrity of Oak Woodlands from rangeland developments involving tree removal.

4. Oak trees create islands of enhanced fertility through organic matter incorporation and nutrient cycling. Compared to adjacent grasslands, soils beneath the oak canopy have a lower bulk density, higher pH, and greater concentrations of organic carbon, nitrogen, total and available P, and exchangeable Ca, Mg, and K, especially in the upper soil horizons. Removal of oak trees results in loss of soil fertility over a 10 to 20-year period.

Mendocino County has approximately 374,000 acres of oak woodlands according to Calfire. Oak woodlands are disappearing at an alarming rate in a highly populated areas of California due to urban sprawl -- we are actually adding to our carbon footprint. Rural oak woodlands are mostly privately owned rangelands utilized for ranching, ~~which~~ and ~~benefits~~ from little or no legal protection.

More and more, the oak woodlands have been devastated by firewood harvests, disease, climate change, and conversion to vineyards, orchards, and residential development.

As stated before...there are no statewide protections for Oak Woodlands. It's under local control if any. Because there are so many good arguments to move forward, we encourage the ~~e~~County to adopt these rules to minimize cutting, burning, or land conversion, and to require erosion control plans for any land-use change proposed.

Sincerely,