

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee
Friday March 18, 3:00 - 5:00
Agenda

Mendocino County Planning and Building Services is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Mendocino County Climate Action Committee

Time: Mar 18, 2022 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/83251713552>

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Review of Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from February of 2022 (Attachment 1)
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.
5. Adopt Resolution to Extend Meeting via Covid (Attachment 2)
6. Updates on past agenda items.
7. Discuss and consider providing input to PG&E and the Board of Supervisors regrading Line clearing activities in Mendocino County.
8. Identify a Meeting Date for April 2022.
9. Adjournment

**Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee minutes
February 18,2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee was called to order by chair Marie Jones a little after 3:00 pm on February 18, 2022. This was a zoom meeting; Committee Members present were Marie Jones, Cathy Monroe, Richard Hubacek, Ellen Drell, and Jessica Stull-Otto. Sande Marshall joined later in the meeting. Members of the public attending were Donna,, Sandra, and Ron Gester from the Anderson Valley Village, Carrie Durkee, Eileen Mitro, Mary Paffard, John Anderson, and Ken Conway.

After roll call was taken it was determined that a quorum was present. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved with some minor corrections.

The Public was invited to make comments on Non-Agenda items. Ken Conway of the California Jackson State Demonstration Forest spoke up to invite members of the committee and the public to several of their upcoming tours. Members of the Anderson Valley Village introduced themselves as a group of Anderson Valley residents who are interested in acting upon the issues of climate change.

A resolution to extend the teleconferencing of our public meetings due to Covid restrictions was moved by Cathy Monroe, seconded by Richard Hubacek and passed unanimously. Discussion followed about our concern that when Covid restrictions are lifted we will likely have to meet in-person or need to explore means to allow participation from remote locations that follow the Brown Act mandates. Marie will follow up to ask County Counsel about remote meetings in the future.

We agreed to express our full support of the Electrical Vehicle Lease Program of the County of Mendocino presented in Attachment 3.

A discussion was held to consider adopting a letter from the MCCAAC to the BOS regarding sustainable community development. Jessica shared her thoughts that this type of planning is needed especially related to water, sewer, and land use. She will be seeking input from the various county MACs and support through MCOG.

Jessica also offered to connect to State Senator Mike McGuire's staff to tie the committee to state climate change efforts. She is also inviting Travis Killmer to come to our meetings as a representative of Mendocino County.

We were reminded that a Mendocino County Declaration of Climate Emergency was passed at the time this committee was formed and can be found on our website, mendocinocountyadvisorycommittee.org.

Marie will draft a letter to ask the county to support someone on staff to be dedicated to climate change. This followed our discussion of possible intern support for the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 with the next meeting set for March 18 from 2 - 4 pm.

**RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES
OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency declaring a state of emergency exists due to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19), pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8625) and that State of Emergency is still in effect in the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the state Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution the state Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, the California Department of Industrial Relations has issued regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention for employees and places of employment. Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D) specifically recommends physical (social) distancing as one of the measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 based on the fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors; and,

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer continues to recommend teleconferencing during public meetings of all legislative bodies to protect the community's health against the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, finds that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing based on the Mendocino County Public Health Officer recommendation and the California Department of Industrial Relations' issuance of regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention through Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D); and,

WHEREAS, as a consequence, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee does hereby find that current conditions meet the circumstances set for in Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow this legislative body to conduct its meetings by teleconferencing without compliance with Government Code section 54953 (b)(3), pursuant to Section 54953(e), and that such legislative body shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed by Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure the public can safely participate in and observe local government meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Current Conditions Authorize Teleconference Public Meetings of Legislative Bodies. Based on the California Governor's continued declaration of a State of Emergency, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer's recommendation to continue teleconferencing, and the regulations issued by the California Department of Industrial Relations, the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee finds that the conditions continue to exist pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow legislative bodies to use teleconferencing to hold public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure members of the public have continued access to safely observe and participate in local government meetings.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by _____, seconded by _____, and carried this ____ of _____ 2021, by the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, by the following vote:

AYES:

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

18 March 2022

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

RE: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Enhanced Vegetation Management activities in Mendocino County.

Dear Supervisors,

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee is recommending that the Board of Supervisors request that the Governor or the California Legislature or the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety call for an immediate moratorium on PG&E's Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) Program in Mendocino County. PG&E's website claims the EVM "responds to the increasing wildfire threat our state faces by addressing overhanging limbs and branches directly above and around the lines. We will also *evaluate the condition of trees that may need to be addressed if they are tall enough to strike the lines.*" (Italic by the MCCAAC). The italicized phrase is the part of EVM that is in question. It is not clear what the tree removal criteria is and what rights landowners have when a tree is marked for removal. It is also not clear who regulates the tree removal activities, how environmental impacts are assessed, or what permits are required.

During the moratorium, the people of Mendocino County should be provided with :

- The environmental impact report that governs the EVM, including alternative approaches to wildfire safety other than removing trees.
- A clear description of how the tree removal is permitted, regulated and monitored and under what California code of regulations
- Landowner rights when trees are selected for removal.
- A workshop/townhall that clearly details landowner rights, along with a written explanation published in all of the local newspapers.
- The tree removal criteria
- The inventory of all trees by species and DBH (diameter Breast Height) and height that are marked for removal, and all trees inventoried by PGE contractors.
- The EVM plan for Mendocino County including the estimated number of trees to be removed.

From the above information the County and its citizens can understand and respond to their rights, impacts of the EVM on the environment and fires safety, tax revenue and carbon sequestration loss based on volume (and therefore property values loss to the landowner) and species of the removed trees.

We believe that PG&E is overstepping their authority and negatively impacting the environment and social wellbeing by cutting trees that are not a threat to the lines. There is no discussion of alternatives to removing trees. There has been no public notification to Mendocino County residents that they were coming to clear the lines (they marked trees in Faulkner park and would have cut them down if citizens had not caught them). No one can provide a straight answer about the questions posed above. The contractors give conflicting information and try to coerce landowners into cutting. The cutting crews get paid by the tree, so the incentive is to cut as many trees as possible.

It is time to stop this until we have answers.