CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING - 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026

City Council Chambers - 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell

Welcome *- Copies of this agenda, staff reports and other material available to the City Council are available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, 675 Wildwood Avenue and available on the City's website at* ***https://www.cityofriodell.ca.gov****. Your City Government welcomes your interest and hopes you will attend and participate in Rio Dell City Council meetings often.*

City Council meetings are held in City Hall Council Chambers for in-person public attendance. The public may also attend these meeting virtually through Zoom.

Public Comment by Email:

In balancing the need to conduct government in an open and transparent manner, public comment on agenda items can be submitted via email at ***publiccomment@cityofriodell.ca.gov*** Please note the agenda item the comment is directed to (example: Public Comments for items not on the agenda) **and email no later than one-hour prior to the start of the Council meeting.** Written comments will be submitted to the City Council and included in the meeting minutes as part of the public record. Meeting can be viewed on Access Humboldt's website at ***https://www.accesshumboldt.net/****.* Suddenlink Channels 10, 11 & 12 or Access Humboldt's YouTube Channel at ***https://www.youtube.com/user/accesshumboldt****.*

Zoom Public Comment:

When the Mayor announces the agenda item that you wish to comment on, call the conference line and turn off your TV or live stream. Please call the toll-free number **1-888-475-4499**, enter meeting **ID 987 154 0944** and press star (*) 9 on your phone – this will raise your hand. You will continue to hear the meeting on the call. When it is time for public comment on the item you wish to speak on, the Clerk will unmute your phone. You will hear a prompt that will indicate your phone is unmuted. Please state your name and begin your comment. You will have 3 minutes to comment.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you require special assistance to participate in this meeting, please get in touch with the Office of the City Clerk at (707) 764-3532. Notification 48 hours before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting. Assistive listening devices are now available for the hearing-impaired. Please see the City Clerk for a receiver.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

1. 2026/1117.01 - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code §54957.6) Agency designated representative: Kyle Knopp, City Manager Employee organizations: Rio Dell Employees Association (RDEA); Rio Dell Police Officers Association (POA)

2. 2026/1117.02 - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code §54957.6) Agency designated representative: Mayor Unrepresented employee: City Manager

3. 2026/1117.03 - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code §54957.6) Agency designated representative: Kyle Knopp, City Manager Unrepresented employee: Chief of Police

D. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

E. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

F. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

G. CALL TO ORDER

H. ROLL CALL

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. ORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

K. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

L. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This time is for persons who wish to address the Council on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Council has jurisdiction. As such, a dialogue with the Council or staff is not allowed under the Ralph M. Brown Act. Items requiring Council action not listed on this agenda may be placed on the next regular agenda for consideration if the Council directs, unless a finding is made by at least 2/3 of the Council that the item came up after the agenda was posted and is of an urgency nature requiring immediate action. Please limit comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.

M. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar adopting the printed recommended Council action will be enacted with one vote. The Mayor will first ask the staff, the public, and the Councilmembers if there is anyone who wishes to address any matter on the Consent Calendar. The matters removed from the Consent Calendar will be considered individually following action on the remaining consent calendar items.

1. 2026/1117.04 - Approve Minutes of the November 3rd, 2026, Regular Meeting **(ACTION)** Pg.#4

2. 2026/1117.05 - Designation of Representatives to the PACE JPA Board of Directors, Resolution No. 1689-2026 - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#17

3. 2026/1117.06 - Second Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement with Recology Eel River – Term Extension to June 30, 2027 - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#19

N. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

O. REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. 2026/1117.07 - City Manager/Staff Update **(RECEIVE & FILE)** - Pg.#23

P. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/STUDY SESSIONS

1. 2026/1117.08 - Electric Bicycles – California Law, Local Authority, and Public Safety Concerns - **(DISCUSSION)** - Pg.#27

2. 2026/1117.09 - Staff Report Summary: Budget Adjustment for 2 Additional Speed Signs - **(DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)** - Pg.#43

3. 2026/1117.10 - Discussion Regarding Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations – Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response - **(DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)** - Pg.#49

Q. SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

R. ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

S. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

T. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, December 1st, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL

CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, November 3rd, 2026

City Council Chambers

675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell

A. CALL TO ORDER

The closed session of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at approximately 5:00 PM by Mayor Garnes.

B. ROLL CALL

Council Present:

- Mayor Garnes
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter
- Council Member Orr
- Council Member Wilson
- Council Member Woodall

Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- City Manager Kyle Knopp
- Finance Director Racheal Henry
- RDPD Chief Phinney
- Water/Streets Superintendent Randy Jensen
- Wastewater Superintendent Marshall Moore
- City Clerk Jessica Hill
- Sr. Fiscal Assistant Rosa Maciel

C. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Garnes announced the following items to be discussed in closed session:

- 2026/1103.01 – Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code §54957.6). Agency designated representative: Kyle Knopp, City Manager. Employee organizations: Rio Dell Employees Association (RDEA); Rio Dell Police Officers Association (POA)
- 2026/1103.02 – Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code §54957.6). Agency designated representative: Mayor. Unrepresented employee: City Manager
- 2026/1103.03 – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4): One potential case

D. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

No members of the public wished to address the Council regarding closed session items.

E. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Council recessed into closed session at approximately 5:00 PM.

F. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting to order and reconvened into open session at approximately 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken, and all Council Members were present.

G. ORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following was reported out from closed session on Item 2026/1103.03: The Council considered a motion to approve a Settlement Agreement and Release and Reconveyance of Deed of Trust. The settlement agreement releases a lien and deed of trust on real property for which the City has already been repaid. Mayor Pro Tem Carter moved to approve the settlement agreement, and Council Member Woodall seconded the motion. Council Members Carter, Wilson, Garnes, Woodall, and Orr all voted in favor (5–0). There is no financial cost to the City for the settlement.

There was nothing to report out on the remaining closed session items.

H. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council.

I. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

No ceremonial matters were presented.

J. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Several members of the public addressed the Council in opposition to a potential data center in the Rio Dell area:

A resident of five years expressed concern about noise and light pollution, strain on water and power supplies affecting availability and cost, groundwater contamination, and air pollution. She stated that data center developers target disadvantaged communities, that over 70% of Americans oppose such projects in their communities, and that while the area needs development and jobs, a data center would threaten residents' quality of life, livestock, rivers, and forests. She asked that the Council put a moratorium in place so that the City has an opportunity to do its due diligence.

A 20-year resident who works with PG&E stated that a PG&E transmission pole in the river is being eroded after riprap was removed, and that the area lacks reliable transmission capacity to serve a data center. He urged the Council not to sign non-disclosure agreements and to keep all dealings public, raised the question of public officials' surety bonds, and expressed concerns about the City's limited water supply as the last municipality drawing water from the river, noise, electromagnetic exposure, and rising utility rates. His three minutes expired.

A speaker stated that, based on an online search, even the smallest data centers use approximately 300,000 gallons of water per day and larger facilities up to 1.5 million gallons per day, which is not feasible in an area where residents are asked to limit lawn watering and car washing.

Saundra Olson, Belleview Avenue, stated her opposition, citing an existing hearing condition in her household, water consumption, increased PG&E bills, and environmental harm.

A Rio Dell resident of four years and Humboldt County resident of over 20 years stated her opposition for the reasons previously listed and expressed pride in the City's recent improvements, including murals, dog parks, and trails, which she promotes to others who might move to the area.

A resident who purchased a home in Rio Dell in 2018 stated his opposition, citing water use and drought, drinking water quality, higher power rates, existing public safety power shutoffs, noise pollution, reduced property values, privacy concerns related to artificial intelligence, and limited job creation due to automation. He asked that the City review feasibility studies and environmental impacts before considering any such project.

A young homeowner attending her first meeting stated that she has invested significant sweat equity in her home and is concerned about property values. As a member of the Karuk Tribe, she stated that the earth has sustained enough damage.

Bridget Vialle thanked City Clerk Hill for the prompt response to her California Public Records Act (CPRA) request regarding the data center. She stated that the local fire department is not trained or equipped to extinguish a data center fire; that the cost of utility infrastructure upgrades is frequently passed on to ratepayers; and that data centers require large volumes of cooling water and diesel backup generators that emit fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen oxides. She cited a 2025 study projecting that U.S. data centers could cause approximately 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths annually by 2030. She stated that there should be no non-disclosure agreements and that all communications with potential data center developers should be public. She noted that Rio

Dell is largely a low-income community already affected by water rate increases and stated that a data center should be built elsewhere.

Written comments opposing a data center were read into the record from Kim Thalheimer, Anna Touchton, and Jessica Friedlander, citing corporate greed, environmental destruction, impacts on water and power resources, noise and light pollution, home values, and the local aquifer. A written comment from Lucy Robertson provided a website link, which is available upon request.

No hands were raised on Zoom. Mayor Garnes closed public presentations.

K. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2026/1103.04 – Approve Minutes of the October 20th, 2026, Regular Meeting
- 2026/1103.05 – Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with CSG Consultants, Inc. Related to Solid Waste Franchise Negotiations, increasing the not-to-exceed amount by $5,500, from $45,374 to $50,874

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar by the Council or the public.

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Woodall, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried 5–0.

L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

M. REPORTS / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

This item was inadvertently skipped and was taken up following Section N.

City Manager/Staff Update (RECEIVE & FILE)

City Manager Knopp stated that there was no written report. He announced that the City's application for Opportunity Zone 2.0 designation, prepared with the assistance of Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, and staff, was approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Rio Dell's census tract is one of six approved in Humboldt County and also includes surrounding unincorporated areas, including Scotia. He thanked everyone involved, noting that the application included numerous letters of support and a joint letter from the neighboring cities of Fortuna and Arcata, and stated that the designation will hopefully attract additional interest and investment in Rio Dell through special tax incentives.

City Manager Knopp reported that just over $23,000 has been raised for the dog kennel project, including a recent $10,000 donation from Coast Central Credit Union, along with

support from Eureka Ready Mix, Mercer-Fraser, Redwood Capital Bank, and many smaller donors. He encouraged additional community members to contribute.

There were no questions from the Council.

N. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS / STUDY SESSIONS

1. 2026/1103.06 – Consideration of an Application to the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP), Round 5, for Davis Street Park (DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION)

City Manager Knopp presented the item, which was placed on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Carter with the consensus of the Council. He reported that SPP Round 5 offers approximately $188 million statewide, is extremely competitive, and has an application deadline of December 17, 2026. The City is eligible to apply, and rehabilitation and acquisition of Davis Street Park fits within the $200,000 to $8.5 million award range. The park is currently owned by the School District, and he stated that the City has as clear a path as it has ever had to acquire the property.

City Manager Knopp reported that the City meets all three site eligibility criteria: Rio Dell has 1.62 park acres per 1,000 residents, well below the 3-acre threshold; its median household income of $51,507 is below the $77,067 threshold; and the City is vulnerable to wildfire. The project would be scored as a park renovation on a 100-point scale, and the City would need every possible point to compete statewide. He explained that the timeline presents significant challenges, including holding five well-advertised community-based planning meetings (including evening and weekend meetings) at which residents determine the park amenities; a California Conservation Corps consultation or employment/volunteer opportunities for at least 20 residents; three non-City partner organizations; eight environmental conservation techniques; a 30-year operations and maintenance commitment; project completion by June 2031; and a site plan and cost estimate certified by a licensed landscape architect or engineer. Because the park design and cost estimate could not be completed until after the five meetings, they would be available only the night before the December 15 Council meeting, leaving the Council little opportunity to weigh in. He stated that staff strongly wants to see the park rehabilitated, but that the timeline is too short and the application would become the City's highest priority for six weeks with very limited resources.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that she had requested the item and understood that, without a grant writer on staff, the City would have to pay a consultant to produce an application that would likely not be competitive. She expressed frustration that she has worked on Davis Street Park for five to six years, that she had been communicating about this grant since

April, and that an earlier request for a lot line adjustment to prepare for such an opportunity was not approved. She stated that the School Board has done everything it can, including forming citizens' advisory committees, holding required public meetings, and providing willing-seller letters, and that the City is now the party holding up the project. She stated she was fine treating this round as a planning year (Option 2), but asked whether the park is truly a priority for the City and the Council.

Council Member Wilson stated that the park has been discussed throughout his time on the Council, that the City was previously the barrier to acquiring the property, and that School Board membership has since changed. He stated that the timeframe did not seem realistic given the size of the City, and that he would support whatever direction the Council chose.

Council Member Woodall stated that residents frequently ask for more activities for children, that the City has long sought a suitable property, and that she would support Option 2.

Mayor Garnes opened the item to public comment. Tom Norton asked whether the School District is ready to sell the property so the City could acquire it now and build the park at a later date, noting that he had heard the City previously lost out on the CDF property. Mayor Pro Tem Carter responded that, in her experience attending School Board meetings, the board is very willing to sell and has completed everything required on its end, that she would be fine acquiring the property first and pursuing construction funding in a later round, and that she is less concerned than in the past about losing the School Board's support. There were no other public comments, no hands raised on Zoom, and no written comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that she wished to move Option 2, but asked that it mean staff will actually spend the next year planning the project, including developing a schedule and addressing items such as the lot line adjustment, so that the City is not out of time again when the next round opens. It was noted that the language of Option 2 provides for this direction.

ACTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, seconded by Council Member Orr, to direct staff to treat SPP Round 5 as a planning year: pursue site control with the School District, begin community design meetings, and return with an application for the next SPP round or another park funding source. Motion carried 5–0.

2. 2026/1103.07 – Eel River Trail ADA Accessible Ramp (Phase 2) – Project Update, Concrete Shrinkage Cracking, and Walkway Vehicle Access Prevention (DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION)

City Manager Knopp introduced the item, noting that the City has worked for several years on the Eel River Trail and secured a second grant through the Wildlife Conservation Board for the ADA ramp portion, and that there are concerns regarding the finished product. He introduced Michelle Davidson of GHD and noted that a representative of the contractor was available via Zoom.

Ms. Davidson thanked City Manager Knopp and Streets Superintendent Jensen for their partnership on the project, which GHD has supported since 2018. She reported that Phase 1, funded by an approximately $2.4 million Caltrans Clean California Local Grant and completed in September 2025, constructed 1,600 feet of Class 1 shared-use trail approximately 10 feet wide with gravel shoulders and an ADA-accessible entrance at Edwards Street. Phase 2, funded by an approximately $1.2 million Wildlife Conservation Board grant secured by City staff, provides an accessible connection from Davis Street by way of a concrete switchback ramp and is on target to be completed within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting. She explained that GHD's role was to provide periodic observations for general conformance with the plans and specifications, while the contractor is responsible for means and methods and a final product consistent with the contract documents.

Ms. Davidson reported that the original construction contract was $680,835.70 and that change orders to date total $23,511.08 (approximately 3.5%), consisting of Change Order No. 1 for a changed site condition ($7,573.52), Change Order No. 2 for City-requested bollards and additional survey work ($10,912.47), and boulders/riprap approved via email ($5,025.09), for a revised contract amount of $704,346.78. She noted that this is well within the roughly 10% combined change-order range cited in U.S. DOT guidance.

Concrete shrinkage cracking. Ms. Davidson reported that the ramp is within the Eel River floodplain, was nearly fully submerged during the December 22, 2025 flood and partially submerged in February 2026, and was designed to withstand floodwater and debris forces. It uses a high-strength 4,000 psi Caltrans concrete mix rather than a standard sidewalk mix, and the slab is restrained between two rigid retaining walls, which can limit movement as concrete cures and result in shrinkage cracks. Cracking began soon after placement; weekly photo documentation has been initiated; and the concrete has reached its 35-day break, so cracking is believed to be substantially complete. Independent third-party laboratory results were within specifications, and GHD's structural engineer's preliminary conclusion is that the cracks are cosmetic surface shrinkage cracks that do not reflect a structural deficiency in design, materials, or construction and will not affect structural integrity. She noted that the contractor has offered to discuss extending the one-year warranty, which begins when the Notice of Completion is filed (not yet filed), by possibly one additional year. She presented

four options: (A) do nothing, at no cost; (B) targeted crack treatment with a clear product reviewed by the engineering team, which helps prevent further crack development during freeze-thaw conditions, at no cost to the City; (C) crack treatment plus an overall resurfacing coating for a more uniform appearance, which would become a maintenance item in approximately 5–10 years, sooner with flooding, at a cost to be determined; and (D) remove and replace the cracked slab areas, at a potentially high cost with no guarantee that cracking would not recur.

Mayor Garnes stated that she visits the site almost daily and that there are a great many cracks, not just a few. She compared the situation to paying full price for a new car with dings and stated that the City is tired of accepting products that look substandard. She stated that, while she accepts the engineer's assessment that the ramp is structurally sound, the ramp looks substandard before it has even opened, that she does not understand why the City would be charged if it asks for the work to be done right, and asked how the cracks will look after a winter of flooding. Ms. Davidson responded that shrinkage cracking is expected to be substantially complete, but that water can erode voids in cracks over time, which the targeted treatment is intended to fill. She acknowledged the Council's disappointment.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter noted that some portions of the ramp, including constrained portions with the same mix design, have no cracks. She stated that none of the options should cost the City anything, that she did not recall shrinkage cracking being identified in the planning materials, scope, or specifications, and that it appeared to her the concrete dried too quickly.

Council Member Wilson stated that concrete work at his own home, including a driveway and an accessibility ramp, has no cracks, and that he concurred with Mayor Garnes that the City should not have to pay to correct the work.

Dave Hooven, Vice President of Hooven & Company, participating via Zoom, stated that the company has operated in Humboldt County for 50 years and takes pride in its work. He stated that characterizations of poor workmanship were unfair, explaining that residential sidewalks and driveways typically use a 2,500–3,000 psi mix that is easy to finish and cracks minimally, whereas the high-strength structural mix required at this location due to flooding and debris contains more cement and additives and is more prone to surface cracking. He stated that the project was placed and finished according to the plans and specifications, that superintendent Ed, a Rio Dell resident, oversaw the work, that data from the concrete supplier, Mercer-Fraser, is available, and that the company wants to work with the City on a reasonable solution.

Mayor Garnes clarified that her concerns were directed to GHD as the design engineer rather than to the contractor, and asked whether GHD had used the mix previously and whether it had cracked. Ms. Davidson responded that GHD has used the mix on other projects and is not aware of cracking, that she would research the matter further, and that the issue likely would not be resolved at this meeting.

A Davis Street resident who has lived in Rio Dell since 1990 and worked on the ramp's concrete stated that the cracks appeared during finishing on days when strong wind blew down the river and dried the surface, that he understood the need for high-strength concrete given the flooding, and that little could have been done to prevent it in those conditions. Mayor Pro Tem Carter thanked him for his comments. A second member of the public with concrete experience noted that the cracks are surface cracks rather than through-cracks and that placing concrete over clay near the water table makes surface cracking likely; Ms. Davidson confirmed that the cracks are surface shrinkage cracks and not structural.

Wastewater Superintendent Moore asked about the psi rating, and Mr. Hooven clarified that his reference to 3,000 psi described standard sidewalk mixes, not the ramp. Superintendent Moore then noted that, of the $1.2 million grant, approximately $704,000 has been used for construction, leaving roughly $500,000, or approximately $300,000 after GHD's fees, and asked why the City would be financially responsible for any repair option. Ms. Davidson responded that the City would not pay out of pocket for any option, since costs would come from grant contingency funds, but that GHD is working with the City on a grant schedule and scope amendment so that remaining funds can cover long-term mitigation planting required under State regulations, which the City would otherwise have to fund; every dollar not used on these issues can be applied to that mitigation.

Joe Madsen asked what the ramp will look like in a year or two and whether the cracks will lead to potholes, dips, or tripping hazards, and stated that engineers have long known how to account for shrinkage in structural concrete.

Ms. Davidson stated that the Council did not need to select a crack option at this meeting, and suggested that the contractor proceed with Option B (targeted crack treatment) in the interim so its performance can be observed, with an update returning to the Council.

Walkway vehicle access prevention. Ms. Davidson reported that, as designed, the handrail ends where the ramp flattens, while the curb extends beyond it. During construction, City staff requested bollards at the top and bottom of the ramp to block ATVs, which were added by change order. Currently, a vehicle could drive around the bollard and over the curb. She presented two options: (1) extend the handrail to the curb edge on both sides, which is not

required for ADA, at an estimated cost of $3,600; or (2) place two of the contractor's bolt-down bollards at the curb ends and a row of rock outside the curbs, at no cost to the City.

Mayor Garnes questioned why the City should pay $3,600 to extend the railing and raised a concern about liability if someone trips at the end of the railing. Ms. Davidson responded that the approved design drawings and shop drawings showed the handrail ending before the end of the curb, and that a series of miscommunications regarding the drilled post holes resulted in the bollard being placed in a less than ideal location. She stated that extending the handrail would prevent ATVs from crossing the curb, although rocks or barriers would still be needed at the top. Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that she preferred Option 1 for appearance and that ATVs can drive over rocks, but that she was not satisfied with any of the options. Council Members stated that if the City approved the final drawings showing the handrail ending before the curb, the cost of extending it is the City's responsibility. Council Member Woodall supported Option 1. In response to questions, it was noted that bollards cost approximately $2,500 each and that relocating the bolt-down bollards toward the center of the walkway would need to be reviewed by GHD's design engineer for accessibility.

By consensus, the Council directed staff to proceed with Option 1, extending the handrail to the curb edge at an estimated cost of $3,600 (staff to work out final cost). By consensus, the Council also directed that the contractor proceed with Option B, targeted crack treatment at no cost to the City, and that the ramp be monitored through the winter, with an update returning to the Council. The extended warranty and other options will continue to be discussed. Mayor Garnes thanked GHD and the contractor for attending.

No formal action was taken.

O. SPECIAL CALL ITEMS / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

No items were presented.

P. ORDINANCES / SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

No items were presented.

Q. COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter:

- Attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on November 2. The Chamber will hold Christmas decorating the weekend of November 14–15 and is seeking volunteers. The second annual community dinner, hosted by the Resource Center, multiple churches,

and the Fire Department, will be held at the school on November 21 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The billboard project is moving forward, with poles to be installed soon.

- Reported that on the morning of November 3, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors voted to set aside funding for spay/neuter services in the unincorporated county, citing Rio Dell multiple times as an example of both the need for and the success of such programs. She thanked Supervisor Michelle Bushnell for championing the item and stated that the County is the first jurisdiction to follow Rio Dell's lead.

Council Member Orr: Had nothing to report. He commented that no member of the Council was in favor of a data center, and that Council Members had advocated for listening to all sides. He stated that threats of legal action and attempts to dig into Council Members' family backgrounds are pointless, and that listening is what prevents non-disclosure agreements and back-room dealings.

Council Member Wilson: Requested Council consensus for staff to pursue stricter ordinances regarding e-bikes, ATVs, and dirt bikes ridden by minors, including holding parents responsible, describing an incident earlier that day at the Monument School polling location in which a youth rode an e-bike between him and his wife. Police Chief Phinney advised that cities are currently precluded from adopting ordinances regulating e-bikes because they are classified as bicycles under State law, that the California Police Chiefs Association is pursuing legislation statewide to allow cities to regulate them and hold parents accountable, and that the law is not there yet. Mayor Garnes stated that, because many members of the public have raised the issue, it should be placed on a future agenda for discussion. The Council agreed by consensus to place the item on a future agenda.

Council Member Woodall: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

R. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Woodall, seconded by Mayor Garnes.

Motion carried 5–0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM. The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

APPROVED:

_____

Debra L. Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Jessica Hill, City Clerk

Rio Dell Police Department

*Josh Phinney – **Chief of Police***

STAFF REPORT

City Council Consent Calendar Agenda Item

DATE: November 3rd 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Josh Phinney, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: **Police Department Bi-Weekly Report for Oct. 2026**

Staff Recommendation: Receive Staff Update.

Patrol Statistics:

During Oct. 15th – Nov. 3rd 2026, the Rio Dell Police Department handled 341 total incidents of which 186 were calls for service and 155 were proactive contacts/stops. 5 arrests were made. A total of 2 citations were issued for traffic offenses or other miscellaneous criminal violations. 18 total cases requiring investigation were taken.

Staffing:

- FULL STAFF.

Community Events / Notable Cases:

- The city was granted $10,000 from Coast Central Credit Union towards the kennel project in response to the community grant for which the police chief applied.
- The Police Department participated in this years Trunk or Treat event.

CSO Total calls for service: 66

Abatement Projects:

Residential Abatement:

- 118 Active Cases
- 103 of those cases for dog licenses
- 3 cases closed for voluntary compliance
- Appeal hearing for 790 Ireland Avenue- 10/30/2026

Vehicular Abatement:

- 10 active cases
- 5 vehicles towed

Animals

- 28 animal-related calls for service
- 2 dogs were transported to FOPD kennels. All dogs contacted reunited with their owners.

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

TO: Rio Dell City Council

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

FROM: Jessica Hill, City Clerk

DATE: November 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Designation of Representatives to the PACE JPA Board of Directors, Resolution No. 1689-2026

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 1689-2026 approving designation of Jessica Hill, City Clerk, as the official representative, and Joanne Farley, Accountant II, as Alternate to the PACE JPA Board of Directors.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

None

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Participation in the Public Agency Coalition Enterprise (PACE) Medical Benefits Program requires each member entity to be part of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which outlines the purpose and participation requirements to become a member of the program.

One of the requirements under the PACE JPA is that each member agency appoint a representative and alternate to the PACE JPA Board of Directors. Regular meetings are held on a quarterly basis and can be attended via internet, so no travel expense is anticipated at this time.

Attachment:

Resolution No. 1689-2026

RESOLUTION NO. 1689-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL APPROVING DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PACE JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the CITY OF RIO DELL is a member of the PACE JPA; and

WHEREAS, the **PACE JPA** requires each member agency to have a representative at the regularly scheduled meetings; and

W**HEREAS**, the Bylaws of the **PACE JPA** requires the Board of each member agency to appoint a representative and alternate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Jessica Hill, City Clerk, is hereby appointed as official representative and **Joanne Farley, Accountant II,** is hereby designated as official alternate from the City of Rio Dell to attend the **PACE JPA** meetings.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of November 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

_____
Debra L. Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, Jessica Hill, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certifies the above to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1689-2026 adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on November 17, 2026.

_____
Jessica Hill, City Clerk

Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov

November 17, 2026

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Second Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement with Recology Eel River – Term Extension to June 30, 2027

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Approve the Second Amendment to the Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement with Recology Eel River, extending the term of the agreement from December 31, 2026 to June 30, 2027, and authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment.

BACKGROUND

The City's current franchise agreement for solid waste, organic materials and recycling collection took effect January 1, 2017 with Eel River Disposal Company, which became Recology Eel River following Recology's acquisition of the company in 2017 (Resolution 1341-2017). The agreement was amended once, on August 28, 2018, to designate the Samoa Resource Recovery Center as the City's recycling facility. Under Section 1.03, the agreement expires December 31, 2026.

The City, with support from CSG Consultants, has been negotiating a new franchise agreement with Recology in coordination with the county and cities of Fortuna, Eureka and Arcata. Negotiation of the agreement terms is largely complete, but the cost and rate proposal needed to finalize new rates has been delayed, and a new agreement cannot be brought to the Council before the current agreement expires. Recology has asked about an extension, and staff recommends a short one so that collection service continues without interruption.

The proposed Second Amendment:

- Extends the term of the agreement to June 30, 2027;
- Ends the existing agreement automatically if a new franchise agreement takes effect before June 30, 2027;
- Keeps the service rates adopted July 1, 2026 in place through June 30, 2027, with no mid-year adjustment; and

- Requires Recology to keep its performance bond and insurance in force throu
  extended term and provide updated certificates within 30 days.

All other terms of the existing agreement, as amended in 2018, remain unchanged.

There is no fiscal impact. Customer rates do not change during the extension, and the City will continue to receive franchise fees under the existing agreement through the extended term.

Attachment:

Second Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement

///

SECOND AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE, ORGANIC MATERIALS AND RECYCLING FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

This Second Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement (this "Amendment") is made and entered into as of November 3, 2026 by and between the City of Rio Dell ("City") and Recology Eel River, a California corporation ("Contractor").

WHEREAS, City and Eel River Disposal Company, Inc. ("ERD") entered into a Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement dated January 1, 2017 (as amended, the "Franchise Agreement");

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution 1341-2017 approving the transfer of ERD's outstanding stock to Recology Inc., and on August 31, 2017, Recology Inc. consummated such transaction and thereafter changed ERD's name to Recology Eel River;

WHEREAS, City and Contractor entered into a First Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement dated August 28, 2018 (the "First Amendment"), which, among other things, designated the Recology Eel River Samoa Resource Recovery Center as the Designated Recycling Facility and added a recyclables processing component to the Service Rates;

WHEREAS, Section 1.03 (Term of this Agreement) of the Franchise Agreement provides that the term of the Franchise Agreement terminates on December 31, 2026;

WHEREAS, City and Contractor are negotiating a new solid waste, organic materials and recycling franchise agreement, and additional time is needed to complete those negotiations and present a new agreement to the City Council for consideration; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that solid waste, organic materials and recycling collection services continue without interruption for the residents and businesses of the City, City and Contractor wish to extend the term of the Franchise Agreement through June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Section 1.03 (Term of this Agreement) of the Franchise Agreement is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

> "Term of this Agreement: The term of this Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date of the Agreement and shall terminate on June 30, 2027, unless sooner terminated as provided in this Agreement. Any further extension shall require a written amendment jointly executed by City and Contractor."

2. If City and Contractor enter into a new franchise agreement for solid waste, organic materials and recycling collection services within the City that takes effect before June 30, 2027, the Franchise Agreement shall terminate on the effective date of such new franchise agreement, without further action by either party, except for those provisions of the Franchise Agreement that by their terms survive its expiration or termination.

3. The Service Rates in effect on January 1, 2027, as adjusted effective July 1, 2026 pursuant to Sections 2.03.03, 2.03.04 and 2.03.04.A of the Franchise Agreement, shall remain in effect through June 30, 2027. No Service Rate adjustment under those sections shall take effect between January 1, 2027 and June 30, 2027.

4. Contractor shall maintain the Performance Bond required by Section 1.04.01 and the insurance required by Section 2.04 of the Franchise Agreement in full force and effect through June 30, 2027. Within thirty (30) days after the date of this Amendment, Contractor shall deliver to City a bond rider or continuation certificate and updated certificates of insurance and endorsements showing that such coverage extends through June 30, 2027.

5. Except as expressly set forth in this Amendment, the Franchise Agreement, as amended by the First Amendment, shall remain in full force and effect. Unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this Amendment to sections refer to sections of the Franchise Agreement, and capitalized terms used but not defined in this Amendment have the meanings given to them in the Franchise Agreement.

6. This Amendment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument. Signatures delivered by electronic means, including PDF, shall be effective as originals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have entered into this Second Amendment to Solid Waste, Organic Materials and Recycling Franchise Agreement as of the date first written above.

CITY OF RIO DELL ("City")

By:_____
Name: Kyle Knopp
Title: City Manager

RECOLOGY EEL RIVER ("Contractor")

By:_____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Staff Highlights – 2026-11-17

City Council

City Manager

Opportunity Zone 2.0: The Census tract that includes Rio Dell and Scotia has been certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. A press release was issued.

Work with the County and City Attorney on an updated Memorandum of Understanding with County Environmental Health for their services.

Paving on Walnut drive as a part of the grant funded Painter Street Wastewater Collection upgrade is nearly complete.

Submitted closeout documentation for the Clean California Eel River Trail grant.

Responses to various data center inquiries.

Will meet next week with Glenn White to discuss his property at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park. Anticipated conversation may include talk of data center.

The City Hall roof has developed a leak over the Police Department. Staff is working on a fix.

City Clerk

Business Licenses: Roofing Xperts – 11/2

City Attorney

Human Resources, Risk & Training

Finance Department

Public Works Water

Performed Chlorine Residual Tests Weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) at City Hall and Douglas Street (Entered Data into Excel Spreadsheet)

Obtained Grab Samples for Bacteriological Testing performed by Micro Labs in Arcata [Performed Every Tuesday at various locations and three (including Monument residence and Eel River source water) on every third Tuesday of the month]

Performed Manganese residual testing for Metro Wells

Calibrated handheld pH meter and performed pH testing at Metro wells

Marked/Responded to USA's on: First/Berkeley, Rigby, and Eeloa

Completed sampling for State required testing of Metro Wells raw water

Measured well depths

Replaced wire harness and shipped faulty wells chlorine pump back to supplier for warranty repair

Replenished chlorine and ran backwash at metro wells

Replaced reagents for chlorine analyzer at water treatment plant and replenished chlorine tank

Started concrete work on earthquake damaged cement pad at Well 1 location (Metro Wells)

Shutdown and recharged water system for Wahlund installation on: Monument, Wildwood, Sequoia, Pacific, and Rigby/Berkeley

Read meters and replaced ERTs and Dials

Public Works Wastewater

Public Works Streets, Buildings and Grounds

Flushed/Vactored drainage inlets throughout for Rigby

Cleaned out culvert and drainage ditch on Pacific/W Painter

Cleaned up brush pile at City Park

Excavated drainage ditches for upcoming winter weather

Mowed and weed whacked all of the Parks, City Hall, and the North/South Gateways

Public Works City Engineer

Public Works Capital Projects

Police Department

Patrol Statistics:

During Nov. 3rd - Nov. 12th 2026, the Rio Dell Police Department handled 167 total incidents of which 92 were calls for service and 75 were proactive contacts/stops. 5 arrests were made. A total of 3 citations were issued for traffic offenses or other miscellaneous criminal violations. 10 total cases requiring investigation were taken.

Staffing:

- FULL STAFF.

Community Events / Notable Cases:

- The Department has sent several officers to advanced and beginning DUI courses as part of the CHP grant funded activity/training.
- The department sent a CSO to Background Investigator school as part of efforts to be self-reliant and save money going forward.

CSO Total calls for service: 66

Abatement Projects:

Residential Abatement:

- 118 Active Cases
- 103 of those cases for dog licenses
- 3 cases closed for voluntary compliance
- Appeal hearing for 790 Ireland Avenue- 10/30/2026

Vehicular Abatement:

- 10 active cases
- 5 vehicles towed

Animals

- 28 animal-related calls for service

Community Development Department

Inspections Water Line 545 Gunnerson Lane

Second review of PV/ESS plans 145 Columbus Ave – Refer to RDFPD

Prepare and send letters to developers regarding development potential

Roof inspections 246 Tolman Ave

Solar PV/ESS inspections 11715 Blue Slide Road

Rental Housing Inspections, Prepare Reports and Correction Affidavits for

267 Orchard Lane	425 First Ave
435 First Ave	519 First Ave
1340 Eeloa Ave	442 Wildwood Ave
444 Wildwood Ave	446 Wildwood Ave

Roof inspections 353 First Ave

Receive, Review and Process Building Permit Applications for

Plumbing New Water Service Line Permit – 454 Gunnerson Lane
Roof Permit – 353 First Avenue
Roof Permit – 356 Center Street
Roof Permit – 526 Second Avenue
Siding, Water Heater, Plumbing, Mini-Split – 353 First Avenue
Water Heater Plumbing Permit – 220 Cherry Lane

Prepare NEPA Environmental document for First Time Homebuyer Grant application.

Continue work on Housing Element.

Work on draft ADU Ordinance amendments associated with AB 956, now allows two detached ADU's on a lot.

Reach out to Mobley Construction regarding failing drainage inlet at Dog Park.

Attend Traffic Committee meeting. Reach out to Roadway Signs regarding Radar signs, cost. Forward info to CM, Police Chief and Streets Superintendent.

Review plans submitted for Northwestern Flower Company 60' x 60' buildings. Request additional information, Title 24 and use/occupancy.

Reach out to the RWQCB regarding 255 Wildwood Avenue – status.

Letter to local developers regarding development potential in the City.

Work on Fair Housing Workshop PowerPoint presentation.

Intergovernmental

Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Josh Phinney, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

DATE: November 17, 2026

SUBJECT: **Electric Bicycles – California Law, Local Authority, and Public Safety Concerns**

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an informational presentation regarding California electric bicycle (e-bike) laws, recent legislative changes, and the City's authority to address public safety concerns. Discuss potential local approaches and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

Electric bicycles have become increasingly popular throughout California, including within Rio Dell. With their increased use have come concerns involving excessive speeds, juvenile riders, unsafe operation, and high-powered electric motorcycles being operated or marketed as bicycles.

Although these concerns present legitimate public safety challenges, California law significantly limits the ability of local governments to independently regulate otherwise lawful e-bikes.

Under California Vehicle Code (CVC) § 21, traffic laws are generally intended to remain uniform throughout the state. Local jurisdictions may only establish additional restrictions where expressly authorized. As a result, cities generally cannot prohibit

lawful e-bikes from public streets, impose additional minimum age requirements, or establish blanket e-bike speed restrictions that conflict with state law.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

California has recently enacted several laws addressing e-bike safety and enforcement:

- **AB 875 (Effective January 1, 2026):** Established CVC § 22651.08, providing law enforcement authority to impound certain high-powered electric vehicles operated by unlicensed individuals, as well as Class 3 e-bikes operated by persons under 16. Qualifying vehicles are subject to a minimum 48-hour impound period. The law also allows cities to adopt administrative cost-recovery charges.
- **AB 2346 (Effective January 1, 2027):** Provides additional authority to establish speed limits on qualifying bicycle paths and multiuse trails, establishes a presumptive 10 mph sidewalk speed limit, and adds certain equipment and consumer disclosure requirements.
- **SB 1167 (Effective January 1, 2027):** Further clarifies the distinctions between legal e-bikes, mopeds, and electric motorcycles while strengthening equipment, labeling, and reporting requirements.

While these laws provide additional enforcement tools, they do not eliminate existing state limitations on local regulation.

DISCUSSION

The City's primary challenge is balancing the legitimate transportation and recreational use of e-bikes with the safety of riders, motorists, and pedestrians.

Potential approaches include increased education, targeted traffic enforcement, implementation of the new impound authority, and evaluation of traffic-calming measures in areas experiencing ongoing complaints.

The City may also consider narrowly tailored regulations involving sidewalks and designated recreational trails where permitted by state law. Any proposed ordinance would require further legal review.

The Police Department will continue evaluating enforcement options and opportunities to educate riders and parents regarding applicable laws.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this informational discussion. Future enforcement, traffic-calming improvements, or administrative cost-recovery measures may involve additional costs or require Council action.

CONCLUSION

California continues to address evolving e-bike safety concerns through legislation. While the City has limited authority to independently restrict lawful e-bike operation, recent legislative changes provide additional enforcement and safety tools.

This item is intended to inform the City Council of the current legal framework, explain the limitations on local regulatory authority, and facilitate discussion regarding potential approaches to addressing community safety concerns.

No formal action is requested at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Powerpoint Presentation

CALIFORNIA E-BIKES

What City Councils Can — and Cannot — Regulate

STATE PREEMPTION | LOCAL AUTHORITY | AB 875, AB 2346 & SB 1167

City of Rio Dell • Police Department • November 2026

The question before Council

LEGAL E-BIKES ARE GENERALLY TREATED AS BICYCLES UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW.

What the City CAN do

Enforce existing traffic laws, regulate sidewalks and qualifying trails, and use narrowly authorized traffic controls.

What the City CANNOT simply do

Ban lawful e-bikes from city streets, invent new age limits, or require driver licensing for compliant e-bikes.

SOURCES CVC §§ 21, 231, 312.5, 21200, 21206, 24016

Three classes — one key distinction

CLASS 1

20 MPH

Maximum motor-assisted speed

Pedal assist only

No statewide minimum age

CLASS 2

20 MPH

Maximum motor-assisted speed

Throttle capability

No statewide minimum age

CLASS 3

28 MPH

Maximum motor-assisted speed

Pedal assist only

Rider must be at least 16

All classes require operable pedals and must satisfy state motor-power and equipment rules.

SOURCES CVC §§ 231, 312.5, 21213; CHP Bulletin 285 (2026)

Vehicle Code § 21: State law comes first

“Except as otherwise expressly provided…”

California traffic rules apply uniformly statewide.

- Local rules on subjects covered by the Vehicle Code need express state authorization.
- A genuine safety concern does not, by itself, create ordinance authority.
- CVC § 21100(n) also limits duplicative local violations and penalties.

SOURCES CVC §§ 21, 21100(n)

Proposals that raise preemption concerns

✕ Citywide street ban

Ban all compliant e-bikes from residential roads.

✕ New local age minimum

Prohibit all riders under 16 from Class 1 or 2 e-bikes.

✕ Special citywide speed cap

Require all e-bikes to travel 10–15 mph on ordinary streets.

✕ Local licensing mandate

Require DMV-style license plates or driver licenses.

SOURCES CVC §§ 21, 21100(n), 21213, 24016; subject to City Attorney review of any specific ordinance

Where the Legislature expressly allows action

Sidewalk operation

Regulate bicycle riding on public sidewalks. CVC § 21100(h).

Pedestrian / bicycle facilities

Regulate bicycle parking and operation, provided there is no conflict with state law. CVC § 21206.

Certain recreational trails

Prohibit classes of e-bikes on qualifying equestrian, hiking or recreational trails. CVC § 21207.5(b).

Traffic enforcement

Enforce applicable traffic laws and authorized traffic-control devices. CVC §§ 21200, 21100.

SOURCES CVC §§ 21100(h), 21206, 21207.5(b), 21200

Location determines legal authority

PUBLIC ROAD / BIKE LANE	No general authority to ban otherwise legal e-bikes merely for being electric.	LIMITED
PUBLIC SIDEWALK	Local bicycle operating restrictions may be adopted under express authority.	AUTHORIZED
HIKING / RECREATIONAL TRAIL	Jurisdictional agency may prohibit any or all e-bike classes where statute applies.	AUTHORIZED
BIKE PATH / MULTIUSE TRAIL	Specified 10 / 15 / 20 mph limits authorized starting in 2027.	2027

SOURCES CVC §§ 21, 21100, 21206, 21207.5; AB 2346 (2026)

AB 875 | Effective January 1, 2026

CVC § 22651.08 • Removal authority in defined circumstances

- Underage operator on a Class 3 e-bike (under 16).
- Unlicensed operator of a qualifying non-e-bike electric vehicle capable of self-propulsion over 20 mph.
- Release after a minimum of 48 hours when statutory conditions are met.

Local agencies may adopt actual-cost recovery charges; publish schedule on website.

SOURCES AB 875 (2025), Ch. 168; CVC § 22651.08

NEW PATH SPEED-LIMIT AUTHORITY

AB 2346 | Effective January 1, 2027

BICYCLE PATHS & MULTIUSE TRAILS

15 or 20 MPH

10 mph allowed in limited areas with high pedestrian volumes or sight-distance challenges.

Ordinance + required signage near both ends of zone.

NEW SIDEWALK RULE

10 MPH

Statewide prima facie sidewalk speed limit.

Not a citywide e-bike street speed cap.

SOURCES AB 2346 (2026), Ch. 842; new CVC §§ 21214.8, 22352.1

SB 1167 | Effective January 1, 2027

Lawful electric bicycle

Compliant pedals, power and class limits. Generally receives bicycle treatment under state law.

Electric moped / motorcycle

Different motor-vehicle categories; licensing, registration, vehicle standards or off-highway limitations can apply.

SB 1167 revises classifications, labels, disclosures and related enforcement provisions.

SOURCES SB 1167 (2026), Ch. 846; CVC § 312.5 and related provisions

LOCAL EXAMPLE

Applying the law to Riverside Drive

CONCERN: SPEEDING / JUVENILE RIDERS / RESIDENTIAL SAFETY

Available responses

Traffic enforcement; identify illegal electric motorcycles; school and parent education; engineering-based traffic calming.

Not a shortcut

Do not presume a street-specific e-bike ban, new juvenile age limit or blanket 15 mph e-bike limit is authorized.

Key first step: establish whether the issue is unlawful riding, an out-of-class vehicle, or roadway design.

SOURCES CVC §§ 21, 21200, 21206, 22651.08; Caltrans/local engineering review as applicable

Possible next steps for Council

1	Document the issue	Identify locations, complaints, observed behavior and vehicle types.
2	Use existing enforcement tools	Traffic laws, Class 3 age requirements and qualifying impound procedures.
3	Review lawful local options	Sidewalks, trails and 2027 path speed limits; City Attorney review.
4	Consider physical improvements	Assess traffic calming and emergency-vehicle access with engineering staff.

REFERENCE SLIDE

Primary legal sources

CVC §§ 21, 21100, 21206, 21207.5, 21213, 24016

California Vehicle Code — state uniformity and local powers

AB 875 (2025) · Chapter 168

New CVC § 2265108 — targeted seizure / removal

AB 2346 (2026) · Chapter 842

New §§ 21214.8, 22352.1 — path and sidewalk speed rules

SB 1167 (2026) · Chapter 846

Vehicle classifications, labeling, safety disclosures

CHP Allied Agency Information Bulletin 285 (May 27, 2026)

E-bikes and other electric devices

This is an informational summary, not a legal opinion. Proposed ordinance language should be reviewed by the City Attorney.

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Josh Phinney, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

DATE: November 17, 2026

SUBJECT: **Staff Report Summary: Budget Adjustment for 2 additional speed signs.**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the purchase and installation of two (2) solar-powered radar speed display signs through Amazon in the amount of $985.48 and authorize an amendment to the FY 2026-27 Police Department Operating and Capital Budget to increase appropriations accordingly.

BACKGROUND

The City of Rio Dell continues to prioritize traffic safety and address concerns regarding speeding throughout the community. Riverside Drive has become an area of particular concern due to ongoing complaints involving excessive vehicle speeds, including electric bicycles, and the associated risks to pedestrians, residents, and other motorists.

The Police Department has previously demonstrated the effectiveness of radar speed display signs in encouraging voluntary compliance with posted speed limits. In September 2025, a Speed Effectiveness Report conducted on Wildwood Avenue demonstrated measurable reductions in vehicle speeds, with more than 50% of vehicles slowing during nearly every hour of monitoring.

Given the continued complaints along Riverside Drive, staff recommends expanding the City's existing traffic-calming efforts by installing two additional speed display signs to encourage compliance.

DISCUSSION

The Police Department identified a significantly more affordable solar-powered radar speed display sign option available through Amazon. Unlike the City's existing higher-cost signs, these units provide basic radar speed detection and LED speed displays without the advanced software, reporting, and communications capabilities.

The proposed purchase includes:

- Two (2) solar-powered radar speed display signs.
- Integrated LED speed displays to alert approaching motorists of their speed.
- Solar power capability to minimize ongoing operating costs.
- Associated mounting hardware.

Signs would be strategically placed along Riverside Drive to address traffic in both directions.

While these units are less sophisticated than the City's existing equipment, they provide a cost-effective approach to encouraging voluntary speed reduction. Their installation would complement ongoing traffic enforcement and allow the City to address community concerns without the significantly higher costs associated with engineered traffic-calming improvements such as speed humps. These signs can be used to replace existing signs in areas data doesn’t need to be gathered while moving the more expensive signs the city already owns to locations where data is sought.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total estimated cost for the purchase of two (2) radar speed display signs is **$985.48**, including estimated sales tax and shipping.

Staff recommends amending the FY 2026-27 Police Department Operating and Capital Budget to increase appropriations by this amount. The specific funding source will be identified by City staff.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the budget adjustment and authorize the purchase and installation of two (2) radar speed display signs.
2. Deny the request and provide alternative direction to staff.
3. Defer consideration pending further review.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the purchase and installation of two (2) solar-powered radar speed display signs through Amazon in the amount of **$985.48**, and authorize the corresponding FY 2026-27 Police Department budget adjustment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 1688-2026 – Approval of Purchase and Implementation of two (2) Speed Display Signs
2. Quote – Amazon

RESOLUTION NO. 1688-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) SOLAR-POWERED RADAR SPEED DISPLAY SIGNS AND APPROVING A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Rio Dell is committed to promoting traffic safety and addressing concerns regarding speeding and unsafe vehicle operation throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has received ongoing complaints regarding excessive vehicle speeds along Riverside Drive, including concerns involving electric bicycles, creating potential safety risks for pedestrians, residents, and motorists; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has previously demonstrated the effectiveness of radar speed display signs in encouraging voluntary compliance with posted speed limits and reducing vehicle speeds; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has identified two (2) solar-powered radar speed display signs available through Amazon at a total estimated cost of $985.48, including applicable sales tax and shipping; and

WHEREAS, these signs provide a cost-effective traffic-calming measure that will supplement existing traffic enforcement efforts and allow the City to strategically deploy its existing advanced radar speed display signs to locations where traffic data collection is needed; and

WHEREAS, the purchase requires an adjustment to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Police Department Operating and Capital Budget to provide sufficient appropriations for the expenditure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

The City Council hereby approves the purchase and installation of two (2) solar-powered radar speed display signs through Amazon at a total cost not to exceed **$985.48**, including applicable taxes and shipping.

SECTION 2. BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

The City Council hereby authorizes an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Police Department Operating and Capital Budget to increase appropriations by **$985.48** for the purchase of the two (2) radar speed display signs, with the appropriate funding source and budget accounts to be identified and recorded by the Finance Department.

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTATION

The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to complete the purchase, coordinate installation, and implement the traffic safety improvements consistent with this Resolution.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell at a regular meeting held on the ___ day of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

_____

Debra L. Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Jessica Hill, City Clerk

amazon

Secure checkout

Delivering to Joshua phinney Change

675 WILDWOOD AVE, RIO DELL, CA, 95562-1544, United States

Add delivery instructions

Paying with Visa 1105 Change

Select a payment plan

Use a gift card, points, voucher, or promo code

Want to save time on your next order and go directly to this step when checking out?

☐ Default to this delivery address and payment method.

Special Offer

Joshua, why pay for delivery?

Enjoy 3 months of Prime for $7.49/month. After, Prime auto-renews for $14.99/month. Cancel anytime

Join Prime

Cancel anytime

Arriving Nov 10, 2026 - Nov 13, 2026



24"x35" Solar Powered Led Speed Limit Signs, ETL listed with UL-verified & FCC approved，LED Digits Speed Display, Rust Proof Aluminum Radar Speed Detector White

$449.99

Ships from and sold by Mcamgiczin-us

− 2 +

Gift options not available

◉ **Tuesday, Nov 10 - Friday, Nov 13**
FREE Delivery

Place your order

By placing your order, you agree to Amazon's privacy notice and conditions of use.

Items (2):	$899.98
Shipping & handling:	$0.00
Estimated tax to be collected:*	$85.50
Order total:	**$985.48**

675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Josh Phinney, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

DATE: November 17th, 2026

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations – Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and discuss the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury's Finding F8 and Recommendations R7 and R9 regarding emergency preparedness, disaster-response equipment, and training, and provide direction to staff concerning future priorities and budget considerations.

BACKGROUND

On June 17, 2026, the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury released its report titled Emergency Preparedness: The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies. The report examined the readiness of local law enforcement agencies to respond to significant disasters and identified several areas for potential improvement.
The City of Rio Dell identified the following items for additional consideration:
Finding F8 – Disaster Response Equipment: The Grand Jury found that budgetary limitations may prevent local law enforcement agencies from acquiring or maintaining specialized disaster-response equipment. The City agreed with this finding, recognizing that smaller agencies must balance operational needs with available financial resources and regional mutual-aid capabilities.
Recommendation R7 – Scenario-Based ICS Training: The Grand Jury recommended establishing a separate budget line item for scenario-based Incident Command System (ICS) Field Response Training in the FY 2027–2028 Police Department budget.

Recommendation R9 – Disaster Response Equipment: The Grand Jury recommended establishing separate budget line items for specialized disaster-response equipment, maintenance, and associated training or certifications in the FY 2027–2028 Police Department budget.
The City's response indicated that Recommendations R7 and R9 warranted further analysis to determine practical needs, potential costs, available funding sources, and the most appropriate approach for Rio Dell.

DISCUSSION

Rio Dell faces several potential natural disasters, including earthquakes, flooding, wildfires, landslides, and extended power outages. These events may interrupt transportation, communications, electrical service, and other essential infrastructure.

Given the City's size and financial limitations, staff believes disaster preparedness should focus on practical, multi-purpose equipment that can be utilized across multiple emergency scenarios, rather than expensive, highly specialized equipment with limited applications.

The City already maintains satellite communications and portable radio capabilities, providing an important foundation for emergency communications.

Staff has identified the following additional equipment priorities for consideration:

Priority	Equipment	Purpose
1	Generator and battery backup systems	Maintain essential City operations and equipment during extended power outages.
2	Portable emergency lighting	Support nighttime operations, emergency work sites, and staging areas.
3	Chainsaws and debris-clearing equipment	Assist with clearing fallen trees and debris obstructing roadways and emergency access.
4	Portable pumps and flood-response equipment	Address localized flooding and protect critical facilities and infrastructure.
5	Portable traffic-control and road-closure equipment	Establish road closures, detours, evacuation routes, and hazardous-area perimeters.
6	Disaster-response protective equipment and supplies	Provide personnel with appropriate protective equipment for debris removal, flooding, and other hazardous conditions.

These items represent preliminary priorities rather than a proposed purchasing list. Staff recommends first reviewing existing equipment inventories across City departments to identify actual deficiencies and opportunities for shared use.

Many of these resources would benefit Police, Fire, and Public Works operations, supporting a coordinated City-wide approach to emergency preparedness.

Training Considerations (Recommendation R7):

The Police Department currently receives ICS instruction and critical-incident training. However, additional scenario-based exercises involving multiple City departments would further strengthen operational readiness.

Staff recommends considering an annual tabletop or practical field exercise involving Police, Fire, Public Works, and other regional emergency-response partners when feasible.

Such training could focus on initial incident command, evacuation procedures, damage assessment, emergency communications, road closures, and coordination of mutual-aid resources.

Utilizing existing personnel, facilities, and regional partnerships would help minimize additional expenses while providing meaningful training opportunities.

Equipment and Budget Considerations (Recommendation R9):

Staff recommends evaluating disaster-response equipment needs through the existing budget development process, including the feasibility of separate budget line items for training, equipment, and maintenance.

Equipment purchases should be prioritized based on operational necessity, frequency of potential use, availability of existing resources, and long-term maintenance costs.

Whenever possible, the City should pursue grant funding and regional partnerships to reduce the financial burden on the General Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate financial impact associated with this discussion item.

Future expenditures would depend on identified equipment deficiencies, training requirements, potential grant funding, and Council priorities.

Any proposed purchases or budget adjustments would be presented separately for Council consideration and approval.

CONCLUSION:

The Grand Jury's findings and recommendations provide an opportunity for the City to further evaluate and strengthen its emergency preparedness capabilities.

While Rio Dell cannot reasonably maintain every specialized resource that may be needed during a major disaster, targeted investments in essential equipment, operational continuity, and practical training can significantly improve the City's ability to respond during the critical initial stages of an emergency.

Staff believes a coordinated approach emphasizing shared departmental resources, regional partnerships, and cost-effective equipment is the most practical strategy for Rio Dell.

Staff requests Council discussion and direction to be further discusses at budget priority setting regarding the identified equipment and training priorities and their potential inclusion in the FY 2027–2028 budget planning process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Rio Dell – Response to Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Report: Emergency Preparedness: The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Emergency Preparedness: The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Report Date: June 17, 2026

Response by: Rio Dell City Council, with the Chief of Police, Rio Dell Police Department, joining as invited respondent

FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F4, F8, F9.
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F5 (partially disagree), F6 and F7 (partially agree).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R2 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered R3 and R8 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered R7 and R9 require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered: None will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

An explanation of each response is set out in the attached pages, as required by Penal Code section 933.05.

Date: October 20, 2026

Signed: _____

Debra L. Garnes, Mayor, City of Rio Dell

Number of pages attached: 7

Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov

TO: The Honorable Judge Timothy A. Canning
California Superior Court for Humboldt County
825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 657
Eureka, CA 95502

FROM: Rio Dell City Council
City of Rio Dell

RE: Emergency Preparedness: The Role of Local Law Enforcement Agencies (Released June 17, 2026)

DATE: October 20, 2026

Dear Judge Canning and Members of the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury:

The City of Rio Dell submits this response as the governing body required to respond under Penal Code section 933. The Chief of Police joins as an invited respondent on behalf of the Police Department.

Rio Dell is a close-knit, warm-hearted community, and it is served by the smallest police department among the cities reviewed in this report. That scale shapes much of this response to a practical consideration: our officers know the community well, but the Department has limited staff available for planning, documentation, and outside meetings beyond day-to-day operations. The City appreciates the Grand Jury's attention to this subject and agrees with much of the report. Before addressing the individual findings and recommendations, the City respectfully corrects one factual matter: Rio Dell has maintained an Emergency Operations Plan since 2003. That correction is discussed below and informs several of the responses that follow.

Rio Dell's Emergency Operations Plan

The report states that, of the five cities reviewed, "all are EOPs except Rio Dell," and describes the City's plan as an appendix to a city safety plan rather than a true EOP. This statement is inaccurate.

The City has maintained a stand-alone Emergency Operations Plan since December 2003. The plan is 259 pages and addresses the City's emergency management organization, department

roles including the Police Department's, response and recovery procedures, and coordination with county, state, and mutual aid partners. It was developed with the assistance of grant funding that is no longer available to the City.

The City acknowledges that the plan is dated and would benefit from updated formatting, terminology, and references. At the same time, Rio Dell's size, hazard profile, and department structure have not changed as significantly since 2003, which lessens the practical impact of the plan's age.

The City has a working draft of a shorter, modernized Emergency Operations Plan intended to replace the 2003 plan. Progress has been limited primarily by available staff time rather than a lack of commitment: the 2003 plan was completed with dedicated grant funding, and the current update is being carried out by existing staff alongside their regular duties. The City's timeline for completing this work is addressed under Recommendation R3, below.

FINDINGS

Finding F1

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Local law enforcement agencies can provide input into the Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan, but many do not participate. Non-inclusion in the plans may hinder coordination with other first responders during a disaster."*

Response: Agree.

Status: Ongoing.

The City agrees that Rio Dell benefits when the Police Department's perspective is reflected in the County's emergency plans, and the Department intends to continue contributing that perspective going forward.

Finding F2

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Local law enforcement agency representatives typically do not attend regular Office of Emergency Services meetings due to time constraints or higher priority obligations. Irregular participation in these meetings limits their ability to share their experience and may also lead to reduced coordination with other first responders during a disaster."*

Response: Agree.

Status: Will continue to improve.

The City agrees, and notes that this reflects the Department's limited staffing more than a lack of interest in participating. With a small number of sworn officers covering patrol around the clock, sending a representative to a daytime county meeting often requires adjusting shift coverage. The Department is working to have a representative attend on a more consistent basis as staffing allows.

Finding F3

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Local government representatives (such as city managers) who do attend the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services meetings may not provide input*

from a law enforcement perspective. This lack of input can result in the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services not being fully aware of the priorities and requirements of local law enforcement agencies as it updates the Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plans."

Response: Agree.

Status: Ongoing.

The City agrees. City Administration represents the City at these meetings, but that representation is not a substitute for direct Police Department input on operational matters such as evacuation routes, staging areas, and mutual aid needs specific to Rio Dell.

Finding F4

Grand Jury Finding: *"The unique disaster response needs of local communities are known by experienced officers, but are not always articulated in local law enforcement agency disaster response documentation. As a result, new or less experienced officers may not have access to this information."*

Response: Agree.

Status: Will continue to improve.

The City agrees. What is missing is more department-specific detail — particular routes, staging areas, and local knowledge that currently resides primarily with the Department's more experienced officers. The City intends to incorporate this detail into the Emergency Operations Plan update described above.

Finding F5

Grand Jury Finding: *"Incident Command System training is a core component of California and national emergency response protocols, but is typically received by law enforcement officers only when they are at the police academy. This knowledge degrades without refresher training."*

Response: Partially Disagree.

Status: Ongoing.

The City partially disagrees. ICS knowledge may degrade without refresher training, but this is not universally true; Department officers apply ICS structure during actual incidents, not only at the academy, which helps keep the framework familiar for many of them. The City supports additional formal refresher training, but does not agree that Department officers are currently operating on stale training.

Finding F6

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Scenario-based Incident Command System training is not regularly conducted due to staffing constraints and budgetary limitations. As a result, local law enforcement officers may not be adequately trained in their disaster-response roles."*

Response: Partially Agree.

Status: Will continue to improve.

The City partially agrees. Given the Department's staffing level, taking officers off patrol for a multi-day scenario exercise carries a real operational cost, which has limited the frequency of this training. The City will continue to pursue regional exercises that allow training costs and staffing impacts to be shared among agencies. RDPD personnel currently receive formal ICS instruction, POST training, critical-incident training, and operational experience.

Finding F7

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"When held, scenario-based disaster response training typically focuses on agency coordination, mitigation, and planning, but often does not include the actual activities that need to be performed during a real event. As a result, law enforcement officers may not be adequately trained on the specific skills needed to respond to disasters in their communities."*

Response: Partially Agree.

Status: Will continue to improve.

The City partially agrees. This finding is framed in qualified terms — training "often" lacks realism, so officers "may" be undertrained — and the City does not believe it accurately describes the Department's practice. Rio Dell's training exercises already incorporate field-level tasks alongside coordination and planning. The City supports continued improvement, but does not agree that current training leaves officers unprepared for the hands-on demands of a real event. RDPD personnel currently receive formal ICS instruction, POST training, critical-incident training, and operational experience.

Finding F8

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Some specialized disaster response equipment is unavailable or not adequately maintained by local law enforcement agencies due to budgetary limitations. As a result, these agencies may be unable to respond effectively or efficiently to local disasters."*

Response: Agree.

Status: Ongoing.

The City agrees. A department of Rio Dell's size cannot maintain every category of specialized equipment, and budget constraints are the primary reason. The Department relies on mutual aid to fill these gaps and will continue to pursue grant funding where available.

Finding F9

> **Grand Jury Finding:** *"Availability of specialized disaster response equipment is less of an issue for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. This allows them to respond to local*

disasters more effectively themselves and to serve as a potential source of equipment for local agencies."

Response: Agree.

Status: Ongoing.

The City agrees, and values its working relationship with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. The City and Department rely on this partnership and on regional mutual aid for equipment and capabilities that a department of Rio Dell's size cannot reasonably maintain on its own.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation R2

Grand Jury Recommendation: *"The city councils for Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell direct their Police Chiefs to designate representatives to attend the regular meetings and provide input to the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services by no later than December 31, 2026."*

Response: Implemented.

Implementation Status: Implemented.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Chief of Police has designated a representative to attend Office of Emergency Services meetings when staffing allows. Given the Department's size, attendance may occasionally be affected by operational needs, but the designation itself is in place well ahead of the December 31, 2026 deadline.

Recommendation R3

Grand Jury Recommendation: *"The city councils for Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell direct their Police Chiefs to ensure that a complete list of local disaster response needs, priorities, and protocols is included in their individual city disaster response documentation by no later than March 31, 2027."*

Response: Not yet fully implemented; will be implemented.

Implementation Status: In progress; target completion March 31, 2027.

That work is already underway. The City has a working draft of a shorter, modernized Emergency Operations Plan, and the Chief of Police will ensure it includes a complete, department-specific list of local disaster response needs, priorities, and protocols before it is finalized. The City is targeting the Grand Jury's March 31, 2027 deadline and will pursue grant funding and/or expert assistance that could allow the work to be completed sooner.

Recommendation R7

Grand Jury Recommendation: *"The city councils for Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell, after consultation with their respective police chiefs, add scenario-based ICS*

Field Response Training as a separate line item within the FY 2027-2028 local police department budget."

Response: Requires further analysis.

Implementation Status: Future budget consideration.

The City supports scenario-based ICS Field Response Training. The City will weigh this option against grant funding and shared regional training opportunities. The City and Police Department will evaluate anticipated training needs, potential costs, regional training opportunities, available grant funding, and other relevant budget considerations. This analysis will be completed and presented for consideration through the City's budget and administrative review process no later than December 17, 2026.

Recommendation R8

Grand Jury Recommendation: *"The city councils for Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell direct their Police Chiefs to add scenario-based ICS Field Response Training to their regular training schedule, by no later than July 1, 2028."*

Response: Not yet fully implemented; will be implemented.

Implementation Status: In progress; target completion July 1, 2028.

The City agrees and will incorporate this training into the Department's regular training schedule as staffing and regional training partnerships allow, with a target completion date of July 1, 2028.

Recommendation R9

Grand Jury Recommendation: *"The city councils for Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell, after consultation with their respective police chiefs, add specialized disaster response equipment, maintenance, and training/certification as separate line items within the FY 2027-2028 local Police Department Budget."*

Response: Requires further analysis.

Implementation Status: Future budget consideration.

As with Recommendation R7, the City already evaluates equipment needs during each budget cycle and pursues grant funding when available. Whether a separate budget line item is warranted, given the City's budget size and reliance on mutual aid, will be evaluated during the FY 2027-2028 budget process.

The City and Police Department will evaluate specialized disaster response equipment needs, associated maintenance and replacement costs, applicable training and certification requirements, available grant funding, and regional resource capabilities. This analysis will be completed and presented for consideration through the City's budget and administrative review process no later than December 17, 2026.

Conclusion

The City appreciates the Grand Jury's work on this report and agrees with the great majority of its findings and recommendations. The Grand Jury report describes the City's plan as an appendix to a city safety plan rather than a true EOP. The City has maintained an EOP since 2003; it is long due for modernization, and the City is completing that work as staff time allows.

As the smallest police department among the cities reviewed, Rio Dell faces real trade-offs in balancing emergency preparedness activities against day-to-day public safety responsibilities. The City has aimed to be candid, in this response, about where those constraints apply and where the City respectfully disagrees with the report's characterization of the Department. The City remains committed to continued improvement in emergency preparedness, consistent with the resources available to a city of Rio Dell's size and financial capacity.

City Council Approval

The foregoing response was approved and adopted by the Rio Dell City Council at a duly noticed public meeting held on October 20, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: **Garnes, Carter, Woodall, Wilson, Orr**
NOES: N/A
ABSENT: N/A
ABSTAIN: N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Garnes, Mayor, City of Rio Dell
On behalf of the Rio Dell City Council

cc: City Manager
City Attorney
Chief of Police

Attest: Jessica Hill, City Clerk

Chief of Police Concurrence (Invited Respondent)

I join in the foregoing response as the invited response of the Rio Dell Police Department Chief of Police.

Josh Phinney, Chief of Police
Rio Dell Police Department

Date: 10/28/26

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