



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REGULAR MEETING 6:00 PM TUESDAY, MAY 05, 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](mailto: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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

**E. 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.*

**F. 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. 2026/0505.01 - Approve Minutes of the April 7th, 2026, Regular Meeting **(ACTION)** - Pg.#4
2. 2026/0505.02 - Discussion and Ratification of the Letter the Mayor Signed in Opposition Unless Amended of SB 866 Related to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program: Housing Element - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#10
3. 2026/0505.03 - Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 520 First Avenue - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#14
4. 2026/0505.04 - Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 483 Fourth Avenue - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#16
5. 2026/0505.05 - Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 337 Second Avenue - **(ACTION)** - Pg.#18
6. 2026/0505.06 - Transportation Development Claim for Fiscal Year 2026-27 - **(ACTION)** - Pg.# 20

**G. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**H. REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

1. 2026/0505.07 - City Manager/Staff Update **(RECEIVE & FILE)** - Pg.#27

**I. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/STUDY SESSIONS**

**J. SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- [1.](#) 2026/0505.08 - Discussion and Direction on the Chamber of Commerce's Proposed Community Oriented Billboard - **(DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)** - Pg.#32

**K. ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- [1.](#) 2026/0505.09 - Approval and Adoption of Ordinance No. 421-2026 Amending the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations, Section 17.30.020 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to Align the City's Size Regulations with State Law - **(DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)** - Pg.#37

**L. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

*The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.***



RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL  
**REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026  
City Council Chambers  
675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM by Mayor Garnes.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present:

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

Staff Present:

- City Manager Kyle Knopp
- Finance Director Sanborn
- Chief of Police (represented by Sergeant Beauchaine for report)
- Wastewater Superintendent Moore
- Water Superintendent Jensen
- City Clerk Hill
- Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell (via Zoom)

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Garnes.

**D. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

1. Swearing-In of Police Officer Alexander Lewallen (Item 2026/0407.01)

Mayor Garnes officiated the swearing-in ceremony for newly hired Police Officer Alexander Lewallen. Officer Lewallen took the oath to support and defend the U.S. and California Constitutions and to serve the City of Rio Dell with integrity, professionalism, and respect.

Mayor Garnes and Council members welcomed Officer Lewallen and thanked his family for their support. The ceremony concluded with applause and photos.

## **E. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Garnes opened the public presentations portion of the meeting, inviting comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Allison Talbot, local government relations representative for PG&E, addressed the Council. She highlighted April as Safe Digging Month and reminded residents to Call 811 Before You Dig, whether for small or large projects, to prevent accidents and protect underground utilities.

Ms. Talbot reported that repair costs from digging accidents average about \$3,500, and urged residents to use this free marking service at least two days before starting any project.

Council thanked Ms. Talbot for the update.

No other public comments were received.

## **F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items on Consent:

1. Approve Minutes of the March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting – (Item 2026/0407.02)
2. Monument Road Slip-Out Repair History and Status – Final Invoice Receipt and Payment Direction (ARPA Fund) (Item 2026/0407.03)
3. Authorization of Resolution No. 1664-2026 – Tax Defaulted Property (Item 2026/0407.04)
4. Authorization of Resolution No. 1666-2026 – Approval of Axon Enterprise, Inc. 10-Year Technology Consolidation Agreement (Item 2026/0407.05)
5. Budget Adjustment – Police Vehicle Purchase and Outfitting (FY 2025–2026) (Item 2026/0407.06)
6. Receive and File – Check Register for March 2026 (Item 2026/0407.07)

Council Member Wilson pulled Item 4 for discussion.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, seconded by Council Member Woodall, to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Motion carried 5–0.

## **G. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 4 Discussion – Resolution No. 1666-2026 (Axon Agreement):

Council Member Wilson asked whether the Axon body-worn camera agreement included periodic replacement and warranty coverage. Sergeant Beauchaine

confirmed replacements occur at 2.5, 5, 7.5, and 10 years at no extra cost and that the devices are covered under full warranty.

**ACTION:** Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Carter, to approve Item 4.

Motion carried 5–0.

**H. REPORTS / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

1. City Manager / Staff Update (Item 2026/0407.08)

City Manager Knopp reported the following:

- The planned UC Davis Wastewater Research Tour was postponed due to illness; it will be rescheduled.
- He attended the SCORE JPA Board Meeting, where new wastewater training programs for city staff were announced.
- The Cal Poly Humboldt Environmental Engineering Program will visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 8, from 3–4 PM, for an educational site tour led by Superintendent Marshall Moore.

Council and public had no questions.

**I. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS / STUDY SESSION**

1. Informational Presentation – “Seismic Hazards: What’s Shaking in Rio Dell” by Dr. Wendy Bohon (Item 2026/0407.09)

Dr. Wendy Bohon, Branch Chief of Seismic Hazards and Earthquake Engineering at the California Geological Survey (CGS), delivered a presentation on earthquake science, local faults, and resilience planning.

Topics included:

- Overview of California’s fault systems and Rio Dell’s position near the Little Salmon and Ferndale Fault Zones.
- Statewide risk illustrated on the “Shake and Bacon” seismic hazard map.
- Liquefaction, landslides, and tsunami threats in the Humboldt area.
- Recent Rio Dell earthquake events in December 2022 and January 2023, addressing reasons smaller quakes can produce stronger shaking locally.
- The Fernbridge Seismic Gate Project — a new automated safety closure system triggered by strong shaking.

- Earthquake readiness reminders: *Drop, Cover, and Hold On*.

### **Council and Public Discussion:**

- Mayor Garnes thanked Dr. Bohon and CGS for their expertise.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter asked about tsunami evacuation plans; staff from CGS recommended partnering with the Redwood Coast Tsunami Workgroup and offered future training events.
- Council Member Wilson recounted differences in shaking during recent earthquakes; Dr. Bohon explained intensity depends on proximity and ground type rather than magnitude alone.
- Council Member Woodall asked about assistance programs for home retrofits. City Manager Knopp confirmed Rio Dell promotes the Earthquake Brace and Bolt program for residents and builds city projects to modern seismic codes.
- Community Development Director Caldwell (via Zoom) asked about the distinction between Alquist–Priolo Fault Zone designations; Dr. Bohon explained they apply only to faults active within the last 11,000 years that reach the surface.

Public comments were positive, thanking CGS for their outreach.

No formal action was required; presentation received and filed.

### **J. SPECIAL CALL ITEMS / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee – Memorial Park Tree Replacement (Item 2026/0407.10)

City Manager Knopp stated that the Council requested formation of an Ad Hoc committee at its March 17, 2026, meeting, to assist staff with selection of new trees at Memorial Park following planned removals for safety reasons.

Council Discussion:

Mayor Garnes confirmed that Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Council Member Woodall volunteered to serve.

Knopp noted the City is coordinating with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding nesting protections, which may require a pre-removal bird nesting survey in May.

By consensus of the council, it was agreed that Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Council Member Woodall would be members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Memorial Park Tree Replacement.

### **K. ORDINANCES / SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. First Reading – Ordinance No. 421-2026: Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Text Amendments (Item 2026/0407.11)

Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell presented the proposed amendment aligning Rio Dell’s ADU regulations with current California housing law.

Key changes include:

- Allowing up to 850 sq. ft. for one-bedroom units;
  - Allowing up to 1,000 sq. ft. for two-bedroom units.
- These adjustments ensure consistency with Government Code §65852.2.

Council confirmed the action was a routine state compliance requirement. No public comments were received.

**ACTION:** Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 421-2026 and schedule the second reading and adoption for April 21, 2026.

Motion carried 5–0.

**L. COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Carter:

- Attended the RREDC meeting (March 30) and COAD board retreat (April 3).
- Reported on King Salmon flooding recovery and reiterated the importance of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), formed after the Rio Dell earthquakes to support local emergency response.

Council Member Orr:

- No report.

Council Member Wilson:

- Reported that HWMA rejected a non-responsive bid for SB 1383 organic waste processing and will reissue it.
- Discussed a delay in local franchise implementation to October 2026 due to facility readiness.
- Shared remarks favoring improved earthquake alert systems over additional waste mandates.

Council Member Woodall:

- Reported from the Chamber of Commerce that *Fiesta del Río* will be held June 13–14, 2026 at the Fire Hall.
- Parade theme: "America's 250th Birthday – With a Western Flair."
- Announced the Community Garden Plant Sale on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at the garden on Butcher Street.

Mayor Garnes:

- Attended the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee meeting in Costa Mesa.
- Announced travel to Pasadena for the California Seismic Safety Commission meeting and tour of the Caltech Seismology Lab.
- Thanked Dr. Bohon and CGS staff for their educational presentation.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, to adjourn.

Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:11 PM.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

APPROVED:

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Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jessica Hill, City Clerk



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

May 5, 2026

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and Ratification of the Letter the Mayor Signed in Opposition Unless Amended of SB 866 related to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: housing element.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Ratify the attached correspondence.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

SB 866 requires all but 14 cities in the state to add extensive and burdensome homelessness reporting requirements to their housing elements. This bill specifically targets cities that do not have direct access to state homelessness funding. League of California Cities recommends a letter to be sent in opposition unless amended to instead include all cities in the regional planning process. This will provide transparency into the system metrics that SB 866 includes, but through the same regional process already used by California’s largest cities.

Attachments:

Letter in Opposition Unless Amended of SB 866 signed/submitted to Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Chris Rogers, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Sara Sanders

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



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 866 (Blakespear) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: housing element.**  
**Notice of OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Senator Blakespear,

The City of Rio Dell must respectfully **oppose your SB 866 (Blakespear) unless amended**. SB 866 would require all but 14 cities to add extensive homelessness reporting requirements to their housing elements, targeting cities that do not receive state funding to address homelessness.

The state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program, allocates funding to all 58 counties, 44 continuums of care, and cities with populations over 300,000. This means that only 14 cities in California are receiving direct state homelessness funding through HHAP.

To receive HHAP funding, grantees must submit a regionally coordinated homelessness action plan to the Housing and Community Development Department that includes specific system performance measures. SB 866 would **copy** these system performance measures from the HHAP regional plans and impose them as a separate reporting requirement **only** on cities not receiving state funding — forcing them to track these metrics in their housing elements.

Specifically, SB 866 would require all but 14 cities to provide detailed reports on available homelessness resources, actions taken to connect individuals to those resources, and various data points. For example, SB 866 requires cities to share information about the number of people who become homeless after exiting institutional settings, including jails, prisons, and hospitals, and the number of people who become unhoused after moving into permanent housing.

SB 866 also requires cities to describe how they are coordinating services under the Behavioral Health Services Act and identify any available mental and

behavioral health funding. Counties, not cities, provide behavioral health services in California and receive all the funding to do so. SB 866 does not currently apply to counties because it only applies to local governments that **do not** receive HHAP. As a result, SB 866 places the burden on cities to report on and plan for services beyond their control, requiring significant reporting on county-led functions within a city's housing planning document – requirements that cities are not well-positioned to fulfill.

There is a reason these system performance metrics are currently in the HHAP regional planning process – because gathering this data requires collaboration with counties, prisons, hospitals, VAs, and other stakeholders. These requirements create significant administrative burdens for communities that **already** do not receive state financial support to address homelessness. Nearly all cities lack the infrastructure to collect the data required by SB 866, making compliance nearly impossible.

Additionally, while HHAP regional plans are updated each year that funding is available, most communities update their housing elements every eight years. The City of Rio Dell fails to see how collecting this data every eight years, when much of this information is collected annually through Continuums of Care point-in-time counts, would help address the evolving needs of unhoused residents in our community.

The City of Rio Dell understands the goal of increasing transparency around the efforts of smaller cities to address the state's homelessness crisis. Currently, cities that do not receive HHAP funding are encouraged to participate in HHAP regional planning but are not required to do so. The City of Rio Dell is requesting amendments that require smaller cities to have a seat at the table for the regional planning process. This will accomplish the same goal, providing transparency into the same system metrics that SB 866 includes, but through the same regional process already used by California's largest cities.

Each year, the Legislature introduces bills that change the rules mid-stream, significantly complicating cities' efforts to secure housing element certification. These multiyear planning efforts are already complex, time-consuming, and expensive. SB 866 would add yet another layer of reporting requirements — through a non-reimbursable state mandate — placing a disproportionate burden on smaller cities. For many, the challenge of collecting and reporting this data could further jeopardize their ability to achieve a compliant housing element.

The City of Rio Dell urges amendments to SB 866 that ensure consistency with the existing HHAP regional planning process and do not unfairly target California's small cities, which continue to be left out of direct state homelessness funding.

For these reasons, the City of Rio Dell respectfully **opposes your SB 866 (Blakespear) unless amended.**

Sincerely,

Debra Garnes  
Mayor  
City of Rio Dell

cc. Senator Mike McGuire  
Assemblymember Chris Rogers  
Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Sara Sanders, Cal Cities, Regional Public Affairs Manager, [sanders@calcities.org](mailto:sanders@calcities.org)  
League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)



*675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1597  
(707) 764-5642 Hall*

**For Meeting of: May 5, 2026**  
■ Consent Item; □ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council  
From: Mary Clark, Community Service Officer  
Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
Date: May 5, 2026  
Subject: Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 520 First Avenue

That the City Council review the cost recovery for the abatement that took place on January 12, 2026 and January 13, 2026 at 520 First Avenue and approve the placement of a public hearing on the Council’s agenda so that a lien may be placed on the property. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2026. The total cost for the abatement was determined to be **\$10,689.00**.

**Background and Discussion**

On January 12, 2026 and January 13, 2026, 4 workers from Redwood Adult and Teen Challenge, Chief Phinney, Sergeant Beauchaine, CSO Wolfe and I conducted an abatement at 520 First Avenue in the City of Rio Dell. During the abatement, three 40-yard dumpsters were filled with solid waste, Pacific Gas and Electric Services were disconnected and the residence was secured by Wendt Construction. The City’s cost for the abatement were determined to be \$10,689.00.

The cost assessment was sent via certified mail to the property owner on March 2, 2026. The property owner has not made any attempt to pay the City for this debt. Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Sections 8.10.310 through 8.10.330 cover the cost recovery process. RDMC Section 8.10.330 references the California Government Code Section 38773.5 which spells out the process for establishing taxes and assessments. **This process requires two meetings, a public meeting followed by a public hearing. The public hearing is anticipated to be held on July 7, 2026.**

Attachment(s): Cost recovery assessment

Rio Dell Police Department  
 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California 95562  
 [707] 764-5642

# COST RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

**Name:** The Estate of Jo Ann Tolley  
**Address:** 520 First Avenue  
 Rio Dell, California 95562  
**A.P.#** 053-095-015  
**File #** CE20-117  
**Location:** 520 First Avenue  
 Rio Dell, California

<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff/ Vendor</i>	<i>Staff Time Description</i>	<i>Hours/10ths</i>	<i>Cost</i>
12/8/2025	MC	Draft Inspection Warrant	1.00	\$70.53
12/10/2025	MC	Service of Inspection Warrant	1.00	\$70.53
12/10/2025	JF	Service of Inspection Warrant	1.00	\$119.97
12/10/2025	LW	Service of Inspection Warrant	1.00	\$70.53
12/10/2025	KC	Service of Inspection Warrant	1.00	\$107.55
12/22/2025	KC	Draft of Notice of Substandard Housing	1.00	\$107.55
1/8/2026	MC	Draft Abatement Warrant	1.00	\$70.53
1/12/2026	MC	Service of Abatement Warrant	5.00	\$352.65
1/12/2026	LW	Service of Abatement Warrant	5.00	\$352.65
1/12/2026	JF	Service of Abatement Warrant	5.00	\$599.85
1/12/2026	JB	Service of Abatement Warrant	1.00	\$101.82
1/13/2026	MC	Service of Abatement Warrant	5.00	\$352.65
1/13/2026	LW	Service of Abatement Warrant	5.00	\$352.65
1/20/2026	MC	Completion of Warrant Return	0.50	\$35.26

**SUB-TOTAL - Staff Time** **\$2,764.72**

**Contractors and Other Agencies/Departments**

**CONTRACTORS:**

1/13/2026	Wendt Construction	\$2,360.93
1/13/2026	Recology- Three 40 yard dumpsters	\$4,616.79

**OTHER AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS**

1/12/2026	Redwood Adult and Teen Challenge Crew	\$630.00
1/13/2026	Redwood Adult and Teen Challenge Crew	\$315.00

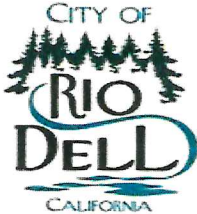
**SUB-TOTAL - Contractors and Other Agencies** **\$7,922.72**

**Office Costs**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
12/10/2025	First Class Mail for Inspection Warrant	\$0.78
1/12/2026	First Class Mail for Abatement Warrant	\$0.78

**SUB-TOTAL - Office Cost** **\$1.56**

**TOTAL COST** **\$10,689.00**



675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1597  
(707) 764-5642 Hall

**For Meeting of: May 5, 2026**  
■ Consent Item; □ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council  
From: Mary Clark, Community Service Officer  
Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
Date: May 5, 2026  
Subject: Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 483 Fourth Avenue

That the City Council review the cost recovery for the abatement that took place on February 10, 2026 at 483 Fourth Avenue and approve the placement of a public hearing on the Council’s agenda so that a lien may be placed on the property. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2026. The total cost for the abatement was determined to be **\$2,810.84**.

**Background and Discussion**

On February 10, 2026, 4 workers from Redwood Adult and Teen Challenge, CSO Wolfe and I conducted an abatement at 483 Fourth Avenue in the City of Rio Dell. During the abatement, a 30-yard dumpster was filled with solid waste, a motorcycle and an inoperative vehicle was towed from the Property. The City’s cost for the abatement were determined to be \$2,810.84.

The cost assessment was sent via certified mail to the property owner on March 9, 2026. The property owner has not made any attempt to pay the City for this debt. Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Sections 8.10.310 through 8.10.330 cover the cost recovery process. RDMC Section 8.10.330 references the California Government Code Section 38773.5 which spells out the process for establishing taxes and assessments. **This process requires two meetings, a public meeting followed by a public hearing. The public hearing is anticipated to be held on July 7, 2026.**

Attachment(s): Cost recovery assessment

Rio Dell Police Department  
675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California 95562  
[707] 764-5642

# COST RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

Name: **Jeanie Spier**  
Address: 483 4th Avenue  
Rio Dell, California 95562  
A.P.# 053-075-007  
File # CE18-15  
Location: **483 4th Avenue**  
**Rio Dell, California**

Date	Staff/ Vendor	Staff Time Description	Hours/10ths	Cost
10/10/2025	MC	Draft Notice of Nuisance and Order to Abate	1.00	\$70.53
2/5/2026	MC	Draft of Abatement Warrant	1.50	\$141.06
2/10/2026	MC	Service of Abatement Warrant	4.00	\$282.12
2/10/2026	LW	Service of Abatement Warrant	4.00	\$254.12
2/10/2026	JP	Service of Abatement Warrant	1.50	\$219.95
SUB-TOTAL - Staff Time				<b>\$967.78</b>

<b>Contractors and Other Agencies/Departments</b>				
<b>OTHER AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS</b>				
2/27/2026		Recology- 30 yard dumpster		\$1,180.56
2/27/2026		Redwood Adult Challenge clean up crew		\$385.00
2/27/2026		Eel River Transportation- vehicle removal		\$277.50
SUB- TOTAL				<b>\$1,843.06</b>

**TOTAL COST \$2,810.84**



*675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1597  
(707) 764-5642 Hall*

**For Meeting of: April 21, 2026**  
■ Consent Item; □ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council  
From: Libbi Wolfe, Community Service Officer  
Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
Date: April 21, 2026  
Subject: Discussion of Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 337 Second Avenue

That the City Council review the cost recovery for the abatement that took place on January 9, 2026 and January 10, 2026, at 337 Second Avenue and approve the placement of a public hearing on the Council’s agenda so that a lien may be placed on the property. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2026. The total cost for the abatement was determined to be \$4,094.55.

**Background and Discussion**

On January 9, 2026, 4 workers from Redwood Teen Challenge, CSO Clark and I conducted an abatement at 337 Second Avenue in the City of Rio Dell. During the abatement, solid waste and vegetation removed from the property. Two 40-yard dumpsters were filled with solid waste and vegetation from the property. On January 10, 2026, CSO Clark and I finished the abatement. The City’s cost for the abatement was determined to be \$4,094.55.

The cost assessment was sent via certified mail to the property owner on March 2, 2026. The property owner has not made any attempt to pay the City for this debt. Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Sections 8.10.310 through 8.10.330 cover the cost recovery process. RDMC Section 8.10.330 references the California Government Code Section 38773.5 which spells out the process for establishing taxes and assessments. **This process requires two meetings, a public meeting followed by a public hearing. The public hearing is anticipated to be held on June 16, 2026.**

Attachment(s): Cost recovery assessment

Rio Dell Police Department  
 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California 95562  
 [707] 764-5642

# COST RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

**Name:** Nila Cruzan  
**Address:** 337 Second Avenue  
 Rio Dell, California 95562  
**A.P.#** 053-152-006  
**File #** CE25-514  
**Location:** **337 Secind Avenue**  
**Rio Dell, California**

		<b>Staff Time</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Staff/ Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Hours/10ths</b>	<b>Cost</b>
9/23/2025	LW	Draft Notice of Violation	1.00	\$63.53
9/23/2025	LW	Mail Notice of Violation	0.25	\$15.88
10/23/2025	LW	Draft Notice of Nuisance and Order to Abate	1.00	\$63.53
11/13/2025	LW	Mail Notice of Nuisance	0.25	\$15.88
1/8/2026	LW	Obtain Abatement Warrant	1.00	\$63.53
1/9/2026	LW	Abatement	5.50	\$349.41
1/9/2026	MC	Abatement	5.50	\$387.91
SUB-TOTAL - Staff Time				\$959.67

**Contractors and Other Agencies/Departments**

**CONTRACTORS:**

1/9/2026                      Recology- Two 40 Yard Dumpsters                      \$2,428.16

**OTHER AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS**

1/9/2026                      Redwood Teen Challenge                      \$700.00

SUB-TOTAL - Contractors and Other Agencies                      **\$3,128.16**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Office Costs Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
-------------	-------------------------------------	---------------

SUB-TOTAL - Office Cost                      **\$0.00**

**TOTAL COST                      \$4,087.83**



675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532  
(707) 764-5480 (fax)



DATE: April 29, 2026  
TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Travis Sanborn, Finance Director  
THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
SUBJECT: Transportation Development Claim for Fiscal Year 2026-27

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the Finance Director to sign and submit the City’s annual Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Each year the City submits a request for approval of its annual transportation claim to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG). The 2026-27 projected allocation is \$131,802 compared to last year’s TDA claim of \$122,055. Estimated costs for proposed projects outlined in the City’s 2026-27 financial plan include \$60,563 to be provided to Humboldt Transit Authority for a share of costs for transit services within the City, \$6,500 to be provided to the Adult Day Health Care for transportation, and \$64,739 for ongoing street repair, maintenance, and construction within the City.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2026-27 LTF Apportionment and Allocations
- Claim Request
- Annual Project and Financial Plan
- Statement of Conformance



**HCAOG**  
*Regional  
Transportation  
Planning Agency*

611 I Street, Suite B  
Eureka, CA 95501  
707.444.8208  
Fax: 707.444.8319  
www.hcaog.net

- Members:*
- City of Arcata*
- City of Blue Lake*
- City of Eureka*
- City of Ferndale*
- City of Fortuna*
- City of Rio Dell*
- City of Trinidad*
- County of Humboldt*

**Date:** February 20, 2026

**To:** City Managers, Humboldt County CAO, Finance Officers, and Transit Operators

**From:** Amy Eberwein, Administrative Services Officer, HCAOG

**RE: 2026-27 Local Transportation Fund Apportionment and Allocations**

The County Auditor’s estimate for the FY 2026-27 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) is \$5,416,531, which is \$481,869 less than the estimate for FY 2025-26.

After subtracting the Auditor's payment (\$4,000), and HCAOG's administration and planning allocation (\$500,000), the 2% bicycle and pedestrian set aside is estimated to be \$98,251. Additionally, the Humboldt Transit Authority will receive an allocation of \$300,939 for administrative costs as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency and for the region’s supplemental Dial-A-Ride contract.

The apportionment of remaining funds is based on city and county population estimates published annually by the Department of Finance. The HCAOG Board adopted Resolution 26-01 approving the LTF FY 2026-27 findings of apportionment and allocations.

The following table shows the estimated available LTF allocations for each jurisdiction for FY 2026-27. The 2024-25 FYE Fund Balances have also been figured into the 2026-27 apportionment. These fund balances include interest earned in 2024-25 as well as any remaining interest and unclaimed funds that have accumulated from previous fiscal years. Jurisdictions should note that apportionments are based on an estimate and any unpaid claim balances due to unavailability of funds will not be carried over into future fiscal years.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>FYE 2024-25 Fund Balance</b>	<b>Estimated FY 2026-27 Apportionment</b>
Arcata	423,856.81	1,064,717.02
Blue Lake	1,117.35	39,432.03
Eureka	184,545.22	1,065,580.45
Ferndale	299.22	46,202.63
Fortuna	2,674.25	414,084.85
Rio Dell	22,794.00	131,801.96
Trinidad	11,855.97	21,839.37
Humboldt County	390,934.31	2,767,759.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,038,077.13</b>	<b>5,551,418.03</b>

The HCAOG Transportation Development Act Rules contain claim forms and documentation requirements and can be found on our website under Funding and Administration. Please note the TDA Rules were updated in August 2025 and there are new claim forms to use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [amy.eberwein@hcaog.net](mailto:amy.eberwein@hcaog.net) or 707-444-8208 with any questions.

- Enclosures:
- TDA Rules (Revised August 2025)
- TDA LTF Claim Forms (Revised August 2025)
- Resolution 26-01



133 V Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

*A Public Entity Serving Humboldt County Since 1976*

Office: (707) 443-0826  
Fax: (707) 443-2032  
www.hta.org

April 21, 2026

Travis Sanborn  
Finance Director, City of Rio Dell  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562

Greetings,

Humboldt Transit Authority (HTA) anticipates a 5.00% increase in JPA member entity LTF contributions for Redwood Transit System in fiscal year 2026-27. Based on your contribution percentage of 2.80%, this will be \$60,563.00.

This matter will be brought before the HTA Finance and Operations Committee during the budgeting process, then to the HTA Governing Board of Directors for final approval. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*Carolann Aggeler*

Carolann Aggeler  
Finance Manager  
(707) 443-0826 ext. 116

cc: Katie Collender, Humboldt Transit Authority Deputy General Manager  
Brendan Byrd, HCAOG Executive Director

## APPENDIX C. ANNUAL CLAIM FORMS CHECKLIST FOR ANNUAL LTF & STAF CLAIMS

■ **ALL Claims:** Claimants shall submit items (a) through (f) as part of the claim.

■ **Transit Claims:** An operator or claimant shall submit items (a) thru (m), inclusive, to file a claim.

**ALL claims must include items (a) through (d), inclusive.**

HCAOG forms for parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) are provided in this Excel file and online at [www.hcaog.net](http://www.hcaog.net).

*Claimants are responsible for making sure they submit the most current forms.*

- a) This Checklist
- b) Claim Request form
- c) Annual Project and Financial Plan form
- d) Statement of Conformance
- e) Claimants who want to designate funds for a future, specific capital project must request it as part of a claim. The claim must indicate any reserved monies in the subsequent annual claim(s). Before expending these funds for any other purpose, the claimant must identify its proposed changes in an amended claim or subsequent annual claim. [CCR §6648]
- f) Claimants who have previously designated excess TDA funds as future capital purchase funds must submit a summary report of their capital purchase accounts. [CCR §6637]

**Transit claims must include items (g) through (m):**

- g) To receive an allocation of funds for service outside the claimant's area, a claimant must provide, or have on file with HCAOG, an executed contract
- h) Operating budget. Claimant certifies that its operating budget is not more than 15% greater than its previous year budget unless supported by documentation that substantiates the increase.
- i) If applicable, a statement identifying and substantiating the reason or need for: (1) increasing the operating budget in excess of 15% above the preceding year; (2) a substantial increase or decrease in scope of operations; or (3) capital provisions for major new fixed facilities.
- j) A Satisfactory certification by CHP verifying that the operator is in compliance with §1808.1 of the Vehicle Code, as required in PUC §99251. The certification shall have been completed within the last 13 months, prior to filing claims.
- k) An explanation that summarizes how the claimant has addressed applicable audit findings from annual fiscal and compliance audit.
- l) An explanation that summarizes how the claimant has addressed applicable audit findings from triennial performance audit reports.
- m) Claimant certifies that it is making full use of federal funds available under the Federal Transit Act [CCR 6754] (STA claims only)
- n) Claimant certifies that all purposes for claim expenditures are in conformance with the City/Town or Regional Bicycle Plan. (Bike and Ped claims only)

*For full information on claim requirements, see HCAOG's TDA Rules (part IV, "TDA REQUIRED REPORTS" Report #17).*

**CLAIM REQUEST**  
*Local Transportation Fund (LTF)*

**Claimant:** City of Rio Dell  
**Address:** 675 Wildwood Avenue  
**Contact Person:** Travis Sanborn  
**Title:** Finance Director  
**Phone:** 707-764-3532  
**E-mail:** [sanbornt@cityofriodell.ca.gov](mailto:sanbornt@cityofriodell.ca.gov)

The City of Rio Dell hereby requests, in accordance with the Transportation Development Act (TDA), Chapter 1400, and applicable rules and regulations, that the TDA claim be approved in the amount of \$131,802 for fiscal year 2026-27. These monies are to be drawn from the local transportation fund held at the County of Humboldt for the purposes and amounts shown in the attached “Annual Project and Financial Plan.”

When approved, the claim will be submitted to the County Auditor of the County of Humboldt for payment. Approval of the claim and payment by the County Auditor to this applicant is subject to such monies being on hand and available for distribution, and to the provisions that such monies will be used only in accordance with the terms of the approved annual financial plan.

Authorized representative of claimant:

By: Travis Sanborn  
(print name)

Title: Finance Director

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Submittal date: 5/6/2026

**APPROVED:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brendan Byrd  
Executive Director, Humboldt County Association of Governments

**ANNUAL PROJECT AND FINANCIAL PLAN**  
**Local Transportation Fund (LTF)**

Give each project a title and briefly describe the transportation projects that your jurisdiction proposes. Indicate proposed expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year for all that apply:

- (i) public transportation operating and capital expenditures;
- (ii) construction of facilities for the exclusive use by pedestrians and bicyclists;
- (iii) construction of local streets and roads; and/or
- (iii) right-of-way acquisition.

**Claimant: City of Rio Dell** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fiscal Year: 2026-27** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PROJECT</b> (Title & brief description)	<b>Allocation Amount Available</b>	<b>PUC Article &amp; Section</b>	<b>Funds not being claimed</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>Balance Remaining</b>
06-01 HTA/RTS Share of Cost	\$ 60,563	4-99260(a)	\$ -	\$ 60,563	\$ -
06-02 HSRC Share of Cost	\$ 6,500	8-99400©	\$ -	\$ 6,500	\$ -
06-03 Street Construction & Maintenance	\$ 64,739	8-99402	\$ -	\$ 64,739	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 131,802</b>		<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ 131,802</b>

**Attach a copy of transit revenues and expenditures for the last full fiscal year.**

# STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE

## LTF

**Claimant:** City of Rio Dell

**Fiscal Year of Claim:** 2026-27

*Certify all that apply.*

### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUND (LTF) - TRANSIT CLAIM

- LTF funds are **not** being used for operating
- LTF FUNDS are being used for operating
- A total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ STA funds will also be claimed for operating during this fiscal year.

- The claimant named above hereby certifies that this annual claim for local transportation funds in the amount of \$131,802 that is not being used for operating conforms with the requirements of Article 8, PUC Section 99400, of the Transportation Development Act and applicable rules and regulations.

### CERTIFIED BY CLAIMANT:

By: Travis Sanborn

Title: Finance Director

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5.06.2026



## **Staff Highlights – 2026-05-05**

---

### **City Council**

As part of the City's FY 2024-25 annual audit, our auditors at Harshwal and Company have requested that each council member complete two brief questionnaires: a fraud risk questionnaire and a related party questionnaire. These documents were circulated to Councilmembers via email on April 27<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned in order for the audit to be completed.

### **City Manager**

On or around April 15<sup>th</sup> a message sign was placed on Monument Road announcing a closure. Staff contacted the County and determined that the sign was placed by PG&E in error. The sign was later removed.

Wastewater Superintendent Marshall Moore should be congratulated for passing his Wastewater Exam on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Continued work on a new Solid Waste Franchise Agreement. We are aiming for a presentation on May 19<sup>th</sup> but need some additional information from Recology.

Attended the Solid Waste Local Task Force meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Discussions with the other cities related to the Regional Climate Action Plan Coordinator position and its appropriate placement in either HCAoG or RCEA. The general consensus is that RCEA would be the appropriate agency. Funding of the position remains unresolved.

### **City Clerk**

### **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)

Performed Manganese Residual Tests Weekly (Tuesday, Thursday) while Metro Wells are operational (Entered Data into Excel Spreadsheet)



Performed pH and Temperature tests at Metro Wells & recorded Data into Excel Spreadsheet.

Checked Metro Wells depths and recorded data

Performed chlorine analyzer maintenance at Metro Wells

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]

Calibrated pH probe for Surface water treatment plant

Training on water plant operations and scada system

Cleaned out chlorine tank and set up barrel for temporary use while repairing failing fitting

Ordered chlorine pump parts to assist with more optimal priming of pump

Met with Dylan, Chester, and crew installing new Douglas st. tank periodically and took pictures of its construction. Consulted about ladder installation and transducer entry point.

Discovered illegal highlining at residence on wildwood and locked out water

Ordered fittings from Pace supply for stockroom for future leak repairs and installations

Used Tracer and Maps to check and mark Underground Service Alerts on Rigby, Center, Berkeley, Ireland, 2nd ave., Belleview, Pacific, Meadowbridge, Columbus, Tolman, Eeloa, 101 Freeway, Davis, and Painter St.

Put door hangers on past due residences shutoff water for residences that failed to pay bill

Flushed the Metro wells and checked chlorine analyzer/chlorine levels. Set them up for operation

Ran Generator at Metro wells and recorded Data

Cut off bulkhead fitting from chlorine tank and removed old pipes and valve. Installed new bulkhead fitting, plumbed new fittings, and installed new collapsible drain system. Tested tank for leaks and refilled with Chlorine.

Took pictures of new Douglas tank

Signed up and attended asbestos pipe training in Live Oak, California

Built new drain pipe for surface scatter turbidimeter and installed it

Cleaned out polymer tank and rinsed/purged pump



Changed ERT's and Dials.

Read Meters.

Locked out non-payments.

Keeping an eye on leak on Monument.

Ireland leak has been fixed.

Martin Dr is connected to the new water main Wahlund installed. Old line is abandoned.

Wahlund has bored 2 water lines under the Highway

Locked out non-payments.

Shut off the old water main on Martin Dr after Wahlund switched everyone over to the new water main.

Marked out USA's locates.

Installed a manifold for 855 and 859 Rigby Ave.

Reinstalled service line and angled meter stop at 196 Center St.

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

Performed Manganese Residual Tests Weekly (Tuesday, Thursday) while Metro Wells are operational (Entered Data into Excel Spreadsheet)

Performed pH and Temperature tests at Metro Wells and recorded Data into Excel Spreadsheet.

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Discovered illegal highlining at residence on wildwood and locked out water.

Ordered fitting from Pace supply for stockroom for future leak repairs and installations

Used Tracer to check and mark Underground Service Alerts on Rigby, Center, Berkeley, Ireland, 2nd Ave, Belleview, Pacific, Meadowbridge, Columbus, Tolman

Put door hangers on past due residences shutoff water for residences that failed to pay bill

### **Public Works Wastewater**

Continuing work with North Coast Section Wastewater board with CWEA

Continuing grease trap inspection to reduce FOG in collection system

Offering tours of waste plant to any interested party

Working on quarterly reports to the state and any other reports the state may need

Furthering wastewater education

Identifying infiltration and intrusion throughout collection system

Maintenance and repairs on Wastewater treatment plant analyzers and equipment

Weekly and monthly sampling and monitoring.

Weekly and monthly treatment plant washdowns and cleaning inside tent

Maintenance on Belt Press and Biosolids Dryer

Cleaning and maintenance on Headworks equipment

### **Public Works Streets, Buildings and Grounds**

Refill Dog station dog bags.

Mowed City Hall, North Gateway, South Gateway and parks.

Mowed Bellview, Eeloa, Riverside, Painter Overpass and Davis Overpass.



Took two mowers into Cutters Edge to have them fully tuned up and maintained.

Dan Collins removed trees along Monument Rd.

We installed two benches and one picnic table at the Dog Park.

Refill Dog station dog bags.

Mowed City Hall, North Gateway, South Gateway and the parks.

Mowed all of Bellview, Eeloa, Riverside, Painter Overpass and Davis Overpass.

Installed two benches and picnic table at Dog Park.

Got all of our weed whackers tuned up and maintained.

Took two mowers into Cutters Edge to have them fully tuned up and maintained.

Installed new front backhoe tires.

Replaced lights in the shop.

Refill Dog station dog bags.

Mowed City Hall, North Gateway, South Gateway and parks.

Mowed Bellview, Eeloa, Riverside, Painter Overpass and Davis Overpass.

Took two mowers into Cutters Edge to have them fully tuned up and maintained.

Dan Collins removed trees along Monument Rd.

We installed two benches and one picnic table at the Dog Park.

**Public Works City Engineer**

**Public Works Capital Projects**

**Police Department**

**Community Development Department**

**Intergovernmental**

**Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park**



**Community Development Department**  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532

**For Meeting of: May 5, 2026**

Consent Item;  Public Hearing Item

To: City Council  
From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director  
Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
Date: April 27, 2026  
Subject: Discussion and Direction on the Chamber of Commerce’s proposed Community Oriented Billboard.

---

**Recommendation:**

That the City Council:

1. Receive a brief presentation regarding the Chamber of Commerce’s proposed Community Oriented Billboard on the City’s Wastewater Disposal parcel; and
2. Open the public hearing, receive public comment and deliberate; and
3. Provide direction to staff.

**Discussion:**

As the Council is aware the City recently amended the sign regulations to allow a community oriented billboard in the northeast corner of the City’s wastewater disposal field.

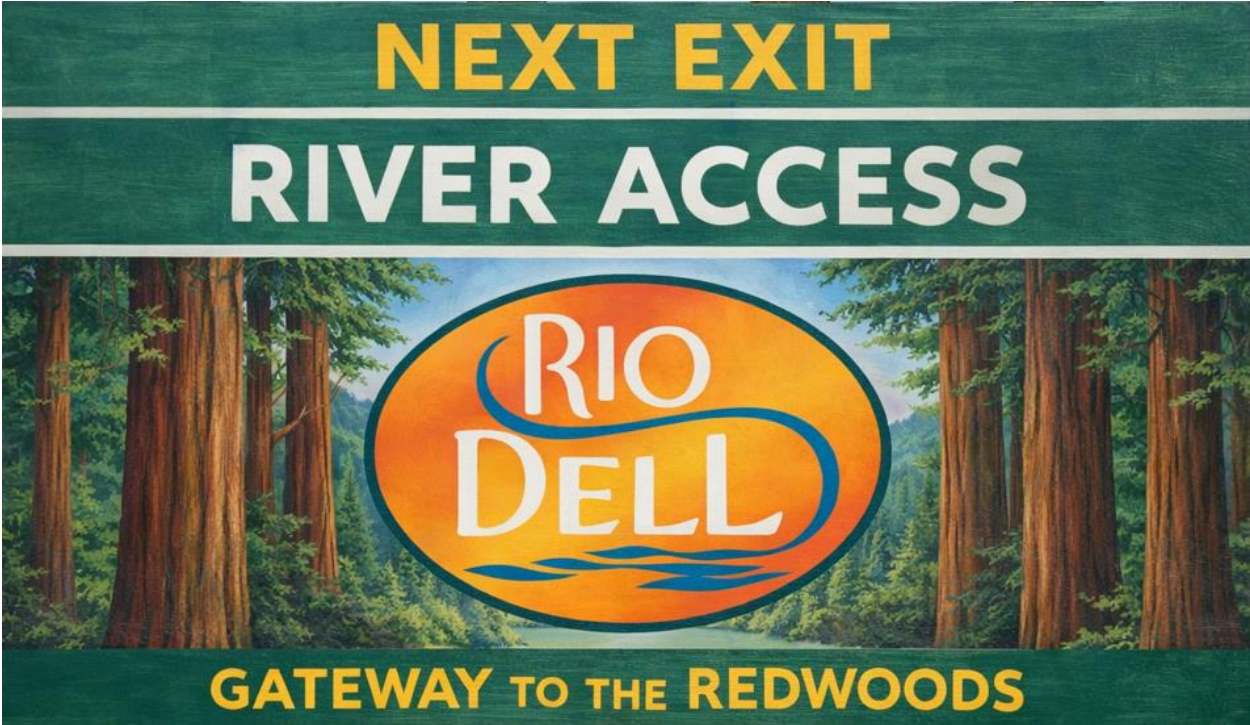
The Rio Dell Chamber of Commerce has proposed installing a community-oriented billboard on the City-owned property. The goal is to enhance community identity, promote tourism, and provide directional and informational signage for visitors traveling through the area.

Chamber Proposed Billboard CC May 5, 2026

The Chamber’s proposed billboard features a stylized, highway-oriented design intended to capture the attention of passing motorists. As depicted in the submitted concept:

- The top panel reads “Next Exit – River Access,” suggesting nearby recreational opportunities.
- The central graphic includes a prominent “Rio Dell” logo set against a scenic background of redwood trees and a river motif, reinforcing the City’s natural setting.
- The bottom panel includes the phrase “Gateway to the Redwoods,” emphasizing the City’s role as northern entry point to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The design uses bold colors and large, legible text consistent with highway signage standards. Below is a copy of the proposed sign.



Although staff finds the proposal to be aesthetically pleasing, the Council may want to consider including local services and businesses on the, but it needs to be done carefully so the sign doesn’t become cluttered or lose its primary function as a quick-read, highway-oriented message.

Right now, the concept mainly promotes identity (“Gateway to the Redwoods”) and river access. Adding a small, curated set of local services (e.g., fuel, food, lodging) gives

travelers a concrete reason to exit, which is far more likely to translate into spending within the City.

Highway travelers typically make split-second decisions based on immediate needs—gas, restrooms, food. Signs that clearly communicate available services tend to outperform purely branding-focused signage in prompting exits.

A shared, community-managed sign provides exposure for local businesses that may not otherwise afford individual highway advertising. This can be especially valuable in a smaller community like Rio Dell. Below is a modified version of the Chamber’s proposal which includes some local services.



The City Manager believes including local available services on the billboard is critical to get travelers to pull-off the Highway and come into town and hopefully patronize some of our local businesses. According to Caltrans, the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on Highway 101 in the Rio Dell area is between 17,000 and 20,000 vehicles per day.

The Humboldt Redwoods State Park contains more than 180 mi (290 km) of hiking trails and receives almost 600,000 visitors annually. According to data from Visit Humboldt, the official tourism organization for the region, Humboldt County attracts approximately **2.5 million visitors per year.**

When a City is facing declining tax revenues, attracting more visitors isn't just a nice idea—it becomes a practical economic strategy. For a small community like Rio Dell, even modest increases in visitor traffic can have an outsized impact.

Visitors translate directly into dollars spent on fuel, food, retail, and services. Unlike long-term development projects, this is **instant economic activity** that supports existing businesses and helps stabilize sales tax revenue.

As other revenue sources decline (e.g., property tax fluctuations, reduced state funding), sales tax becomes more critical. Visitors expand the customer base beyond local residents, helping offset those losses. Small businesses in rural communities often operate on thin margins. Increased visitor traffic can:

- Keep businesses open
- Prevent vacancies
- Encourage longer operating hours or expanded services

Many travelers may not even know Rio Dell exists or what it offers. A strong visual identity (“Gateway to the Redwoods”) builds recognition and curiosity, including local services only helps get travelers to come into Rio Dell. Small towns often struggle not because they lack amenities, but because people don't know those amenities are there. A well-designed billboard solves that problem directly. The City Manager prepared a simple concept that includes local services and the fact that the next City south is 109 miles away.



The proposed billboard will be 10' x 20', approximately 25' tall, wooden posts/poles with aluminum panels over solid weather resistant 2X surface. The Chamber is hoping to get most of the materials and labor (other than the painting of the sign) donated. It is anticipated that a muralist would paint the image/signage on the aluminum panels.

A Conditional Use Permit is required. Since it appears to be a Public – Quasi Public effort, costs would include staff time for review and permitting. Because of the potential wind loads, structural calculations by licensed Engineer would be required.

### **Potential Talking Points**

- **Maintenance and Liability:** An agreement will be necessary to define responsibility for installation, upkeep, and possible insurance coverage.
- **Ad Hoc Committee:** The Council may want to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to establish a consensus on the format/design of the billboard
- **RFQ/RFP:** The Council may want to issue an RFQ/RFP requesting proposals for the billboard.



**Community Development Department**  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532

**For Meeting of: May 5, 2026**

Consent Item;  Public Hearing Item

To: City Council  
From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director  
Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager  
Date: April 23, 2026  
Subject: Approval and Adoption of Ordinance No. 421-2026 amending the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations, Section 17.30.020 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to align the City's size regulations with State Law

**Recommendation:**

That the City Council:

1. Receive a brief staff report regarding Ordinance No. 421-2026 which amends the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations, Section 17.30.020 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to align the City's size regulations with State Law; and
2. Open the public hearing, receive public comment and deliberate; and
3. Approve and Adopt Ordinance No. 421-2026.

**Discussion:**

As discussed at the meeting on April 7, 2026, staff recently discovered that the City's ADU regulations do not align with State regulations in regards to allowable sizes.

A jurisdiction's maximum unit size requirements must allow an ADU of at least 850 square feet, or 1,000 square feet for ADUs with more than one bedroom. (Gov. Code, § 66321, subd. (b)(2)). The City's current ADU regulations limit the size of ADU's to 50 percent of the size of the primary dwelling unit up to a maximum of 1,200 square feet.

## Required Findings

**General Plan Consistency:** Amending the City of Rio Dell ADU regulations to align with current California state law regarding allowable unit sizes is consistent with the City's General Plan and Housing Element because it advances adopted goals to increase housing supply, affordability, and efficient use of residential land. By permitting ADUs at state-allowed sizes, the City reduces regulatory constraints that could otherwise limit housing production, thereby supporting infill development, accommodating population growth, and expanding opportunities for diverse housing types, including smaller and more affordable units. This alignment also ensures compliance with state housing mandates, promotes consistency between local and state policies, and helps the City meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) obligations by facilitating the development of additional units within existing neighborhoods without requiring significant infrastructure expansion.

**CEQA Compliance:** The Planning Commission found that the project is **Statutorily Exempt** from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (General Rule), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project, as it merely aligns local regulations with state ADU law and does not increase development potential beyond what is already permitted

## Attachment 1: Ordinance No.421-2026

**ORDINANCE NO. 421-2026**



**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL  
AMENDING THE CITY’S ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT REGULATIONS,  
SECTION 17.30.020 OF THE RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE (RDMC) TO ALIGN  
THE CITY’S SIZE REGULATIONS WITH STATE LAW**

**WHEREAS**, staff recently discovered that the City’s ADU regulations do not align with State regulations in regards to allowable sizes; and

**WHEREAS**, A jurisdiction’s maximum unit size requirements must allow an ADU of at least 850 square feet, or 1,000 square feet for ADUs with more than one bedroom; and

**WHEREAS**, The City’s current ADU regulations limit the size of ADU’s to 50 percent of the size of the primary dwelling unit up to a maximum of 1,200 square feet; and

**WHEREAS**, staff is recommending amending the City’s ADU regulations to align with State regulations in regards to allowable sizes; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments and rezone were processed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (**CEQA**) and were referred to relevant local and responsible agencies, including Caltrans, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the local Wiyot tribes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Rio Dell finds the proposed amendments are consistent with the required findings:

1. **General Plan Consistency:** Amending the City of Rio Dell ADU regulations to align with current California state law regarding allowable unit sizes is consistent with the City’s General Plan and Housing Element because it advances adopted goals to increase housing supply, affordability, and efficient use of residential land. By permitting ADUs at state-allowed sizes, the City reduces regulatory constraints that could otherwise limit housing production, thereby supporting infill development, accommodating population growth, and expanding opportunities for diverse housing types, including smaller and more affordable units. This alignment also ensures compliance with state housing mandates, promotes consistency between local and state policies, and helps the City meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) obligations by facilitating the development of additional units within existing neighborhoods without requiring significant infrastructure expansion.
  
2. **CEQA Compliance:** The City Council finds that the amendments are **Statutorily Exempt** from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (General Rule), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project, as it merely aligns local regulations with state ADU law and does not increase development potential beyond what is already permitted

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds and determines that the proposed amendments to the Municipal Code are adopted pursuant to the City’s police power authority to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell as follows:

**SECTION I. Incorporation of Recitals.**

The City Council of the City of Rio Dell finds that the above recitals are true and correct

and are incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2. Amendments to Chapter 17 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code.**

Section 17.20.030(3)(b) of the Rio Dell Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

*(b) Total Floor Area. Accessory dwelling units shall be subject to the following floor area requirements:*

*(i) Parcels That Cannot Be Subdivided. The size of ~~the a new detached ADU second dwelling unit~~ shall not exceed 50 percent of the size of the primary dwelling unit up to a maximum of 1,200 square feet, ~~except for second dwelling units located within the suburban and rural zones where the second dwelling unit shall not exceed 50 percent of the primary dwelling unit.~~ or up to 850 square feet for a one bedroom ADU and up to 1,000 square feet for a two bedroom ADU. Attached ADU's shall not exceed 50 percent of the size of the primary dwelling unit up to a maximum of 800 square feet.*

*(ii) Parcels That Can Be Subdivided. The size of the ~~second~~ accessory dwelling unit shall not be restricted, provided the applicant submits a development plan demonstrating that the parcel could be subdivided and both residences can be sited on separate parcels and meet setback and lot coverage requirements of the zone.*

**SECTION 3. Severability.**

In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction holds any Section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance unconstitutional, preempted, or otherwise invalid, the invalid portion shall be severed from this Ordinance and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted each Section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases in this Ordinance might be declared unconstitutional, preempted, or otherwise invalid.

**Section 4. Effective Date**

This ordinance becomes effective thirty (30) days after its approval and adoption.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the forgoing Ordinance was duly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on April 7, 2026, and furthermore the forgoing Ordinance was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on May 5, 2026, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

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Debra Garnes, Mayor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
City of Rio Dell

ATTEST:

I, Jessica Hill, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 421-2026 which was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on May 5, 2026.

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Jessica Hill, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell