



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

Agenda # 6
Regular Calendar
MCOG Meeting
10/07/2019

TITLE: Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project -
Presentation & Discussion

DATE PREPARED: 09/27/19
MEETING DATE: 10/07/19

SUBMITTED BY: Nephele Barrett, Executive Director

BACKGROUND:

MCOG has been involved in planning efforts in the Gualala area for many years, starting with the Gualala Community Action Plan in 2007 and ending with the which Refined Streetscape Design Plan, which was adopted by MCOG in 2012. The project concept identified in these plans, which were developed with extensive community and stakeholder input, included two 11-foot travel lanes, a 12-foot center turn lane, bicycle lanes, 8 foot sidewalks on either side of the highway, additional crosswalks, and removal of on-street parking. At a public meeting in 2012, 17 people indicated support for the proposed project, 3 expressed no opinion and 1 person expressed opposition.

As a result of these planning efforts, MCOG programmed STIP funding in the 2014 RTIP to begin the environmental component of the project with Caltrans as the implementing agency. Funds for design were then programmed in the 2018 STIP, for a total of \$915,000. Caltrans is nearing the end of the environmental component and will soon be ready to proceed with further components of the project. We anticipate a request for funding in the 2020 RTIP.

In April of this year, the MCOG Board had the opportunity to tour the Gualala area and receive information on the project. In August, Caltrans released the draft environmental document for the project, which included two alternatives. The release of the DED sparked a flurry of activity in the Gualala community regarding the project. The primary points on which community members disagree include removal of on-street parking and a center two-way left turn lane. In response to this activity, a working group of community stakeholders and agency representatives was formed to discuss the key points of disagreement in the community and try to arrive at an alternative that would be supported.

As of the writing of this report, the working group has met twice. At the most recent working group meeting, the group reached unanimous consensus to proceed with a project that would provide 6' sidewalks, parking on both sides of the highway, bikelanes on both sides, and two travel lanes, for a right of way of 64 feet. This would minimize the immediate impact to on-street parking and provide safety and operational improvements. If, in the future, safety concerns made it necessary to add a center two-way left turn lane, parking could be eliminated on one side of the highway, and the turn lane could be added by restriping.

A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1 to allow members of the public to provide further input on the project and the outcome of the working group meetings. It is hoped that the forward momentum gained by the working group will carry forward to the public meeting.

The purpose of the presentation and discussion at this MCOG meeting will be to provide Board members with background of the project and details of the current efforts. Caltrans Project Manager Frank Demling will be present to provide information and answer Board member questions. We anticipate that members of the Gualala community will also be in attendance to provide comment.

ACTION REQUIRED: Receive the presentation and public comment, and discuss the Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive the presentation and public comment, and discuss the Gualala Downtown Streetscape Project.