



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

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AGENDA ITEM 7a
HCAOG Board Meeting
March 19, 2026

DATE: March 11, 2026
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Brendan Byrd, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) Request for Membership on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Letter from MCSD dated February 3, 2026
- Letters of Support
- TAC Bylaws
- November 14, 2013, Board Staff Report
- September 18, 2014, Board Staff Report

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Direct staff as necessary or consider making the motion,
"I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board support the TAC's recommendation and direct staff to amend Section 4.01 and 4.03 of the TAC bylaws to allow an advisory seat for the McKinleyville Community Services District on the TAC."
Or
"I move that the PAC recommend that the HCAOG Board deny the request from the McKinleyville Community Services District for a seat on the TAC."

Staff Summary:

Patrick Kaspari, the General Manager of the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD, District), submitted a letter to HCAOG on February 3rd, 2026, requesting that the district be granted a seat on HCAOG's Technical Advisory Committee. In their request MSCD cites McKinleyville's

circumstance as the largest unincorporated community in the county, the rapid growth of the community, and how much the community's transportation network affects the operations of the district. The full request letter is included as an attachment to this staff report for reference, and Mr. Kaspari will attend the Board meeting to further make the district's case and answer any questions that the PAC may have. Also included as attachments are a number of additional support letters HCAOG has received, including ones from 5th District Supervisor Steve Madrone, Arcata Fire District, Life Plan Humboldt, Humboldt Community Services District, the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee and the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce.

This is not the first time that HCAOG has been asked to consider adding MCSD as a member of the TAC. In 2013 a similar request was brought before the TAC and the Board, both of which chose to deny the district's membership request. Reason cited in the 2013 process included:

- HCAOG is a Transportation Planning Agency and MCSD does not have public road maintenance responsibilities
- No funds will be allocated directly to MCSD, but rather through the county
- If made a voting member, the addition of MCSD could skew the vote on where resources go

The full Board staff report from 2013, including the full list of the TAC's comments, are included as an attachment. One condition of the Board's decision in 2013 was that staff from MCSD continue to attend meetings of the TAC for another year, in an effort to better identify and convey how the district could best serve or advise HCAOG as a member. In September of 2014, the request for MCSD TAC membership came back to the TAC, and the TAC recommended by split decision that the Board consider amending the TAC bylaws to allow for one seat on the TAC for special districts, of which initially would have been assigned to MCSD. This recommendation was brought forward to the HCAOG Board at their meeting on September 18, 2014, and the Board voted to deny the request. The Board staff report referencing this process is included as an attachment.

HCAOG staff will note that many of those original circumstances cited to deny membership in 2013 remain unchanged in 2026 including most notably the lack of receipt of direct funding for roadways or transit, and the lack of direct responsibility for roads.

At their meeting on March 5th, the TAC considered this item and received a presentation from General Manager Kaspari. The TAC conveyed many of the same concerns regarding granting MCSD a TAC voting membership, and an initial motion to grant MCSD a full voting membership failed to pass. After further discussion following the failed motion, a second motion was made to recommend an advisory membership for MCSD. This would allow for MCSD to openly participate in all HCAOG business, but ultimately not cast votes on TAC consent or action items. The TAC discussion also included re-evaluating the advisory membership after one year, to determine if a voting membership would be recommended. The second motion passed unanimously (with two abstentions).

Staff are asking that the PAC review this item and consider making a motion to either approve or deny MCSD's request for TAC membership. Should the PAC recommend approving the request, staff would bring back to the Board in April an item to amend the TAC bylaws as necessary.