



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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

611 I Street, Suite B

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 444-8208

www.hcaog.net

AGENDA ITEM 8a
HCAOG Board Meeting
August 20, 2026

DATE: August 13, 2026
TO: HCAOG Board of Directors
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Regional Planner
SUBJECT: Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan: Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Jurisdictions and JPAs

INFORMATIONAL

No PAC/Board action requested.

The Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) is progressing toward implementation with two foundational actions in development: drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for local jurisdictions and Joint Power Authorities (JPAs); and hiring a Regional Climate Program Manager. Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), working with multi-jurisdiction staff who have been working on the RCAP, has drafted the MOU for jurisdictions and JPAs to review. (Staff has summarized the draft MOU, further below, and enclosed the full draft.)

RCEA's proposed "ideal/ambitious timeline" for next steps is:

1. Individual agency review and comment (Initial comments ideally by August 21)
2. Revise draft
3. Recirculate (September 3)
4. Finalize (by September 14)
5. RCEA Board to adopt (September 24)
6. Individual jurisdictions/JPAs adopt (Next available meeting dates)
7. Implement

HCAOG is included as a party to the MOU. The draft MOU does not include any fiscal or staff-time commitments from HCAOG. HCAOG staff is coordinating with RCEA and the other jurisdictions to better understand the commitments that HCAOG would be responsible for, for regional efforts to implement the RCAP.

HCAOG does currently budget staff time for working on plans, projects, programs, and partnerships/collaborations that address climate change and seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such commitments are set out by the goals, objectives and policies in the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (*Variety in Rural Options of Mobility (VROOM) 2026-2046*), and

the adopted *Overall Work Plan FY 2026-27* (Work Element 14, Global Climate Change–Sea Level Rise).

Staff will continue to collaborate with RCEA and the other jurisdictions to implement the proposed schedule, unless the Board directs staff to do otherwise. Staff will bring a final draft MOU to the PAC at the next Board meeting (September 17, 2026) unless RCEA’s proposed schedule is delayed.

The following points briefly summarize the draft MOU:

Draft MOU (August 5, 2026):

- The RCAP calls for creating a Regional Climate Committee which will coordinate efforts and be responsible for implementing RCAP measures and actions. Establishing the Committee is the first RCAP strategy to be implemented.
- The Regional Climate Committee shall be comprised of elected officials from each of the Municipal Jurisdictions, the County, and JPAs.
- The RCAP also calls for creating a Regional Climate Program Manager to lead coordination efforts of the Committee, and to coordinate with staff of the participating jurisdictions.
- The MOU seeks to establish the framework for establishing the Committee and for funding the Program Manager.
- RCEA agrees to host the Regional Climate Program Manager and provide administrative support to the Regional Climate Committee. The Manager shall be an employee of RCEA.
- This MOU shall terminate on December 31, 2030, unless extended by mutual agreement.

Exhibit A: Funding Commitments

- The Regional Climate Program Manager is to be funded through contributions.
- For Fiscal Year 26/27, the Cities of Arcata and Eureka, and the County of Humboldt shall contribute the amounts to fund the Program Manager (Year 1 cost is \$123,342).
- For years 2 through 4 (FY 27/28 through 29/30), the 7 cities and the County fund the Program Manager position, with shares apportioned based on population. (Costs shown in Exhibit A.)