



# Mendocino LAFCo

*Encouraging Well-Planned Community Growth*

200 S School Street | Ukiah, CA 95482

Phone: (707) 463-4470

Email: [eo@mendolafco.org](mailto:eo@mendolafco.org)

Web: [mendolafco.org](http://mendolafco.org)

## COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Mulheren  
Chair

[County Member](#)

Gerald Ward  
Vice Chair/Treasurer  
[Public Member](#)

Madeline Cline  
[County Member](#)

Gerardo Gonzalez  
[City Member](#)

Candace Horsley  
[Special District Member](#)

Susan Mahoney  
[Special District Member](#)

Mari Rodin  
[City Member](#)

Douglas Crane  
[Alternate City Member](#)

John Haschak  
[Alternate County Member](#)

Raghda Zacharia  
[Alternate Public Member](#)

Vacant  
[Alternate Special District Member](#)

## STAFF

Executive Officer  
[Uma Hinman](#)

Senior Analyst  
[Larkyn Feiler](#)

Clerk/Analyst  
[Jen Crump](#)

Counsel  
[Marsha Burch](#)

## REGULAR MEETINGS

First Monday of each month  
at 9:30 AM in the  
Mendocino County Board of  
Supervisors Chambers  
501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

**Date:** March 24, 2025

**To:** Presiding Officers of Independent Special Districts in Mendocino County

**From:** Uma Hinman, Executive Officer

**Subject:** **Official Independent Special District Election Ballot**

Announcement of election for the special district alternate member seat on LAFCo. The election will fill the remainder of the four-year term ending December 31, 2026.

The process for selecting special district members to LAFCo is set forth in Government Code Section (GOV) 56332, which provides for a meeting to be convened among representatives from each of the 49 independent special districts in Mendocino County, unless the Executive Officer determines that a meeting is not feasible. Pursuant to GOV 56332(f), the LAFCo Executive Officer is conducting the nomination process and election by mail on behalf of the Independent Special District Selection Committee, determining that achieving a quorum for a meeting is not feasible.

A request for nominations was sent via email on January 31, 2025, announcing the vacancy of the alternate special district seat and soliciting nominations from independent special district boards for candidates to fill the remainder of the four-year term (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026). The nomination period ended March 14, with the following two (2) nominations received by the deadline.

Nominee/Candidate	Agency	Status
Adam Gaska	Redwood Valley County Water District	Election
Dave Shpak	Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District	Election

Enclosed is the official ballot to elect one candidate to serve as special district alternate member on Mendocino LAFCo for the remainder of the term that ends December 31, 2026.

Ballots must be returned to Mendocino LAFCo at 200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA, 95482, or by email to [eo@mendolafco.org](mailto:eo@mendolafco.org), on or before **April 30, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

Your district is encouraged to participate in this election process. For an election to be valid, at least a quorum of the special districts must submit valid ballots. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be deemed elected.

Any nomination and ballot received by the Executive Officer after the date specified is invalid, provided, however, that if a quorum of ballots is not received by that date, the Executive Officer shall extend the date to submit ballots by 60 days and notify all districts of the extension. An election schedule with information about the counting of ballots and successful candidate notification is provided below.

### Election Schedule

Election Steps	Dates/Deadlines
LAFCo request for nominations distributed to independent special districts via email	Sent January 31, 2025
Nomination deadline	March 14 by 5:00 p.m.
Ballots distributed to independent special districts via email	March 24
<b>Ballots due to LAFCo</b>	<b>April 30 by 12:00 p.m.</b>
Ballots tallied at LAFCo office; successful candidate notified	April 30 at 3:00 p.m.
Election results announced to independent special districts	No later than May 2
Oath of Office	May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Commission

### Current Special District Members on LAFCo

Designation	Current Member	Term Ends
Regular Member	Candace Horsley, Ukiah Valley Sanitation District	December 31, 2026
Regular Member	Susan Mahoney, Brooktrails Township Community Services District	December 31, 2028
Alternate Member	Vacant	December 31, 2026

#### Attachments:

1. Candidate Information Forms
2. List of Independent Special Districts of Mendocino County

Enclosed: Official 2025 Ballot

## **Attachment 1**

### **Candidate Information Forms**



## Special District Alternate Member Candidate Information Sheet

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Adam Gaska
<b>Address</b>	751 Lennix Drive Redwood Valley, CA 95470
<b>Phone</b>	707-272-5477
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:mendocinoorganics@gmail.com">mendocinoorganics@gmail.com</a>
<b>District</b>	Redwood Valley County Water District
<b>Title</b>	Director, Board President

**1. Length of service with District:**

since 3/29/2022

**2. Present Occupation:**

Executive Director of Mendocino County Farm Bureau

**3. Personal and Professional Background:**

I farmed/ranched, operating Mendocino Organics and Mendocino Meats for 20 years until eventually selling my business to Golden Vineyards and moving into a management position prior to taking my position with Mendocino County Farm Bureau. I am deeply involved with local water policy, sitting on multiple boards (RVCWD, UVWA, UVBGS).

**4. Summarize your interest in serving on LAFCo:**

I am passionate about public service and overseeing agencies that provide public services.

**5. Summarize your qualifications for serving on LAFCo:**

I have extensive experience serving on boards and can read financial statements.

**6. List local government involvement:**

I am involved in local (greater Ukiah area) water policy.

**7. List civic organization involvement:**

My children attend St Mary's of the Angels Catholic School and we are members of the parish.

**8. List special interests or hobbies:**

I like to cook, bake, BBQ, and garden.



## Special District Alternate Member Candidate Information Sheet

<b>Candidate Name</b>	<b>Dave Shpak</b>
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 409, Gualala, CA 95445
<b>Phone</b>	530-902-1781
<b>Email</b>	dshpak@mcrpd.us
<b>District</b>	Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District
<b>Title</b>	Chair, Board of Directors

**1. Length of service with District:**

1 year, 9 months.

**2. Present Occupation:**

Retired.

**3. Personal and Professional Background:**

- Homeowner in Gualala since 2009; full-time resident for the past five years.
- 35 years of professional experience in project and program management and delivery; land use, infrastructure, and environmental planning in public, private for-profit, private non-profit, and academic sectors.

**4. Summarize your interest in serving on LAFCo:**

- Curiosity and concern about local government function, effectiveness, and efficiency in Mendocino County.
- Desire to contribute experience and perspective to support local government collaboration and success throughout Mendocino County.

**5. Summarize your qualifications for serving on LAFCo:**

- Member and Chair of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.
- Extensive knowledge and direct experience in California local and regional government operations and management of municipal services, including infrastructure planning and development, land use planning and redevelopment, park planning and development, natural and cultural resource conservation, data and regulatory systems improvement, public outreach and engagement, and interagency coordination and collaboration.

**6. List local government involvement:**

- City of West Sacramento:
  - Interim Flood Protection Manager
  - Flood Protection Planning Manager
  - Park Development Manager
- City Sacramento: Associate Planner
- City of Chico: Associate Planner
- County of Nevada:
  - Planner III
  - Planner II
- County of Placer: Assistant Planner
- Professional Consultation Services:
  - City of Sacramento
  - City of Roseville
  - City of Folsom
  - City of Vallejo
  - Bay Area Rapid Transit District
  - Sacramento Regional Transit District
  - San Joaquin Regional Transit District
  - Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission

**7. List civic organization involvement:**

- Member and Chair of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.
- Member and Secretary of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council.

**8. List special interests or hobbies:**

- Bicycling
- Hiking and camping
- Kayaking
- Music appreciation
- Cooking and dining
- Home improvement and maintenance

## **Attachment 2**

### **Independent Special Districts of Mendocino County**

1. Albion-Little River Fire District
2. Anderson Valley Cemetery District
3. Anderson Valley Community Services District
4. Brooktrails Township Community Services District
5. Calpella County Water District
6. Caspar South Water District
7. Cemetery District of the Redwoods
8. Comptche Community Services District
9. Covelo Community Services District
10. Covelo Fire Protection District
11. Covelo Public Cemetery District
12. Elk Community Services District
13. Elk County Water District
14. Fort Bragg Rural Fire Protection District
15. Gualala Community Services District
16. Hopland Cemetery District
17. Hopland Fire Protection District
18. Hopland Public Utility District
19. Irish Beach Water District
20. Laytonville County Water District
21. Leggett Valley Fire Protection District
22. Little Lake Fire Protection District
23. Long Valley Fire Protection District
24. Mendocino City Community Services District
25. Mendocino Coast Health Care District
26. Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District
27. Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
28. Mendocino County Water Works District No. 2
29. Mendocino Fire Protection District
30. Mendocino-Little River Cemetery District
31. Millview County Water District
32. Noyo Harbor District
33. Pacific Reefs Water District
34. Piercy Fire Protection District
35. Potter Valley Cemetery District
36. Potter Valley Community Services District
37. Potter Valley Irrigation District
38. Redwood Coast Fire Protection District
39. Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire District
40. Redwood Valley County Water District
41. Round Valley County Water District
42. Russian River Cemetery District
43. Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
44. South Coast Fire Protection District
45. Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District
46. Ukiah Valley Sanitation District
47. Westport County Water District
48. Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District
49. Willow County Water District