

Business & Government Affairs Committee Update

The Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce Business & Government Affairs Committee met on July 15 to discuss several important issues affecting Humboldt County businesses, housing development, wildfire recovery policy, and future economic growth initiatives.

Wildfire Insurance and Recovery Coalition Presentation

The committee welcomed Alison Talbott of PG&E, who provided an overview of the Wildfire Victims First Coalition, a statewide coalition advocating for policy solutions aimed at improving California's wildfire insurance and recovery system.

Discussion focused on the challenges facing California property owners as insurance availability declines and costs continue to rise. Coalition representatives highlighted concerns about the growing reliance on the California FAIR Plan, increasing wildfire-related financial pressures, and the long-term impacts on residents, businesses, and ratepayers. The coalition is seeking broad statewide participation to support legislative and regulatory reforms that would help wildfire victims recover more quickly following catastrophic events.

City of Eureka Housing Element Update

The committee also received an update from Cristin Kenyon and Kelsey Fleterick of the City of Eureka regarding the City's ongoing Housing Element outreach process.

The City is currently conducting surveys, stakeholder interviews, and community engagement activities to gather public input on local housing needs. As part of state housing requirements, Eureka has been assigned a target of 1,740 new housing units by 2035. To help meet this goal, the City is exploring a variety of strategies, including:

- Encouraging infill development and lot splits
- Promoting mixed-use projects
- Allowing additional residential opportunities within commercial districts
- Supporting redevelopment of vacant or underutilized properties
- Exploring financing options for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)

The committee discussed potential opportunities to increase housing production while supporting economic development, including streamlined permitting processes and incentives that may help property owners undertake development and redevelopment projects.

Members are encouraged to participate in the City's Housing Element outreach efforts. Information regarding available surveys will be shared through Chamber communication channels.

Economic Forum Visioning Underway

Committee Chair Annalise von Borstel reported progress on planning for a future Economic Forum. Several individuals expressed interest in participating in a visioning task force, and a planning meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to begin shaping the forum's goals and objectives.

Looking Ahead

The Business & Government Affairs Committee continues to serve as a forum for discussion of issues impacting the local business community, including housing, infrastructure, economic development, workforce challenges, and public policy.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Members interested in participating in Business & Government Affairs Committee meetings are encouraged to contact the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce for more information.