



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of March 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 5-B

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director and Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Regional Leadership Forum Recap, and Madera County Triage Center – 2026 Eureka! Award for Regional Excellence Winner

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The 2026 CALCOG Regional Leadership Forum was held on March 8-11, 2026. The forum explores how regional agencies can turn data, technology, and collaboration into measurable results. This year's theme, "Regional Intelligence: From Insight to Impact," emphasized moving from analysis to action through innovative policies, strategic investments, and stronger community outcomes. Participants connected with peers, shared best practices, and built partnerships that advance California's regions.

This time on the agenda is reserved for those that attended to provide a recap on their perspective of the conference. In attendance representing MCTC were MCTC Chair Poythress, Patricia Taylor, Troy McNeil, and Natalia Austin.

CALCOG Regional Excellence Awards: The Madera County Triage Center was selected to receive a 2026 Eureka! Award for Regional Excellence. The award was presented on March 9, 2026, at the Regional Excellence Awards Ceremony held during the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Regional Leadership Forum in Long Beach.

The Eureka! Awards recognize outstanding regional projects that demonstrate collaboration, innovation, and meaningful community impact. The Madera County Triage Center was recognized for its integrated, multi-agency approach to addressing complex community needs by providing a centralized location for behavioral health services, crisis response, housing navigation, and supportive services. Through strong partnerships, strategic use of federal funding, and an innovative modular housing approach, the County delivered a

scalable bridge- housing solution that connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent stability and supportive services.

The County coordinated closely with regional and local partners, including the Madera Rescue Mission (MRM), the Community Action Partnership of Madera County (CAPMC), and the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC). The Madera County Triage Center Project exemplifies the spirit of the Eureka! Award by demonstrating how innovation, collaboration, and regional coordination can produce meaningful results in a resource-constrained rural community.

Robert Poythress, MCTC Chair, accepted the award on behalf of Madera County and MCTC.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.