



Staff Highlights – 2026-08-18

City Council

City Manager

Recruitment for a new Finance Director is underway.

Met with Scotia CSD to discuss technical aspects of cross connections for both water and wastewater. Scotia's engineer, SHN will work with Rio Dell engineer GHD on drafting a funding agreement for their assistance on the project, which the State has requested of Scotia. There will be no cost to the City.

Multiple meetings with CalCities related to recent legislative priorities, including Term Reform and substantial liability shifts from utility caused wildfires to city and county governments.

CM will be attending a meeting with Ferndale and Fortuna to discuss potential cost sharing for a Small Business Development "neighborhood center" that would serve the Eel River Valley and be located in Fortuna. This item may come before the City Council if viable.

City Clerk

City Attorney

Human Resources, Risk & Training

Finance Department

Public Works Water

Performed Chlorine Residual Tests Weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) at City Hall and Douglas Street (Entered Data into Excel Spreadsheet)

Obtained Grab Samples for Bacteriological Testing performed by Micro Labs in Arcata [Performed Every Tuesday at various locations and three (including Monument residence and Eel River source water) on every third Tuesday of the month]

Marked/Responded to USA's on: North Pacific, Walnut, Center/Ireland, Hilltop, Walnut/Davis, Belleview, and traced Walker St. sewer laterals

Calibrated pH probes at surface water treatment plant



Started Asset Inventory and assessment list for maintenance and future budgeting

Reduced Eel River Raw water pump flow for dry weather/late summer river conditions

Repaired two main line leaks at upper Monument Rd

Measured ground water well depths and ran generator at Metro Wells

Repair water leak on Webb st.

Deactivated worn fire hydrant from service on Wildwood ave. due to underground leak

Flushed dead end line on Hilda Court through hydrant

Public Works Wastewater

Assisting Mercer-Frasier with the Painter Street Upsizing project

Continuing work with North Coast Section Wastewater board with CWEA

Continuing grease trap inspection to reduce FOG in collection system

Offering tours of waste plant to any interested party

Working on quarterly reports to the state and any other reports the state may need

Furthering water education to obtain water distribution certification

Identifying infiltration and intrusion throughout collection system

Maintenance and repairs on Wastewater treatment plant analyzers and equipment

Weekly and monthly sampling and monitoring.

Weekly and monthly treatment plant washdowns and cleaning inside tent

Maintenance on Belt Press and Biosolids Dryer

Cleaning and maintenance on Headworks equipment

Working with GHD on multiple projects

Public Works Streets, Buildings and Grounds

Annual fire extinguisher inspection, certification, and recharges performed by Eureka Oxygen for all city extinguishers.



Staged dog park equipment and marked installation area. Submitted USA for work to proceed.

Replaced damaged stop sign at Pacific/Rio Vista

Installed exhaust fan in Gallery building to help with pump controllers heat issue

Put up temporary Algae warning signs at various Eel River access points

Mowed and weed whacked all of the Parks, City Hall, and the North/South Gateways

Public Works City Engineer

Public Works Capital Projects

Police Department

Patrol Statistics:

During July 16th – August 3rd 2026, the Rio Dell Police Department handled 365 total incidents of which 191 were calls for service and 174 were proactive contacts/stops. 7 arrests were made. A total of 2 citations were issued for traffic offenses or other miscellaneous criminal violations. 21 total cases requiring investigation were taken.

Staffing:

- FULL STAFF.

Community Events / Notable Cases:

- Fundraising for the kennel kicked off including hundreds of letters sent to businesses with a license with Rio Dell. As of 8/3/26 a total of **\$7,110.50** has been donated to the project.
- **Wildwood Days** was largely attended and successful this year. Both the Chief and Corporal Landry spent time in the “Dunk Tank” supporting a good cause. Officers also participated in the Parade and Cruise and had a solid presence around events this year. No issues to note!
- Case taken involving a volunteer embezzling gasoline from the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Heussler discovered the theft, reviewed evidence discovered it going back at least a year, and was proactive in reporting it and working with PD on the matter. Investigation is ongoing with an arrest expected to be made in the near future.

CSO Total calls for service: 63

Abatement Projects:

Residential Abatement:



- 38 Active Cases
- Costs recovered for abatement at 337 Second Avenue
- Progressing towards an abatement at 289 Berkeley Street

Vehicular Abatement:

- 10 total cases
- 2 vehicles towed

Animals

- 12 animal-related calls for service
- 1 dog transported to FOPD kennels then reunited with family of the owner
- Multiple dog license notifications sent

Community Development Department**Intergovernmental****Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park**