



Staff Highlights – 2026-01-20

City Council

City Manager

Negotiations for a new solid waste franchise agreement are still ongoing. This is a collective effort with the County and cities of Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna and Rio Dell. As the negotiations continue, doubt grows as to whether the new franchise agreement will be implemented on July 1, 2026. This is not a concern to Rio Dell at this time given our franchise agreement remains in place through the year.

Staff reviewed the engineered plans for the Fern Street Lift Station and Chlorine Contact Basin. These are among the final earthquake related projects.

Parametric Earthquake Insurance coverage is expected to commence July 1, 2026.

Kudos to the Police Department for the abatement at 520 1st avenue.

City Clerk

Processed Three (3) Building Permit Applications:

285 Painter St. – Re-Roof Residence
616 Rigby Ave. – Seismic Retrofit
1175 Eeloa Ave. – Earthquake Damage Repairs

Processed Three (3) Business License Applications:

Fresh Care Lawn Care, LLC
Pro Solution Services – Handyman Service
Eco Laser Resolutions, Inc. – Industrial Cleaning

Misc:

Completed 2026 Housing Unit Survey for 2025 to Department of Finance

Submitted the December Building Permit Report to Shovels, Inc.

Submitted Employment Data Report for December to Bureau of Labor Statistics

Submitted Quarterly Building Permit Report for October-December 2025 to County Assessor



Coordinated with Long Term Recovery Group on payment of building permit fees

City Attorney

Human Resources, Risk & Training

Finance Department

- Coordinated with Caltrans regarding the status of pending transportation-related projects.
- Established the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) registration number for the contractor working on the Painter Street project.
- Reviewed draft Transportation Development Act (TDA) financial statements with Davis Farr LLP.
- Provided Harshawal & Company LLP with supporting financial documentation and completed internal control questionnaires in preparation for the FY 2024–2025 Annual Financial Audit fieldwork.
- Submitted the Quarter 2 Measure Z expenditure report to Humboldt County for public safety allocations.
- Met with HDL to review proposals and pricing for technical assistance resources aimed at improving the accuracy of sales tax apportionment to the City of Rio Dell.
- Met with Clean California Local Grant Program representatives regarding the Eel River Trail project to discuss optimal use of remaining grant funds.
- Coordinated with GHD to submit required quarterly reporting for the Eel River Crossing Pipeline Seismic Retrofit Project.
- Worked with GHD, the City's contract engineers, to gather supporting documents for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Conducted a demonstration meeting with OpenGov representatives to review software and resource options.
- Issued reminder communications to cannabis businesses regarding upcoming tax payment deadlines.
- Continued coordination with the County of Humboldt on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Income projects.
- Prepared financial materials and reviewed relevant agenda items for the upcoming City Council meeting.
- Performed routine financial monitoring including cash flow, investments, and budget-to-actual performance.



Public Works Water

Public Works Wastewater

Public Works Streets, Buildings and Grounds

Public Works City Engineer

Public Works Capital Projects

Police Department

Patrol Statistics:

During Jan. 5th – Jan. 20th 2026, the Rio Dell Police Department handled 189 incidents. This includes 82 calls for service, and 107 Officer Initiated Contacts. 6 arrests were made. A total of 3 citations were issued for traffic offenses or other miscellaneous criminal violations. 11 total cases requiring investigation were taken.

Staffing:

The Police Department is currently down one (1) sworn officer positions.

- One Police Officer Applicant in backgrounds.

Community Events / Notable Cases:

- New Taser Training preparations have been made and are set to roll out the new equipment Feb. 1st.
- Major cleanups and shut downs on both 337 2nd Ave. and 520 1st Ave. were completed thanks to the CSO's. Both were significant community issues. The Building Department/Fire Department/Code Enforcement all worked together to finally board up 520 1st Ave. for continuous non-compliance and a major hazard.

Abatement Projects:

Residential Abatement:

- Total Active Cases 22
- 1 closed case
- Abatement complete at 520 1st Avenue and 337 2nd Avenue
- Progressing towards an abatement for 185 Douglas Street

Vehicular Abatement:

- 8 Total Active Cases
- 3 vehicles towed

Animal Control:

- 11 Calls for animal related issues
- 1 dog and 9 ducks transported to Miranda's



Community Development Department

Drywall inspection 123 Bellevue Ave

Roof Inspections 341 Pacific Ave

Revisions to LWCF map and budget narrative, send email

Review and respond to HCAOG RHNA "Opportunity" methodology

Review and respond to Sweet Grass email re: expansion, CEQA document and taxes

Meet with new operator of Element 7

Meeting with Alice Millington re: Spay & Neuter Ordinance

Roof inspections 1271 Eeloa Ave

Amend DGS RFI, forward to CM for comments, revisions

Review RHIP checklist, forward to Council

Final inspection 510 Davis Street

Drywall inspection 855 Rigby Ave

Meeting with LWCF staff on needed changes to application. Complete changes and submit to LWCF.

Review Humboldt Seed Bank FIP application, request clarification

Review Delgado (Eagle Prairie Professional Building) FIP application, review Genstone products.

Meeting with HCD staff regarding possible reimbursement on housing related activities between January 2020 through December 2023.

Meeting with DGS staff regarding RFI.

Drywall inspection 859 Rigby Ave

Final Inspection Journey Church, auto-accident damage repair

Conduct Health and Safety inspection 520 First Ave w/ Code Enforcement, Fire Department and County Building Department staff.

Rough electrical and plumbing inspections 168 Ogle Ave



Review submitted plans for the Heussler fourplex, prepare Plan Check Agreement and refer, correspondence with applicant and Cleekco

Follow-up inquiry on Building Permit status 1225 Northwestern Ave

Reach out to Sweet Grass, Dinsmore Plateau Farms, Humboldt 454 and Northwestern Flower Company re: RWQCB inquiry on number of plants and grow cycles per year.

Meet w/CM and Police Chief, discuss RHIP Inspection Checklist, capacity and goals

Reach out to PlanWest for a quote on Housing element preparation.

Prepare FIP elevations for Delgado and Salstrom.

PV Solar remount inspection 615 Gunnerson Lane

Prepare staff reports/ordinances for RHIP, Billboard Amendments and 2025 Building Codes adoption for January, 2026 meeting

Respond to LED sign inquiry regarding Element 7

Review submitted plans for the Mohorovich fire rebuild on Riverside, prepare Plan Check Agreement and refer

Attend HCAOG meetings regarding RHNA numbers, alternatives.

Attend Energy Code update class/webinar

Create list of registered RHIP properties

Attend PV & ESS Code update webinar

Email to ANG Concrete re: 118 First Ave

RHIP Inspections 180 & 186 Birch Ave

Electrical inspections 955 & 965 Bluff Place

Electrical inspection 1295 Eeloa Ave

Prepare staff report for Building Codes adoption

Intergovernmental

Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park

