

Print

Measure Z Application for Funding 2026 - Submission #45188

Date Submitted: 2/26/2026

MEASURE Z APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Agency Name*

Humboldt County Drug Task Force

Mailing Address*

PO Box 5338

City*

Eureka

Zip*

95502

Contact Person*

Chelsea Lende

Title*

Crime Analyst

Phone Number*

707-267-9976

Email*

clende@co.humboldt.ca.us

Project Title*

Humboldt County Drug Task Force Operational Support

Funding Available

The estimated amount of Measure Z funding available for FY 2026-27 is \$1.65 million.

1. Amount of Measure Z Funding Requested For FY 26-27*

\$80,872.00

Agency Priority

1 - Top Priority

Agencies are encourage to submit one project per application. If your agency is submitting more than one application, please rank this application in terms of your agency's priority here.

SUMMARY OF REQUESTED EXPENSES

Item	\$ Amount	% of Total
Salaries (wages)		

Salaries Amount*

\$0

Salaries %*

0

Benefits

Benefits Amount*

\$0

Benefits %*

0

Overhead and Occupancy

(Administrative, Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)

Overhead/Occupancy Amount*

\$24,872.00

Overhead/Occupancy %*

26

Equipment/Supplies/Services

Equip./Services/Supplies Amount*

\$56,000.00

Equipment/Services/Supplies %*

74

Transportation/Travel

Transportation/Travel Amount*

0

Transportation/Travel %*

0

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets Amount*

0

Fixed Assets %*

0

TOTAL

Total Amount of Application*

\$80,872.00

TOTAL 100%

2. ENTITY TYPE*

- Humboldt County Department
- Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- Local Government Entity
- Private Service Provider
- Non-Profit Service Provider
- Other (please describe)

ENTITY TYPE

Humboldt County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force

If you selected other, please briefly describe the entity you represent.

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by Measure Z in the past? *

No

If you checked "yes" please include the following:

1. a report detailing results from the most recent year the project was funded, and:
2. a completed Staffing Report detailing when the funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received funding for this project.

These documents must be uploaded in the "Required Attachments" section of this application.

4. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.*

REQUEST:

The Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Executive Board is requesting that Measure Z provide funding related to the county expenses that are necessary to keep HCDF functioning. These county expenses are related to the County Cost Plan, Internal Services Fund, and the professional services for property/evidence processing and storage. For FY2026-2027, the cost plan and ISF charges are \$24,872.00. The Professional Services for property/evidence processing and storage are \$56,000.00 for a total request of \$80,872.00.

BACKGROUND:

The HCDF is the primary narcotic enforcement unit in the county and is comprised of personnel from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office, the Eureka Police Department, the Arcata Police Department, and the Fortuna Police Department. The HCDF was originally established in 1983 in collaboration with the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) in response to the country wide drug epidemic. With legislative changes, BNE removed themselves and in May of 2013, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the HCDF as we know it today.

The mission of the HCDF is to actively investigate the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County by focusing investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high-level drug traffickers. Recently, the HCDF has focused on Fentanyl as the deadly drug continues to fuel the overdose epidemic within our communities. The following goals and objectives were established to maximize the effectiveness of the Task Force and maintain a high level of standard and quality of the HCDF program. They include the following areas of concentration:

1. Initiate investigations involving all levels of drug dealers with the overall objective of identifying and apprehending major traffickers
2. Assist requesting agencies on specific problems within their respective jurisdictions as needed such as smaller level drug sales/problem houses upon request.
3. Provide training to participating law enforcement agencies in the area of narcotics enforcement
4. Identify current narcotic trends to aid in disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations

Operating under a memorandum of understanding signed by the HCDF governing board and approved by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the participating law enforcement agencies that comprise HCDF provide the following resources: Humboldt County Sheriff's Office provides one lieutenant, one sergeant, one sheriff's deputy, three undercover vehicles, standard complement of investigative and safety equipment, and miscellaneous administrative support. The Humboldt County DA's Office provides one investigator, one crime analyst, miscellaneous legal support, one undercover vehicle, and standard complement of investigative and safety equipment. The Fortuna, Eureka and Arcata Police Departments provide one police officer, one undercover vehicle, standard complement of investigative and safety equipment.

All the above resources are paid for by the participating agency from their respective agency's budget. HCDF pays for all operating expenses including its facilities, telephones, office supplies, equipment, specialized training, evidence processing, and Humboldt County cost plan and ISF overhead costs from a trust comprised of state and federal asset forfeiture funds. The average annual expense budget for the HCDF operating expenses is \$200,000.00. In the past, the asset forfeiture seizures have covered the operating expenses for HCDF. However, we have seen a rapid decline in asset forfeiture which causes concerns about funding into the future.

5. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of Measure Z. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services?*

The Measure Z resolution stresses the need for funding to combat hard drugs and narcotics like methamphetamine in Humboldt County, and more funds are needed to fight drug-related crimes, eliminate methamphetamine labs, and provide drug prevention and rehabilitation services.

The investigation efforts provided by HCDTF Agents are an essential service to the county and are an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community. From the year 2020 through 2025, the HCDTF has effectively removed the following narcotics from the community:

- Methamphetamine: 179.54 Pounds
- Heroin: 70.3 Pounds
- Fentanyl: 43 Pounds
- Fentanyl Pills: 21,375 Dosage Units
- Prescription Narcotics: 8,387 Dosage Units
- Cocaine: 14.92 Pounds
- MDMA: 11.76 Pounds
- Ketamine: 5.47 Pounds
- Psilocybin Mushrooms: 117.3 Pounds
- LSD: 1,460 Dosage Units
- DMT: 5.5 Pounds
- Anabolic Steroids: 519 Dosage Units

In addition, 530 weapons have been seized; 395 subjects have been arrested and over 800 search warrants have been served by HCDTF. Being the primary narcotic enforcement unit in Humboldt County, HCDTF provides an essential service in disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations as well as assisting all agencies in major crime investigations such as providing information regarding homicide suspects. HCDTF has also begun to focus on human trafficking investigations as they are often connected with the distribution and sales of narcotics.

Agents also conduct presentations at high schools throughout the county where youth are educated on the dangers of narcotics as well as human trafficking. These presentations have lasting impacts on students in Humboldt especially as the county continues to navigate the ongoing fentanyl epidemic.

6. What geographic area(s) and population(s) will be served by this project? Please indicate whether services will be provided countywide or in specific communities.*

The HCDTF investigates illegal drug activity countywide. This includes the incorporated, unincorporated and tribal lands within Humboldt County's geographical footprint. The work being done in Humboldt to reduce drug trafficking also has positive impacts to our neighboring counties. HCDTF also maintains compliance with the California Values Act (SB54).

7. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future Measure Z funds? Please provide detail of your plan for sustainability here.*

The HCDTF is actively looking for grants and other funding sources to ensure the task force continues to operate in the future. To date it has been challenging to find grants that will help with the cost of existing operations. Grants typically want to fund new programs or expansion of existing programs.

8. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?*

The request is for continuation of the HCDTF operations. The current source of funding for operational expenses is 100% from state and federal asset forfeiture funding. The participating agencies bear the cost of the agents assigned to HCDTF including the cost of their vehicles, training, and equipment. Participating agencies utilize their general fund and/or other grant funding.

9. If you are awarded Measure Z funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support? *

HCDTF through its participating agencies, will continue to pursue any grant opportunities that it may be eligible for. HCDTF has leveraged Byrne JAG grant funding to help cover the overtime costs of its agents in order to lessen the burden on the individual agencies.

10. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like. *

Not applicable.

11. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? *

Yes

If you checked yes, please detail those expenses here.

There are no personnel recurring costs.

The county cost plan and ISF allocations are on-going, current estimate is \$24,872.00 per year.

The need for professional services to process property/evidence is on-going in the amount of \$56,000 per year.

Please note, the Citizens' Advisory Committee in May, 2023, adopted a stance that it would not recommend funding for new, ongoing county positions.

12. If awarded less than the full amount requested, could the proposed project still be implemented? If yes, please identify the minimum funding amount required for the project to remain feasible and describe any changes to scope or outcomes.*

Yes, the HCDTF will continue to be fully operational for the time being. However, the goal is to seek additional funding sources now to help secure HCDTF's future longevity.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Be sure to include the following with your application.

Prior Year Results

If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Upload Prior Year Results Attachment

No file chosen

Program Budget

[Download the budget narrative](#), then upload using the button at right.

Upload Program Budget Attachment*

MZ Budget Application for DTF.xlsx

Staffing Report

If your request was previously funded, please [download and complete the staffing report](#), then upload it using the option provided here.

Upload Staffing Report Attachment

No file chosen

Letters of Support

If you have letters of support from members of the community you can upload them here.

Upload Letters of Support

Letters of Support_HCDTF.pdf

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct.

Date*

2/26/2026

08:45 AM

Signature*

Chelsea Marie Gray Lende

Type Approving Official's Name

Measure Z Agenda Notifications

[Sign up on our website](#) to be notified when Measure Z agendas are posted. The applications are discussed in open session and it is often valuable for applicants to attend in person or virtually to address the committee.

Exhibit E - Proposed Budget

Agency Name: Humboldt County Drug Task Force	Address: 826 4th
Coordinator/Contact: Chelsea Lende	Phone: 707-267-

Descriptions	Requested Budget	Current Quarter Costs	Total of Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance
A. Personnel Costs				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
Title:				
Salary (separate from benefits cost)				0.00
Benefits				0.00
Duties Description:				
<i>Salaries Subtotal</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Benefits Subtotal</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personnel:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Overhead and Occupancy Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, Administrative etc.)				
Title: Insurance				
Description: County of Humboldt general liability and property insurance.	3,957.00			
Title: Information Technology Charges				
Description: County of Humboldt ISF allocation for IT services.	9,014.00			
Title: Central Services Charges				
Description: County of Humboldt cost plan allocation	5,702.00			
Title: Communications/Utility Charges				
Description: County of Humboldt ISF allocation for communication/utility services	79.00			
Title: Purchasing & Disposition Charges				
Description: County of Humboldt ISF allocation for purchasing services.	6,120.00			
Total Overhead and Occupancy Costs:	24,872.00	0	0	24872
C. Equipment/Supplies/Services (Equipment, Supplies and Services should be separate)				
Title: Equipment				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
<i>Equipment Subtotal:</i>	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Supplies				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
<i>Supplies Subtotal:</i>	0.00	0	0	0
Title: Services/Other Operational Costs				
Description: Professional services for processing and storage of property/evidence.	56,000.00			
Title:				
Description:				
<i>Services/Other Subtotal:</i>	56,000.00	0	0	56000
Total Equipment/Supplies/Services:	56,000.00	0	0	56000
D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)				
Title: Local Travel				
Description: Describe local travel and connection to your project				
Title: Out of County Travel				
Description: Describe out of county travel and connection to your project				
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	0.00	0	0	0
E. Fixed Assets (According to your agency's definition of a fixed asset)				
Title:				
Description:				
Title:				
Description:				
Total Fixed Asset Costs:	0	0	0	0
Totals	80,872.00	0.00	0.00	80,872.00

Exhibit E - Proposed Budget

Agency Name: Humboldt County Drug Task Force	Address: 826 4th
Coordinator/Contact: Chelsea Lende	Phone: 707-267

Descriptions	Requested Budget	Current Quarter Costs	Total of Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance
	Requested Budget	Current Quarter Costs	Prior Quarter Costs	Remaining Balance



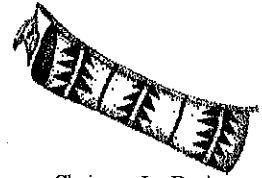
HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COUNCIL

Hoopa Valley Tribe

Post Office Box 1348 Hoopa, California 95546

PH (530) 625-4211 • FX (530) 625-4594

www.hoopa-nsn.gov



Chairman Joe Davis

Measure Z Fund Committee
Humboldt County Drug Task Force Application
Letter of Support

January 29, 2026

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDTF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDTF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDTF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDTF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating throughout the county.

Like the Hoopa Ambulance proposal HCDTF provides an essential service that saves lives. The narcotics enforcement has greatly helped our rural community take dangerous drugs, weapons and criminals out of our Valley and sends a positive message to our local youth. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver to many of our violent crimes. Investigative efforts provided by HCDTF Agents is an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Joe Davis, Chairman
Hoopa Valley Tribe

February 5, 2026

Measure Z Fund Committee
Humboldt County Drug Task Force Application
Letter of Support

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating throughout the county.

HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and also provides assistance to requesting agencies on specific problems throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver to many other violent crimes. Investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents is an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly, at 707.599.2053 or msslattery@eurekaca.gov.

Thank you,



Miles Slattery
City Manager
msslattery@eurekaca.gov

Measure Z Fund Committee
Humboldt County Drug Task Force Application
Letter of Support

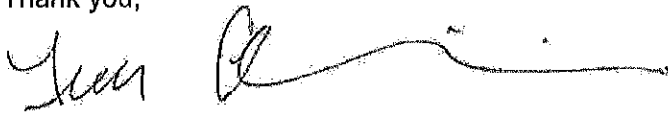
February 24, 2026

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating throughout the county. HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and also provides assistance to requesting agencies on specific problems throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver to many other violent crimes. Investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents is an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community. The Humboldt County Drug Force has visited and educated my Health Class here at Ferndale High School and have been a very important part of my curriculum. Without them, there would be very little and limited resources for my students to understand the problems of this county when it comes to drugs, distribution and human trafficking.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Christiansen", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Trevor Christiansen
Ferndale High School Teacher
Health Coach

2866 Jacoby Creek Road,
Bayside,
CA 95524
February 19, 2026

Re: Measure Z: 2026 – 2027 Funds

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support continued funding, garnered from the 2014 voter approved Measure Z Public Safety/Essential Services Initiative, towards the salary of Humboldt County's Drug Task Force (HCDTF) and Problem Oriented Policing (POP) team's Evidence Technician. As a Humboldt County resident, I'm concerned this essential cost depends upon 'soft' money. Daily I read stories about arrests, prosecutions, and ongoing investigations into drug dealing and the interrelated 'ills' such as human trafficking and exploitation. Tragically their interconnectedness cannot be underestimated, nor their contribution to human misery!

As a Juror in Humboldt County, I observed expert law enforcement investigations and testimony culminate in a successful prosecution and denial of subsequent appeals by the defendant. Nothing could bring back the victim, nor restore him to his family and young children, however one merciless dealer was removed from the streets.

Since 2012 I've supervised Community Service Workers (CSWs) in the Jacoby Creek School Garden, some of whom were convicted due to investigations led by HCDTF. It's important their charges are based upon sound police work and evidence. I look at this from multiple viewpoints because I listen to the CSWs, ensure they are supported, and complete their community service program successfully.

Justice is founded upon adherence to the principles and practice of all elements of the legal process, including preservation and analysis of evidence.

I was raised in a small town in England untouched by 'hard' drugs and related violence, for which I am grateful. In 1993, my first teaching position in the USA was in southeast San Diego, a community savaged by crack cocaine and gang violence. I've never forgotten teenagers already without one or both parents, dead or imprisoned due to various aspects of the drug trade. Then there was my student exploited by his uncle as a drug mule crossing from Tijuana to San Ysidro. Locally based task force officers understand their community and deserve our support, which includes uninterrupted funding for essential personnel.

Locally, our Bayside community remains indebted to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, HCDF, and the Explosive Ordinance Device Team for their stellar work resulting in Ryan Doucet's conviction (14 years in State prison) for drug distribution and manufacture of explosives at 255 Garden Lane. Doucet's child was rescued from abhorrent conditions, placed into protective custody, enrolled in school for the first time in his life, and is currently thriving. The bigger picture is perhaps one element of the HCDF and POP team successes about which we don't hear enough.

There have been too many recent losses due to the Fentanyl crisis, especially amongst our youth. We need more resources, including aggressive education programs in schools – like those in San Diego – and enforcement of existing laws, to protect our vulnerable and easily influenced youth. Please guarantee Measure Z funding for this staff position.

Yours truly,

Sue Moore

Measure Z Advisory Committee, 2/16/26

As a next-door neighbor to 2400 Golf Course Rd, thinking back to 2019 brings back memories of fear and concern. What started as a animal control issue with large dogs terrorizing the neighborhood quickly evolved into traffic at all hours of the day/ night with young women screaming, threatening words between men and ambulances for drug overdoses. We all invested in alarm systems and feared for our families safety.

Once Neighborhood Watch was contacted and quick and frequent responses from the Drug Task Force, Code Enforcement and Sheriff's Office, the property was eventually turned over to a receivership company.

We can't thank the County agencies and especially the Drug Task Force enough as without consistent response we would most likely be still living in that state of terror.

When setting priorities, I hope you agree that being able to deal with such situations should be high on the list.

Respectfully,

Michael and Sara Griffin

2388 Golf Course Rd, Bayside

February 5, 2026

Measure Z Fund Committee
Humboldt County Drug Task Force Application
Letter of Support

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating throughout the county.

HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and also provides assistance to requesting agencies on specific problems throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver to many other violent crimes. Investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents is an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Kim Bergel
Mayor, City of Eureka

February 17, 2026

Dear Measure Z Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Drug Task Force and POP (Problem Oriented Policing) Team's application for Measure Z funding.

Over the past several years, the landscape of drug enforcement and community safety in Humboldt County has changed dramatically. With the legalization of cannabis, asset forfeiture revenues that once helped sustain critical operations have significantly declined. At the same time, the presence of dangerous drugs, illegal weapons, and unmanaged encampments has increased. The revenue recovered from these operations no longer comes close to covering the cost of the work required to keep our communities safe.

I have personally seen the impact of this work in my own neighborhood in 2024. When encampments developed in the dunes and forest near my home in Manila, the POP Team worked directly with neighbors and engaged with the community through Manila Community Services District board meetings. They approached campers respectfully and professionally, balancing compassion with public safety. They returned to follow up and have continued monitoring the situation, which has helped prevent the encampments from re-establishing. Their presence brought order, accountability, and communication during a difficult and tense time. That kind of thoughtful, community-centered response does not happen without dedicated personnel and stable funding.

The request for \$20,000 to maintain their current facility is entirely reasonable and necessary. Given the sensitive and high-risk nature of their work, operating from a secure, confidential location is essential for both officer safety and operational integrity.

Likewise, the request for \$45,000 to support the evidence clerk position is critical. Proper evidence handling is foundational to successful prosecutions and maintaining the integrity of cases. With asset forfeiture revenues no longer sufficient to cover this role, Measure Z funding would ensure that this essential function continues without diverting already limited operational resources.

The Drug Task Force and POP Team are performing difficult, complex, and increasingly demanding work under tighter financial constraints. Measure Z funding would provide the stability necessary for them to continue protecting our neighborhoods while working collaboratively and respectfully within the community.

I respectfully urge the Committee to approve their application. Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to public safety in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Kamila Larripa

February 23, 2026

Measure Z Citizen's Advisory Committee
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Letter of Support for the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Application

Dear Measure Z Committee Members,

As the Chief of Police for the City of Fortuna, I am writing to express my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. As an active participating agency, the Fortuna Police Department relies on the HCDF to dismantle the complex drug trafficking organizations that drive violent crime and social instability across our region. This funding is essential for the HCDF to maintain its operational capacity, covering the critical overhead and evidence processing costs required to investigate and prosecute mid- to high-level traffickers who operate beyond the resources of a single municipal agency.

The work of the Task Force is an integral component of our broader public safety strategy. While our local department focuses on community-level impact, the HCDF serves as a regional shield. By targeting the supply of illicit narcotics at the source, they directly support the mission to keep these substances out of our schools and neighborhoods, ensuring a healthier environment for our most vulnerable residents.

I strongly urge the Committee to approve this application to ensure the HCDF remains a thriving and effective partner in Humboldt County. Their specialized investigative efforts are vital to the safety of Fortuna and the entire county. Should you have any specific questions regarding our partnership with the Task Force, please feel free to contact me directly.

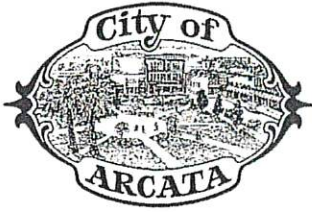
Respectfully,



Matthew Eberhardt
Chief of Police
Fortuna Police Department
2600 Newburg Road
Fortuna CA, 95540
(707)725-1441
meberhardt@ci.fortuna.ca.us

(707) 725-7550 (707)725-7574 (Fax) 2600 Newburg Rd. - Fortuna, California 95540 www.FriendlyFortuna.com

"Working Together, We can make a Difference"



736 F Street
Arcata CA 95521

City Manager
707-822-5953

Environmental Services
707-822-8184

Police
707-822-2428

Recreation
707-822-7091

Community Development
707-822-5955

Finance
707-822-5951

Engineering
707-825-2128

Transportation
707-822-3775

February 23, 2026

Measure Z Fund Committee
Humboldt County Drug Task Force Application
Letter of Support

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee,

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, the HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operation and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating through the county.

HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and provided assistance to requesting agencies on specific problems throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver to many other violent crimes. Investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents is an integral part in maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

Merritt Perry
City Manager
citymgr@cityofarcata.org



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WILLIAM F. HONSAL, SHERIFF/CORONER

MAIN STATION

CIVIL/COURTS
(707) 445-7335

826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

CUSTODY SERVICES
(707) 441-5159

February 4, 2026

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to express my full support for the Humboldt County Drug Task Force and its Measure Z Fund application.

The Humboldt County Drug Task Force provides a critical public safety service to our county through focused narcotics investigations and enforcement. If awarded, these funds will be used to help cover county overhead charges and evidence processing and safekeeping services, which are essential to keeping the task force operational and effective. This funding will directly support the Drug Task Force's ability to continue investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs in Humboldt County, with a focus on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level traffickers operating throughout our communities.

The work of the Drug Task Force has a direct impact on community safety and quality of life. Illegal drug sales and distribution contribute to violence, property crime, addiction, and ongoing harm to individuals and families throughout Humboldt County. The Drug Task Force also provides valuable support to local law enforcement agencies when they are dealing with specific narcotics related problems in their jurisdictions. Their investigative work is an important part of our broader countywide effort to protect the public, hold offenders accountable, and maintain safe and healthy communities.

As Undersheriff of Humboldt County, I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application and respectfully ask for your support to help ensure this important team remains operational.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Braud".

Justin Braud
Undersheriff

MCKINLEYVILLE STATION
(707) 839-6600

GARBerville STATION
(707) 923-2761

CORONER'S OFFICE
(707) 445-7242

ANIMAL CONTROL
(707) 840-9132

TRINITY RIVER STATION
(530) 629-1025



Arcata Police Department

736 F Street, Arcata, California 95521-6211
Telephone 707-822-2428 Fax 707-822-7936

February 24, 2026

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses their investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid to high level drug traffickers operating throughout the county.

In addition to my current role as Chief of Police, I previously served as a member of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force. Through that assignment, I gained firsthand experience with the scope and complexity of regional narcotics investigations and the level of coordination required among partner agencies. Many of these cases involve long-term investigative work that extends across jurisdictions and requires resources and continuity that no single agency could sustain alone. From my perspective as both a former Task Force member and a police chief responsible for community safety, the HCDF represents a critical regional partnership that strengthens our collective ability to address the evolving drug challenges facing Humboldt County.

HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and also provides assistance to requesting agencies on specific problems throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impacts all citizens and is a key driver of many other violent crimes. The investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents are an integral part of maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization stays operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Chris Ortega
Chief of Police
Arcata Police Department

February 19, 2026

Attn: Measure Z Advisory Committee

My residence is located at 350 Arrow Lane in Bayside. A while ago our entire area was being terrorized by Emiliano Carriedo Ruiz. I was out of town on a hunting trip when he walked around the cameras at my gate and to the back of my home. My wife and son were home and my wife and son started yelling at him, along with my dog barking. He walked up the back of my property to my neighbors home, which is in the Baywood Heights gated community. They have Ring cameras and so do I. We notified them immediately and they were able to see him looking around their property. He is a known drug addict and had no response when my family yelled at him. He appeared to be high on something and was just looking for an easy target.

He lived on Garden Lane in Bayside and was seen on many peoples property in the Bayside area. He also went through the woods up to Fickle Hill and pepper sprayed someone in their barn when he was looking for another target. There was also a SWAT team out when he abused a woman. One person had hundreds of law abiding citizens scared. With the help of POP, eventually he was rearrested and incarcerated.

It is SO important to fund POP to help keep a civilized society. I cannot think of a better use of funds where you get immediate results.

Sincerely,

Paul Nicholson
707=496-3590
911.guypjn@gmail.com

February 17, 2026

Dear Humboldt County Measure Z Fund Committee:

I am writing to demonstrate my full endorsement of the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) Measure Z Fund Application. If awarded, HCDF intends to utilize the funds to pay county overhead charges and evidence processing and safe-keeping services. These funds will ensure the HCDF stays operational and can fulfill their mission of investigating the sales, manufacturing, and distribution of illicit drugs within Humboldt County. HCDF focuses its investigative efforts on complex drug trafficking organizations and mid- to high-level drug traffickers operating throughout the county.

In addition to my current role, I previously served as a Special Agent with the HCDF for over four years. During that time, I personally participated in and helped carry out operations targeting drug trafficking networks in our community. I witnessed firsthand the professionalism, collaboration, and impact of the Task Force's work. The investigations we conducted directly disrupted the flow of dangerous narcotics, dismantled trafficking organizations, and contributed to making Humboldt County a safer place to live and work.

HCDF provides an essential service through narcotics enforcement and also assists requesting agencies with specific issues throughout their respective jurisdictions. The sales and distribution of narcotics in Humboldt County impact all citizens and are key drivers of many other violent crimes. The investigative efforts provided by HCDF Agents are integral to maintaining a healthy and thriving community.

Based on both my professional experience and my firsthand service as a Special Agent with HCDF, I strongly endorse the Humboldt County Drug Task Force's Measure Z Fund application to ensure the organization remains operational. Should you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,



Brian Stephens

Chief of Police, Eureka Police Department

Greetings County of Humboldt

As a 30year plus resident of Mckinleyville I want to recognize and thank the Sheriffs department for the support and assistance in maintaining safety in our community. Our family has personally witnessed the efforts in keeping drugs under control. We currently live just 2 doors away from the Mckinleyville drug house at 1563 Murray Road. The numerous times we called asking for their response to activities including visible drug transactions, frightening behavior of under the influence scary people, vicious dogs in our yards, abandoned trashed vehicles blocking access to our home, are no doubt on record, but we ALWAYS received personal visits or close to immediate response. Thank you.

We are 3 generations of real, regular citizens. Our children and our children's children depend on you. We span decades (1 year old to 80 years old). We support all efforts to provide for and protect our Sheriffs.

These front line first responders need and deserve their own protection and safety. Please consider supporting our local Sheriff's Drug Task Force in every possible manner.

Thank you for your service

Garnette Gilgore