



City of Sebastopol

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: May 5, 2026**

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To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Interim City Manager Mary Gourley
Department: City Administration
Subject: Direction to the Mayor, or their alternate, to support appointment to be made by the Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association’s City Selection Committee at its May 14th 2026 meeting for the One Upcoming Vacancy on the Airport Land Use Commission.

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RECOMMENDATION:
 That the City Council provide direction to the Mayor, or their alternate, to support the appointment to be made by the Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association City Selection Committee at its May 14, 2026 meeting for one upcoming vacancy on the Airport Land Use Commission.

- PROCESS OF AGENDA ITEM:**
- If the item remains on the Consent Calendar, no presentation is required and the item will be approved as part of the Consent Calendar.
 - If the item is removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be heard as a regular agenda item and will proceed as follows:
 - a. Presentation by staff
 - b. Council questions and discussion
 - c. Public comment
 - d. Council deliberation and action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
 The Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association represents all cities within Sonoma County and serves as a collaborative body to address regional issues, make appointments, and advocate on behalf of cities.

On May 14, 2026, the Association’s City Selection Committee will consider an appointment to fill one vacancy on the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC).

The Sebastopol City Council has previously designated its voting delegate and alternates for 2026 meetings of the Association. The Mayor, or their authorized alternate(s), will represent the City in voting on this appointment.

- One letter of interest was received by the deadline for the ALUC vacancy:
- Ariel Kelley, Councilmember, City of Healdsburg

BACKGROUND:
 The Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association includes representatives from each city in the county, typically the Mayor or a designated Councilmember. The Association’s responsibilities include:

- Reviewing regional policy issues
- Making appointments to regional boards and commissions
- Advocating for city interests at the county and state levels



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The City Selection Committee is responsible for filling vacancies on various regional bodies when terms expire or positions become vacant.

DISCUSSION:

The Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association meets bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, and October). At its May 14, 2026 meeting, the City Selection Committee will consider filling the following vacancy:

- Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)
 - One seat
 - Four-year term (expiring May 2030)
 - Vacancy due to expiration of the term held by Todd Lands (Cloverdale)

The Association solicited letters of interest for this position. One timely submission was received:
[Ariel Kelley, Councilmember, City of Healdsburg](#)

STAFF ANALYSIS:

There is no further staff analysis associated with this item. Staff recommends that the City Council direct its voting delegate to support the appointment of Ariel Kelley to the Airport Land Use Commission.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS/PRIORITIES AND GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

This agenda item represents the City Council goals/priorities as follows:

Goal 4: HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

Restoring public trust

Improve Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with providing direction to the Voting Delegate.

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council provide direction to the Mayor, or their alternate, to support the appointment of Ariel Kelley to be made by the Sonoma County Mayors’ and Councilmembers’ Association City Selection Committee at its May 14, 2026 meeting for one upcoming vacancy on the Airport Land Use Commission. It is also recommended that if late nominations are received, that the City Council directs the Mayor or Designated Voting Representative to have authority as follows:

1. Have the authority to vote on these late nominations or recommendations at the City Selection Committee and Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Board of Directors Association Meetings;
2. Abstain from Vote;



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3. Direct that late nominations be returned to all Cities for review and recommendation to voting designate/alternates.

OPTIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter of Interest – Ariel Kelley



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RE: Appointment to the Airport Land Use Commission

ar Honorab Mayors and ouncil Memb rs

As I continue mys cond t r month H a dsburg ity ouncil r sp ctfu yr qu st your support for my appointment to th Airport Land Us ommission as th Sonoma ounty Mayors' and ouncil m mb rs' appoint .

Sinc joining th ouncil in 2 2 I hav had th privi g of s rving H a dsburg whi a so contributing to a numb r of oca and r giona boards and commissions inc uding th Sonoma ounty Transportation and imat Authority th North rn Sonoma ounty Air Po ution ontro istrict Board of ir ctors SMART and th a ifornia oasta ommission.

Pr viously as th Sonoma ounty P anning ommission r r pr s nting istrict 4 from 2 17 to 2 2 I pay d a k yro ind v oping th Airport Ar a P an that guid s us today. Through that work I gain d a strong und rstanding that airport and us issu s xt nd w b yond aviation—th y inf u nc transportation syst ms housing patt rns and conomic d v opment across th r gion.

My s rvic on th Sonoma-Marin Ar a Rai Transit (SMART) ommission and th Sonoma ounty Transportation and imat Authoriti s has furth r str ngth n d my abi ity to approach th s issu s through a compr h nsiv transportation and conn ctivity ns nsuring a ignment b tw n airport p anning and broad r r giona mobi ity goa s.

In addition as an attorn y sp cia izing in and us aw and nvironmenta po icy I bring xt nsiv xp ri nc with EQA comp x funding mechanisms and r a stat agr ments. This background quips m to support oca jurisdictions in achi ving compatib and sustainab and us p anning in ar as surrounding airports.

Finally, in a letter from Northern Sonoma County officials, given the unique impact on our community and the local economy and agriculture. I would be honored to bring both my regional and local officials to the Sonoma County Land Use Commission.

Thank you for your consideration, and I appreciate fully your support.

Sincerely,



Sincerely,
Halden City Council member