



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

Office of Emergency Services

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2022 - 2023 Winter Storms Recovery Update (Cont.):

On February 1, 2023, Mendocino County was added to the Major Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4683-CA for both the Individual and Public Assistance programs. PRRM staff worked very closely with State and Federal partners to plan, establish, and manage the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) established in Point Arena and Willits. Impacted residents were able to register for disaster assistance at the DRCs from February 11th through March 12th. A total of 320 residents of Mendocino County registered with FEMA and 123 of those registered residents were ultimately approved for \$592,773.30 of direct disaster assistance. A second series of severe storms that began mid-February and continued into March 2023, brought unseasonably low elevation snow that primarily impacted the northern areas of Mendocino County. The snowstorms caused widespread damage and led to numerous recurring road closures, power outages, and phone/internet service loss for weeks in rural areas. Many high-elevation residents were snowed in for weeks and had minimal ability to communicate with the outside world. PRRM, FEMA, CalOES, and the SBA completed a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) on April 6-7, 2023, that recorded 3 destroyed homes, 12 majorly damaged homes, and 15 minor damage and disaster-affected homes in the rural areas of north county. The PDA was hampered by access issues caused by significant residual snow, locked gates, road failures, downed trees, and other obstructions. Despite recording nearly identical damage levels as the December-January storm disaster, FEMA did not approve Mendocino County for the Individual Assistance program through the Major Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4699-CA. PRRM continued to advocate for impacted Mendocino County residents, ultimately appealing to United States Congressman Jared Huffman for help in addressing serious equity concerns regarding the FEMA declaration process. Mendocino County was subsequently approved for the Individual Assistance Program and added to the Major Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4699-CA on May 4, 2023. PRRM staff then worked closely with State and Federal Partners to establish a Disaster Recovery Center in Willits and Mobile registration Intake centers in Laytonville, Leggett, Piercy, and Whale Gulch. Registration for DR-4699-CA is ongoing until July 20, 2023. As of June 27, 2023, a total of 366 residents of Mendocino County had registered with FEMA and 161 of those registered residents have been approved for \$1,432,845.80 of direct disaster assistance.