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Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division

November 2026 CEO Report

Introduction

The Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division continues to advance wildfire mitigation, evacuation planning, and disaster preparedness initiatives across Mendocino County. Current efforts focus on moving major grant-funded projects into implementation phases, completing environmental and engineering work, and coordinating with state and federal partners to ensure continued funding for resilience projects.



Federal Update: FEMA Review Council

In May 2026, the FEMA Review Council concluded its work reviewing FEMA's operations, programs, and organizational structure and submitted its final report to the President. The report recommended greater emphasis on state, tribal, and local responsibility for disaster preparedness and response, as well as reforms to FEMA's grant, staffing, and disaster assistance

programs. The recommendations do not officially change federal policy, but they may influence future legislative and administrative actions affecting disaster funding, emergency management programs, and resilience initiatives that are important to Mendocino County.

Project Updates

Redwood Valley Sirens Project – Phase II

Project Description

Funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), this project evaluates the feasibility of installing early warning sirens in the Redwood Valley–Calpella Fire District.

Project Update

FEMA approved Phase II of the project on October 20, 2026, authorizing $128,026 in total project costs, including $96,019.50 in federal funding. Phase II will include installation of four outdoor warning sirens and a public education and outreach program. The project is now moving toward implementation, with a FEMA-approved completion deadline of September 3, 2028.

Wildfire Community Resilience Project (BRIC)

Project Description

Funded through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, this project includes home retrofits, defensible space improvements, and fuels reduction efforts across the Brooktrails/Sherwood Road Corridor.

Project Update

County staff continue to coordinate with Cal OES to monitor developments related to the federal Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Following litigation that resulted in a federal court determining that FEMA's termination of the program was unlawful, FEMA has continued efforts to restore the previously awarded BRIC projects. County staff continue to monitor FEMA and Cal OES guidance regarding the timing and process for moving the project forward.

Phase I implementation is progressing. Towill completed LiDAR data acquisition for the project area on June 4, 2026, capturing leaf-on conditions to support accurate data collection. The completed LiDAR data will inform Phase II activities, including structure hardening, fuels reduction planning, and optimization of evacuation route clearing. County staff met with Towill on September 24, 2026, to review the completed LiDAR data and finalize the Phase I work.

Owl Check continues to provide project management services, supporting coordination of project implementation, environmental compliance, landowner outreach, procurement, and preparation

for Phase II activities. Environmental Resource Solutions (ERS) has been onboarded to provide environmental compliance and related technical services following approval of its agreement. An initial project kickoff meeting with ERS, Owl Check, and County staff was held on October 21, 2026, followed by a project check-in meeting on October 28 to advance implementation.

Owl Check is also working with County staff to organize a series of public meetings to share project information and engage residents. Meeting announcements will be distributed through social media and a press release in November. In addition, Owl Check has established a local project office at 1702 S. Main Street in Willits, where residents can obtain project information. The office is staffed seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with appointments available outside those hours upon request.

Fuel Abatement Ordinance and Enforcement Planning

Project Description

Funded by CDBG Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS), this project will modernize the County's fuel abatement ordinance and improve enforcement strategies.

Project Update

County staff have continued coordinating with Synergy Disaster Recovery and its project partner, Wildfire Planning International LLC, on the modernization of the County's fuel abatement ordinance and associated enforcement strategies. Synergy submitted an updated proposal in April 2026, which was subsequently reviewed by County staff.

The project has progressed to the contracting and implementation stage. The Board of Supervisors approved the agreement on October 6, 2026. Following approval, County staff held a kickoff meeting with the project team on October 21, 2026, to initiate the work and establish the schedule and approach for updating and modernizing the County's fuel abatement ordinance and enforcement strategies.

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

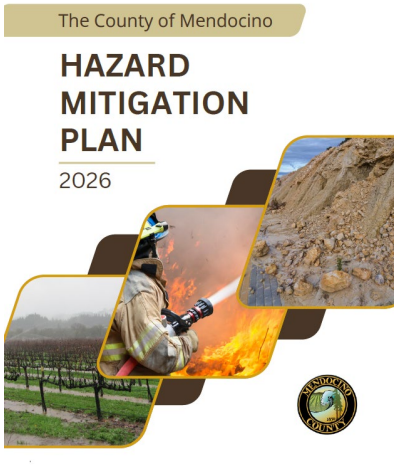
Project Description

This update to the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes risk assessments and mitigation strategies for the County and partner jurisdictions.

Project Update

County staff and planning partners completed the required review and revisions to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Following submission to Cal OES for state-level review, the County received comments on June 5, 2026. The plan was revised to address those comments and subsequently submitted to FEMA for final review.

FEMA determined that the 2026 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was Approvable Pending Adoption. On September 1, 2026, the Board of Supervisors formally adopted the plan. FEMA subsequently granted final approval on October 19, 2026.



All four participating cities have now formally adopted the plan: the City of Ukiah on September 2, the City of Fort Bragg on September 14, the City of Willits on September 23, and the City of Point Arena on October 20, 2026. The Mendocino County Office of Education also approved the plan on September 29, 2026. County staff are now coordinating with the Redwood Coast Fire Protection District, Covelo Fire Protection District, and Noyo Harbor District to support their remaining adoption processes and advance implementation of the mitigation strategies identified in the plan.

Generators Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA HMGP, this project will install backup generators at critical County facilities.

Project Update

Environmental review and CEQA documentation for generator installations at the Emergency Operations Center and County Administrative Building have been completed. Staff are working on closing out Phase I.

Orr Springs Fuels Reduction Planning

Project Description

This FEMA HMGP-funded project focuses on hazardous fuels reduction planning along Orr Springs Road and Comptche-Ukiah Road to improve emergency access during wildfire events.

Project Update

The County is awaiting FEMA approval of Phase I closeout documentation before moving forward with Phase II implementation. In March 2026, FEMA requested additional project information from the County. County staff worked with the contractor, Environmental Resource Solutions, to prepare and submit the requested information to FEMA on April 17, 2026. The County is now awaiting FEMA review and feedback on the response to the Request for Information (RFI).

Flood Emergency Response Project

Project Description

Funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), this project will develop the County's first comprehensive flood response plan and establish strategically located flood response supply caches to enhance preparedness, improve emergency response times, and support local first responders.

Project Update

The County, in coordination with Hagerty Consulting, initiated collaborative planning efforts with a core team meeting on March 31, 2026. A second stakeholder planning meeting was held on May 8, 2026, to review flood event history and support hazard identification efforts. County staff and Hagerty Consulting continued developing the draft plan, with a third stakeholder meeting held on October 26, 2026, to further develop evacuation planning strategies and gather feedback from participating stakeholders. The feedback will help inform continued development of the plan.

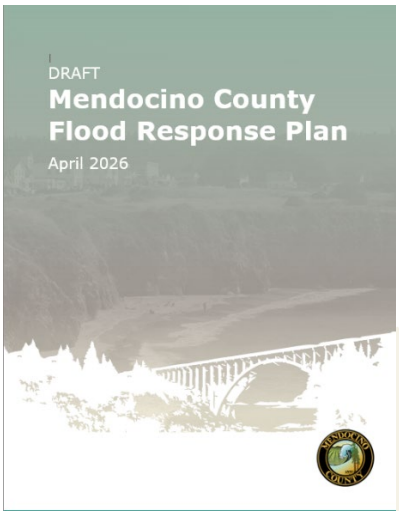
County staff have also conducted site visits with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority on April 17, 2026, Hopland Fire Protection District on May 13, 2026, and Redwood Coast Fire Protection District on May 22, 2026, to assess potential locations for flood response supply caches and identify appropriate materials for deployment. The County continues to coordinate with local fire departments and Operational Area partners to refine cache locations and contents. As part of these efforts, County staff met with Public Health staff on October 29, 2026, to evaluate trailers owned by the department that may be made available for use as flood response supply caches.





PRRM and OES staff are also coordinating with County IT and the Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service (MACS) to identify communications equipment needs that can support operational coordination during flood and other disaster events.

The plan will be tested through a countywide exercise in 2027 to ensure procedures are practical, coordinated, and effective. This project supports the County's Strategic Plan goal of a prepared and resilient county by strengthening emergency preparedness, response coordination, and flood resilience throughout Mendocino County.



Project Activities

Task	Estimated Completion
Planning Meeting 1: Stakeholder Kickoff & Strategy	Completed
Planning Meeting 2: Flood Event History & Hazard Identification	May 2026
Planning Meeting 3: Evacuation Planning & Emergency Resources	October 2026
Planning Meeting 4: Mitigation Measures	January 2027
Mendocino County Flood Response Plan Tabletop Exercise	March 2027
Planning Meeting 5: Presentation of Draft MCFRP	April 2027