



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

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Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division October 2025 CEO Report

Introduction

During September and October 2025, the Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) team made significant progress across a range of projects designed to enhance Mendocino County's disaster preparedness and resilience. These projects are funded through various grants aimed at enhancing community resilience and disaster preparedness. Specific funding sources include FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), CAL FIRE grants, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and Community Development Block Grant Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS) funds. Staff also finalized proposals, issued and reviewed RFPs, and prepared contracts for Board approval. Despite ongoing challenges such as federal funding uncertainties and project delays, the team remains on track to meet critical upcoming milestones through late 2025 and into 2026.

Redwood Valley Sirens Project Phase I

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This project conducted a feasibility study for the installation of four (4) early warning sirens in the Redwood Valley-Capella Fire District.

Project Update

Phase I deliverables were submitted to CalOES in November 2024. The project is currently awaiting FEMA approval before Phase II (construction) can commence.

Mendocino County Fuels Reduction and Community Preparedness Project

Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, this multi-faceted project implements roadside fuels reduction in key locations in the Covelo and Laytonville areas, complete CEQA analysis for five future fuels reduction projects to streamline and accelerate future implementation activities, fund the existing Mendocino County Community Chipper Days program for an additional three years, and develop a preliminary design for an emergency evacuation route serving three single-access subdivisions east of Ukiah in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Project Update

As of September 2025, roadside fuels reduction is complete in Covelo and Laytonville, with the project remaining under budget. Some planned fuel reduction in Covelo was not possible due to site constraints and landowner restrictions. The County worked with CAL FIRE to submit and gain approval for grant amendments that allowed for the redirection of funds to support the creation and ongoing operations of the Covelo Prescribed Burn Association (PBA), including a successful prescribed burn at the Covelo Airport on May 30, 2025, and to expand fuels reduction work to the Greater Ukiah area, specifically along Low Gap Road and in the Black Bart Trail area.

Funding currently set aside for the Mendocino County Community Chipper Days program exceeds what the program can realistically expend before the end of the grant period. As a result, additional and expanded roadside fuels reduction work will be performed to maximize use of the available funds. The County is working with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to amend the existing contract to reflect the changes in scope that have occurred since the project was originally planned.

East Hills Evacuation Planning

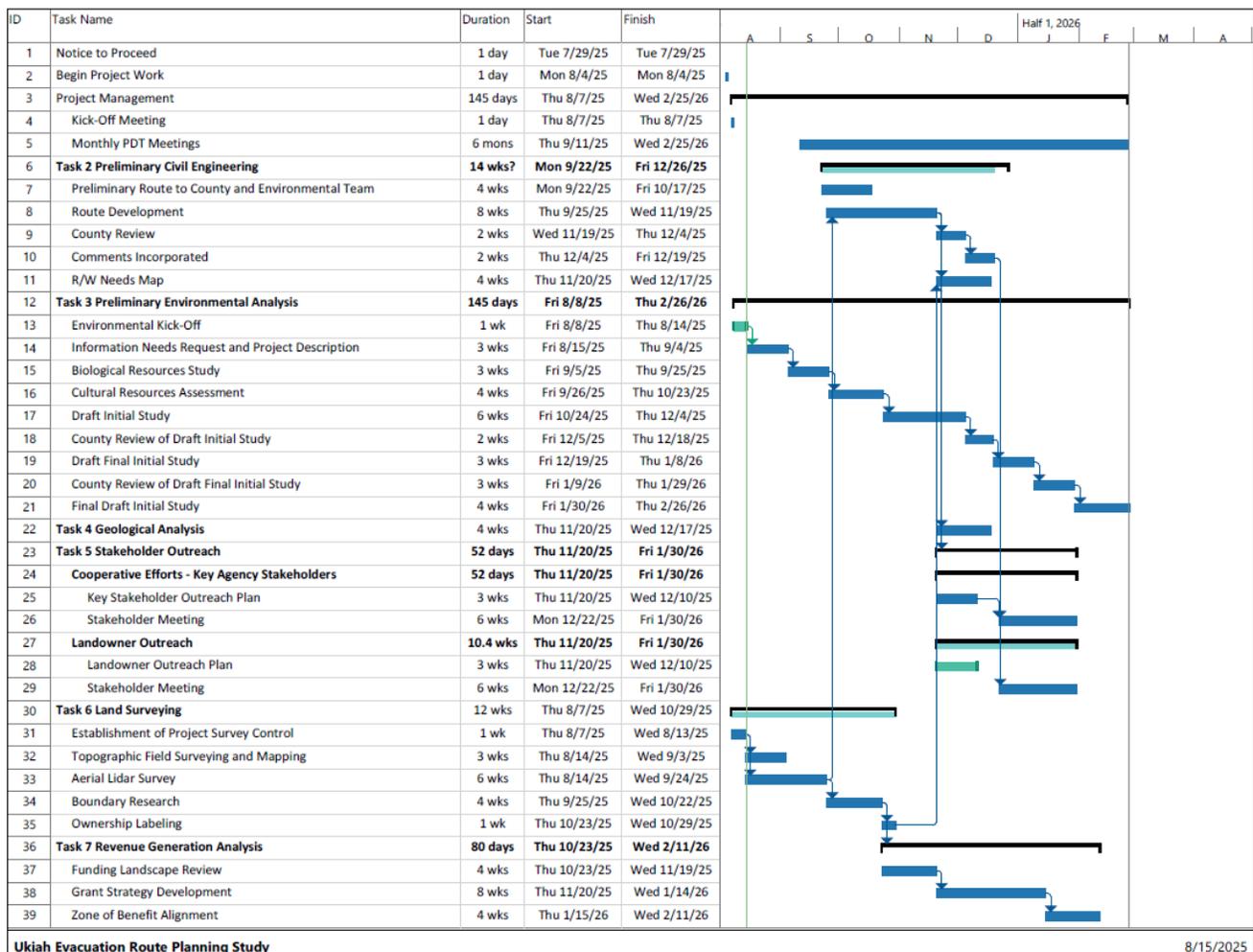
Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, the project will develop a preliminary design for an emergency evacuation route serving three single access subdivisions east of Ukiah in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Deerwood Estates, El Dorado Estates, Vichy Springs and the Guidiville Rancheria. The outcome of the project will include a feasibility study, cost estimate, and preliminary design for a secondary access route serving the three subdivisions mentioned above in the Ukiah East Hills. The project deadline is March 2026.

Project Update

The project experienced a late start due to two unsuccessful RFP processes. However, the contracted consultant, BKF Engineers, is on track to complete the project by the grant deadline of March 2026. A kick-off meeting between staff and BKF was held on August 8, 2025. Right of Entry (ROE) forms, allowing the consultant to access properties for aerial mapping, were mailed to property owners on September 9, 2025. Aerial mapping is scheduled for early October 2025, weather permitting. The current project schedule is provided below.

East Hills Evacuation Planning Project Tentative Schedule



Ukiah Evacuation Route Planning Study

8/15/2025

Wildfire Community Resilience Project - BRIC

Project Description

Funded through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC) grant program. Project scope includes approximately 750 residential home retrofits using ignition-resistant construction materials and defensible space establishment, and approximately 1,520 acres of hazardous fuels reduction, including grazing, to build community resiliency to future wildfire events in the Brooktrails/Sherwood Corridor, targeted fuels reduction around City of Willits water treatment plant, with a specific target of at least 300 acres of grazing for fuels reduction and 5 acres of invasive species removal. With the cuts at the federal level, staff continue to seek alternative funding sources for Phase II.

Project Update

Staff continue to work closely with CalOES to understand the potential impacts of federal funding cuts on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, while actively implementing Phase I project planning activities. The County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for LiDAR mapping over the project area on August 1, 2025, with a submission deadline of October 10, 2025. Staff are also preparing an RFP for environmental services, which is targeted for release in October 2025. The County anticipates awarding contracts for both services and submitting them for Board of Supervisors' approval by the end of the year.

Ignition Resistant Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This is a rebate program that provides partial reimbursement of replacement of flammable roofing materials with non-flammable materials to improve community resiliency in the face of wildfire and prevent loss of life and property. Staff continue to actively engage with participants and construction companies to advance the project.

Project Update

As of September 30, 2025, the Ignition Resistant Grant Program has had ten (10) participants complete their projects, and reimbursements have been issued. Two (2) participants have completed their projects and are currently in the reimbursement process. One (1) participant has received a Notice to Proceed. Four (4) participants have updated funding agreements awaiting signatures, while eleven (11) participants have draft funding agreements that require updated quotes. Two (2) participants have placed their projects on hold. Thirteen (13) participants have withdrawn from the program, and two (2) participants were disqualified from participating.

Fuel Abatement Ordinance and Enforcement Planning Project

Project Description

Funded by CDBG Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS). This is a rescope of previously awarded two grants projects into a \$295,000 planning project that includes researching successful hazard abatement enforcement approaches in other rural communities, evaluating the effectiveness of various enforcement strategies to identify the most suitable approach for Mendocino County, reviewing and updating the existing ordinance to align with best practices and ensure effective enforcement, and creating a comprehensive plan that details the necessary resources, including personnel and funding, to implement the new ordinance and enforce abatement activities.

Project Update

This project was on hold for over one year waiting for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to finalize the amendment to the current agreement. Staff finally received the fully executed agreement on June 17, 2025, and can now begin the three-year project. The deadline for the

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the consultant was August 25, 2025. Staff are targeting to review the proposals, award a contract, and submit a contract for Board approval in November.

2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Description

The Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) assesses risks posed by natural and human-caused hazards and develops mitigation strategies for reducing the County's risks. The MJHMP was last updated in 2020 and is due for an update in 2025. Grant funding through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has been secured for the update to this plan. The 2025 MJHMP includes the following jurisdictions: Mendocino County, City of Fort Bragg, City of Point Arena, City of Ukiah, City of Willits, Covelo Fire Protection District, Mendocino County Office of Education, and the Noyo Harbor District.

Project Update

The County has contracted with Synergy Disaster Recovery to lead the update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, including risk assessments, public engagement, and plan development. On June 5, 2025, Synergy and the County held a pre-kickoff meeting to discuss scope, timelines, and other relevant planning details. Synergy and the County have coordinated closely with the direct planning partners (the Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, Willits, the Noyo Harbor District, the Mendocino County Office of Education, and the Covelo Fire Protection District) to schedule a series of planning workshops in July to discuss the project goals, the planning timeline, key hazards facing the county, and to build out the larger core planning team roster. Workshops were held on July 16 and 17 in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits with strong attendance from partner jurisdictions. County staff continue to meet with Synergy bi-weekly, and Synergy is making strong progress on writing the plan and conducting the risk analysis. A Core Team Hazard Mitigation Risk Assessment Workshop is scheduled for October 8 to further review and refine the county's hazard risk profile. A second round of meetings with stakeholders is scheduled for October 16 and 17 to continue collaboration on the plan update. Synergy will participate in public engagement at the Ukiah Pumpkinfest on October 18 to educate the public on the plan and collect direct feedback.

Generators Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Originally for 5 generators at Central Services, IT Annex on School St, Willits Justice Center, County Administrative Building, and Facilities & Fleet building.

Project Update

The County requested a scope amendment to reduce the project to two critical locations—Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and County Administrative Building due to significant increases to the original cost projection. Staff are waiting for the amendment approval from CalOES since September 2024 to close out Phase I and submit to FEMA for review of Phase II.

Orr Springs Fuels Reduction Planning

Project Description

Funded by the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), this project focuses on hazardous fuels reduction along Orr Springs Road and Comptche-Ukiah Road to improve ingress, egress, and access during fire events. The project includes two main components: the first involves fuels clearing of approximately 10.6 miles of road from the City of Ukiah to the community of Orr Springs along Orr Springs Road, and the second entails fuels clearing on approximately 14.2 miles of road from the community of Comptche to the Town of Mendocino along Comptche-Ukiah Road.



Project Update

Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc. (ERS) has completed its contracted scope of work, and the County is now focused on project closeout activities.

Flood Emergency Response Project

Project Description

Funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Supply, Flood Control, River & Coastal Bond Act of 2006, this project aims to enhance flood emergency response capabilities throughout Mendocino County. Key components include planning, improving communications infrastructure, and developing stockpiles of emergency response equipment and materials at strategic locations. The project is due on June 30, 2027, with deliverables including a Flood Response Plan, identification of communications needs, procurement of communication equipment, and the purchase and distribution of flood response supplies across the county.

Project Update

The County received the notice of award for the project in March 2025. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Flood Response Plan consultant was issued on July 7, 2025, with a submission deadline of August 11, 2025. Staff have completed the review of RFP submissions, selected a vendor, and are preparing to award the contract, which will be submitted for Board of Supervisors approval in the coming months.