



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

DARCIE ANTLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

501 Low Gap Rd. Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Email: ceo@mendocinocounty.gov
Website: www.mendocinocounty.gov

Office: (707) 463-4441
Fax: (707) 463-5649

Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division February 2026

Introduction

Throughout 2025, the Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division completed work on a number of wildfire, flood, and disaster preparedness initiatives aimed at reducing risk, improving evacuation safety, and strengthening community resilience across Mendocino County. Despite funding uncertainties and regulatory delays, PRRM made substantial progress in planning, implementation, and grant development.

Federal Update: FEMA Review Council

In January 2026, President Trump authorized the continuation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review Council. The Council's mission is to evaluate FEMA's operations and enhance its programs, ensuring they are more effective in disaster prevention, preparedness, and response. This review will provide a platform for ongoing improvements to FEMA's mission, including evaluating its grants programs, enhancing community resilience efforts, and improving coordination with local agencies. The continuation of this review process is expected to have significant implications for federal disaster mitigation funding, which could impact future projects in Mendocino County.

Ongoing Projects

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 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 awaiting FEMA approval before Phase II (construction) can begin.

Mendocino County Fuels Reduction and Community Preparedness Project

Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, this project implements roadside fuels reduction in key locations in Covelo and Laytonville, conducts CEQA analysis for five future fuels reduction projects, supports the

implementation of prescribed burning in Round Valley, and supports the Mendocino County Community Chipper Days program.

Project Update

Roadside fuels reduction is complete in Covelo and Laytonville, with expansion into Greater Ukiah. Some planned reductions in Covelo were limited by site constraints and landowner restrictions. The County has redirected funds to support the Covelo Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) and expand fuels reduction along Low Gap Road and in the Black Bart Trail Area. The Community Chipper Days program has more funds than expected, allowing for expanded fuels reduction. A contract amendment is in progress to reflect these changes.

East Hills Evacuation Planning

Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, the project aims to develop a preliminary design for an emergency evacuation route serving multiple single-access subdivisions east of Ukiah in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Project Update

Aerial mapping was completed in October 2025. BKF Engineers, the contracted consultant, is on track to complete the preliminary design by the March 2026 deadline. Agency stakeholder meetings will be held in February, and a public meeting will be held on February 26, 2026, to discuss progress and solicit public input.

Wildfire Community Resilience Project - BRIC

Project Description

Funded through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, this project includes home retrofits, defensible space establishment, and fuels reduction across the Brooktrails/Sherwood Corridor, including targeted reduction around the City of Willits water treatment plant.

Project Update

In April 2025, the Trump administration moved to terminate FEMA's BRIC program and cancel billions of dollars in previously awarded disaster-mitigation grants. A coalition of 22 states and Washington, D.C. filed suit in July 2025 in federal court in Massachusetts, arguing the move violated congressional appropriations and federal law. The court issued a preliminary injunction in August 2025 preventing FEMA from redirecting the funds while the case proceeded. In December 2025, a federal judge ruled the termination unlawful and issued a court order blocking FEMA from ending the BRIC program or canceling its grants unless the decision is overturned on appeal. FEMA has 60 days from the December ruling to file an appeal.

Staff are continuing to work closely with CalOES to understand the potential impacts of federal funding cuts. LiDAR mapping procurement is underway, and staff are evaluating RFP responses for environmental consulting services. Contracts for services will be awarded in 2026.

Ignition Resistant Construction

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), this rebate program offers partial reimbursement for replacing flammable roofing materials with non-flammable materials to improve community resiliency against wildfire.

Project Update

The project is now in closeout. 15 participants completed their projects, with 14 reimbursements issued. One completed project did not receive reimbursement because the participant did not respond to repeated outreach efforts.

Fuel Abatement Ordinance and Enforcement Planning Project

Project Description

Funded by CDBG Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS), this planning project aims to update the County's fuel abatement ordinance and enforcement strategies.

Project Update

After a lengthy delay, staff received the executed amendment from the state in June 2025. The project is now moving forward, with consultant selection and ordinance modernization expected in early 2026.

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Description

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

Project Update

The County and core planning partners are currently reviewing the draft base plan and annexes. Public comments will be solicited, and the plan will be submitted to FEMA and CalOES for review. Once finalized, the plan will be brought before the Board of Supervisors for adoption in mid-2026.

Generators Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA HMGP, this project focuses on providing backup power to critical facilities, originally planned for five locations. The scope has been reduced due to cost increases.

Project Update

The scope was reduced to two critical locations: the Emergency Operations Center and County Administrative Building. Staff is working on completing CEQA.

Orr Springs Fuels Reduction Planning

Project Description

Funded by FEMA HMGP, this project focuses on hazardous fuels reduction along Orr Springs Road and Comptche-Ukiah Road to improve access during fire events.

Project Update

Phase I closeout activities were submitted in October 2025, and the project is awaiting FEMA review and approval before moving to Phase II implementation.

Flood Emergency Response Project**Project Description**

Funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), this project aims to enhance flood emergency response capabilities across Mendocino County. The County is collaborating with key stakeholders to develop the first-ever comprehensive flood response plan for Mendocino County. The project will also fund the acquisition of containers stocked with flood-fighting materials, to be strategically located throughout the County for rapid deployment during flood events.

Project Update

Hagerty Consulting has been selected to develop the flood response plan. Hagerty staff will also design and facilitate an exercise to test and refine the plan in 2027. County staff from PRRM and OES are working with Operational Area partners to acquire and deploy the flood-fighting materials and ensure they are positioned effectively across the County.