



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

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

September 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.

June 24, 2026, Pine Mountain Earthquake

On June 24, 2026, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred in the Pine Mountain area, approximately 11 kilometers north of Redwood Valley and east of Willits. The earthquake was widely felt throughout Mendocino County and surrounding areas and resulted in power outages, reported injuries, and damage to homes and businesses. No major damage to public infrastructure or fatalities were reported.

Following the earthquake, the County Emergency Operations Center was activated in monitoring status, and County staff coordinated with Operational Area partners to assess impacts and identify immediate response needs. County staff also coordinated with state and federal partners regarding damage assessment and available assistance.

Following the initial response, the County transitioned its focus toward documenting impacts and supporting recovery efforts. County staff coordinated the collection of damage information and

worked with the U.S. Small Business Administration to facilitate access to disaster assistance for businesses impacted by the earthquake. The County encouraged affected businesses to submit damage information to support consideration for available assistance.

County staff continue to monitor recovery needs and coordinate with partner agencies as additional impacts are identified.

Project Updates

Redwood Valley Sirens Project – Phase I

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

The project remains under review by FEMA following submission of Phase I deliverables. County staff are awaiting federal approval before moving forward with Phase II construction activities.

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. LiDAR data acquisition for the project area was successfully completed by Towill, 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. Towill will meet with County staff in September to present final data sets and wrap up the project.



The County has completed the procurement process for Project Management Services for the Wildfire Community Resilience Project. Following issuance of RFP No. 023-26 in May 2026 and evaluation of proposals, the County selected Owl Check to provide project management services. The agreement, covering September 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027, is for an amount not to exceed \$483,096. Project management services will support coordination of project implementation, environmental compliance, landowner outreach, procurement, and preparation for Phase II activities.

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 to work with Synergy Disaster Recovery and its project partner, Wildfire Planning International LLC, to finalize the scope and approach for the ordinance modernization work. An updated proposal was submitted by Synergy in April 2026 and has been reviewed by County staff.

The project has progressed to the contracting and implementation stage, with the agreement scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors in September 2026. Upon approval, the consultant team will begin work on updating and modernizing the County's ordinances in accordance with the approved project scope.

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Description

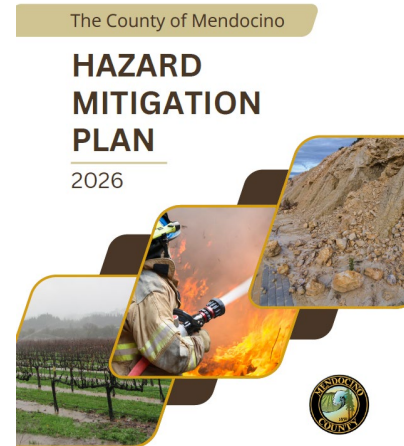
This update to the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes risk assessments and mitigation strategies for the County and partner jurisdictions.

Project Update

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

FEMA has completed its review and determined that the 2026 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is Approvable Pending Adoption. On September 1, 2026, the Board of Supervisors formally adopted the 2026 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Following County adoption, the plan will proceed to final FEMA approval.

Following County adoption, the eight participating planning partners, the Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits, the Mendocino County Office of Education, the Noyo Harbor District, the Redwood Coast Fire Protection District, and the Covelo Fire Protection District, will each have one year to formally adopt 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, held the first core team planning meeting on March 31, 2026, marking the initiation of the project's collaborative planning efforts. PRRM and OES staff are working closely with local fire departments and Operational Area partners to refine the types of flood response materials to be pre-positioned, as well as to identify potential locations for connex boxes and on-site storage at partner facilities throughout Mendocino County.

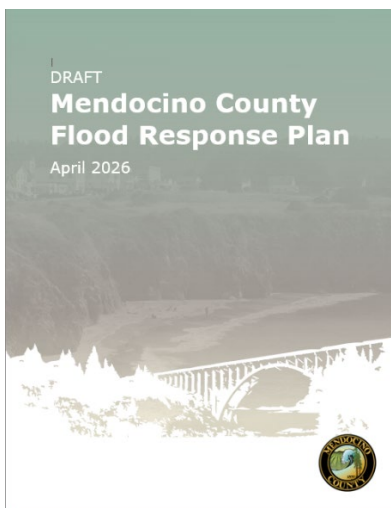
A second stakeholder planning meeting was successfully held on May 8, 2026, to review flood event history and support hazard identification efforts. County staff and Hagerty Consulting will continue working to further develop the draft plan before convening a third stakeholder meeting in October to discuss evacuation planning in greater depth.

County staff 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 site conditions for a flood fight container and to discuss appropriate contents for deployment.



Additionally, PRRM and OES staff are coordinating with County IT and the Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service (MACS) volunteers to identify communications equipment needs that will enhance 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

Flood Event History and Hazard Identification |