



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

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

May 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 March of 2026, President Trump issued a continuance of the FEMA Review Council, extending a previously established and ongoing review body through May 29, 2026, or until its final report is submitted. The Council is evaluating FEMA's operations and grant programs to improve disaster prevention, preparedness, and response, which could impact future mitigation funding and resilience opportunities for Mendocino County.

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.

Mendocino County Fuels Reduction and Community Preparedness Project

Project Description

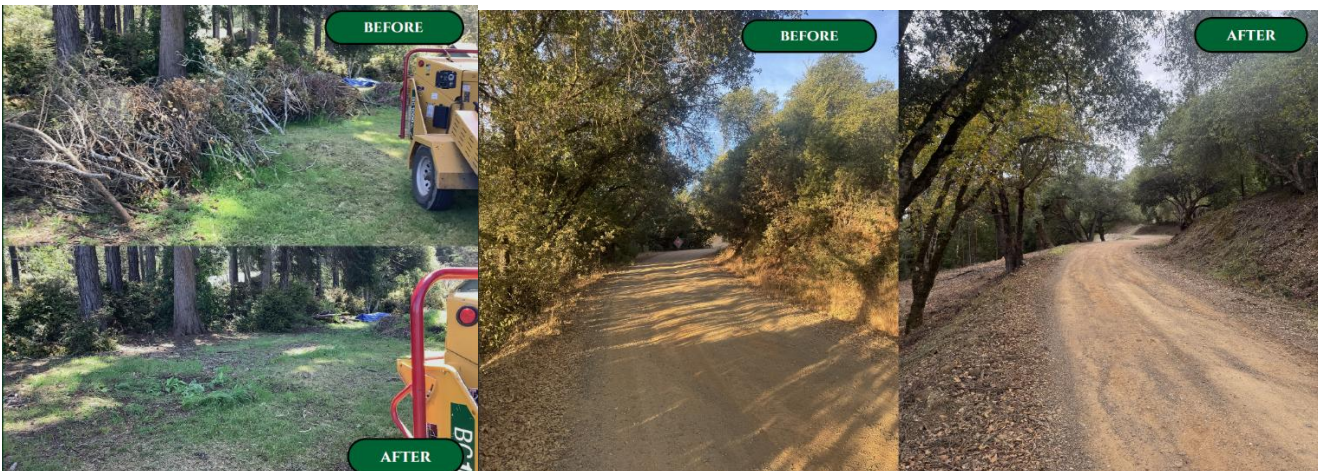
Funded by CAL FIRE, this project included roadside fuels reduction, environmental review for future fuels reduction projects, prescribed burning support in Round Valley, and the Community Chipper Days program.

Project Update

All project-related activities have been completed, and the project has now entered the closeout phase. Remaining work is limited to final documentation and administrative steps to formally conclude the project.



Above: Covelo Airport Burn and Covelo Prescribed Burn Association. Below: Community Chipper Program and Low Gap Roadside Fuels Reduction Project.



East Hills Evacuation Planning

Project Description

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

Project Update

Engineering consultants BKF Engineers and Psomas have completed the preliminary evacuation

route design, along with initial environmental analyses, concluding all work associated with this phase of the project.

To support development of preliminary design, the project team conducted a series of stakeholder meetings with key local agencies, including the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Department of Transportation, and Planning and Building Services, to review potential route options and identify critical constraints. Staff also conducted an on-site field tour with the Sheriff's Office to assess terrain conditions, access limitations, and emergency response considerations.

The County also hosted a public meeting on February 26, 2026, at Ukiah Bible Church, where project updates and preliminary route concepts were presented. More than 60 community members attended, and their feedback will help inform refinement of the preliminary design.



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 federal developments related to the BRIC program. In early March 2026, following litigation, a federal court determined that FEMA's termination of the program was unlawful and directed that the program be restored. FEMA has since begun taking steps toward reinstating the program and resuming funding for projects nationwide, although timelines and program details continue to evolve.

In the interim, preparatory work for project implementation is moving forward. The agreement with Towill, Inc. for LiDAR services was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2026. A project kickoff meeting was held on April 29, 2026, to review scope, project details, and implementation timelines. LiDAR flights are anticipated to occur in June or July to capture leaf on conditions, supporting more accurate data collection to inform Phase II activities, including structure hardening, fuels reduction planning, and optimization of evacuation route clearing.

In addition, an environmental consulting contract with Clifton Environmental LLC was approved by the Board of Supervisors at its May 5, 2026, meeting. A project kickoff meeting with Clifton was subsequently held on May 7, 2026, to discuss project timelines, scope, deliverables, and environmental review and compliance activities supporting overall project implementation. An additional coordination meeting with key project partners and stakeholders, including Brooktrails Township, Brooktrails Fire, the City of Willits, the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Cal FIRE, Sherwood Firewise, and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, is tentatively planned for later in May.

In light of the restoration of the BRIC program, County staff are also working on refining a Request for Proposals (RFP) for project management services to support preparation for and execution of Phase II implementation activities.

Ignition-Resistant Construction Rebate Program

Project Description

This FEMA HMGP-funded rebate program provides reimbursement for replacing flammable roofing materials with ignition-resistant alternatives.

Project Update

The program is currently in closeout. Fifteen participants completed roof replacement projects, with fourteen receiving reimbursements. One project was completed but not reimbursed due to lack of response from the participant.

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

Staff are preparing to initiate consultant procurement and begin ordinance modernization work following execution of the project amendment in 2025.

County staff met with Synergy Disaster Recovery and their partner on the project, Wildfire Planning International LLC on April 15, 2026, to discuss their previously submitted proposal. Synergy was the only respondent to the County’s prior RFP issued in 2025; however, no formal selection or award has been brought forward to the Board to date. During the April 15 meeting, Synergy confirmed they could still complete the work but indicated that their proposal would need to be updated to reflect changes in project timelines and scope considerations. An updated proposal was submitted to the County on April 21, 2026, and is currently under review.

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

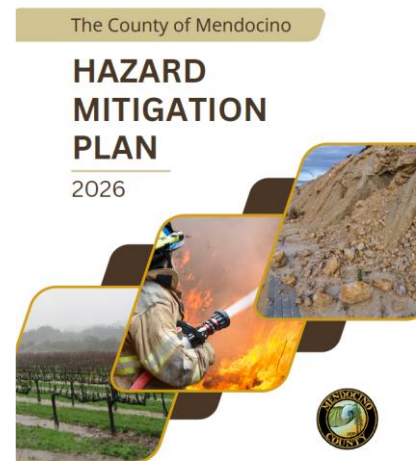
Project Description

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

Planning Partners and the County have completed internal review of the plan and its annexes, and the project was released for public comment between April 6 and April 20, 2026. Public comments received during this period have been reviewed and incorporated as appropriate.

Following the close of the public comment period, the plan was submitted to Cal OES Mitigation Planning on April 24, 2026, for state-level review. The plan will subsequently be forwarded to FEMA for final review and approval. Final formal plan adoption is anticipated in the summer of 2026.



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

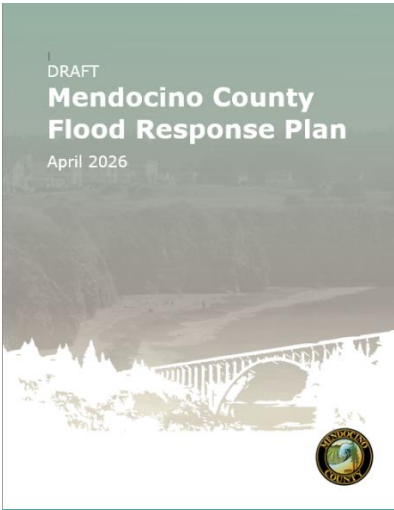
Funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), this project will develop the County's first comprehensive flood response plan and establish strategically located flood response supply caches to enhance preparedness, improve emergency response times, and support local first responders.

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 also conducted a site visit with the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority on April 17, 2026 to assess potential site conditions for a flood fight container and to discuss appropriate contents for deployment. Additional coordination meetings with Redwood Coast Fire and Hopland Fire are tentatively planned for May 2026.

The plan will be tested through a countywide exercise in 2027 to ensure procedures are practical, coordinated, and effective.



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 |