



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

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JANUARY 2024 CEO REPORT UPDATES FROM PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

Strategic Plan Pillar: Thriving Economy

Along with these new changes in TRAKiT, SolarApp+ permits have been fully integrated in the system for automatic plancheck and issuance - no staff involvement or review is necessary to complete these applications for issuance. This will expedite and streamline the issuance of eligible residential rooftop solar applications throughout the County.

The Building Division has fully embraced the use of Bluebeam Electronic plan review software and numerous applications are processed solely by digital means without the use of paper plans. This has been mostly used by out-of-County solar installers, telecommunications carriers, such as AT&T and Verizon and those companies or individuals that are capable of producing high quality digital plans. Also, 5 Building inspectors have received additional certifications to advance their skills within the department. This increase in certifications will allow for a reduction in plan review times to the public with more inspectors available to complete the review of the various types of plans submitted.

Hard to believe it has been one year since the Creekside Bridge Sinkhole Abatement with Code Enforcement successfully mitigating this emergency! The County's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement program was also successfully renewed and extended, with a ballot measure on the March 2024 ballot for continued Assessment Fees. Success continued to follow the Code Enforcement Division with the completion of the third module of CACEO training, making all Code Officers CACEO Certified. With the certification of all Code staff launched the pilot program of Code Enforcement as a Service Model (CESM) to support the Division of Solid Waste with their enforcement of SB 1383, as well as substandard housing investigations and reporting related to and new legislature within the Health and Safety Code Section 17970.5.

Another big lift in process in the Department is the scanning and digitizing of all records. Currently, the Department has contracted with Toshiba to scan and index files in Docuware; the first 400 boxes of records has been delivered and over 322,000 pages have already been indexed. There is still a long way to go on digitizing, as this is only the first batch of scans with many more files that are still housed within the department's various storage buildings. The department successfully released multiple RFP's for services related to the LCP Grant to Amend the Local Coastal Program for the first time in more than 30 years! Consultants have been selected to complete the Visual Resource Analysis, Transportation and Highway Capacity Study, Coastal Groundwater Study and Biological Resources Analysis. To supplement this \$2.2 million grant, the County is also working on a Sea Level Rise Resiliency Strategy with additional grant funding provided by the California Coastal Commission. Together, these General Plan Amendments will take approximately 3 years of staff time to process for certification by the Coastal Commission. Prior to review of the LCP Amendment, however, the County must complete the adoption of the Inland Zoning Code update, which was also initiated by a LEAP grant and must be approved prior to expiration of the grant agreement in September 2024.