

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update

Sonoma County, California

Hazard Mitigation Working Group



MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2025 | 10:00-11:00 A.M. | VIRTUAL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a planning progress update to the Hazard Mitigation Working Group (HMWG) and give an overview of the hazards, problems, and risk assessment.

ATTENDEES

Planning Team

- Sage Limpp, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Supervising Hazard Mitigation Coordinator
- Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa, Emergency Manager
- Tom Jordan, City of Petaluma, Emergency Manager
- Bart Spencer, Tetra Tech, Project Manager
- Sasha Jones, Tetra Tech, Lead Planner

Attendees

- Adriane Garayalde, Sonoma County- Public Infrastructure, Special Projects
- Aleena Decker, Sonoma Economic Development Collective, Conference & Communications Coordinator
- Allison Schichtel, Sonoma County Ag and Open Space, Senior Conservation Planner
- BC Capps, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Climate Programs Manager
- Bonnie Plakos, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, Chief
- Dave Bray, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, Division Chief
- Evan Dilks, The Sea Ranch Assoc, Safety and Security Manager
- Gilbert Martinez, Sonoma County, Communications Specialist
- Heidi Horovitz, Timber Cove Fire Protection District, BC Admin
- Katie Duran, City of Cotati, Senior Management Analyst
- Katrina Braehmer, Sonoma County, Supervising Planner
- Kim Jordan, Town of Windsor, Planner III
- Kristina Owens, Town of Windsor, Government Operations Manager
- Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa, Emergency Preparedness Manager
- Sage Limpp, Sonoma County DEM, Supervising Hazard Mitigation Coordinator
- Sarah Tracy, City of Sonoma, Senior Management Analyst & PIO

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- Sean Lacy, Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief
- Sheri Emerson, Sonoma County Ag and Open Space, Stewardship Manager
- Sonia Lawton, City of Santa Rosa, Deputy Emergency Manager
- Steven Hancock, Sonoma Water, Emergency Management & Security Manager
- Tim Caldwell, Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief
- Tom Jordan, City of Petaluma, Emergency Manager
- Trevor Smith, Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District, Fire Marshall
- Colleen Jansen, The Sea Ranch Association,
- Michael Droszcz, Cal OES, Emergency Services Coordinator
- 3 members of the public

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Sage Limpp, Sonoma DEM, welcomed attendees, shared the purpose of the meeting, and thanked the participating jurisdictions for their support.

2. HMP Plan Progress

- Bart Spencer provided overview of the project phases and highlighted that the plan is current moving through Phases 2-5. Stakeholder engagement and public outreach will continue throughout the entire project.
- Highlighted the public outreach efforts of the County and participating jurisdictions, including a public meeting in Petaluma in January, press releases, website postings, social media posts, newsletters, physical handouts, and meetings.
- Interested parties are encouraged to continue following plan progress on the Sonoma DEM mitigation [website](#) and take the public mitigation [survey](#).
- Provided an overview of 491 public survey responses, including natural hazards that impacted respondents, their hazards of greatest concern, information channels, and general demographics.
- Highlighted the work of 24 participating jurisdictions to submit information to the Planning Team.

3. Risk Assessment Overview

- Introduced the concepts of hazard, vulnerability, and risk. Each of the eleven approved hazards will be defined, assets will be analyzed for vulnerability, and the hazard will be ranked by risk. Assets are defined as the people, structures, systems, resources, and activities in a community.

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- The eight community lifeline categories were defined and datasets for each lifeline were identified. The participating jurisdictions will have the opportunity to provide additional community lifeline facilities.
- Over the next several months, the hazard analysis and ranking will be conducted. The results will be presented to the HMWG and included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

5. Project Schedule

- Risk Assessment
 - Data collection – Completed
 - Risk assessment results – Spring 2025
 - Public Involvement – Ongoing
- Mitigation Strategy
 - Review 2019 actions – Completed
 - Finalize goals – Completed
 - Identify 2025 actions – Summer 2025
- Plan Maintenance – Summer 2025
- Public Draft – Fall 2025
- Draft to State for Review – Fall 2025
- Plan Adoption – Early 2026

6. Questions

Will you be identifying “evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios” for the unincorporated county and all cities part of this multi-jurisdictional HMP, as required by AB 747? If not, why not? If so, what will the process for this identification be?

Answer: Each jurisdiction, including the unincorporated county, is responsible for AB 747 compliance within its own planning documents. While the evacuation analysis may exist elsewhere, we believe the intent is for this information to be incorporated into the General Plan Safety Element. The County plans to meet this requirement through its Safety Element, but each jurisdiction must determine its own approach. The Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan will reference where jurisdictions address AB 747 compliance, but its adoption is not dependent on all jurisdictions being in compliance. AB 747 is a separate requirement from the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and CalOES/FEMA will not review it as part of the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Do you have any outreach materials for the survey?

Answer: A flyer was created to advertise the January 22 public meeting that included a link to the survey. In addition, the County and participating jurisdictions posted the survey to social media and

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websites. The links to both the English and Spanish surveys are available on the [DEM Hazard Mitigation website](#).

What was the start date for the survey?

Answer: The survey opened on December 5, 2024.

Are the materials from the Jan. 22 Petaluma meeting posted to the website for review / comment?

Answer: The meeting materials are available [HERE](#).

Is there a weblink to the new CRS requirement from FEMA?

Answer: The CRS Coordinator's Manual was last updated in 2021, but the changes did not contain significant changes for Activity 510, which is where the HMP is counted. The 2017 Coordinator's Manual continues to contain the flood planning requirements. Both documents are available [HERE](#).

How/when will information on lifelines, resources, systems, etc. related to hazard consequences be collected from the participating agencies?

Answer: The Planning Team is collecting information from Permit Sonoma for the Community Lifeline facilities. Once the list is compiled, it will be sent to the participating jurisdictions for additions.

Action Items

- Tetra Tech to distribute slides and meeting notes to attendees.

Additional Information

- English Public Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/QQJCT1zgeL>
- Spanish Public Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/pmcjqMN9ig>
- 2021 Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan: <https://permitsonoma.org/hazard-mitigation>
- 2026 Sonoma County HMP Update Website: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/emergency-management/multi-jurisdictional-hazard-mitigation-plan>
- 2023 California State Hazard Mitigation Plan: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/state-mitigation-planning/>