

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update

Sonoma County, California

Hazard Mitigation Working Group



MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | 9:00-10:00 A.M. | VIRTUAL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Hazard Mitigation Working Group (HMWG) and contract consultant, identify the roles and responsibilities of the HMWG, select working group leadership positions, and determine the 2026 Hazards of Concern.

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

- Aleena Decker, Sonoma Economic Development Collective, Conference & Communications Coordinator
- James Ausboe, CAL FIRE
- Jeanette Pantoja, Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Director
- Katrina Braehmer, Sonoma County, Supervising Planner
- Kim Jordan, Town of Windsor, Planner III
- Kristina Owens, Town of Windsor, Government Operations Manager
- Marc Chandler, Sonoma County, Affordable Housing Assistant Manager
- Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa - Primary, Emergency Preparedness Manager
- Roxanne Ezzet, Sonoma County Office of Equity, Department Analyst
- Sheri Emerson, Sonoma County Ag and Open Space, Stewardship Manager
- Tanya Narath, Regional Climate Protection Authority, Chief Deputy Executive Director
- 3 members of the public

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AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Sage Limpp, Sonoma DEM, welcomed attendees, and shared the purpose of the meeting.
- Jeff Duvall, Sonoma DEM, provided opening remarks and thanked attendees for their participation.
- Bart Spencer introduced those from Tetra Tech assisting with the plan update highlighting the point of contact, Lead Planner, Sasha Jones, before presenting slides to the group.

2. HMP Update Overview

- Provided overview of hazard mitigation, the hazard mitigation plan purpose, and the reasons for updating the 2021 plan.
- Introduced the five groups involved in the HMP Update: Hazard Mitigation Working Group; Planning Partners; Stakeholders; Public; and Planning Team
- Outlined planning process to take place over the next year and identified the current plan progress.
- Provided overview of public outreach requirements and strategies including the Sonoma DEM mitigation [website](#), public mitigation [survey](#), social media posts, and upcoming public meetings, StoryMap, and public comment period.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- Hazard Mitigation Working Group responsibilities include participating in the process, attending meetings, and socializing the plan to the community.
- Attendance is tracked and each participating organization must identify an alternate to attend in their place if the primary member is unavailable.

4. Key Decisions

- Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair
 - Sage Limpp, Sonoma County DEM, was unanimously voted in as the Chair.
 - Kim Jordan, Town of Windsor, was unanimously voted in as the Vice Chair.
- 2026 Hazard of Concern
 - Discussion considered the inclusion of insects and pandemics in the hazards of concern, HMWG determined that many of the non-natural hazards are covered by existing Sonoma County [emergency management plans](#).
 - Members voted unanimously to approve the 2026 Hazards of Concern:
 - Dam Failure
 - Drought
 - Earthquake
 - Extreme Cold

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- Extreme Heat
 - Extreme Wind
 - Flooding
 - Landslide
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Tsunami
 - Wildfire
- 2026 Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives
 - Members voted unanimously to approve the mission statement, goals, and objectives.

5. Project Schedule

- Risk Assessment
 - Data collection – Winter 2024/25
 - Risk assessment results – Spring 2025
 - Public Involvement – Ongoing
- Mitigation Strategy
 - Review 2019 actions – Winter 2024/25
 - Finalize goals – Winter 2024/25
 - 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

How will the new Fire Hazard Maps from Cal Fire be incorporated into the plan?

Answer: The County GIS personnel identifies the best data sources for each hazard. Generally, the order of preference is county, state, federal. The county will determine whether they will use the CAL FIRE maps or a local data source, if it exists.

will this plan use the County CWPP hazard/risk mapping?

Answer: The plan will include an analysis of all local and county plans related to hazard mitigation, including CWPPs. As for whether we use the CWPP data for our risk analysis, that decision will be made by the County GIS personnel. If there are any plans that contain data that the County GIS team does not know about, please flag for Sage's attention.

Will this plan use or incorporate any of the First Street risk evaluation information on flood, fire, etc.?

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Answer: The County GIS personnel will determine which data sources to use to evaluate the hazards.

How do we know if our jurisdiction in participating in CRS?

Answer: Visit the [FEMA Community Rating System website](#) and scroll down to CRS Participating Communities. You can download either a PDF or Excel spreadsheet that lists all participating communities, their CRS Class, and their flood insurance premium discount. Currently in Sonoma County, the City of Petaluma is a Class 6 and the County is a Class 10.

Will we ensure that all public outreach materials are in both English & Spanish?

Answer: Yes, all public outreach by the County will be conducted in Spanish and English. Participating jurisdictions are encouraged to offer the same.

How long will the survey be open?

Answer: There is not currently a closing date for the public outreach surveys. Generally, the surveys remain open for several months to allow time for as many responses as possible.

Action Items

- Tetra Tech to distribute slides and meeting notes to participants

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/>