



# RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK

## 2019 Annual Implementation Report

### INTRODUCTION

The Board of Supervisors approved the Sonoma County Recovery & Resiliency Framework (Framework) in December 2018 to address community recovery from the devastating 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires. The Framework was developed following an extensive community engagement effort and collaboration with departments and agencies throughout the County. As a commitment to public accountability, the Office of Recovery & Resiliency (ORR) has prepared this 2019 Annual Implementation Report to share an update on progress towards meeting the goals and actions identified in the Framework.

Throughout 2019, the ORR has provided monthly and quarterly updates on progress of the Framework as well as updates for the Board and community on recovery efforts from other disasters that have impacted Sonoma County, including the 2019 Winter Storms and Floods and the 2019 Kincadee Fire.

This Annual Implementation Report for 2019 includes the following sections:

- **About the Recovery & Resiliency Framework**
- **Reporting on Recovery & Resiliency Framework Implementation**
- **2019 Top 10 Priorities**
- **Other Recovery & Resiliency Framework Year 1 Activities**, grouped by five strategic areas of recovery: Community Preparedness and Infrastructure, Housing, Economy, Safety Net Services, and Natural Resources.
- **Funding for Recovery & Resiliency Framework Projects**

### ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The Recovery & Resiliency Framework (Framework) is a vision for how the County will recover from the October 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires, a vision for a resilient future, and an approach to achieve it. It is a foundation for recovery efforts County-wide, and is informed by residents, community partners, County departments, cities and other jurisdictions in the County.

The Framework draws from the structure, functions, roles, and principles in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's *National Disaster Recovery Framework* and serves as a forum for the ways the County and community build and sustain recovery capabilities. A focus of the Framework is planning and preparedness *before* a disaster occurs. Planning includes coordination with partners, risk mitigation, continuity planning, identifying resources and developing capacity to manage the recovery process.

On December 11, 2018, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Recovery & Resiliency Framework, including a comprehensive list of potential activities and actions that, if implemented, would help the County and community recover and become more resilient to future disasters.

For Year 1 of Framework implementation, the Board directed staff to prioritize the following Top 10 Projects:

1. Establish a comprehensive **Alert and Warning System**.
2. **Work with the community** to identify hazards, risks, mitigation strategies, including **evacuation routes**.
3. Facilitate **construction hardening** techniques appropriate for wildfire urban interfaces and seismic retrofits for rebuilding and for existing homes through education and grant programs.
4. Work with private utility providers on solutions related to **hardening infrastructure** and on coping with destroyed utilities in a disaster, including undergrounding where appropriate and necessary.
5. Help property owners navigate **vegetation management** opportunities through partnership with Fire Safe Sonoma and similar programs.
6. Continue to advocate for substantive changes to **insurance regulations**.
7. Engage the **community** to raise **awareness** about how to prepare and plan ahead for disasters.
8. **Expedite permitting** for homeowners who are rebuilding.
9. Enhance the **2-1-1 System**.
10. Develop a **One-Stop Shop Resource Center**.

## REPORTING ON RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff provide the Board and community regular updates on disaster recovery efforts, including rebuilding permits issued; external funding and grant efforts; and relevant legislation. These updates are prepared as a monthly item on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda. The ORR also prepares more extensive quarterly reports in collaboration with the Recovery Ad Hoc Committee. This report serves as the first Annual Implementation Report of the Framework.

On December 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Recovery Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of Supervisors Gore and Gorin, to provide input and guidance to Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff and other County departments on Framework implementation through December 31, 2019. The Recovery Ad Hoc Committee also received input from fire survivors and other community groups on implementation.

The Recovery Ad Hoc Committee convened ten times in 2019 to receive status updates from Project Leads for the Top 10 Priority Projects, and to discuss other important recovery topics with County staff, community partners, and fire survivors.

## TOP 10 PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR 2019

### 1. Establish a Comprehensive Alert & Warning Program

The Department of Emergency Management has made significant progress to establish a comprehensive alert and warning system and to advance the majority of the proposed activities in the Community Preparedness section of the Framework. Accomplishments for 2019 include:

- Developed a countywide NIXLE protocol.
- Established a countywide Alert & Warning Group.
- Completed trainings on existing alert & warning systems.
- Developed a new Emergency Operations Guide for County Supervisors
- Instituted a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Board Liaison position
- Completed recruitment for Alert & Warning Program Manager
- Developed a Board approved *Community Preparedness Plan*.
- Obtained \$235,000 in grant funding from the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants for FY 2019-2020 to conduct emergency preparedness trainings.
- Installed three additional fire cameras to expand the current network to eleven cameras in Sonoma County and submitted a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application to fully operationalize these cameras.
- Leveraged Sonoma Ready Day to obtain an additional 1,300 subscribers for SoCoAlert. As of November 14, 2019, SoCoAlert has approximately 71,000 phone subscribers, 57,000 text subscribers and 30,000 email subscribers. In addition, the County worked with the City of Santa Rosa to receive over 100,000 consumer contact info to add to the SoCoAlert database.
- Promoted the community's use of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radio alerting system.
- Validated the NOAA system during the September 2019 Alert and Warning Exercise.
- Developed and conducted the second annual County Alert and Warning Exercises. In September 2019, the County tested the Wireless Emergency Alert ("WEA") system.
- Contributed to the development of the State of California Alert and Warning Guidelines.
- Validated existing warning systems during deployment for active incidents, including the 2019 Winter Storms and Floods and the 2019 Kincadee Fire.
- Sherriff's Office completed installation of Hi-Lo sirens in all patrol vehicles and conducted public education and outreach.

The Department of Emergency Management continues to work on developing and implementing a comprehensive alert and warning program and has identified the following future activities:

- Meet with Bay Area broadcasters to identify new local program station for the Emergency Alert System (EAS).
- Implement a new Federal Warning System Activator training for County partners in emergency management.

- Develop a training program and materials for County emergency management staff.
- Conduct a Russian River flood response exercise.
- Continue to conduct targeted community evacuations drills.
- Work with partners to continue to address potential impacts of de-energization events, to include revisions to the County's De-Energization Plan due to new PG&E Wildfire Plan procedures.
- Research and identify a sponsor for a countywide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Program sponsor.
- Review and select qualified bidders by February 2020 to a Request for Proposal for computer-based software that consolidates first responders' and community partners' information to serve as a single repository for information thereby enhancing situational awareness for emergency managers.
- Identify software that could enhance the County's current capabilities to issue alerts and warnings to the public, including trainings and a public education campaign, with a goal of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Sonoma Water and the County completed the installation of eleven fire cameras in Sonoma County with an additional twelve fire cameras installed in neighboring Marin, Napa, and Lake Counties. The regional fire camera network now has 23 cameras in total, with additional fire cameras proposed in neighboring Mendocino County. Sonoma Water and the County, in partnership with the Alert Wildfire University Consortium, continue to work with the State of California to fund future operations of the fire camera network.

Sonoma Water also installed 25 rain and stream gauges within and surrounding the Sonoma Complex Fires burn scars as part of its OneRain system to provide real-time rainfall and streamflow data to the public and emergency officials. The system provided critical data following the fires that helped minimize the potential for secondary hazards related to flash flooding and mudslides. The data is available online at [sonoma.onerain.com](http://sonoma.onerain.com). The system also has alerting capability via text and email when rainfall intensities or stream levels approach pre-defined thresholds. The current year budget includes funding to expand the system to include real-time monitoring of water levels within Sonoma Water's four flood control reservoirs that are part of the Central Sonoma Watershed Project. These include Spring Lake, Matanzas Reservoir, Middle Fork Brush Creek Reservoir, and Piner Creek Reservoir.

As a result of these ongoing activities, and with changes in federal programs, the County's alert and warning system is significantly improved over what was available before the October 2017 Fires. The overall goal of Establishing a Comprehensive Alert & Warning Program is a multi-year phased project. Routine review of program components and research and evaluation of new technologies will keep the County's program consistent with best practices and the Department's systems current with state-of-the-art technology.

## **2. Work with the Community to Identify Hazards, Risks, Mitigation Strategies including Evacuation Routes**

The Department of Emergency Management has made progress on several Framework actions related to this priority project.

Activities to date include:

- Identified Community Evacuation Zones.
- Developed interim public education materials on disaster preparedness.
- Initiated discussions with Sonoma Water, American Water, and Sebastopol Water to explore opportunities and challenges related to sharing contact information to increase SoCoAlert subscribers.
- Established a website with information for residents during an evacuation ([www.SoCoEmergency.org](http://www.SoCoEmergency.org)).
- Established a multi-county real-time incident status map for the Kincade Fire and the PG&E power shutoff hazards which was shared with and used by CAL FIRE. During the shutdown and fire period, the map was viewed over 9.7 million times
- Completed the Animals in Disaster Response Plan.
- Organized the County's first evacuation drill exercises in Cavedale-Trinity (August 24, 2019) and Fitch Mountain (October 19, 2019) neighborhoods for residents to practice evacuating their homes and driving evacuation routes.

During the next year the Community Preparedness Program Manager will be engaged in the following activities:

- Continue to meet with community organizations to make them aware of the community outreach plan.
  - Meetings to date include community groups (Community Outreach Promoting Emergency Preparedness groups (COPE), Map Your Neighborhood, Neighborhood block groups, Tourism Association groups, Chamber meetings and workshops).
  - Library collaboration for the "Sonoma Ready" program set to begin in January 2020. The program includes 36 progressive preparedness presentations, 3 at each of the County's 12 libraries.
  - Continue to meet with the County's Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Group to share information and seek input on all County emergency preparedness plans and outreach.
- Compile a library of preparedness resources and toolkits that will be made available to communities to aid in their preparedness efforts.
  - New resources will include evacuation map brochures for neighborhoods, a Power Shut Down brochure, and a Family Preparedness Planning Guide.
- Complete a research and feasibility study of ways to provide transportation to emergency shelters.
- Complete an evaluation of non-County programs able to assist with disaster response (Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Auxiliary Communications, Medical Reserve Corps., etc.) and identify available funding sources.
- Establish and begin conducting Community Emergency Responder trainings countywide.

- Working Group has met to lay foundation for CERT trainings. Training to begin in 2020: January in Geyserville; February in Cloverdale; March at Safari West, Santa Rosa. In addition, a teen CERT class is scheduled in January at Cloverdale High School.
- Meet with stakeholder agencies/jurisdictions to consider the potential for creating a countywide joint powers authority (JPA) for preparedness.
- Develop the County Emergency Staff Development Program.

Department of Emergency Management staff has developed a County map of “Community Evacuation Zones.” The zones were assigned objective criteria to prioritize the most vulnerable areas. Staff will continue to work with these identified areas to develop evacuation plans and exercises, as well as vegetation management programs along the public right of way within these areas. Two have been completed; more will be scheduled for 2020.

Sonoma Water’s FireSmart Lake Sonoma program is featured as a case study for building community resiliency to protect a critical water supply watershed by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research’s Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Adaptation Clearinghouse: <https://resilientca.org/case-studies/FireSmart-Lake-Sonoma/>

The FireSmart Lake Sonoma program features innovative and effective stakeholder engagement methods designed to build capacity and foster collective action. Program methodology, materials, resources, and outreach results with future short- and long-term recommendations are available at <https://aginnovations.org/project/FiresmartLakeSonoma/>.

### **3. Facilitate construction hardening techniques appropriate for wildfire urban interfaces (WUI) and seismic retrofits for rebuilding and for existing homes through education and grant programs.**

The Home Hardening program is designed to facilitate construction hardening techniques appropriate for wildfire urban interfaces, which are the zones of transition between wildland (unoccupied land) and developed land, and seismic retrofits for rebuilding and existing homes through education and grant programs. The County has requested \$10 million in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to support implementation of the two programs (\$5 million for each program). Provided the county is awarded the grant funds, the WUI program will harden structures and create defensible spaces to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire. This HMGP grant application has been recommended to FEMA for approval by the State.

The Seismic Retrofit program would retrofit critical facilities, unreinforced masonry buildings, and possibly soft-structure buildings already identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Seismic Retrofit program has been waitlisted by CalOES and is on hold until additional funds become available.

The Community Development Commission received an HMGP grant from the remaining California Valley and Butte fire disaster funds to provide earthquake stabilization bracing to mobile homes in Sonoma County. As of December 2019, 247 mobile homes have received assistance. The Community Development Commission is set to earthquake brace another 350 mobile homes before the end of September 2020.

As an additional home hardening measure, the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) finances improvements that can make a home more fire hardened as long as those improvements meet the Program's energy requirements (e.g. roofing, siding, windows and air sealing). In addition, SCEIP is authorized for water conservation improvements.

On July 23, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved expanding the SCEIP Program to include seismic and wildfire safety improvements throughout the County. The Program has received official word that the judge signed the judicial validation action allowing the Energy Independence Program to finance seismic strengthening and wildfire safety improvements starting January 14, 2020. Energy and Sustainability staff have kept the nine cities/town in the county up to date with the process and are currently scheduling presentations with each of the City/Town Councils. Each city/town will need to amend their current agreement with the County and pass a resolution authorizing the Program to finance these types of improvements in each of their jurisdictions.

In addition to providing this valuable financing service for local residents, another major partnership opportunity has presented itself in the form of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant through Permit Sonoma and supported by ORR. Staff will combine outreach and marketing efforts between SCEIP's financing program and the HMGP efforts. Staff is also exploring ways to maximize use of the HMGP funds by allowing homeowners to coordinate grant monies received with PACE financing allowing them to pay down principal, in essence lowering the effective interest rate. Staff from General Services - Energy and Sustainability, ORR, and Permit Sonoma will plan a coordinated multi-channel marketing effort to ensure residents are aware of this financing option along with grant monies once the grant is able to move forward.

In concert with Sonoma Water's source water protection efforts and the FireSmart Lake Sonoma Watershed program, a recently awarded CAL FIRE grant effort includes landowner education and work parties featuring home hardening, defensible space, and emergency preparedness. Workshops will include representatives from Geyserville Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE, Sonoma Water, and County departments.

#### **4. Work with private utility providers on solutions related to hardening infrastructure and on coping with destroyed utilities in a disaster, including undergrounding where appropriate and necessary.**

The County continues to officially participate in the current rulemaking process underway with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for possible changes to PG&E's current Rule 20A program to better safeguard public interests and mitigate wildfire risks in rural areas. These efforts include possibly changing Rule 20A program criteria to include the benefits of reduced wildfire risks due to undergrounding of utilities in fire-prone, sparsely-populated rural areas (rather than the aesthetics-based focus of current criteria) or creating a separate new undergrounding program for high fire risk areas. A summary of these efforts was provided in an Informational Item presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 2, 2019 ("Informational Update on County Participation in Wildfire-Related California Public Utilities Commission Proceedings").

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) continues to push forward on a utility undergrounding project in Freestone, a high fire risk area in the County that meets the requirements of the Rule 20A program. TPW obtained the Board of Supervisors approval and adopted a resolution



amending the boundary of the previously established Freestone Underground Utility District No. 1. To proceed with undergrounding of existing overhead utilities in this district, PG&E has requested changes in order to conform the district boundaries to the proposed utilities undergrounding design and to otherwise satisfy applicable funding requirements.

#### **5. Help property owners navigate vegetation management opportunities through partnership with Fire Safe Sonoma and similar programs.**

Helping property owners navigate vegetation management opportunities and partnering with fire safe councils such as Fire Safe Sonoma and other similar programs and stakeholders is essential to aligning priorities, identifying resources and ensuring regional collaboration. The County is leading and partnering on several activities that are making progress on this priority need.

##### Expanded Fuels Reduction and Landscape Resiliency Campaign

Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division, in coordination with CAL FIRE and several local Fire Districts, is in the midst of conducting seasonal outreach, education, and inspections for compliance with defensible space/hazardous fuels reduction regulations, and performing abatement as necessary. The County's recent work this year is supported with \$500,000, as approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2018.

On April 2, 2019 the Board approved an 'Expanded Fuels Reduction and Landscape Resiliency Campaign' program under the leadership of Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division. The Board allocated \$900,000 per year of funding for each of the next four years to advance this campaign. The core focus of this expanded program remains on inspections and fuels management within areas zoned for five acres or smaller parcels. However, new elements of the program will increase the coordination and support of efforts on larger parcels and projects including multiple ownerships in priority locations.

The budget has been identified for small parcel inspections and potential abatements in 2020, with the final budget programming to occur by the end of January 2020. As of January 3, 2020, Sonoma County and partners have conducted 6,754 inspections. Additional inspections and abatement will occur as part of the process to improve compliance with County Ordinance 6148. Engagement with agency and community stakeholders has been underway for several months and will continue as the campaign moves forward. Evaluation of the 2019 inspection season and ordinance effectiveness is occurring. These data, along with the Board of Supervisors feedback, public comment and continuing coordination with local and state partners, will inform potential modifications to local planning and regulations, as well as state and federal legislative requests.

A detailed work plan around the effort will come to the Board of Supervisors in the first quarter of calendar year 2020.

##### Roadside Fuels Reduction and Outreach and Chipper Project

Transportation and Public Works, in collaboration with Permit Sonoma and Fire Safe Sonoma, has commenced work on a CAL FIRE grant-funded roadside fuels reduction and outreach and chipper service project, focused on lower Russian River communities. The road segments for the arborist survey that identified dead, dying or hazardous trees have been selected. A professional arborist will be contracted to survey the selected road segments. Fire Safe Sonoma will begin outreach and education this summer. Permit Sonoma obtained the new truck and chipper. While this is the same grant program, this



particular grant is separate from the Geyserville Fire Protection District project below and was provided to the County.

#### Grant Funding for Vegetation Management along Priority Roadsides

The Geyserville Fire Protection District, in partnership with Sonoma Water, UC Cooperative Extension, Transportation and Public Works, Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship and Fire Safe Sonoma, has been awarded a \$540,000 grant from CAL FIRE to manage vegetation along priority roadsides, implement a chipper program, develop Community Wildlife Protection Plans, conduct home and defensible space inspections in the Lake Sonoma watershed and neighboring regions, conduct landowner outreach and host a series of defensible space/fire resiliency workshops to train landowners with support from workforce, and develop a fuels reduction toolkit outlining practices and strategies and their costs. The project kick-off meeting was held on October 1, 2019, with activities underway. While this is the same grant program as the one above, this particular grant is separate from the County's project above and was provided to the Geyserville Fire Protection District.

#### Private Landowner Fuels Management Education and Outreach

The Good Fire Alliance program, under co-leadership of the Sonoma County UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and Audubon Canyon Ranch, continues to be active in assisting private landowners with education, field training, and demonstrations assisting with the application of prescribed fire (Rx fire) as well as targeted grazing. UCCE is holding grazing schools around the county to discuss all aspects of grazing, including multi-species grazing for fuels management. The Board of Supervisors approved a part-time UCCE prescribed fire assistant who will connect directly with property owners, and coordinate with Permit Sonoma on large parcel and multi-parcel projects. Vegetation management activities, including trainings and prescribed burns led by private landowner are planned for 2020.

#### Biochar

As part of the FireSmart Lake Sonoma program, Sonoma Water, in partnership with Ag Innovations and Geyserville Fire Protection District, held a fuels reduction workshop in May 2019 featuring a Top Lit burn (or conservation burn) to teach a pile burn technique that efficiently converts cleared vegetation to biochar. Biochar helps sequester carbon and enhance soil capacity to absorb water. Sonoma Water also partnered with Sonoma Biochar Initiative/Sonoma Ecology Center to host a Biochar Roundtable in June featuring new biomass conversion, fuels reduction, and biochar policy updates from the Governor's Office of Planning & Research. Biomass conversion and biochar use continues to rise as practical strategy to sequester carbon and practical technique to convert cleared vegetation to soil amendment that increases soil health and conserves water. Workshops and discussions were held at the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, Sierra Club, and Heirloom Festival.

#### Governance Advocacy

The Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Sonoma Water, and Permit Sonoma are assisting with an innovative collaboration working with the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, Pepperwood Preserve, EBalive and other key partners to advance the governance, organization(s), and other mechanisms needed to provide sustainable (even profitable) fire risk reduction and drought resilience efforts on private lands in Sonoma County and the greater North Bay region. Departments and staff have provided information to the EBalive research team through interviews and through a 4-county strategy session this past summer.

In addition, Sonoma Water has been participating regularly in the Forest Conservation Working Group and other County vegetation management meetings with the same source water protection interest. Staff co-manage the Fire Smart Lake Sonoma program (initially focused on community input, outreach and planning) and now, most recently vegetation management and other fire preparedness skill building, Community Wildfire Protection Plan development and outreach tasks, in partnership with North Sonoma County Fire Department (formerly Geyserville Fire), Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works, UCCE Sonoma, CAL FIRE, and other partners.

## **6. Continue to advocate for substantive changes to insurance regulations**

The County of Sonoma has participated in several efforts to support survivors as they navigate the rebuild process. Insurance advocacy included the encouragement of the California Department of Insurance to meet with local block captains and officials in May to hear public testimony from fire survivors on their frustrations and difficulties with insurance carriers. California Department of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara met with local block captains and officials on May 28, 2019 in the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

Subsequently, the Department of Insurance issued two notices to insurers requesting they extend additional living expense (ALE) coverage by a full year to survivors whose additional living expense benefits will expire this month. ALE coverage typically includes food and housing costs, furniture rental, relocation and storage, and extra transportation expenses while a home is uninhabitable. The Department also issued a notice requesting that insurers not deduct the land value when survivors who suffered a total loss choose to purchase a new home in a different location. Many insurers deduct land costs, reducing the amount that a homeowner can receive.

Two years after the disaster, many survivors are still in the rebuild process with some still at risk of losing critical additional living expense (ALE) coverage. New state laws have extended living expense coverage from 24 to 36 months. Unfortunately, these new laws do not apply to survivors of the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires. In late September 2019, the Board of Supervisors issued a letter to insurance providers, urging the extension of ALE coverage to survivors. Twenty six insurers agreed to extend the time to collect ALE for 2017 Wildfires; three insurers did not agree to extend ALE, and 10 insurers did not respond.

These new laws will benefit homeowners with properties destroyed in the 2019 Kincadee Fire as well as any future fires experienced in Sonoma County.

## **7. Engage the community to raise awareness about how to prepare and plan ahead for disasters**

The Department of Emergency Management and the County Administrator's Office, with the support of the County's network of Public Information Officers, developed a *Community Preparedness Plan*. Through the Plan, the County educates and empowers Sonoma County residents, neighborhoods, community groups, and the private sector on how to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement via traditional and new media approaches and takes opportunities to present clear, concise and consistent messages targeted to specific audiences and tailored to community needs. Outreach is designed to ensure that communications will cross all sensory, language and cultural barriers to reach all residents and visitors in Sonoma County, including individuals with disabilities and

others with access and functional needs.

The program encompasses activities to inform the public and provides opportunities for the public to inform the Department of Emergency Management's policies and programs. The goals of the Plan are to:

- Educate and empower residents to better prepare themselves, their families, their businesses and their neighborhoods for an emergency.
- Show local communities, business partners, organizations and Sonoma County residents how to reduce their exposure to natural and human-caused hazards.
- Strengthen relationships between and among local jurisdictions, businesses and regional partners to improve public messaging before, during and after an emergency.
- Continue to implement tactics throughout the County to increase the Department of Emergency Management's presence as a trusted community resource for issues of emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The Department of Emergency Management Community Preparedness Program Manager has been reviewing multiple preparedness programs and literature to compile resources to be used to educate and empower residents and neighborhoods in preparedness. The revising and revamping of literature and website information is ongoing.

The Department of Emergency Management has also begun tabling and speaking at community events to promote SoCoAlerts as well as preparedness. These events include large community events like the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show and small events such as the Elks Club Preparedness Lecture. Presentations were also given to school administrators at a Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) preparedness meeting. Staff also presented on Power Shut Down Preparedness to the Petaluma School Board.

The Community Preparedness Program Manager has also engaged in collaborations with local chambers and associations to promote preparedness for businesses and local tourism as a sector. One example is a Power Shut Off Workshop for businesses that was conducted in Windsor. In addition, the Economic Development Board (EDB) assembled and disseminated a Power Shutoff resource guide through various email and social media channels. The guide can now be found on its website alongside the recovery guides for various local disaster events, and will be updated as new resources come online. In addition to the proactive approach, EDB staff have been working with businesses of all sizes from every industry to help them understand what is available to help them recover losses, and how best to prepare and deploy resources in advance of future events.

In an effort to build stronger bonds between local jurisdictions, the Department of Emergency Management is partnering with a number of local agencies including Santa Rosa Fire, Petaluma Fire, Sebastopol Fire, and American Red Cross to develop a foundation for CERT Programming in the county.

Additionally, the Program Manager developed and implemented a major marketing campaign - "Be Ready Together" – to promote individual and community preparedness.

In October, the Department of Emergency Management, working with Catholic Charities, sent a number of individuals ranging in age from 25-60 to a LISTOS program preview being held at the California Emergency Services Administration (CESA) Conference. LISTOS (Ready) is a Spanish language based

preparedness program currently being promoted by Cal Volunteers. The program is designed to be culturally and linguistically appropriate for the Spanish speaking community. Based on the attendees positive reports a Train the Trainer and initial LISTOS Class was held in early December with 25 attending and becoming LISTOS Class Trainers. The LISTOS program will be promoted through a number of organizations in the county to help engage the Latino communities in preparedness activities and the Department of Emergency Management will continue to support this effort and the programs growth.

**8. Expedite Permitting for Homeowners who are Rebuilding**

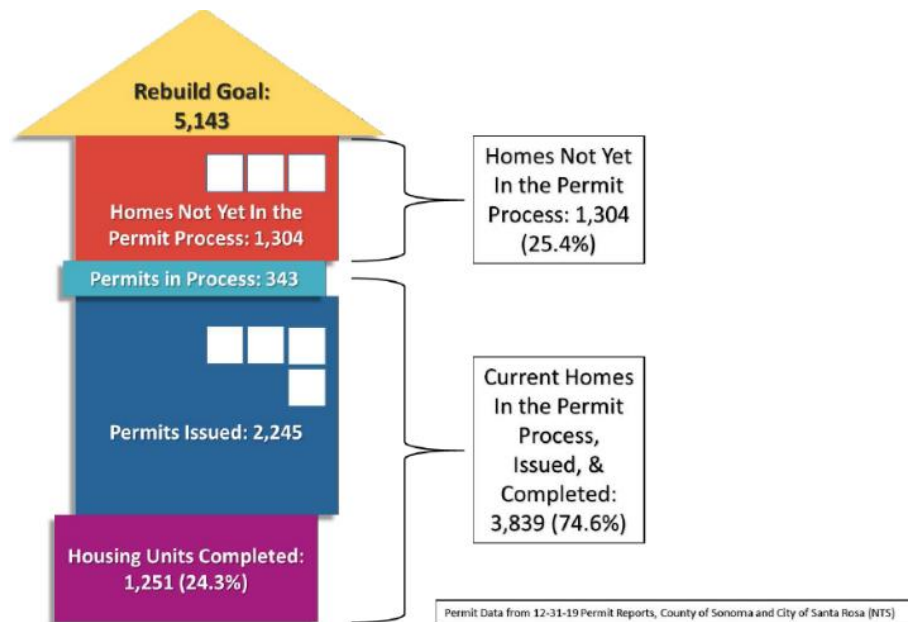
Permit Sonoma established a Resiliency Permit Center providing expedited comprehensive permitting and inspection services for those who lost homes in the fires and their representatives dealing with reconstruction of 2,264 of the 5,143 residential structures destroyed or damaged by the Sonoma Complex Fire. The balance of homes were lost in Santa Rosa and a similar set of services is being provided by the City of Santa Rosa.

Services at the Resiliency Permit Center began February 13, 2018. The Resiliency Permit Center offers reduced permit fees, expedited processing times, electronic submittal of plans, and customer navigation services. Beginning in 2019, the Resiliency Permit Center additionally began offering a review of bid proposals to fire survivors to help them determine where scope and pricing are within a normal average.

The Board of Supervisors also adopted multiple urgency and long-term ordinances to assist recovery in Chapter 40 of the Sonoma County Code, titled Sonoma Complex Fire Disaster Recovery. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors extended most provisions in Chapter 40 until December 31, 2021.

As of December 31, 2019, the combined County and City permit departments have had 3,839 homes, or 74.6% of the homes lost in the fires, start the permitting process. Of those homes in the process, 343 had not yet been permitted, 2,245 have been permitted and are rebuilding, and 1,251 had completed construction. The remaining 1,304, or 25.4%, of the homes lost in the fires, have not yet started the permitting process in order to rebuild.

In November 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Chapter 40A of the Sonoma County Code, titled Kincade Fire Disaster Recovery, to address the immediate and interim housing needs for residents displaced by the 2019 Kincade Fire to streamline reconstruction. Chapter 40A will expire on December 31, 2021.



## 9. Enhance the 2-1-1 System

United Way of the Wine Country took over as the 2-1-1 administrator in July 2019. 2-1-1 Sonoma County is a comprehensive information and referral service for Sonoma County, connecting callers, website-users and individuals using text messages with information about health and human services available to them. During times of disaster, 2-1-1 provides incident-specific information in coordination with local emergency services, including road closures and shelters both locally and nationwide. 2-1-1 Sonoma County phone and text services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is available in 150 languages through phone interpretation services.

The United Way of the Wine Country established 2-1-1 priorities for 2019. The following are priorities and updates for each:

- Ensure that the 2-1-1 database is accurate and up-to-date
  - Update: This is a continual process for United Way of the Wine Country and great initial strides have been made to update the database.
- Provide accessible and user-friendly information and referral services
  - Update: A new, use-friendly, website for 2-1-1 Sonoma launched in 2019, [211sonoma.org](http://211sonoma.org).
- Increase awareness and use of 2-1-1 services
  - Update: United Way of the Wine Country continues to increase marketing efforts to inform the community of this service. Awareness was especially gained during the Kincade Fire call use.
- Ensure that 2-1-1 is responsible to the individual needs of users
  - Update: This will remain an ongoing, overarching priority for 2-1-1 Sonoma.
- Expand the offering of 2-1-1 services
  - Update: 2-1-1 continues to expand its services. For example, texting with 2-1-1 for is now possible to find information about emergencies and emergency preparedness.
- Enhance data collection and reporting
  - Update: United Way of the Wine Country has developed an interactive report, now available at [211sonoma.org](http://211sonoma.org).

In addition, United Way has established a new 2-1-1 Sonoma Steering Committee to guide 2-1-1 in Sonoma. Members will be:

- Serving as a resource or ideas and approaches
- Providing input on proposed strategies and actions
- Prioritizing steps and goals that need to be taken
- Using data to inform strategy development and learning
- Serving as a champion of the program
- Participating in regularly scheduled meetings
- Committing to a year-long membership on the steering committee

2-1-1 continues preparing to have an active role in emergency and disaster response as well as expanding across neighboring counties. 2-1-1 played an active role in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the Kincade Fire in providing bilingual information to the community. 2-1-1 callers fielded 4,450 calls during the Kincade Fire. United Way of the Wine Country staff were present 24-7 to provide information to the Sonoma County community regarding all aspects of evacuations, fire and other information.

## **10. Develop a One-Stop Shop Resource Center**

There has not been significant progress to develop a One-Stop Resource Center, primarily due to the lack of funds necessary to design and develop a Resource Center. County staff, however, have been engaged in conversations with community-based organizations, including the Rebuilding Our Community (ROC) Sonoma County, Community Action Partnership and Catholic Charities, about a permanent Resource Center.

The purpose of the ROC Sonoma County is to establish and maintain a network within and on behalf of faith-based, non-profit, governmental, business and other organizations and agencies, to provide a coordinated fire recovery effort. ROC Sonoma County focuses on identifying and assisting individuals and families who do not have the adequate personal resources for basic needs as a result of the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires. While there is significant interest, to date there has not been a thorough needs assessment nor has any long-term funding been identified.

In 2020, the County will explore conducting a formal needs assessment to evaluate the ongoing need of a one-stop shop resource center for recovery support.

## **OTHER RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES**

In addition to the 2019 Top 10 Priority Projects, departments also identified projects to be engaged with in Year 1 of Framework implementation. Updates on projects engaged in Year 1 include:

### **1. COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### De-energization Emergency Operations Plan Annex

In 2019, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) de-energized electrical systems servicing large areas in Sonoma County in advance of or during periods of heightened wildfire danger conditions. PG&E calls this the “Public Safety Power Shutoff” (PSPS) program.

County staff and allied stakeholder agencies prepared the De-Energization Annex to the Sonoma County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which outlines procedures that guide a collaborative response by local governments, special districts, and allied agencies in the Sonoma County Operational Area to the threat of or actual de-energization of electrical systems due to extreme fire danger conditions. The Department of Emergency Management presented the new Annex to the Board on August 6, 2019.

Six de-energization events were conducted by PG&E in September, October and November 2019, and the County stood up its Emergency Operations Center for these events. The October events impacted 262,694 customers, leaving them without power from two and half to five days, depending on location.

### Animal Disaster Annex

The Department of Health Services completed the Animals in Disaster Response Plan, an Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan. The Annex has been submitted to Department of Emergency Management for addition to the County Emergency Operations Plan. While the Annex was in draft form, the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) reviewed all animal disaster plans for the Bay Area region and used the annex as a model for development of a toolkit for updating or writing disaster plans for animals.

### Fairgrounds Animal Evacuation

The Fairgrounds continues to work with the Sonoma County Horse Council on processes for evacuating animals to the fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds has signed an agreement with Red Cross to store a trailer on the property which will house evacuation supplies. Additionally, the fairgrounds is working with the Horse Council on storing a trailer that will house supplies for animal evacuations.

### Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and County Departments have updated the County's comprehensive coordinated government Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The COOP Base Plan and 56 Department/Division-specific Playbooks provide the ability for the County to maintain critical services in the event of utility or information systems disruption, labor resource conflict, major emergency, or disaster. DEM presented this plan to the Board of Supervisors on July 9, 2019.

### Blanket Purchase Orders for Security Guard Services

On July 23, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved five Blanket Purchase Order Agreements to make guard services available on an as-needed basis to all County departments (and affiliated public entities, such as Sonoma Water), including in the event of emergencies and disasters. Services available include as-needed security patrol at County facilities, or non-county facilities, as well as services in support of emergency events.

### Sonoma Ready Day

The Board adopted *Community Preparedness Plan* identifies a community-wide event as a key tactic to outreach preparedness information with the community. Sonoma Ready Day was held on Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The event offered emergency resources, demonstrations, short lectures, emergency vehicle displays and tools to educate and empower community members to withstand and recover from emergencies.

Over 5,000 people participated in the event and 1,900 of the 2,400 "go bags" were distributed in the first 1 ½ hours. The remaining 500 bags were held for those who had coupons until 2:00 PM when the balance of bags were distributed. Sixty seven resource tables were available and the public remained throughout the whole event. Many of the agencies had to restock their informational materials mid-day due to the exceptional attendance.

Emergency response vehicles, including helicopters, lined the green outside the two event halls. The vehicles were popular with the kids throughout the day. Topical speakers in both English and Spanish provided information talks throughout the event.



### Local Assistance Center (LAC) Handbook

In September 2019, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency updated the Local Assistance Center (LAC) Handbook. This was the first update to the Handbook since 2006. Following the 2017 Fires, the County heard from the community that there were not enough Spanish resources at the LAC. The Handbook now states:

- Spanish bilingual staff will be available to greet clients and help them navigate resources at all times.
- All handouts and materials will be provided in English and Spanish
- Signs will be posted in English and Spanish
- In addition, community concerns were raised that County may ask about immigration status of individuals using the LAC. The Handbook states explicitly that immigration status will not be questioned.

In March 2019, the County had the opportunity to develop new procedures and guidelines during the 2019 Winter Storms and Flooding disaster. The Office of Recovery and Resiliency opened the LAC in Guerneville utilizing the lessons learned during the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires.

- The County served 886 residents in one week (March 3-9)
- The County hosted 20 local and state agencies who provided 1,995 total services
- Interpretation and translation services, including bilingual signage, were provided

In November 2019, the County had another opportunity to test and improve upon these procedures when opening a LAC at the Healdsburg Community Center.

- The County served 1,185 households, many of which came with a number of family members in need of assistance in four days (November 4-7).
- Seven county departments, many with multiple divisions represented, as well as CalOES, and many non-profit partners served thousands of County residents.

### Staff Development and Wellness Benefit Expansion

In response to direction by the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management and the Human Resources Department, has expanded the Staff Development and Wellness Benefit available to County employees to include emergency preparedness equipment as an allowable reimbursable purchase.

The County is the largest employer in Sonoma County and every employee is required to serve as a disaster service worker if needed during an emergency. By expanding this benefit, the opportunities for County employees and their families to be more prepared increases, allowing better availability and capacity to serve the community during a disaster.

Emergency preparedness supply expenses include portable generators and emergency power battery systems, personal and family pre-configured emergency/disaster kits, hand crank radios and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.

The Staff Development and Wellness Benefit is an established benefit for many County employees. Expanding items to purchase with this benefit has no additional fiscal impact to the County.

## 2. HOUSING

The County is focusing on attracting new and expanded sources of capital to incentivize the creation of housing for all income levels; increasing regulatory certainty by changing the County's business model and actively seeking opportunities to deepen regional cooperation; supporting rebuilding fire-destroyed homes; and exploring the use of County-owned property to attract housing development that aligns with County goals.

### RED: Renewal Enterprise District

In December 2018, the County and the City of Santa Rosa formed a joint powers authority (JPA) known as the Renewal Enterprise District (RED). The RED regionalizes housing production, pools and leverages financing and funding, shares risks and benefits of development, provides confidence in constructible projects that meet RED goals, and puts equity, affordability and climate solutions in the center of local economic strategy.

The RED works across jurisdictions to market and attract developers, to blend private financing and public funds, to leverage state and federal grant funds and to facilitate creation of housing that meets established public policy goals for increased density, access to transit, protection of open space and community separators and improving energy efficiency, climate resilience and affordability. In creating the RED, local leaders acknowledge that if the pace of housing production is not accelerated well beyond historic levels, the impacts on the climate, economy, quality of life, and health and well-being of Sonoma County residents will be adversely affected. Both jurisdictions have implemented changes relative to existing models of entitling and financing home building in order to overcome barriers to infill, mid-to high density, transit-oriented development.

By working together through a JPA, the City and County have operationalized a common vision to drive regional renewal efforts by leveraging their real estate assets, regulatory authority and new funding sources for maximum effect and long-term term benefit.

The RED Board hired an Executive Director who started on July 22, 2019. The RED is currently engaged in a legislative strategy to secure State funds to support the production of critically needed transit-oriented, above-code, affordable and workforce housing units into our community. The RED Criteria have been drafted and are under consideration by the RED Board on February 26, 2020.

### Increasing Regulatory Certainty

The County evaluated and brought forward revised multi-family standards, workforce housing combining zone standards near jobs, and other housing initiatives which were approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2018. The next steps include reviewing higher density development opportunities within Urban Service Areas near jobs and transit, as provided in the General Plan, to identify workforce housing combining zone district(s). This work is being started using SB2 funds. SB2 provides State funding and technical assistance to local governments to help them prepare, adopt, and implement plans and process improvements that streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production. Additional funding is needed to complete the work.

There are Specific Plans currently underway for the Airport SMART station area and for the Sonoma Springs area; both are anticipated to increase allowable residential uses and densities near employment and transit. Both Specific Plans and associated EIRs are in process and nearing their 2020 expected

completion dates. A third Specific Plan for the Sonoma Developmental Center is in the beginning of plan development process.

#### Housing on County-owned Land

The County is working on a number of opportunities for housing on County-owned land.

The County is exploring the potential for housing as part of a mixed-use development on the County Administration Center property (Civic Center). On July 23, 2019, the Board approved a consulting contract with Project Finance Advisory Limited (PFAL) who is helping the County evaluate opportunities to consolidating buildings on the campus or moving administrative functions elsewhere. In August and October 2019, staff confirmed the project goals and objectives by engaging internal & external stakeholders.

Additionally, on December 10, 2019, the Board accepted staff's recommendations for site evaluation criteria for potential new County Government Center options to be considered. The next phase of Site Evaluation is the "Development of Criteria" phase to develop criteria that will be used to evaluate opportunities at each of the sites under consideration (Civic Center, the downtown Santa Rosa, and near the Airport). It is anticipated that site recommendations and funding analysis will be developed in the first Quarter of 2020, with a final report for Board of Supervisors consideration later in 2020.

The County continues to identify possible housing opportunities on other County-owned land that will require due diligence work and additional resources to move forward.

The County continues to pursue repurposing/selling the Chanate campus as allowed under California statute. Responses to the Request for Proposals for the Chanate campus were rejected on August 20, 2019 and, in September 2019, further direction was given by the Board of Supervisors to the General Services Department to continue to pursue housing on the Chanate campus.

Significant development milestones were met on two key Community Development Commission (CDC)-owned housing sites that together will produce 345 units of housing (West College and Roseland Village).

The 2150 W College site had a housing developer secured on December 11, 2018. An Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) was executed in February 2019, and CDC is continuing to work with the housing developer on 2150 W College. Land Use approvals are anticipated to be submitted to the City of Santa Rosa in the first Quarter of 2020.

The Roseland Village site has a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) that is anticipated to be executed in the first Quarter of 2020. CDC will continue to work with the housing developer at Roseland Village who is expected to submit major design review and land use approval applications to City of Santa Rosa the first Quarter of 2020.

#### FEMA Direct Housing Program Extension

This federally-implemented program was intended to run for 18 months (thru April 10, 2019) for qualified fire survivors in need of mid-term temporary housing while they searched for alternative long-term housing solutions. In January 2019, the County and the City of Santa Rosa jointly requested that

the State of California request an extension for those in the FEMA Direct Housing program.

The extension was granted but with different end dates for owners and renters. In April 2019, the County and City jointly requested that owners and renters be extended to the same end date. On May 10, 2019, the last day of the program, FEMA granted an extension to the renters to match the owners end date of July 10, 2019. At the time of the closeout, the FEMA Direct Housing program was supporting five households within Sonoma County who are displaced because of the October 2017 wildfires, with all five in RVs at the fairgrounds. Of the five households in RVs at the fairgrounds, one was an owner and four were renters.

The final close out occurred on July 10, 2019 and Rebuild Our Community (ROC) Sonoma County, the Disaster Case Managers (DCMs), and Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) were present at the Fairgrounds to work with the households and ensure a transition to other housing was as smooth as possible.

### **3. ECONOMY**

#### Cooperative Education Program and Talent Alignment Council

Economic Development Board (EDB) staff continue to work towards building sustainable career pathways tied to education and new business opportunities, especially in the area of construction. One of the key activities identified in the Framework is to create a Sonoma County Cooperative Education Program that combines classroom-based learning with structured work experience to develop a pipeline of skilled graduates into local firms.

EDB convened human resources representatives from local companies and career placement staff from local educational institutions (Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University, and Empire College) for a first ever meeting of its kind to discuss issues, challenges, and possible curriculum changes and policies to encourage students to stay in Sonoma County following graduation. The group concluded that a Cooperative Education Program, used in other communities, was not the preferred direction at this time. This group will be working towards a data driven plan and approach to help meet the goal of student retention on the local community over the year. Given the group direction, this effort has been merged with the Talent Alignment Council. The Talent Alignment Council is comprised of the EDB, Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) staff, local post-secondary education institutions, and human resources representatives to serve as a resource for policy and program development to develop greater connectivity among employers and education.

In early 2020, a survey will be deployed among students at Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College, and Empire College to better understand perceptions of Sonoma County, and opportunities to retain higher numbers of recent graduates. The results will help inform a comprehensive report on the state of the workforce in Sonoma County, as well as potential action items for the Talent Alignment Council.

#### Construction Trades Center

The Economic Development Board is seeking to develop a plan to train and recruit new construction workers that includes collaborating with the North Bay Construction Corps, a five-month after school training program for high school seniors interested in construction and the trades. Working with established Career Technical Educational programs to identify existing training programs that can

benefit from expanded training opportunities to develop a pipeline, EDB will continue partnership with Santa Rosa Junior College to establish a Regional Construction Training Center. Next steps include assembling an advisory committee comprised of labor and trade groups to help create an operating agreement, as well as propose and refine curriculum.

### Broadband

EDB has completed a Broadband Strategic Plan with a top broadband consultant and plans on using it to provide guidance to staff and the Board on future program and policy recommendations. EDB is researching grant funding opportunities to support pilot broadband projects in rural areas of Sonoma County.

Next steps include (1) create Sonoma County Broadband Business Plan exploring public-private-partnerships and municipal ownership of telecommunications infrastructure to promote broadband expansion; (2) work with internet service providers to apply for broadband infrastructure grants in April 2020 to deploy in unserved communities; and (3) explore feasibility for community owned broadband networks utilizing special districts and public-private-partnerships.

## **4. SAFETY NET SERVICES**

Safety Net Services refers to services such as behavioral health, assistance with obtaining food and medical benefits, financial assistance, animal services and protection. Safety net service departments provide programs that help the community at-large while providing specialized services for seniors, children and youth, families, people with disabilities, and individuals who are low-income, and the homeless. Safety net services are provided in partnership with community organizations.

Sonoma County safety net services departments include the Human Services Department, Department of Health Services, Department of Child Support Services, Community Development Commission, Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Public Defender, and the District Attorney's Office.

Safety Net departments continue to focus on enhancing core County service capacity to address long-term recovery needs and prepare for future disasters.

### Shelter Training and Improvements

Human Services Department (HSD) completed a shelter training series in fall 2018 for more than 130 HSD staff on Shelter Fundamentals, Shelter Management, and Access and Functional Needs. HSD is planning follow up trainings in 2020 for HSD staff not yet trained and as a refresher for those already trained. HSD also hosted and led a shelter drill at Sonoma State University on September 6, 2018, followed by a seminar for HSD staff and County sheltering partners.

In February 2019, HSD was activated for the Winter Storms and Flooding evacuation and operated a shelter for 80 homeless individuals at Grace Pavilion at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, in partnership with West County Community Services. A total of 62 HSD staff were involved in the Winter Storm/Flood response, including operating the Grace Pavilion shelter, Emergency Operations Center, FAST Teams, and other activities.

To ensure available resources and services at disaster shelters were accessible to non-English speaking and/or undocumented residents, HSD met two times in 2018 with the North Bay Organizing Project Immigrant Defense Task Force to discuss ways to ensure bilingual staff are available at shelters. During the 2019 Winter Storms and Flooding, all shelter signage was produced in both English and Spanish. The County successfully operated the County run shelter in February 2019 without any complaints or concerns from residents in the shelter around language, accessibility or resources.

Human Services Department will continue to co-chair the monthly Sonoma County Shelter Council meetings with American Red Cross, including other sheltering partners (jurisdictions within Sonoma County and nonprofits). The Shelter Council is represented by the Human Services Department, Department of Health Services, Department of Emergency Management (DEM), all the larger cities in the county, and includes non-profit agencies. The Shelter Council is finalizing the Shelter Handbook for shelter managers to provide guidance on all components involved in operating a shelter including Mass Feeding, Donations Management, Volunteer Management, etc. HSD staff created a public facing webpage on SoCo Emergency with FAQ's and information for operating shelters during disasters.

HSD created a 300-bed shelter trailer kit that contains all of the basic equipment and supplies to open a large evacuation shelter. This trailer was staged at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial building during 2019 PG&E power shut offs and was used to set up a large shelter there during the 2019 Kincade Fire. HSD operated the Petaluma Veterans Memorial building shelter during the Kincade Fire and has largely completed its after action review and report summarizing areas where HSD staff will work to improve preparedness in 2020.

HSD staff finalized its after action report on Kincade Fire shelter activation on December 31, 2019, and will begin implementing improvements identified in the report. HSD will also work with the General Services Department and the Department of Emergency Management to purchase five shelter trailers to stage equipment and supplies for future sheltering at designated shelter locations.

#### Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST)

In December 2018, HSD organized a 2-day training in which 27 participants, 14 of which were HSD employees, were trained to serve on the County's first ever Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST). The purpose of FAST is to ensure that shelter residents who have disabilities and/or access and functional needs (AFN) receive the supports, resources, and accommodations needed to comfortably reside in the shelter. The FAST workers will conduct individual assessments, generate resource requests, and assist the shelter resident with any unique disability or AFN related needs. FAST was successfully deployed during the 2019 Winter Storms and the Kincade fire event. The FAST workers logged over 700 hours of shelter work during the Kincade event.

#### Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Committee

In March 2018, HSD assumed the leadership role of the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Committee. Under Michael Humphrey's (IHSS Public Authority Manager) leadership, the Committee has expanded to include over 60 individuals representing many non-profit, government, and private agencies serving people with disabilities, the elderly, and others with access and functional needs. The Committee has a long list of accomplishments, including help with bringing the FAST training to Sonoma County for the first time, providing AFN training to nearly 100 HSD employees, reviewing and commenting on the County's De-Energization and Local Assistance Center plans. The Committee also participated in the shelter exercise held at Sonoma State University on September 6, 2018. The Committee meets quarterly

on the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December.

### Workforce Support

Efforts continue to provide re-employment assistance for workers who have lost their jobs because their employers' businesses were destroyed or impacted by fires. After two years of fire recovery, these activities are complete. Sonoma County Job Link continues to offer employment services and re-employment services for Sonoma County residents.

Since the fires in 2017, Job Link has continued to not only serve Sonoma County residents, but Sonoma County businesses. Job Link has made an increased effort to support dislocated workers. Data on our Dislocated Worker Program from 2019 show that by the 2nd quarter after exiting the program, we saw 77% securing employment and 91% by the 4th quarter. 46% of dislocated workers attained a Credential within a year of exiting.

The Human Services Department utilizes grant funding from the California Employment Development Department to help train residents for in-demand construction jobs and promote opportunities in both English and Spanish.

To date, Sonoma County Job Link has supported 112 individuals to access training for in-demand construction jobs. Seventy six of these individuals have received financial assistance and supportive services through the Human Services Department and an additional 36 have enrolled in pre-apprenticeship training program through the Job Link partner program – the North Bay Labor Council's Trades Introduction Program. Additionally, Sonoma County Job Link has referred numerous individuals to the Adult Construction Corps program offered through the SRJC and the North Coast Builders' Exchange.

Construction continues to be one of the Workforce Investment Board's 3 top priority industries. As such, it is considered a target industry into which job seekers are referred along with case management, supportive services and paid on the job training. Sonoma County Job Link, under the oversight of the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), will continue to recruit job seekers interested in construction and support them into construction jobs. There are five Labor seats on the WIB, currently held by individuals in the building and trades. These individuals are active industry champions to job seekers coming through Job Link.

### California HOPE Crisis Counseling Assistance Extended

The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, known locally as California HOPE, is administered in Sonoma County through the County Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Division. California HOPE counselors continue to see a need for counseling services and emotional support. Since services were created, California HOPE counselors have provided over 90,000 services and counseling sessions to community members (this data contains duplicate individuals).

The California HOPE program helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through community outreach, counseling, and access to mental health. Counselors are available to meet people wherever they are to provide crisis counseling, resource navigation, and disaster recovery education. Counselors specialize in helping survivors understand their current reactions, reduce stress, receive emotional support, prioritize their needs and solve problems, choose coping strategies, and connect with people and agencies who can help. Bilingual counselors are



available.

Following the 2019 winter floods, California HOPE counselors with West County Community Services held Mind-Body wellness groups in Guerneville and reached out to individuals in North County through listening sessions. Other California HOPE counselors also held family workshops in Spanish and created and distributed emergency preparedness “go-bags” for seniors. California HOPE counselors with Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire continue to work collaboratively with the Santa Rosa City Schools to support students and teachers. Counselors with Petaluma People Services have established support groups at Sonoma Valley High School and have started a bilingual Mind-Body support group for the Sonoma area. These counselors are also running support groups in Petaluma’s elementary schools.

This program is funded from a variety of sources. The initial recovery work was supported by short-term disaster relief grants from FEMA for \$4.3 million. The California HOPE funding from FEMA, as well as a supplemental \$1 million from Kaiser Permanente, was extended from an end date of June 30, 2019 to allow the use of the remaining grant funds (\$480,000). In September 2019, the Department of Health Services received an additional \$1 million from the State, which was used to re-start the HOPE program and also fund a suicide prevention campaign.

Sonoma County Department of Health Services worked with three main groups to provide additional on-going support in the community, specific to the Wildfires. Resources include the Sonoma Community Resilience Collaborative, the Wildfire Mental Health Collaborative, and Rebuild Our Community (ROC) Sonoma County Resource Center. The Sonoma Community Resilience Collaborative trains providers and leads treatment groups to support fire survivors. Many County staff have cross-trained in this program. The Wildfire Mental Health Collaborative has set up a network of therapists to assist in longer-term treatment and recovery. ROC Sonoma County has an active resource center providing services and connection to Disaster Case Management.

#### Trauma-informed Field Nursing

The County collaborated with Dr. Macy at the International Trauma Center to provide numerous trainings on psychological first aid, skills for psychological recovery and trauma informed care to community providers, educators, health care centers, and faith-based centers. On August 29, 2019 Public Health's Field Nursing Program provided an all-day training of their enhanced model, which utilizes a trauma-informed approach to optimize public health nursing visits to parents and children.

Next steps include extending trauma-informed training to additional community partners and other jurisdictions. The Sonoma County DHS Field Nursing team was recently published in the academic journal Public Health Nursing featuring their work with families to recognize traumatic events, also known as a trauma-informed approach, in its home visiting program. Ten California counties have expressed interest in implementing the new trauma-informed model in their jurisdictions.

#### Communal Healing Spaces To Destigmatize Trauma

The goal was to create communal healing spaces that open the conversation and destigmatize trauma, including town halls, healing clinics, or community events. The course program states that, “The traumatic events of the North Bay wildfires have profoundly affected our individual emotional and physical health, our social functioning, our overall well-being, and the health and security of our community. Unresolved, this distress can damage our health and limit our potential for rebuilding a strong community.”

The Center for Mind Body Medicine (CMBM) received 175 applicants and trained 130 community members in delivering mind/body skills groups. Eight-week skills groups initiated in March.

To date, 36 groups have been completed or are in process. To date, ten DHS staff were trained and three skills groups were completed or are in process, including twenty mind/body skills groups were delivered in Santa Rosa, three in Forestville, three in Sebastopol, two in Guerneville, two in Windsor, two in Petaluma, two in Sonoma, and two outside of the County.

100% of trainees reported overall experience was good or excellent (81% excellent), 98% believe training may meet community's healing needs (83% excellent), 96% saw practical application to both professional and personal life.

Next steps include development of a Sustainability Team and Community of Practice Team within the Steering Group to continue to build local capacity for peer supervision.

#### Emergency Food Coordination

The County has been exploring the creation of contingency contracts with eligible food providers to provide healthy and nutritious food services during a disaster. General Services released a solicitation to prequalify food service providers in April 2019 and sent an email notification when the solicitation opened. In August, this first solicitation yielded four suppliers and additional RFQs are planned to add to this number. While a preference for locally owned businesses is not allowable under FEMA's guidelines, UCCE, in collaboration with the Sonoma County Food System Alliance and the Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition, has offered to assist General Services with another solicitation in 2020 to local and regional businesses or potentially host a training session on how to apply to help increase suppliers who apply.

In addition to executing contingency contracts for food services providers, the County is also considering a contingency contract for coordination of food providers during an emergency, including an inventory and mapping of local food resources available throughout the county and nationally during disasters. UCCE has developed an organizational chart to model how emergency food response could be structured at a county and local community level, and in partnership with the Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition developed a model position description for paid Food Coordinators in each supervisorial district of the County to develop, inventory, and map Sonoma County's regional food resources for use on an ongoing basis and to facilitate emergency food response in disasters. To support this concept, UCCE Sonoma is coordinating a grant strategy with local non-profit food recovery and distribution organizations, County of Sonoma Environmental Health Services Department, and Zero Waste Sonoma. In partnership with the Sonoma County Food Systems Alliance, UCCE Sonoma will host an Emergency Food Response meeting annually to support enhanced communication and coordination, including an event to identify lessons learned from the Kincadee Fire and Public Safety Power Outage in early 2020.

#### Rapid Needs Assessment

The Department of Health Services (DHS) completed a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) taken a year after the Sonoma Complex Fires to understand the impact on community health following the fires. The objective of the assessment was to determine the overall health effects of the fire on Sonoma County residents.

Data for the RNA was collected by DHS in collaboration with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from a sample of 183 Sonoma County households. Additionally, seven households from 30 randomly selected census blocks were asked questions about the following four areas of health:

1. health and health care needs,
2. mental, emotional, and behavioral health,
3. community resilience and preparedness,
4. housing and economic insecurity.

Based on these four key areas of health, the RNA yielded the following key findings:

- Worsening of chronic health conditions. Some chronic diseases worsened with the fires, particularly asthma, COPD or emphysema, depression or other mental health conditions, and physical disability.
- Mental health impacts: The percentage of households reporting anxiety, fear, depression or hopelessness in the year following the disaster nearly doubled.
- Trauma: Forty percent of households reported traumatic experiences related to the fires.
- Economic stressors: One in five households worried about paying the bills and one in six reported lost wages or employment after the fires.
- Sources of information: Sonoma County households reported most often turning to neighbors, word of mouth, the internet and the radio for trusted information.
- Importance of multilingual emergency communication: Twelve percent of households surveyed preferred emergency communication in languages other than English.
- Barriers to receiving information: Some households reported barriers to receiving emergency communication including impaired hearing, impaired vision and physical disability.

DHS will share these results of the RNA report with local stakeholder groups and support fire recovery efforts. The report identifies priority areas to address for better health outcomes, including strengthening mental health care resources and promoting awareness of locally available services. It also identifies the need to provide all emergency communication in multiple languages and working with advocacy groups to improve communication to those with access and functional needs.

Based on the RNA, DHS will be providing guidance on how to limit smoke exposure and bolster respiratory care management during fire and smoke exposure events. The report will further be used to assist in future allocation to strengthen health emergency preparedness and response systems.

## **5. NATURAL RESOURCES**

### Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT): Revisit of the October 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires

The Local Watershed Task Force, in collaboration with the State of California's Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) agencies, held a 'revisit' of the October 2017 fires assessment on September 12, 2019 in Sonoma County. This was an opportunity to share and consider information about observed post-fire conditions and secondary hazards, protection and/or rehabilitation measures implemented, and results of related research.

The one-day event included a structured briefing and field visits to locations in the Tubbs and Nuns burn

zones as an efficient format with the goal of helping inform future post-fire assessments, improve direct and secondary hazard predictions, consider possible confounding effects of the 2019 winter storms, identify key data gaps, suggest additional research needs, and list priority follow-up actions.

Representatives from a wide range of federal and state agencies, local governments and community partners that had been involved in Watershed Task Force-related activities were invited to participate. The morning briefing had 46 attendees, and 39 of them participated in the field tour. The six planned field stops were in Tubbs and Nuns fire areas, with on-site discussions led by city, county, state, federal and partner representatives.

In response to the October 2019 Kincade Fire, the Watershed Task Force was stood up with the added mission of reviewing and addressing, to the degree feasible, the watershed concerns associated with the Kincade Fire burn area. Since the Kincade Fire, the Watershed Task Force has:

- Held three working group meetings per week to work on urgent watershed issues since the fire.
- Established contracts with three local non-profit groups (Community Soil Foundation, Russian Riverkeeper, and Sonoma Ecology Center) to install erosion control measures (Best Management Practices, or BMPs) to contain toxins from the burned structures on priority sites near waterways and other important assets.
- Advocated for and received from the State a Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) Report that analyzes debris flow hazard areas.
- Ongoing coordination with outside partners ranging from State agencies, such as the Water Board, and local jurisdictions, such as the City of Santa Rosa, Town of Windsor, and Sonoma Regional Conservation District.

Next steps include supporting Sonoma RCD's Water Board Emergency Grant application of \$350,000 to install landscape BMPs for water quality protection, installation of additional public information regarding being "winter ready" in the burn area, and continued water quality testing area streams, among other tasks.

#### Urban Land Institute Resilience Advisory Panel

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) has identified Sonoma County for participation in its advisory services program. Through the sponsorship of the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), County of Sonoma, and City of Santa Rosa, ULI will assemble a Resilience Advisory Panel for Sonoma County with the goal of assessing community preparedness and wildfire resilience in relation to land use and development strategy and our local energy grid. Given current climate conditions, it is recognized that wildfires (and related de-energization events) will continue to be a key risk for Sonoma County posing continued threats to human health and safety.

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) is a nonprofit research and education organization founded in 1936 with more than 40,000 members worldwide. The membership represents both public service and private enterprise professionals. ULI offers Advisory Services Panels to help communities find strategic, practical solutions for specific land use or real estate issues. These panels convene in a one-week effort and provide expert, independent input from national real estate, land use, design, and planning experts from the ULI membership. The panelists are selected by ULI from volunteers from within the ULI membership based on the needs of each assignment.

To build on the Recovery and Resiliency Framework's implementation goals to increase the County's resilience to future wildfire events, as well as the efforts of the Energy and Sustainability Division, the RCPA, County of Sonoma, City of Santa Rosa, and ULI will host a Resilience Advisory Panel workshop the week of March 16, 2020.

The Resilience Advisory Panel will focus on developing resilient strategies for energy reliability and security as part of Sonoma County's Recovery and Resiliency Framework. The Resilience Advisory Panel will explore how Sonoma County can build from current initiatives to mitigate risks from future wildfires, how Sonoma County can advance energy grid resilience and improve reliability during future extreme heat events and wildfires, what role land use and development policies play in enhancing wildfire resilience, and the impacts of home hardening, energy storage and other resilience strategies to mitigate fire risk and increase energy independence. To provide an overview of Sonoma County's challenges and opportunities, the Resilience Advisory Panel will receive a comprehensive briefing book prior to the workshop. During the workshop week, the Resilience Advisory Panel will interview 60-80 stakeholders representing a broad range of relevant interests, and will use the results to inform their recommendations.

Within 60-90 days of the March workshop, ULI will complete a summary report of their findings and recommendations. Much of the funding for this work is being provided by the Kresge Foundation. The County and the City of Santa Rosa will each provide \$25,000 and will actively participate with RCPA in this effort.

## GRANT FUNDING FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCY

Given the pressure on local budgets, grants are and will remain a critical project implementation pathway for funding Recovery and Resiliency Framework projects. The County grant coordination function within the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) will identify and prioritize projects subsidized by grants. This centralized grant coordination function allows for a countywide grant-seeking process that assures transparency and accountability to the Board of Supervisors, grantors, and the community at large.

### HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) - FEMA SECTION 404

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) helps communities implement hazard mitigation activities following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. HMGP funding is used to provide protection to undamaged parts of a facility or to prevent or reduce damages caused by future disasters. HMGP is managed by the State under funding provided for in the Stafford Act. *The entire state – not just presidentially declared counties – may qualify for HMGP mitigation projects.* The State receives a percentage of the total federal share of the declared disaster damage amount, which it uses to fund projects anywhere in the State, regardless of where the declared disaster occurred or the disaster type.

The cost share for HMGP is 75% federal with a 25% non-federal or County match. The County's share is projected at the beginning of the application process, and funding sources are identified before the application is submitted. In addition to some special funds (non-general funds) being used for the local match, the County also set aside \$4 million in anticipation of the local share requirement. The balance on this amount is monitored regularly, and to date this amount is still sufficient for all pending applications and awarded projects.

The **Kincade Fire** was not a federally declared disaster and therefore did not qualify for HMGP funding. However, the State has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from FEMA for the Kincade Fire, which enables agencies responding to the fire to apply for 75 percent reimbursement of their eligible fire suppression and response costs. Additionally, the State has authorized assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) that will reduce the County's cost share for the FMAG to 6.25 percent. The CDAA assistance will also provide reimbursement for costs associated with replacing or repairing disaster-damaged infrastructure, which are not covered by the FMAG.

Recent disasters that have current HMGP grant activity include:

FEMA #	Event
DR-4308	CA severe winter storms, flooding, mudslides (Feb 2017)
DR-4344	CA wildfires (Oct 2017)
DR-4353	CA wildfires, flooding, mudflows, debris flows (Jan 2018)
DR-4407	CA wildfires- Butte, LA, Ventura (Nov 2018)
DR-4434	CA severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, mudslides (Feb 2019)

The tables below refer to a "lead agency," which refers to the County department or agency that is submitting the HMGP application. Some applications may involve multiple departments but only one is listed as the primary contact.

Agency	Full Name
CDC	Community Development Commission
DEM	Department of Emergency Management
ISD	Information Systems Department
Permit Sonoma	formerly Permit and Resource Management Department
Regional Parks	Regional Parks
SCWA	Sonoma County Water Agency
TPW	Transportation and Public Works

1. The initial stage of an HMGP application is a **Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply**, which then expands to the proposal development phase. The following projects are in this first stage of application:

Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost
CDC	Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program	4434	\$ 2,386,731
ISD	Critical Facility Redundant Power Feed	4434	\$ 400,000
Permit Sonoma	Russian River Flood Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	4434	\$ 200,000
Permit Sonoma	Sonoma County Non-Structural Mitigation of Flood	4434	\$ 200,000
SCWA	Pipeline Crossing Vulnerability Assessment	4344	\$ 166,667
SCWA	Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District LHMP Update	4434	\$ 166,667

2. One project has been **waitlisted**, which is akin to being put on hold until additional funds become available.

Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost
Permit Sonoma	Seismic Strengthening and Retrofit of Existing Structures, Sonoma Countywide	4344	\$ 6,777,777

3. If the initial NOI is approved, the project’s scope and timeline are narrowed and the project advances to **CalOES review**. The following projects are currently in this stage:



Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost
ISD	Critical Facility Power Retrofit	4407	\$ 100,000
DEM	Radio Disaster Alert Devices for Vulnerable Populations	4407	\$ 44,000
Permit Sonoma	Sonoma County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatment	4407	\$ 4,500,000
ISD	Hardening of Wireless Communication Infrastructure	4434	\$ 300,000
TPW	Annapolis Road Yard & Volunteer Fire Station Generator	4434	\$ 180,000
TPW	Forestville Road Yard Generator	4434	\$ 160,000
TPW	Geyserville Drainage Feasibility Plan	4434	\$ 166,666

4. After CalOES review, the application is then sent for **FEMA's approval**. The following projects are currently in this stage:

Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost
DEM	Warning Sirens	4353	\$ 850,000
DEM	Fire Early Detection Camera System	4344	\$ 4,420,170
SCWA	Improved Flood Early Warning Using Advanced Radar	4344	\$ 2,666,700
Permit Sonoma	Wildfire Adapted Sonoma County: Education and Incentives	4344	\$ 6,677,777
CDC	Flood Elevation Program	4344	\$ 1,807,043
Permit Sonoma	Surface Fault Rupture and Seismic Induced Landslide Analysis	4344	\$ 150,000
Regional Parks	Stabilize and Re-vegetate Hood Mountain	4344	\$ 310,813
TPW	Bank Stabilization to Save River Road	4344	\$ 5,092,220
TPW	River Flood Management and Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Planning	4344	\$ 200,000
TPW SCWA	Green Valley Creek Restoration and Flood Resiliency Project	4308	\$ 1,433,956

5. The final stage is when a **project is awarded** or obligated, and the department can begin to work on the mitigation project. \$5.7 million has been awarded in HMGP grant funding to date ("CA" column). Below is a summary of the projects that have received HMGP funding:

Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost	CA	Match
SCWA	Ely Booster Station Hazard Mitigation	4344	\$ 3,075,823	\$ 2,306,867	\$ 768,956
SCWA	RRCSD - Seismic Rehabilitation and Retrofit of Secondary Treatment Clarifiers	4308	\$ 2,984,536	\$ 2,238,402	\$ 746,134
Permit Sonoma	Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (CWPP)/LHMP	4344	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000
Permit Sonoma	Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	4344	\$ 333,330	\$ 249,998	\$ 83,333
TPW	Generator Installation at Road Maintenance Yard	4344	\$ 248,988	\$ 186,741	\$ 62,247
ISD	Data Center Generator - Phase 1	4344	\$ 35,445	\$ 26,584	\$ 8,861
TPW	County Airport Generator	4344	\$ 479,280	\$ 359,460	\$ 119,820
SCWA	SVCSO - Seismic Rehabilitation and Retrofit of Secondary Treatment Clarifiers - Phase 1	4344	\$ 261,278	\$ 195,959	\$ 65,320

#### PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION (PDM)

PDM, like HMGP, is part of FEMA's overall Hazard Mitigation Assistance program. Unlike HMGP, however, PDM provides funds on an *annual basis* for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects. FEMA provides funding for measures to reduce or eliminate overall risk from natural hazards. The cost share for the PDM program is 75% federal with a 25% non-federal or County match. The following projects have approved NOI's and/or pending proposals with in the PDM program:

Lead Agency	Project Name	Project Cost
TPW	Cavedale & Trinity Roads Fuels Reduction	\$ 428,200
TPW	Advance Assistance for Villa Grande Flood Mitigation Plan	\$ 80,000
TPW	Rio Nido Culvert Installations to Reduce Flooding	\$ 170,000

#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCY (FEMA SECTION 406)

The PA grant is managed by the State under funding provided for in the Stafford Act. This funding provides discretionary authority to fund mitigation measures in conjunction with the repair of disaster-damaged facilities and is *limited to declared counties and eligible damaged facilities*. PA is applied on the parts of the facility that were damaged by the disaster and mitigation measures to reduce the potential of future, similar disaster damages to the eligible facility. The cost share is federal 75%, State 18.75% and County 6.25%. The following projects have received PA funding:

Lead Agency	Project Name	DR #	Project Cost	FEMA	CA	Match
TPW	Culvert Improvements to Reduce Flooding (Drake Rd)	4434	\$ 1,668,200	\$ 1,251,150	\$ 312,788	\$ 104,263
TPW	Landslide Stabilization to Save Westside Avenue	4434	\$ 292,159	\$ 219,119	\$ 54,780	\$ 18,260

## OTHER DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

### Cal Fire Funding

The Geyserville Fire Protection District, in conjunction with the Sonoma County Water Agency, received \$540,212 in Cal Fire funding on May 30, 2019 for hazardous fuel reduction projects. Additionally, Permit Sonoma's Fire Prevention Division worked with Pepperwood Preserve on their decision support system and fuels treatment Cal Fire grant application and also provided letters of support for Fire Safe Sonoma grants for training of inspectors and community outreach materials.

### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The CDBG Program provides annual grants to states, cities, and counties to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate income individuals.

#### CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

CDBG-DR funds are based on disaster impacts and address the long-term recovery needs of a community. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on April 10, 2018, that California would be receiving \$212 million to support long-term disaster recovery through the CDBG-DR program, including \$124 million for unmet disaster recovery needs, and \$88 million for preparedness and mitigation. HCD's proposed Action Plan includes a budget of \$47.6 million for an owner-occupied housing program, \$66.7 million for a multifamily housing program, \$3.5 million for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) match program, and \$6.2 million for administration.

#### CDBG Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)

CDBG-MIT funds facilitate mitigation activities which increase resilience to disasters and decrease the impact of future disasters. HUD designated the State of California as the CDGB-MIT grantee and a new Action Plan for CDGB-MIT will be required by April 6, 2020 from the State. To date, the CDBG-MIT funding of \$88 million has yet to be made available; however, County departments are in preliminary discussions in anticipation of this opportunity.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENT

The Disaster Finance Team (consisting of participants from the Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Administrator's Office, and County Counsel) and County Departments worked with FEMA and Cal OES to initially create 22 project worksheets to claim reimbursement for emergency response and permanent repair costs associated with the October 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires, as well

as costs for damages sustained to County property not covered by the County's insurance policies. These claims are being submitted through the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

#### 2017 Fires Reimbursements

- Total Number of Projects: 19
- Total Approved Projects: 18 (1 project still under review by FEMA)
- Total Projects Completed: 8
- Estimated Reimbursement (Fed and State Share): \$33 million
- Reimbursement Received (Fed and State Share): \$14 million

#### 2017 Fires Reimbursement Breakdown

- \$9.1M Expedited Funding – Emergency Services Projects
- \$345k Cal-OES only Projects
- \$3.8M Emergency Protective Measures Projects
- \$842k Permanent Projects.

The Disaster Finance Team is approximately 98% complete processing Mutual Aid related to October 2017 Fires. The Team and County Departments initially identified over 130 Mutual Aid agencies with an initial estimated cost of \$13 million. The Disaster Finance Team is finalizing review, payment, and collecting required supporting documentation from 115 agencies that provided assistance to Sonoma County that requested reimbursement. The difference in agencies was largely from withdrawn claims. Three additional mutual agencies are still working with the County to determine if they can be included.

#### 2017 Fires Mutual Aid Reimbursements

- Law Enforcement Agencies: 82
- Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA): 8
- Shelters: 12
- Agencies through Department of Health Services: 20
- Total Mutual Aid Claim: \$10.5M
- Claims Paid to Date: \$10.3M

The Disaster Finance Team and County Departments continue to work with FEMA and Cal-OES to finalize the remaining open project worksheets. Claims for reimbursement will be filed with FEMA as additional disaster related costs are incurred and documentation is compiled. The Disaster Finance Team is also 95% complete in the process of reviewing and reconciling identified County labor (review labor reports, personnel activity logs, and working with County Departments) of approximately \$6M in fire related labor costs that may be eligible for reimbursement.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information about the Office of Recovery & Resiliency, within the Sonoma County Administrator's Office, as well as supporting documents pertaining to recovery from the Sonoma Complex Fires, can be found online at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Office-of-Recovery-and-Resiliency/>. The Office of Recovery and Resiliency can be contacted via email at [recoveryinfo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:recoveryinfo@sonoma-county.org) or by calling 707-565-2431.