As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, the vital role the County plays in improving the lives of the people and communities we serve has become all the more clear. We are living and working with a pre-and-post fire frame of reference – just like every county resident, business, government agency, and nonprofit.

This new lens will continue to impact the way we do business, the way we define achievements, and the way we bring renewed focus to our strategic priorities. In this Annual Report, we are using this new frame of reference to share our accomplishments by strategic priority and before and after a night our community will never forget: October 8th.

Despite the challenges we have faced, Sonoma County continues to build a better government that strives to be responsive and accountable, supports healthy and sustainable watersheds, offers affordable housing in an inclusive community, provides access to services and opportunities for individuals to move toward self-sufficiency, and continues to improve our transportation network.

Every aspect of your county government is committed to the recovery and rebuilding of our community. The path ahead is going to be challenging, but we will work through it together. We will be here today, next week, next year and beyond to do whatever it takes to rebuild our beautiful county and make our community stronger than it has ever been.

Together, we are strong, we are resilient, we are Sonoma County.
RESPONSE & Recovery

7,012 STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED

MORE THAN 100,000 RESIDENTS DISPLACED

OVER 110,000 ACRES BURNED

4,162 EVACUEES CARED FOR IN 43 SHELTERS

EMERGENCY HOTLINE HELPED 52,372 CALLERS

LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER SERVED 11,204 RESIDENTS

ISSUED OVER 4,000 REPLACEMENT DOCUMENTS AT A COST SAVINGS OF $250,000 TO VICTIMS OF THE WILDFIRES

SUPPORTED 41 COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN THE FIRST 4 WEEKS TO KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED
Healthy WATERSHEDS

Established three GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and ensure local control of groundwater resources.

Launched development of a new CLEAN ENERGY EDUCATION PROGRAM, funded by Sonoma Clean Power, to supplement the existing Water Education Program that reaches 10,000 students annually.

Installed 14 ISOLATION VALVES, allowing sections of the aqueducts to be shut down during emergencies to protect the water supply for 600,000 PEOPLE.

PROVIDED STEWARDSHIP FOR OVER 100,000 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND MANAGED 5,000 ACRES OF AG AND OPEN SPACE OWNED LAND.
RESPONSE & Recovery

The multi-agency Watershed Taskforce created a FLOOD PREVENTION MAP and EARLY WARNING SYSTEM to keep the community and watersheds safe from potential post-fire flooding and debris flows.

Conducted inspections and repairs of storm drain inlet protection to PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF WATERSHEDS.

POSTED 30 ROAD SIGNS and SENT POSTCARDS to 4,000 PROPERTY OWNERS in the medium and high risk areas within the burn areas to warn of increased risks presented by heavy rains following the fires.

INSTALLED OVER 30 RAIN AND STREAM GAUGES IN HIGH RISK AREAS TO PREDICT POTENTIAL DEBRIS FLOWS OR FLASH FLOODS

43 MILES OF WATTLES INSTALLED IN BURN AREAS TO PREVENT EROSION AND PROTECT WATERSHEDS
Funded the Palms Inn to provide **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** to low-income residents and veterans.

Facilitated a **HOMELESS POLICY WORKSHOP** with community members and local leaders to identify targeted solutions.

Passed ordinances to allow **ACCESSORY DWELLING** and **JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS** to add to the county’s available housing stock.

Worked proactively with the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission to develop additional **YEAR-ROUND FARMWORKER HOUSING**, resulting in an increase in the County’s affordable housing stock by **135 BEDS**.

Redesigned the County Fund for Housing to be used within incorporated cities to **ENCOURAGE URBAN CENTERED GROWTH**.

**711 PEOPLE** completed the new **VACATION RENTAL PROPERTY MANAGER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**, designed to equip individuals with information and best practices for responsible vacation rental property management.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMITTED AN ADDITIONAL $621,000 FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES FROM TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX**
Staff established a **STREAMLINING TOOLS TO EASE PERMITTING** (STEP) taskforce with industry professionals to develop tools to enable fire victims to **REBUILD SAFELY, QUICKLY, AND EfficientLY**.

Passed urgency ordinances to **FACilitate Immediate Housing**, including enabling residential use of RVs, rental of guest houses and other habitable structures, and temporary placement of manufactured homes on lots.

**Hosted hundreds of campers from evacuation areas** at coastal campgrounds in the days immediately following the wildfires.

**The housing taskforce worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide** 120 spaces and up to 50 additional pads for RVs or manufactured homes at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.

**Identified over 187 properties with potential for use as transitional housing for fire survivors.**
Securing our SAFETY NET

Secured more than $1.26M in grant funding to assist CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS, focused on those with HIV/AIDS, and homeless youth with disabilities.

Launched the Immigration Initiative and hosted community meetings throughout the county to IMPROVE SAFETY AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO SERVICES for undocumented residents and their families.

After one year of the Tobacco Retail License implementation, there has been a DECREASE IN SALES TO YOUTH, a decrease in retailers selling tobacco products, and a decrease in tobacco availability in youth sensitive areas.

Supported the development and implementation of NEW OPIOID PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES for primary care clinicians and emergency departments.

Board of Supervisors affirmed the County’s COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) recipients and all immigrant community members in Sonoma County.

SECURED OVER $16M FOR WHOLE PERSON CARE TO COORDINATE HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES
2017 WAS PROCLAIMED THE YEAR OF THE SENIOR TO CELEBRATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE AGE 60 AND OLDER IN OUR COMMUNITY

RESPONSE & Recovery

Animal Services received 3,557 DISASTER CALLS in the field and 10,465 OFFICE CALLS to aid residents in locating displaced animals.

The District Attorney’s Office formed a taskforce to INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED LOOTERS and price gougers.

The Economic Development Board opened a SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER to help business owners impacted by the fires.

Over 200 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF responded by providing 15,000 HOURS OF ASSISTANCE.

JOB LINK ASSISTED MORE THAN 4,700 PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME OR EMPLOYMENT WERE IMPACTED BY THE FIRES TO FILE FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

IN THE FIRST 72 HOURS, THE COUNTY OBTAINED AND DISTRIBUTED 10,000 MASKS, 2,562 COTS, 1,850 PILLOWS, 2,300 SHEETS, 1,060 BLANKETS, AND 1,172 COMFORT KITS TO EVACUEES.
Investing in our INFRASTRUCTURE

With the addition of Tolay Creek Ranch, Tolay Lake Regional Park became the **LARGEST PARK IN SONOMA COUNTY**.

Offered **12 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS** for residents to learn about **ENERGY AND WATER SAVING STRATEGIES** for their homes, including information on financing for solar panels.

Authorized the sale of the 82-acre **CHANATE CAMPUS**, creating the potential for over **800 MULTI-FAMILY HOMES**, with over **20% AFFORDABLE**, and preserved a 9-acre parcel for **OPEN SPACE**.

**HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SOUTH COUNTY CENTER** opened in Petaluma to serve clients in the county’s second largest population area.

**CHARLES M. SCHULZ - SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT** added **TWO NEW AIRLINES**, **UNITED AND SUN COUNTRY**

Sonoma County **CONTRIBUTED MORE TO LOCAL ROADS** than any other county in California.
RESPONSE & Recovery

Sonoma County Transit provided **FREE RIDES TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY** immediately after the fires.

Sonoma County Fairgrounds, the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, and other county buildings **OPENED THEIR DOORS** to support first responders, shelter evacuees, and displaced animals.

Convened a series of public meetings to **STREAMLINE BRIDGE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION FOR FIRE SURVIVORS** and crews to gain safe access to properties while protecting the environment.

Assessed burn severity and collaborated in a multi-agency approach to **STABILIZE INFRASTRUCTURE, PREVENT EROSION, and SUPPORT WATERSHED RECOVERY** in the six Regional Parks affected by the fire.

Environmental Health staff collected over **4,500 DEBRIS REMOVAL RIGHT OF ENTRY FORMS** for the state government clean-up program and helped answer complex community questions.
The amount of love in this tiny town makes us... so grateful.

Thank you first responders.

Thank you, emergency responders.

Thank you, first responders. Your sacrifice means a lot.

Love is thicker than smoke.

Thank you first responders from Australia. Our next door neighbors.

Thank you firefighters.

All our bright tomorrows are thanks to you.

We love police & fire.

Thank you fire department. They are our heroes.

Thank you firefighters.

Thank you, firefighters & police, military & emergency responders.

Thank you first responders, our neighborhood heroes.

Forever grateful to all of you fighting these fires.

Thank you firefighters.

Thank you firefighters, friends, family. Police, firefighters.

Thank you 1st responders. You're the best.

Thank you for saving our home.

Thank you all responders teams.

Thanks, Cal Fire.
The love in the air is thicker than the smoke.
In memory of the 24 people who tragically lost their lives in the Sonoma County fires.

Karen Sue Aycock
Michael Azarian
Carmen Caldentey Berriz
Carol Collins-Swasey
Michael John Dornbach
Valerie Lynn Evans
Michael Charles Grabow
Arthur Tasman Grant
Suiko Grant
Donna Mae Halbur
Leroy Peter Halbur
Christina Rose Hanson
Tak-Fu Hung
Monte Neil Kirven
Veronica Elizabeth McCombs
Carmen Colleen McReynolds
Lynne Anderson Powell
Marilyn Carol Ress
Sharon Rae Robinson
Lee Chadwick Rogers
Marjorie Lenore Schwartz
Daniel Martin Southard
Tamara Latrice Thomas
Linda May Tunis
The County of Sonoma is comprised of 27 departments and agencies that provide a full range of services to the community. Sonoma County encompasses over 1,600 square miles and is home to over 500,000 residents. Sonoma County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles. To learn more about your County government, please visit: sonomacounty.ca.gov