



# RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK

## Implementation Report - 2019 First Quarter

### INTRODUCTION

This report includes the following sections:

- About the Recovery & Resiliency Framework
- Reporting on Recovery & Resiliency Framework Implementation
- Recovery & Resiliency Framework Implementation Updates
- 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 wildfires, 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. **Expedited 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 standing agenda item for each Board meeting and are typically included on the consent calendar.

On December 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Recovery Ad Hoc Committee to provide input and guidance to County Administrator's Office staff on Recovery & Resiliency Framework implementation through December 31, 2019. At its discretion, the Recovery Ad Hoc Committee seeks input from fire survivors and other community groups on implementation. The Ad Hoc Committee is comprised of Supervisors Gore and Gorin. With Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff support, the Recovery Ad Hoc provides regular updates to the full Board. Regular updates will be presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. Quarterly reports will be posted to the County Office of Recovery and Resiliency website at [www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/ORR](http://www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/ORR).

The Recovery Ad Hoc Committee has convened twice in 2019 to receive status updates from Project Leads for the Top 10 Projects. Additionally, the Committee received recovery updates from a group of community partners on March 18, 2019. At this meeting, Committee members acknowledged the many collaborations countywide and the great work being done by partner organizations. Regular monthly Ad Hoc Committee meetings will continue and monthly convenings with community partners are being planned.

## RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Although the Board identified a list of 10 Top Priority Recovery Projects, County departments have been actively working on many other recovery efforts. This report provides updates on these Top 10 Priority Projects and Year 1 activities identified in the Recovery & Resiliency Framework. Year 1 activities are grouped by strategic areas of recovery: Community Preparedness and Infrastructure, Housing, Economy, Safety Net Services, and Natural Resources. The report concludes with an update on efforts to secure funding for Framework activities and projects.

The updates in this first quarterly report since Framework approval are provided in narrative form. As implementation plans, timelines, and metrics are more fully developed and available, these will become part of the quarterly implementation report and will be posted online for public access.

## TOP 10 PRIORITY PROJECTS

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

Since the Framework and related activities were approved in December 2018, the Department of Emergency Management was created and funded. As a new department, an early focus has been on staffing key management positions that support future preparedness and Framework implementation. To that end, the Department anticipates filling the Alert & Warning Manager position by April 25, 2019.

Despite the active recruitments, the Department of Emergency Management has made positive progress to establish a comprehensive alert and warning system and to advance the majority of the proposed activities in the Framework. Some recent accomplishments:

- Developed a countywide NIXLE protocol (See Attachment 1 of this report.)
- Established a countywide Alert & Warning Group
- Installed high/low sirens on all Sheriff patrol cars and an associated public education program
- Completed trainings on existing systems
- Delivered real-world warnings in English and Spanish
- Received additional fire cameras
- 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

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

- 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 any Request for Proposals (RFP) by the end of 2019
- Conduct community warning exercises and assessments on an annual basis
- Review the potential for installing grant-funded alert sirens,
- Take part in UASI-funded Alert & Warning Systems media campaign

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) installed fire cameras that were initially targeting the Lake Sonoma Watershed. Working with both public and private partners, they secured additional fire cameras that are being installed throughout Sonoma and neighboring counties. In addition, the County and Sonoma Water are advocating for the State of California to fund and operate the network. The Emergency Management Department has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the installation of additional cameras.

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 on October 8, 2017. The overall goal in Establishing a Comprehensive Alert & Warning Program is a multi-year phased project, ensuring routine reviewing of program components and research and evaluation of new technologies and alternatives to keep the County’s program consistent with best practices and systems current with state-of-the-art technology.

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

Although the Emergency Preparedness Manager recruitment has closed, final selection is not anticipated until June 2019. In the meantime, existing staff have worked to make progress on several Framework actions related to this priority project. Activities to date include:

- Developed interim public education materials
- Established a website with information for residents during an evacuation ([www.SoCoEmergency.org](http://www.SoCoEmergency.org))

- Recruited a volunteer to attend and provide community presentations on preparedness
- Tracking and auditing community member trainings as disaster animal workers, and
- Completed the Animals In Disaster Response Plan

Numerous activities have been identified to be completed within six months of hiring the Emergency Preparedness Manager, specifically:

- Meet with at least 36 community organizations to inform a community outreach plan
- Compile resources available to communities that will aid in preparedness efforts
- Complete a research and feasibility study of ways to provide transportation to emergency shelters
- Complete the Sonoma County Public Outreach Campaign by June 2019
- Complete an evaluation of non-County programs able to assist with disaster response (CERT, Auxiliary Communications, Medical Reserve Corps., etc.) and to include identification of funding sources
- Establish and begin conducting Community Emergency Responder trainings countywide
- Meet with stakeholder agencies/jurisdictions to consider the potential for creating a countywide joint powers authority (JPA) for emergency management by November 2019, and
- Complete development of the County Emergency Staff Development Program by August 2019.

Mapping has begun to identify areas in need of evacuation routes. Working with affected groups, Emergency Management staff will work to evaluate and prioritize those areas that are most vulnerable, and will develop community evacuation plans and community evacuation exercises. The vegetation management program being developed will include fuel reduction along public rights-of-way that are anticipated to serve as key evacuation routes.

### **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 and seismic retrofits for rebuilding and existing homes through education and grant programs. Each program has requested \$6.67 million in total program expenses, with \$5 million or 75% coming from the FEMA grant. The remaining 25% would come from the County General Fund, Small Business Administration loans, other state government agencies, and property owner cost-share. If funded by FEMA, the WUI program will harden structures and create defensible spaces to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire. If funded by FEMA, the Seismic Retrofit program will retrofit critical facilities, unreinforced masonry buildings, and possibly soft-structure buildings already identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. For both WUI and Seismic Retrofit Programs: FEMA HMGP Grant applications have been submitted and approved by the State and are awaiting Federal FEMA HMGP funding decisions (expected October 2019).

Currently, 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 and could add the additional improvement of hardscaping as a water saving feature. The County is considering expanding the Program to include seismic and fully authorize fire hardening improvements. Consideration of this enhancement to the program is anticipated in early summer.

SCEIP financing for Seismic Retrofitting and Fire Hardening will be completing its County validation process following approval by the Board of Supervisors in the SCEIP Resolution of Intention, slated for 4/30/19 and the public hearing for validation on 5/21/19. Validation is expected to complete in the fall 2019 window. Financing for Seismic Retrofitting using SCEIP will likely be available to the public residing within the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County by end of 2019 calendar year. Individual jurisdictions will need to adopt resolutions allowing the financing of Seismic and Fire Hardening measures using PACE before SCEIP will be an option in those locations.

**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 is a party in the California Public Utilities Commission’s proceeding on PG&E’s “Electric Rule 20.A,” which governs the system of credits that PG&E must grant to public entities toward the cost of undergrounding electrical utility lines. PG&E’s current Rule 20A program does not adequately address the threat of wildfires posed by overhead electrical equipment in its service territory. It requires PG&E to allocate to cities and counties credits based on the number of electrical meters in each area. However, the formula used to determine credits disadvantages rural entities where the risk of wildfires due to above-ground electrical lines is greatest in sparsely populated areas. In addition, the current level of funding associated with the credits allocated to local government entities is minimal compared to the actual costs of undergrounding power lines on a per-mile basis.

The County submitted initial comments on January 11, 2019, to advocate for improvements to the Rule 20A program to better safeguard public interests and mitigate wildfire risks in rural areas. The comments focus on restructuring the existing undergrounding criteria to better reflect public interest and to allow local governments to underground overhead power lines on rural or less-traveled roads—the very roads that have the highest wildfire risk due to the fact that they tend to be surrounded by significant amounts of vegetation. The County further advocates for near-term improvements to credit allocations to cities and counties with rural and suburban populations in increased fire-risk areas using a different metric based on the miles of overhead electric lines in the suburban and rural areas of a city or county. Such metric would be directly related to the practical and policy goals of the Rule 20A program in the era of extreme wildfires. The allocations should be large enough to allow a rural or suburban community in a high fire risk area to accumulate enough credits to underground, or pay off the estimated costs of the undergrounding work, in a maximum of five years.

Transportation and Public Works Director Johannes Hovertsz will be participating as a panelist at the CPUC’s Rule 20 Near-Term Improvements Workshop on April 22 - 23, 2019. Transportation and Public Works will also be requesting the Board’s authorization to proceed with a Rule 20A undergrounding project as well as providing an update on the Rule 20A program. The County has been planning the Freestone underground project for over 20 years. Freestone is a high fire risk area in the County and meets the requirements of the Rule 20A program.

**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 partner 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. Funding approved by the Board in June of 2018 (\$500,000) is being used to address complaint and proactive inspections, abatement, community noticing, and education and outreach in the unincorporated parts of the county.

Permit Sonoma and Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff presented an ‘Expanded Fuels Reduction and Landscape Resiliency Campaign’ item to the Board on April 2, 2019. The fuels reduction aspects include: Small Parcel Inspection and Fuels Management, Large Parcels and Project Implementation, Permitting and Compliance Support, Community Education and Engagement, County Owned Parcel Treatment and Program Management and Administration. A \$900,000 per year funding request was proposed to develop the multi-year campaign with the goal to enhance fuels treatment by collaborating with landowners, NGOs, and other government entities to leverage the County’s investment in addressing fuels reduction and forest health. The Board item included high-level summaries of fuels reduction activities underway by various County agencies and departments, and gave a progress report on current FY 18-19 implementation of vegetation management inspections and enforcement pursuant to the existing Vegetation Management Ordinance (County Code Chapter 13A).

The Board provided feedback and direction supportive of a proposed allocation of \$900,000 annually for the next four fiscal years as County investment that would be used for several fuels reduction-oriented elements of the Campaign. The core of the program would be continued by enhanced small parcel inspections and fuels management, abatement, and community education and engagement. New elements are proposed to aid implementation of large parcels and projects, support permitting and compliance, and improve treatment of county-owned parcels. The proposed program would help ensure that effective outreach, noticing, education, and collaboration similar to recent and on-going projects by County entities and partners such as Fire Safe Sonoma not only continues, but magnifies.

Over the next several weeks, staff will consider the Board’s feedback, public comment and continued coordination with our local and state partners as we develop detailed program element descriptions, identify initial targets and metrics, describe human and financial resource needs, and prepare a specific budget request for FY 19-20.

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

On February 14, 2019, Supervisors Gorin and Zane met with Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and other senior Insurance Commission leadership to discuss insurance challenges for Sonoma County wildfire survivors including the upcoming expiration of additional living expenses (ALE) and the many survivors that were underinsured and unable to rebuild.

Supervisors shared a United Policyholders survey of survivors, 12 months after the disaster. Supervisors also requested consideration of the following future legislative reforms/concepts:

- Mitigation discounts and continued coverage to homeowners who make investments in hardening their home.
- Incentives for resilient rebuilding.
- Creation of a statewide incentive program that rewards property owners in the Wild Urban Interface who implement appropriate vegetation management and home hardening techniques.
- Insurance Commissioner approval required prior to materially reducing volume of policies.
- Increased consistency across providers in how claims are handled, adjusted and processed overall.
- Extend the two years of Additional Living Expense (ALE) coverage to survivors of 2017 wildfires due to the slow pace of rebuild.
- Requirements for insurers to provide mandatory cost estimates annually.
- Availability of insurance riders for large-scale natural disasters.

- Address inequity issues in Department of Insurance’s mediation process and insurers who are unable to afford representation.
- Implementation of a program similar to the Boulder, Colorado “Wildfire Partners” program where homes must pass a rigorous inspection prior to being certified to be eligible for discounts.
- An Insureds’ Bill of Rights mandating a policy written in plain language explaining coverage limits.

The Commissioner was invited to Sonoma County to hear directly from survivors and a visit is currently being planned. The Commissioner expressed a willingness to meet with survivors in addition to having Department of Insurance staff available for one-on-one meetings with those in need of assistance dealing with their insurance companies. Staff are working on scheduling the Commissioner’s visit for late April 2019.

## **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, have developed a Disaster Preparedness Communications & Outreach Plan. Through the Plan, the Department of Emergency Management will educate and empower Sonoma County residents, neighborhoods, community groups, and the private sector 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 will take opportunities to present clear, concise and consistent messages targeted to specific audiences and tailored to community needs. Outreach will be designed to ensure that communications 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.
- Increase the Department of Emergency Management’s presence as a trusted community resource for issues of emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The ability to measure the effectiveness of the County’s public awareness campaign is critical to the campaign’s overall success. In order to establish a baseline, staff designed a brief disaster preparedness survey in both English and Spanish that was posted online from March 25, 2019 through April 12, 2019. The survey was based on prior surveys released by federal and state agencies, with review and input from local subject matter experts. Over 1,900 responses to the survey were received. The County will issue surveys periodically to track how prepared our community feels they are over time, which will allow us to shape and steer the public awareness campaign going forward.

## 8. Expedited Permitting for Homeowner who are Rebuilding

Permit Sonoma established a Resiliency Permit Center providing comprehensive permitting and inspection services for fire survivors and their representatives dealing with reconstruction of roughly 2,250 residential structures destroyed or damaged by the Sonoma Complex Fires. The Resiliency Permit Center offers reduced permit fees, expedited processing times, electronic submittal of plans, customer navigation services, and review of bid proposals to fire survivors to help them determine where scope and pricing are appropriate. Services at the Resiliency Permit Center began February 13, 2018 and more than 1,000 permits have been issued through April 8, 2019. The County will continue the Resiliency Permit Center for an additional two years.

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

At the April 16, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting and as a significant first step in enhancing the 2-1-1 system in Sonoma County, the Human Services Department is requesting direction and funding to enter into an agreement with United Way of the Wine Country to support a transition plan for the organization to successfully take over leadership of 2-1-1 Sonoma County in the new fiscal year. The transition plan will produce several deliverables, including development of a business plan to expand services, creation of a proactive disaster communication preparedness and response plan in coordination with the County and other disaster response providers, and development of a more robust database of resources as well as a more user-friendly website.

Sonoma County 2-1-1 is the designated information and referral call center provider for the County and serves to connect residents in need to non-emergency health and human service resources and programs. Sonoma County 2-1-1 also provides critical resource information to the community during times of disaster.

Following implementation of the transition plan (ending June 30, 2019), United Way of the Wine Country will likely officially assume leadership of 2-1-1 Sonoma County from the current organizational provider, Volunteer Center of Sonoma County. United Way of the Wine Country will implement the business plan and strategies identified in the transition plan to expand 2-1-1 services in Sonoma County and regionally.

During the transition period, United Way of the Wine Country will focus on the following deliverables:

- Involve multiple stakeholders in development of a strategic business plan to expand 2-1-1 Sonoma County both regionally and functionally. This expansion will be informed by several 2-1-1 organizations that have evolved beyond delivering basic information and referral to include integrated, multi-faceted, multi-service intake, screening, scheduling and other resources that can be referenced and tracked over time for quality assurance and follow-up as needed.
- Create a proactive disaster communication preparedness and response plan in coordination with the County and other disaster response providers in the region.
- Develop a more robust database of resources and more user-friendly website.

Following the transition period (through June 30, 2019), United Way of the Wine Country will report back on the results of the developed strategic business plan and other transitional efforts to better inform how 2-1-1 services will be enhanced throughout the coming fiscal year in Sonoma County.

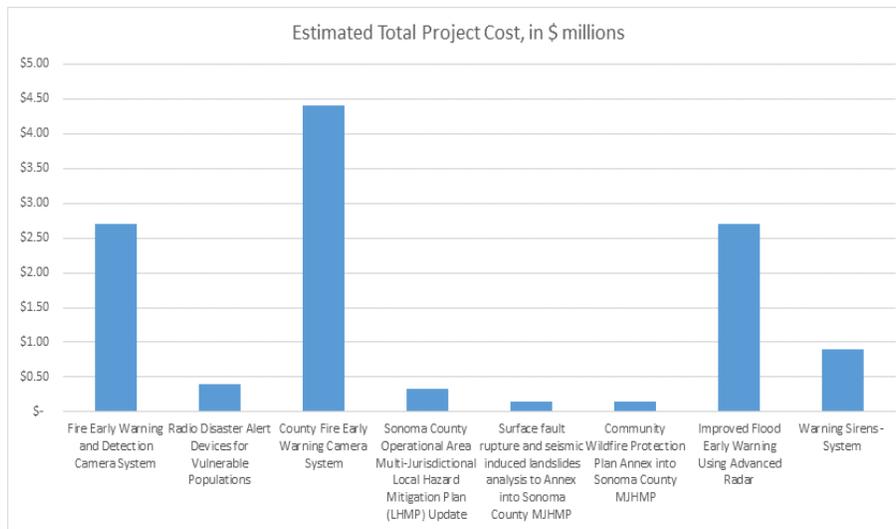
## **10. Develop a One-Stop Shop Resource Center**

The Resource Center will address the gap between traditional government recovery programs and households moving forward without direct assistance. This gap includes a variety of information and referral services, along with direct services, such as building permit assistance, walk-in availability, response to phone calls and emails, and assistance by non-profit agencies. A Resource Center will allow for multiple visits to receive different services over the course of recovery and creates a model for recovery post-disaster services. The concept would facilitate navigation assistance, including navigation to financial advising, insurance claim assistance, and professional building services for those seeking to rebuild from the fires and other disasters. The Resource Center will be developed as an expansion of and in partnership with the ROC Sonoma County Recovery Center and United Way's 2-1-1. Staff has begun information gathering and gap analysis, including determining what key stakeholders and partners needs and wants may be, what organizational models are available, and what policies may be needed. Additionally, possible partnership discussions have begun. Input including from the Block Captain groups has been collected and is being evaluated. Next steps include more detailed discussions with Human Services, the ROC Recover Center, and potential partner non-profit agencies.

## OTHER RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to the Top Ten, there is considerable activity by departments on the work identified in the Framework under Goal CP4 (“Make County government more adaptable to provide continued services in disasters through comprehensive planning, a more empowered workforce, and improved facilities and technology”). An updated County Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has been completed. Transportation & Public Works is reviewing and assessing resources that could be strategically placed for better response in a disaster. Staff also identified detour routes for every County-maintained bridge and historically flood-prone areas and met with utilities, City of Santa Rosa and County departments to establish preliminary goals associated with a “Dig Once” policy. An Electrical Systems De-Energization Plan has been completed and was presented to the Board. The Information Services Department has improved data protection by establishing connections to cloud providers, has conducted back-up systems testing, and executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Alameda County for offsite back-ups. Transportation & Public Works, Information Services, General Services and Emergency Management have Hazard Mitigation Grant applications pending, that have been recommended for funding by CalOES, as follows:



During the recent February 2019 flooding, County alert and warning systems were utilized along the entire stretch of the Russian River with evacuation messages delivered in English and Spanish.

### 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 seek 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). RED regionalizes housing production, pools and leverages financing and funding, shares risks and benefits of development, streamlines review and provides confidence in good projects, and puts equity, affordability and climate solutions in the center of local economic strategy. The basic premise of the RED is to work 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. By working together through a JPA, the City and County have an opportunity to develop and implement a common vision and drive regional renewal efforts by leveraging their real estate assets, regulatory authority and new funding sources for maximum effect and long-term benefit.

The first RED Board meeting was held on February 27, 2019 and included a workshop on RED Project Criteria concepts. RED meeting and background materials can be found at: <https://srcity.org/3035/Renewal-Enterprise-District-JPA>. The next RED Board meeting is April 26, 2019. After RED Project Criteria is established, RED will solicit projects, review infrastructure needs, and explore potential funding sources for the projects. Other activities will be identified by the RED Board, the County, and the City of Santa Rosa in order to ensure coordination of local housing efforts.

### Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

The 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 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, including \$124 million for unmet disaster recovery needs, and \$88 million for preparedness and mitigation. The Federal Register governing the \$124 million portion for unmet disaster recovery needs was issued on August 20, 2018. The Federal Register has not yet been released on the \$88 million for preparedness and mitigation.

The Action Plan details the proposed use of all funds. HCD’s proposed Action Plan includes a budget of \$47.6 million for an owner-occupied housing program, \$66.7 million for a multi-family housing program, \$3.5 million for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) match program, and \$6.2 million for HCD administration.

The multi-family program sub-grants funds to the impacted local jurisdictions. Multi-family program funds are allocated proportionate to the number of Low and Moderate Income renters (those with incomes below 80% of the Area Median Income) within the disaster-affected areas of each jurisdiction. In HCD’s Action Plan, Sonoma County received an allocation of \$4,698,809 and the City of Santa Rosa received \$38,469,772. Once HCD publishes program guidelines, the Community Development Commission will use these to inform a proposed process for selecting projects – likely via a Notice of Funding Availability. The Board of Supervisors will make the final determination of what local requirements will be, and for making the final selection of developments to be submitted to HCD for eligibility and compliance review. Community Development staff will be responsible for ensuring compliance with HCD and HUD requirements for use of these funds.

### 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 Board 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.

The County is also updating two Specific Plans, including fee studies and other planning documents, to support meeting regional housing needs. The two specific plans currently underway are in the Airport SMART station area and the Sonoma Springs area and are anticipated to increase allowable residential uses and densities near employment and transit. The next steps include developing recommendations to bring forward for consideration by the Board through the required processes.

#### HMGP: Wildfire Adapted Sonoma County Education and Incentives for a Safe and Resilient Sonoma County

The County has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant to provide enhanced education and incentives for home hardening in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This project proposes to mitigate wildfire risks to homes, lives and property in Sonoma County, California.

Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division would implement a “house-outward” mitigation approach. This project will educate Sonoma County’s WUI residents about the importance of defensible space and the principles of structural hardening through targeted events and outreach. Comprehensive community-wide Defensible Space Inspections and voluntary WUI structure evaluations will follow outreach. Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division would also provide cost-share incentives to help homeowners mitigate items of highest risk, as identified by inspections.

This combination of education, inspection, and financial incentives for homeowners would greatly reduce the potential for loss of lives, homes, businesses, and property in Sonoma County’s WUI. The total cost of this project is \$6,677,777, of which 75% would be provided by the grant. The long-term maintenance costs of retrofit projects will be the responsibility of the private property owner. CalOES has recommended this project for full FEMA funding.

#### Housing on County-owned Land

The County is working on a number of opportunities for housing on County-owned land. Examples include continuing efforts to repurpose/sell the Chanate campus as allowed under California statute. Responses to the Request for Proposals for the Chanate campus are due in May 2019. The County is also exploring the potential for housing as part of a mixed-use development on the County Administration Center property. The County completed an Informational Survey and Questionnaire process in August 2018 and is evaluating the next steps. Further, the County continues to identify possible housing opportunities on other County-owned land which will require due diligence work to move forward. Finally, the County wants to evaluate the need for construction worker housing and whether opportunities exist on County owned properties. For these four activities, Chanate, County Administration Center, other opportunities on County-owned land, and construction worker housing on County-owned land, funding is needed to move forward in a timely manner.

## ECONOMY

In collaboration with the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), the Economic Development Board (EDB) applied for a grant following the October 2017 Fires with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund a Construction Trades Center at the SRJC Petaluma Campus. The Center is estimated to train 750 construction workers each year and will include training in green and sustainable construction building techniques and practices as a part of the curriculum. If awarded the grant funds will go toward the construction of a state of the art training facility to offer pre-apprenticeship training with the goal of placing program graduates into jobs in the local construction industry to support recovery and rebuild efforts.

The EDA notified SRJC that this \$8 million application has passed through the first stage of acceptance. Additional documentation was provided to the EDA and the County anticipates a final decision in the coming months. A requirement of the grant is to obtain \$2 million in local funding. This funding has already been obtained through a \$1 million grant from Tipping Point and through in lieu value of the SRJC land valued at over \$1 million.

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.

Since the Framework was approved, 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 best 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.

Progress has also been made on developing 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. EDB is working with established Career Technical Educational programs to identify existing training programs that can benefit from expanded training opportunities to develop a pipeline.

Establishing a Talent Alignment Council to evaluate shortages in the workforce and develop strategies to fill gaps is also identified as a potential Framework activity. EDB is working with the Workforce Investment Board to serve as the council and the central repository for policy and program development to develop an employer-driven workforce development system.

EDB continues to assist public and private organizations in Sonoma County in accessing economic recovery loans to support business lending and grants to qualified businesses. They are working closely with state-sponsored loan programs through the I-Bank, with local banks and credit unions, and with EDB micro lending partners to connect businesses with loan funding for both English and Spanish or bilingual clients seeking assistance.

## SAFETY NET SERVICES

In the first quarter since Framework approval, Safety Net departments have continued to focus on enhancing core County service capacity to address long-term recovery needs and prepare for future disasters.

Human Services Department (HSD) completed a shelter training series in Fall 2018 for more than 180 HSD staff on Shelter Fundamentals, Shelter Management, Access and Functional Needs. HSD is planning follow up trainings in 2019 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 Storm/Guerneville flood evacuation and operated 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, etc.

HSD 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).

To further develop plans to ensure available resources and services at disaster shelter are accessible to non-English speaking and/or undocumented residents, HSD met two times in 2018 with the North Bay Organizing Projects 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 has been exploring the creation of contingency contracts with eligible food providers to provide healthy and nutritious food services during a disaster. General Services anticipates releasing a solicitation to prequalify food service providers to be added to a list of available providers for disasters in the coming months. General Services Purchasing will send an email notification when the solicitation is open. While a local preference for locally owned businesses is not allowable under FEMA's reimbursement guidelines, UCCE, in collaboration with the Sonoma County Food System Alliance and the Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition, is available to help distribute the solicitation to local businesses or potentially host a training session on how to 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 Sonoma—in collaboration with the Sonoma County Food System Alliance and the Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition—is leading this item. UCCE Sonoma is defining a more specific scope of work in a budget proposal. Work may include an annual convening of emergency food providers and mapping of emergency food providers through CropMobster's existing [Food Distribution Directory](#).

Efforts continue to provide re-employment assistance for workers who have lost their jobs because employers' businesses were destroyed or impacted by fires.

Since the fires, Sonoma County Job Link has served 694 job-seekers and over 400 businesses who were impacted by the fires. A total of 274 job seekers have received individualized vocational services ranging from skills assessment to assistance with job search and concrete supportive services. Additionally, 155

job seekers have enrolled in training programs at no cost to them including on-the-job training; 83 of these have been in the building and trades.

Nearly \$400,000 federal dollars have been invested in training and supportive services for job seekers to become employed or to advance along a career path. Services to businesses range from job fairs to subsidized on the job training for new hires. Job Link acts quickly to prevent or mitigate the effects of layoffs.

The Business Services Team with Human Services does Rapid Response services with businesses that show signs of distress. This team conducted outreach to all businesses located within the burn zone (and later the flood zone) as well as those that experienced ripple effects from the fires and needed to close up temporarily or permanently, or downsize. Outreach and intake staff were located at both Local Assistance Centers after the fires and continue to work closely with the Unemployment Office to make contact with individuals as soon as they become unemployed. The goal of the program is to get clients back into a job within 45 days or into a job training program leading to a better job.

In support of understanding and addressing social inequities to advance opportunities for all, Safety Net departments (Department of Health Services, Human Services Department, Probation Department, and Sonoma County Community Development Commission) proposed principles to inform how the Board and Departments contract for and fund safety net services programs. The Board approved these principles on April 2, 2019. The proposed principles were developed 1) ensure that policy priorities are addressed in a coordinated and strategic manner, 2) ensure that resources and services are distributed equitably and fairly across regions, 3) promote a fair, open, and competitive process for vendor selection, and 4) reduce confusion among vendors as to how to obtain funding from the county. The principles also outline an initial vision for how the County can track and manage outcomes to improve the performance of safety net programs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The local Watershed Task Force has continued to meet regularly to plan, prepare for and respond to potential effects of recent winter storms on erosion and sedimentation in the burned zones. Cooperating non-profits overseen by the Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff have helped provide preventive measures on private lands during this second post-fire winter using \$100,000 allocated by the Board in January 2019. Close coordination with public agency staff has been effective at focusing efforts on potential public resource, infrastructure or safety hazards.

Ag + Open Space has been working with Sonoma Water, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency and other County partners to develop data and resources that support our conservation mission and the critical work included in the Framework. The multi-year collaboration with NASA resulted in LiDAR data that the County has been able to use in both fire and flood emergency response and long term resiliency planning – including the location of building footprints, roads, vegetation communities, and hydrologic data that were released in March 2019 [http://sonomavegmap.org/newsletters/Winter\\_2019.html](http://sonomavegmap.org/newsletters/Winter_2019.html). This spring, Ag + Open Space will complete a set of countywide maps representing riparian areas that will provide another data resource for prioritizing conservation and management efforts.

Regional Parks has been closely monitoring the natural recovery of burned lands at Shiloh Ranch, Hood Mountain, and Sonoma Valley parks, as well as the newly acquired Mark West Regional Park. In

coordination with several state and local entities, Regional Parks is pursuing grant funds and working on plans to develop and implement projects benefiting County Regional Parks and adjacent communities.

Important new phases are emerging out of projects recently completed by Sonoma Water, including the Fire Camera and OneRain networks and FireSmart Lake Sonoma. Ongoing work and grant proposals with partners such as UC Cooperative Extension, Transportation and Public Works, Fire Safe Sonoma, Conservation Biology Institute, US Geological Survey, Center for Environmental Stewardship, Geyserville Fire Protection District and CAL FIRE are addressing community-based preparedness plans, land management workshops and trainings, fuels reduction treatments (via a range of methods), and decision-support tool development.

## FUNDING FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK PROJECTS

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.

Federal Funding. After the 2017 Fires, the County Administrator convened a Grant Steering Committee to identify and prioritize projects that could be eligible for funding from various grant sources. The primary sources of federal disaster recovery assistance are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR). The County will utilize federal dollars awarded to leverage state grants and private sector capital and to complete projects with a public benefit.

A total of 28 FEMA grant applications were submitted for project costs totaling \$47.7 million.

- 23 projects were submitted in September 2018 under the first rounds of available disaster funding (DR-4344 and DR-4353).
  - On April 9, 2019, the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) formally recommended that FEMA fund eighteen (18) of these projects ), an important milestone to receiving grant awards. If awarded, funding will help the County implement \$30.7 million in projects designed to reduce the risk of life and property loss from natural disasters.
  - One was project denied
  - One project is on the funding waitlist
  - Applications for three projects were withdrawn and resubmitted through a second round of disaster funding (DR-4407).
- 5 projects were submitted in March 2019 (DR-4407) for project costs totaling \$5.2 million.

State Funding. California State Parks through the Office of Grants and Local Services awarded the County a \$5 million grant to rebuild a community center destroyed during the October 2017 fires. In addition, County departments submitted three applications to CalFIRE through their fire prevention grant program for a combined total project cost of \$2.57 million. Of these submitted State applications, one project has been awarded and is currently underway (Northwest Roadway Safety, Fuels Reduction, and Community Chipper and Engagement Project).

Grant Steering Committee. The Grant Steering Committee is a standing committee comprised of the County Administrator's Office, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma Water, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, Emergency Management, General Services, ISD, Transportation and Public Works, and Regional Parks. The Committee's focus to date has been to shepherd and coordinate funding proposals through the HMGP process. Committee members serve as the primary liaison from each department to advocate for public funding and overall grant coordination.

During the next phase of work, a focus will be on developing a Recovery and Resiliency Funding Plan that sets overall public grant goals and a shared approach to achieve them. Other next steps include:

- Developing a Grant Funding Webpage – With Framework activities tracked and highlighted for County departments and their partners.
- Monitoring and tracking State grant funding opportunities to offset the use of the County General Fund for required federal cost share.
- Researching opportunities to encourage private sector capital to invest in recovery and resiliency projects.

Fiscal Year 2019-20 Recovery and Resiliency Funding Needs. At the time of writing, some requests to fund Framework projects have been submitted and will be considered by the Board of Supervisors through the annual County budget approval process. County departments and agencies anticipate that the Framework activities and projects in the list below will launch or continue in fiscal year 2019-2020. Additional financial investments will likely be needed to pursue these activities.

Lead Agency /Department	Framework Ref Id	Potential Activities or Projects
<b>County Administrator's Office</b>	SN 3.3	SN3.3 Expand “one-stop-shop” opportunities for residents to receive updated information and resources needed for recovery, which includes navigation assistance for financial advising, insurance claims, and rebuilding for those seeking to rebuild from the fires.
	CP 2.4.5	Create strategic planning documents for the CAO grants function, and Grants Steering Committee, to formalize structure, mission, goals, scope, functions, and authorities.
	CP 2.4.6	Create grant tracking procedures and systems that enable centralized information and analysis of County funds committed, costs of grant pursuit activities, return on investment, active awarded grants
	CP 2.4.8	Build resource library of external funding sources for Countywide recovery operations, including funding source information and compliance policies.
	CP 2.4.3	Pursue recovery and resiliency external funding opportunities to achieve County strategic priorities
<b>Community Development Commission</b>	H 1.3.4	Conduct a robust Assessment of Fair Housing to document needs and opportunities, and ensure findings and recommended actions are incorporated into housing plans going forward
	CP 2.4.11	Manage, coordinate, and oversee CDBG-DR funding opportunities, maintaining federal funding compliance at all levels
<b>Emergency Management</b>	CP 1.1.4	Develop a public outreach campaign to inform the public on warning expectations and what alert systems are available
	CP 4.1.1	Establish priorities for essential services and critical business operations during and after a disaster or multi-hazard event.
	CP 1.2.2	Research, analyze and purchase available computer-based software to serve as the single repository for information.
	CP 3.2.5	Research feasibility of contracting with organizations to transport to shelters those people unable to drive or without access to a vehicle
	CP 3.2.8	Explore the use of emergency preparedness curriculum in classrooms and other youth group organizations

Lead Agency /Department	Framework Ref Id	Potential Activities or Projects
<b>General Services</b>	H 5.2.1	Continue to identify possible housing opportunities on other County-owned land
	H 5.3.1	Evaluate the need for construction worker housing and whether opportunities exist on County owned properties
<b>Health Services</b>	SN 4.1	Create a comprehensive community needs assessment using a vulnerability methodology that assesses disparities and needs related to health, well-being and self-sufficiency.
	SN 2.3	Create a plan that addresses the short- and long-term integration of trauma-informed care in the community throughout various institutions, including schools, behavioral health services, and case management.
	SN 3.5	Enhance services and capacity of 211 Sonoma County.
<b>ISD</b>	CP 4.4.1	Identify primary County technology infrastructure, business systems, and critical facilities needed to support the essential services and critical business operations and implement specific protective measures
	CP 4.4.2	Identify community infrastructure and utility services that are essential to the operation of the County technology infrastructure and systems and implement specific protective measures
<b>Permit Sonoma</b>	NR 3.3.2	Conduct supplemental studies and mapping to support updates to the seismic hazards of the Rodgers Creek Fault zone for the update to the LHMP
	CP 3.4.1	Develop an expanded vegetation management County ordinance that improves resiliency of at-risk residents and properties, including those subject to Homeowners Associations' Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions.
	CP 3.4.3	Improve enforcement of Public Resources Code section 4291: 'for defensible space maintenance' and Sonoma County Code 13A.
	CP 3.4.5	Encourage and help facilitate hazardous vegetation removal on private lots and small parcels to increase defensible space and improve emergency access, including expanded landowner participation in Cal Fire Vegetation Management Program
	CP 3.4.9	Expand chipper program
<b>TPW</b>	CP 4.2.1	Review and assess resources that could be strategically placed in sites throughout the County for better response in a disaster

**ATTACHMENT 1 – NIXLE GUIDE FOR LAW AGENCIES**

# Nixle Guide for Fire Agencies

Level of Notification	Description	Examples	Geo Fence	Contact method	Message Type
<b>Tier 1 – General Information</b>  <b>Responsibility: PIO/Office staff as appointed</b>	General Awareness Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Events &amp; Awareness</li> <li>Low Impact Activity (vehicle accidents, fires, investigations, localized flooding, street closures)</li> <li>Prescribed burning/Vegetation management recommendations</li> <li>Drift smoke</li> </ul>	None	Community Type: ✓ Email ✓ Social Media	
<b>Tier 2 – Low Urgency</b>  <b>Responsibility: PIO/Office staff as appointed</b>	Medium Level Warning: Impact the Residents but NON-Threatening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road Closure due to Fire Activity (avoid the area, in progress event)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geo Fence 5 mile radius</li> </ul>	Advisory Type: ✓ SMS ✓ Email ✓ Social Media	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train/Aircraft/MCI incident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geo Fence 5 mile radius</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landslides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geo Fence 5 mile radius</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Flag Warning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countywide</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire related incident impacting dispatch services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countywide</li> </ul>		
<b>Tier 3 – High Urgency</b>  <b>Requires Immediate Action</b>  <b>Responsibility: PIO/Office staff as appointed</b>	Severe Threat: Requiring Action Taken, Immediate Threat to Life/Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazmat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC to define</li> </ul>	Alert Type: ✓ SMS ✓ Email ✓ SoCoAlert ✓ WEA/EAS Alert ✓ Social Media	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major Incident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC to define</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evacuation/Shelter in Place*</li> </ul> <p>*Coordinate with Law/Sheriff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC to define</li> </ul>		

Note: Issuing an ALL CLEAR should be issued for evacuations, shelter in place, when a major thoroughfare (HWY 101 & HWY 12) is reopened or when any incident needs an official conclusion message.

# Nixle Guide for Law Agencies

Level of Notification	Description	Examples	Geo Fence	Contact method	Message Type
<b>Tier 1 – General Information</b>  <b>Responsibility: PIO team</b>	General Awareness Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Events &amp; Awareness</li> <li>Low Impact Police Activity (arrest, investigations)</li> </ul>	None	Community Type: ✓ EMAIL ✓ Social Media	
<b>Tier 2 – Low Urgency</b>  <b>Responsibility: Patrol/Dispatch (PIO Team if available)</b>	Medium Level Warning: Impact the Residents but NON-Threatening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road Closure due to Police Activity (avoid the area, in progress event)</li> <li>BOLO Suspect (Limited threat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geo Fence 5 mile radius.</li> <li>IC to define</li> </ul>	Advisory Type ✓ SMS ✓ Email ✓ Facebook	
<b>Tier 3 – High Urgency</b> <i>Requires Immediate Action</i>  <b>Responsibility: Dispatch (PIO Team if available)</b>	Severe Threat: Requiring Action Taken, Immediate Threat to Life/Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evacuation</li> <li>Shelter in Place</li> <li>BOLO Suspect, imminent threat</li> <li>Missing Child/Person, extraordinary circumstances.</li> <li>Active Shooter</li> <li>Major Incident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IC to define</li> <li>IC to define</li> <li>IC to define</li> <li>1 mile per hour missing, depending on mobility.</li> <li>None</li> <li>None</li> </ul>	Alert Type: ✓ SMS ✓ Email ✓ SoCoAlert ✓ Social Media  ✓ WEA/EAS Alert (if directed by W/C)	
Note: Issuing an ALL CLEAR should be issued for evacuations, shelter in place, when a major thoroughfare (HWY 101 & HWY 12) is reopened or when any incident needs an official closure message.					