



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Planning

Projects:	Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Surface Fault Rupture and Seismic Induced Landslide Analysis, and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update		
Lead Department:	Permit Sonoma		
Funding Requested:	\$475,000		
Estimated Total Cost:	\$633,333	Estimated Grant Start Date:	October 2019

PROGRAM SUMMARY. Planning and analysis to update the existing Sonoma County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to improve analysis of wildfire, landslide, flood and geologic hazards.

PUBLIC BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM. Science-based decision making to identify priority risk reduction projects and refine the current analysis of seismic and wildfire hazards throughout the County.

WILDFIRE HISTORY. In the 50 year span from 1964-2015 Sonoma County experienced 18 major wildfires that destroyed nearly 2,000 structures. In October 2017 the “Sonoma Complex Fires” resulted in the loss of life, destroyed nearly 7,000 homes, and burned more than 100,000 acres in Sonoma County and surrounding counties. The “Sonoma Complex Fires” burned in nearly identical footprints to 1964’s Hanley Fire and Nuns Canyon Fire.

SEISMIC RISK IN SONOMA COUNTY. The entire Sonoma County population faces some risk and vulnerability to earthquake activity, but the risk is greatest in areas near earthquake fault zones. Less than ten percent of unincorporated Sonoma County population, or about 13,800 people, live close to the Rodgers’ Creek or San Andreas faults in areas with the highest probability of violent shaking. A magnitude 7.3 earthquake on the Rodgers’ Creek Fault would cause \$29.2 billion in capital stock losses (i.e., losses from structures, contents, inventory, and non- structure damage).

THE PROBLEM. *The October 2017 fires represent the brutal reality that new, innovative methods should be utilized to reduce the loss of life and property from wildfire and other hazards.* The existing countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is outdated and should incorporate a robust analysis of current data to better reflect changes to the physical and human environment subsequent to the 2017 Sonoma Complex fires. In addition to wildfire hazard, recent studies have shown active fault traces in Sonoma County that extend beyond the previously identified Earthquake Fault Zones (EFZ’s).

THE SOLUTION

- ❖ **Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.** This project will update the existing Sonoma County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to include other jurisdictions (i.e., Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, etc.) and improve analysis of local wildfire, landslide, flood, geologic, and climate change related hazard risks. The change from a Local to a Multi-Jurisdiction Plan will enable a comprehensive approach to risk reduction, and avoid duplication of efforts.
- ❖ **Seismic Fault Rupture and Seismic Inducted Landslide Analysis.** Given the development pressure of Sonoma County in the aftermath of the “Sonoma Complex Fires”, Sonoma County needs to update Earthquake Fault Zones as quickly as possible, particularly the Rodgers Creek Fault and other active faults. The County will build upon newly available datasets to improve and refine the assessment and delineation of seismic hazards.
- ❖ **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update.** This project will provide critical updates to the current Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and become part of the County General Plan Safety Element. The revised CWPP reflects the partnership between Sonoma County Fire Preparedness Division and Fire Safe Sonoma, Inc. and will meet the requirements of being developed collaboratively, including a hazard assessment, and addressing structural hardening to prevent wildfire ignition.

For more information contact Lisa Hulette, Senior Grant Manager, Sonoma County Office of Recovery and Resiliency

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