



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: December 7, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County Of Sonoma, State of California, Adopting
the 2021 Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Finding the Plan
Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act**

Whereas, Sonoma County has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County's economy; and

Whereas, Sonoma County is subject to various hazards including dam failure, drought, earthquake, flooding, landslide, sea level rise, severe weather, tsunami, and wildfire; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma anticipates climate change will exacerbate the severity, frequency, and impacts of natural hazards; and

Whereas, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma is committed to increasing the adaptive capacity and resiliency of the infrastructure, health, housing, economy, government services, education, environment, and land use systems in the County; and

Whereas, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all cities, counties, and special districts to have adopted a Hazard Mitigation Plan to receive pre-and post-disaster mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

Whereas, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available mitigation grants to state and local governments; and

Whereas, an adopted multi-jurisdiction hazard plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post- disaster mitigation grant programs; and

Whereas, in accordance with FEMA requirements at 44 C.F.R. §201.6, the County of Sonoma formed a planning partnership with local governments and special districts to prepare the Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), which analyzes the risk of natural hazards affecting the County and specifies potential mitigation measures to address or reduce risk that the County of Sonoma and planning partners may independently implement within the next five years if funding is secured; and

Whereas, the MJHMP partnership includes the County of Sonoma, the City of Santa Rosa, the City of Cotati, the Town of Windsor, the City of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preserve and Open Space District, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Timber Cove Fire District, North Sonoma Coast Fire District, Cloverdale Fire District, Northern Sonoma County Fire District, Sonoma Valley Fire District, and Rancho Adobe Fire District; and

Whereas, the MJHMP partnership completed a coordinated planning process that engaged the public, assessed the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, developed a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and created a plan for implementing, evaluating, and revising the strategy; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma fully participated in the FEMA-prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare the MJHMP; and

Whereas, residents of the County of Sonoma were awarded opportunities to comment and provide input on the MJHMP and the actions in the plan; and

Whereas, the MJHMP partnership invited public comment and conducted numerous steering committee meetings and virtual public meetings to obtain countywide input, and presented the MJHMP to the Sonoma County Planning Agency on July 29, 2021; and

Whereas, the MJHMP serves as a source of critical data that will inform the County's upcoming updates to the General Plan Public Safety and Housing Elements, which processes are underway; and

Whereas, the MJHMP is comprised of two volumes: Volume 1 (Area-Wide Elements), and Volume 2 (Planning Partner Annexes); and

Whereas, Sonoma County has reviewed the MJHMP and affirms that its actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences within

our community; and

Whereas, the MJHMP has been reviewed by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and has been determined to be eligible for final approval pending its adoption by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma, as a fully participating jurisdiction of the MJHMP, is an eligible sub-applicant to the State of California under FEMA's hazard mitigation grant program guidance; and

Whereas, adoption by the Board of Supervisors demonstrates the jurisdiction's commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in the MJHMP as funding allows; and

Whereas, adoption of the MJHMP helps to coordinate regional agencies to carry out their independent responsibilities as funding allows and as outlined in the plan.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors finds this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (feasibility and planning studies) and Section 15061(b)(3) (common sense exemption).

Be It Further Resolved that based on the foregoing findings, the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, consisting of Volume 1 in its entirety and the following parts of Volume 2: (1) Introduction; (2) Part 1, the Sonoma County annex; and (3) appendices.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors designates the adopted Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan that is incorporated by reference into the Public Safety Element of the General Plan.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors resolves to integrate the Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan by reference into the upcoming update to the Public Safety Element of the General Plan in accordance with the requirements of Government Code sections 65302, 65302.6, and 8685.9.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors directs County staff to:

1. Use the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation;
2. Pursue implementation of the identified mitigation actions subject to the

- limitations of available of funding and staff;
3. Coordinate the strategies in the plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority;
 4. Continue support of ongoing countywide mitigation efforts;
 5. Continue to participate in the regional planning partnership as described by the MJHMP.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, or his designee, to submit an approved and signed copy of this resolution to the Cal OES and FEMA officials to enable the MJHMP's final approval.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.