MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2024 | 2:00-3:00 P.M. | VIRTUAL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Planning Partnership and contract consultant, provide an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process, and to begin the information gathering processes and update the hazards of concern.

ATTENDEES

Planning Team

- Sage Limpp, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Supervising Hazard Mitigation Coordinator
- Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa, Emergency Manager
- Thomas Jordan, City of Petaluma, Emergency Manager
- Bart Spencer, Tetra Tech, Project Manager
- Sasha Jones, Tetra Tech, Lead Planner

Attendees

- Jenny Melman, Bodega Bay Public Utility District, District Engineer
- Derrick Montanye, City of Cloverdale, Public Works Director
- Katie Duran, City of Cotati, Senior Management Analyst
- Kelsey Carreiro, City of Healdsburg, Emergency Manager
- Tom Jordan, City of Petaluma, Emergency Manager
- Adam Strongman, City of Rohnert Park, Lieutenant
- Sonia Lawton, City of Santa Rosa, deputy emergency manager
- David Guhin, City of Santa Rosa
- Amy Nicholson, City of Santa Rosa
- Neil Bregman, City of Santa Rosa, Emergency Preparedness Manager
- Conor McKay, City of Santa Rosa, Planner
- Sarah Tracy, City of Sonoma, Senior Management Analyst & PIO
- Mike Berger, City of Sonoma, Director
- Dave Bray, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, Division Chief
- Brittany Jensen, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Executive Director
- Bonnie Plakos, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, Chief

- Pat Briant, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District,
- Daymon Doss, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District,
- Chuck Brier, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, Assistant Chief
- Marshall Turbeville, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, Chief
- Tim Caldwell, Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief
- Sage Limpp, Sonoma County, Supervising Hazard Mitigation Coordinator
- Sam Wallis, Sonoma County, Deputy Director
- Roxanne Ezzet, Sonoma County, Office of Equity
- Shelly Bianchi-Williamson, Sonoma County, GIS
- Gilbert Martinez, Sonoma County, PIO
- Sheri Emerson, Sonoma County Ag and Open Space, Stewardship Manager
- Cyndi Foreman, Sonoma County Fire Protection District, Division Chief/Fire Marshal
- Christine Kuehn, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Executive Director
- Trevor Smith, Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District, Fire Marshall
- Steven Hancock, Sonoma Water, Emergency Management & Security Manager
- Evan Dilks, The Sea Ranch Assoc, Safety and Security Manager
- Heidi Horovitz, Timber Cove Fire Protection District, BC Admin
- Kristina Owens, Town of Windsor, Government Operations Manager

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Each person was asked to share their name, title and department in the chat.
- Sage Limpp, Sonoma DEM, welcomed attendees, shared the purpose of the meeting and introduced Bart Spencer from Tetra Tech.
- Tom Jordan and Neil Bregman introduced themselves as representative from the Cities of Petaluma and Santa Rosa.
- Bart Spencer introduced those from Tetra Tech assisting with the plan update highlighting the point of contact, Lead Planner, Sasha Jones, before presenting slides to the group.

2. Hazard Mitigation Overview

- Mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event.
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides an overview of the impacts of natural hazards on communities and is a roadmap to reducing the impact of these hazards.
- For the 2026 update, the County will be following the revised April 2023 FEMA guidance for local plans.
- Two main reasons to update plan:
  - Have an active and valid plan to become eligible for funding.

- It's a proactive strategy to anticipate potential challenges the county might encounter and to determine measures to minimize or prevent the impact of these hazards.

3. Key Agencies, Partners, and Stakeholders

- To complete the HMP update, we will work with individuals, agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, businesses, and other partners.
- The project is organized by the following –
  - Core Planning Team - made up of Sonoma County, Cities of Petaluma and Santa Rosa, and Tetra Tech. This is a small group that will meet frequently to ensure the project stays on schedule and that we meet all State and FEMA requirements.
  - Planning Partnership - responsible for providing guidance and leadership throughout the planning process. They will actively contribute, review, and provide feedback on plan sections, update the plans' goals and objectives, finalize the list of hazards of concern, and identify mitigation actions.
  - Hazard Mitigation Working Group (HMWG) – represents the participating jurisdictions. They will attend meetings, provide information, identify mitigation actions, and adopt the HMP.
  - Stakeholders - must be engaged throughout the planning process. At a minimum, this group should include neighboring counties, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia, and other private and nonprofit organizations. We will put together a draft list of stakeholders and ask for your input.
  - Cal OES and FEMA - provide the County guidance throughout the HMP update and will review/approve the plan.

4. Planning Process Overview

The Planning Team will follow an eight-phase approach to update the HMP:

1. Planning Process – ongoing throughout the update
2. Risk Assessment – identifies the risks of each hazard included in the plan.
3. Public Involvement Strategy – ongoing throughout the plan update; we will use the County's website and StoryMap to help with outreach.
   a. New FEMA guidance emphasizes outreach to socially vulnerable communities and to include these populations in the Risk Assessment
   b. Planning Partnership members suggested the following categories for inclusion in the social vulnerability analysis.

4. Mitigation Strategy – review/finalize goals/objectives for 2026 HMP; review existing capabilities; review 2021 mitigation strategies and provide status; identify new strategies for the 2026 update.
5. Plan Maintenance – determine the maintenance schedule of the 2026 HMP.
6. Plan Update and Deliverables – update all sections of the HMP; provide to Cal OES for review and approval.
7. Plan Adoption – the County and each participating municipality will adopt the plan after the HMP is approved by FEMA.
8. Project Management and Coordination – ongoing throughout the update

5. Project Schedule

- 2026 HMP Update Kick-Off – November 14, 2024
- Risk Assessment
    - Data collection – Winter 2024/25
    - Risk assessment results – Spring 2025
    - Public Involvement – Ongoing
- Mitigation Strategy
    - Review 2019 actions – Winter 2024/25
    - Finalize goals – Winter 2024/25
    - Identify 2025 actions – Summer 2025
- Plan Maintenance – Summer 2025
- Public Draft – Fall 2025
- Draft to State for Review – Fall 2025
- Plan Adoption – Early 2026

6. Questions

How often will there be meetings?

Answer: Jurisdictions will meet periodically, planning partners may meet several times, even 1:1 meetings. HMWG will mee about four times, and the planning team will meet every other week. There will be public meetings from time to time, which will be scheduled after the first of the year.

7. Next Steps

- Tetra Tech will develop surveys for outreach to public and stakeholders.
- Planning Partners to review Worksheets A-E.
- Planning Partners kickoff meeting on December 4.
- Hazard Mitigation Working Group kickoff meeting on December 11.

Action Items

- Tetra Tech to distribute Worksheet A-E to the Planning Partners.

- Sonoma County to post today's meeting materials to HMP Update website.