



Sonoma County Annual Report

2017

Community Priorities

OCTOBER 8



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

SUPPORTED

41 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

IN THE FIRST 4 WEEKS TO
KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED

ISSUED OVER

**4,000
REPLACEMENT
DOCUMENTS**

AT A COST SAVINGS
OF **\$250,000**
TO VICTIMS OF THE
WILDFIRES

Launched the Vital Lands Initiative and received over **3,793 PUBLIC COMMENTS** for a comprehensive plan to guide Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's work for the **NEXT 15 YEARS.**



SECURED A **\$1.9M GRANT** TO ENHANCE FLOOD CONTROL IN THE PETALUMA RIVER WATERSHED

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



OCTOBER 8



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

COMPLETED
DRY CREEK HABITAT
ENHANCEMENT WORK
ON TIME AND
UNDER BUDGET
FOR A TOTAL OF
2 MILES
OF IMPROVEMENTS



HOUSING for all

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**.

PROVIDED FINANCING FOR THE **60-UNIT** FETTERS APARTMENTS IN SONOMA VALLEY AND THE **79-UNIT** BURBANK HOUSING CROSSROADS APARTMENTS IN SANTA ROSA

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





OCTOBER 8

LOW-INCOME HOUSING SUBSIDIES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE HELPED PREVENT **60 SENIORS** FROM BECOMING HOMELESS



RESPONSE & Recovery

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

IDENTIFIED OVER **187 PROPERTIES** WITH POTENTIAL FOR USE AS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR FIRE SURVIVORS

120 SPACES AND UP TO **50 ADDITIONAL PADS** FOR RVs OR MANUFACTURED HOMES AT THE SONOMA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

29 NEW HOMES

OFFERED AVAILABILITY
TO HOUSE LOCAL FOSTER
CHILDREN AND YOUTH



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.

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.

SECURED OVER **\$16M FOR WHOLE PERSON CARE** TO COORDINATE HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES



OCTOBER 8

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 Toley Creek Ranch, Toley 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.

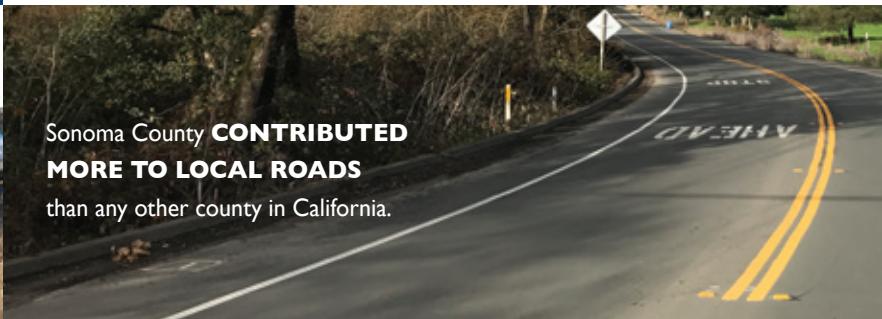
Authorized the sale of the 82-acre **CHANATE CAMPUS**, creating the potential for over **800 MULTI-FAMILY HOMES**, with over **20% AFFORDABLE**, and preserved a 9-acre parcel for **OPEN SPACE**.

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

SUPPORTED THE
10-YEAR DREDGING
OF BODEGA HARBOR

SMART TRAIN WELCOMED
240,575 PASSENGERS
AND **20,482 BICYCLES**
IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION



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

CELEBRATING



CELEBRATED
REGIONAL PARKS'
50TH ANNIVERSARY
BY HOSTING
MORE THAN **500**
ACTIVITIES
& SPECIAL EVENTS AT
PARKS COUNTYWIDE

OCTOBER 8



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 COUNTY CLEARED DANGEROUS
VEGETATION AND BURNED TREES FROM

90 MILES OF ROADS AFFECTED BY THE FIRES

55 MILES
OF ROADS WERE
RESURFACED

THE AMOUNT OF LOVE IN THIS TINY TOWN MAKES US ⁰⁰⁰ #SOMACOUNTY STRONG

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

THANK YOU

THANK YOU
*Merci Beaucoup
Gracias
to everyone!*

Thank You!!!

THANK YOU ALL RESPONSE TEAMS

THANK YOU EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Thank You FIREMEN & FIRST RESPONDERS

WE ❤️ FIREFIGHTERS

Thanks Cal Fire

FIREFIGHTERS SAVE LIVES!

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

Thank You FIRE FIGHTERS

THANKS FIRE FIGHTERS

Thank You Police Firefighters GOD BLESS

Thank You First Responders

LOVE is Thicker Than SMOKE

THANK YOU 1ST RESPONDERS FROM AUSTRALIA 2 NEXT DOOR

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS !!!!!!!

THANK YOU FOR SAVING OUR TOWN

THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

All Our Bright Tomorrows are Thanks To You

We Love Police & Fire

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS #SOMACOUNTY STRONG

FIREFIGHTERS KICK ASS

THANK YOU FIRST AND POLICE RESPONDERS

SUPER HEROES

Thank You firefighters Police Dept.

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

FOREVER GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FIGHTING THESE FIRES!

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

Thank You Fire Fighters

THANK YOU FIRE & POLICE MILITARY & Grateful 4U HEROS

THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS

THANK YOU FIRE FIGHTERS 2ND FIRE RESPONDERS CAR #1016 FOR SAVING US & OUR APPOINTMENT!


THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS



THANK YOU

THANK U 1st Responders U R the BEST

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS FRIENDS, FAMILY & POLICE FOR SAVING OUR HOME!

THANK YOU!

A photograph of a garden at sunset. A pink sign is the central focus, with the text 'THE LOVE IN THE AIR IS THICKER THAN THE SMOKE' written in black. There are small heart symbols next to 'AIR' and 'SMOKE'. The background features a wooden fence, trees, and string lights. Sunflowers are in the foreground.

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