



## County of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board  
575 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Agenda Item Number: 25**  
(This Section for use by Clerk of the Board Only.)

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**Board Agenda Date:** December 11, 2018

**Vote Requirement:** Informational Only

**Department or Agency Name(s):** County Administrator's Office

**Staff Name and Phone Number:**

Michael Gossman, 565-2341

**Supervisorial District(s):**

All

**Title:** Recovery Update

### **Recommended Actions:**

Receive an update on the status of recovery operations, planning, seeking of funding opportunities, community engagement and status of recovery framework, following the October 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires.

### **Executive Summary:**

The aftermath of the October 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires presents ongoing risks to the residents, property, and environment of Sonoma County. Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff provides the Board regular updates on recovery efforts, including debris removal and other structural developments; external funding efforts; relevant legislation; ongoing community engagement; and status of the Recovery and Resiliency Framework being prepared by the Office.

### **Discussion:**

In the early morning hours of October 9, 2017, County staff activated the Emergency Operations Center in response to the Sonoma Complex Fires, which burned 173 square miles and destroyed over 7,000 structures, including 5,143 homes. During the response phase, the County began planning for the recovery from the fires. On December 19, 2017, the Board of Supervisors established the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (Office) with the mission to develop a strategy that addresses the immediate and long-term recovery and resiliency efforts needed to help Sonoma County rebuild and recover from the wildfires. This Office continues to actively pursue recovery efforts, and to work with other County departments, agencies, and districts to assist Sonoma County residents in the process of rebuilding.

In an effort to keep the Board and community informed about the most current developments in the County's recovery efforts, the Office prepares a standing agenda item for each Board meeting, typically included on the consent calendar. This update includes information on: (1) Ongoing Recovery Efforts and Structural Changes; (2) Recovery Related External Funding Opportunities; and (3) highlights of activities on the horizon (Looking Forward). New items and updated counts and figures are in bold.

## 1. Ongoing Recovery Efforts and Structural Changes

### A. Debris Removal

1. Debris removal is in the final stages for both the Government-Sponsored Program and the Alternative Program (private debris removal). About 25 percent of property owners who lost homes opted to use a private contractor for debris removal.
2. Government-Sponsored Program:
  - A. Properties cleared by Army Corps of Engineers: 3,674
  - B. All properties returned to owners by County to start rebuilding
3. Private Debris Removal:
  - A. County: 767 residential properties accepted; 749 certified as ready to rebuild. The deadline for full compliance with the Sonoma Complex Fire Cleanup Emergency Ordinance was December 10, 2018. As of December 4th, there were 18 properties remaining. Many of these properties were actively working to reach compliance prior to December 10th. Your Board has authorized that a lien be recorded against any property that has not been cleared by County Environmental Health by December 10th. Once a property has been cleared by Environmental Health, the lien will be dismissed. Properties will not be issued a building permit from Permit Sonoma until they receive that clearance.
  - B. City: 450 properties accepted; 441 finished and ready to rebuild
4. USACE Hotline:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2018 stopped accepting new debris removal complaints on its hotline for Sonoma County. The Office of Recovery & Resiliency has assumed the role of receiving new debris complaints at 707-565-1222.
5. Over-Excavation Program:

The California Office of Emergency Services is working with the City of Santa Rosa and County to address over-excavation issues that occurred as part of the Government-Sponsored Debris Removal Program. For properties that meet Cal OES over-excavation criteria, the State's contractor is backfilling to appropriate elevations. As of November 27, 2018, 722 property owners requested site assessments; 379 have been ruled eligible for program; 343 have been ruled ineligible; backfilling of 360 sites has been completed. Fire related debris has been found on 148 of the sites. A variety of issues have impacted the pace of the project, including the discovery of structural ash, concrete footings, large pieces of concrete and large boulders that required removal prior to backfilling work.
6. Hazardous tree removal

On October 16, 2018, your Board approved a construction contract for removal of fire-damaged trees, stump grinding, pruning limbs and disposing of previously felled trees, located in the public right-of-way. County crews and contractors previously removed trees that posed an "imminent" threat to road use, and a professional

arborist consultant identified trees to be removed as posing “extreme” or “high” risks along approximately 90 miles of roads in burned areas of the County. The Contractor and the Transportation & Public Works Department will notice the property owners adjacent to the "extreme" or "high" risk trees that will be removed, by either mail or hand-delivered letters, and social media. The work is expected to begin December 10, 2018.

The contract for the removal of trees within private property and affecting the road right-of-way will potentially be awarded in January 2019 with work starting in March. Those dates are subject to change pending Right of Entry or bid issues.

**B. Watershed Task Force**

Sonoma County has been leading efforts by the Watershed Task Force to coordinate preparation for rainy season operations, storm patrols, and communications between public agencies and with community members. Erosion and sediment control and storm water pollution prevention is a critical focus, since the risks of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, mudslides, or similar hazards are increased for a few years after a wildfire.

The County and City of Santa Rosa each prepared corresponding brochures to inform property owners and contractors about their responsibilities and the resources available, and created tailored versions addressing vacant parcels and those under construction. Those brochures were mailed to property owners in the burn areas and have been distributed by staff, inspectors, and nonprofit partners in group meetings and during site visits. A summary of the information and downloadable PDFs of the brochures are accessible online at <https://www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/rain-ready/>

Through service contracts, the County has continued to support local nonprofits that are providing technical services and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private parcels that were affected by the October 2017 fires. These services aim to protect the burned watersheds and the County’s streams and rivers by stabilizing areas with vulnerable exposed soils and/or damaged vegetation. County staff are in the process of developing a longer term approach to address these issues to establish a systematic way of evaluating the highest risk areas, maximize service delivery, and ensure sufficient resources to mitigate these risks in the future.

**C. Renewal Enterprise District and Build/Rebuild Ad Hoc Update**

On December 4, 2018, the Board of Supervisors and the City Council approved a joint powers agreement to create the Renewal Enterprise District (RED) as a separate legal entity formed as a Joint Powers Authority by the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. The RED is a partnership between the County and City of Santa Rosa to catalyze and facilitate rapid development of additional new housing to meet a diversity of needs within the County and

the City of Santa Rosa, and in a way that protects the environment, supports our economic renewal, and improves the well-being of all the county's residents.

The basic premise of the RED is to work across jurisdictions to market and attract developers, blend private financing and public funds, leverage state and federal grant funds, and facilitate creation of housing that meets established public policy goals for increased density, access to transit, protection of open space and community separators; improved energy efficiency, climate resilience, and affordability; and to advance and ensure equitable access to housing. The Agreement provides a flexible framework for multi-jurisdictional collaboration. It will enable the RED to create a structure for development of funding and other incentives to facilitate and encourage climate-smart, resilient and affordable housing, as well as other community development projects. The precise scope of the RED's efforts will be defined by the JPA Board of Directors.

Creation of the RED signals to the public, state and federal officials, and outside investors and business interests that Santa Rosa's and Sonoma County's local governments are serious about working together to overcome barriers to housing development.

The initial staffing and operations will be provided by existing City, County, and Community Development Commission (CDC) staff, supplemented by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Regional Climate Protection Agency, and Sonoma Clean Power.

D. Rebuilding Permits

1. County has issued 788 building permits for homes as of November 28; 139 permits are in process; 24 homes have been finished. For latest numbers, go to <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Administration/Rebuilding-Permits-Data/>
2. City of Santa Rosa has issued 1,108 building permits for homes as of November 28; 237 permits are in process; 74 homes have been finished. For latest numbers, go to <https://www.srcity.org/2675/Rebuilding>

## 2. Recovery-Related External Funding Opportunities

A. Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery

Announcement of \$212 Million: On April 10, 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced 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.

Requirements of \$124 Million: At least 80% of the allocation (\$99 million) must address unmet disaster needs within the HUD-identified most impacted and distressed areas identified as: Sonoma and Ventura Counties, and zip codes 93108, 94558, 95422, 95470, and 95901. Funds

must primarily address unmet housing needs. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), as Grantee and receiver of the funds, has drafted an Action Plan to submit to HUD by December 18, 2018. The Action Plan details the proposed use of all funds. HCD has assessed community impacts and unmet needs to guide the development and prioritization of planned recovery activities, of which 70% must be used to support activities benefitting low- and moderate- income persons.

Status: HCD has held two public meetings in Santa Rosa, one on October 2, 2018 and the second on November 26, 2018, first to introduce the draft action plan and second to receive initial comments before finalizing and submitting their Action Plan. HCD's proposed Action Plan includes a budget of \$47.6 million for an owner-occupied housing program, \$66.7 million for a multifamily housing program, \$3.5 million for a FEMA PA match program, and \$6.2 million for administration.

The owner-occupied program is proposed to be a Statewide program by HCD. HCD will release a Survey to help finalize the owner-occupied program prior to opening up the application process. The multi-family program will have funds allocated directly to the local jurisdiction. This allocation is proportionate to the number of Low and Moderate Income renters within the disaster areas of each jurisdiction. As proposed, Sonoma County would receive \$4,698,809 and the City of Santa Rosa would receive \$38,469,772.

The Office of Recovery and Resiliency and the Community Development Commission, along with other community partners, are continuing to collaborate with HCD regarding the proposed programs for the action plan to align eligible unmet needs found throughout the County with the ultimate use of the funds.

**B. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-4344 and DR-4353: The October 2017 fires are also known as DR-4344, and the December 2017 Southern California fires are known as DR-4353. Both became Presidential Disaster Declarations, and as a result they generated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) HMGP funding. DR-4344 had \$333 million in HMGP available statewide, with applications due July 2 and September 4. DR-4353 had \$56 million in HMGP available statewide, with applications due September 4. County Departments and Districts submitted 20 grant applications to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for this program. The County's submitted HMGP applications are summarized below.

The countywide Grant Steering Committee worked with Departments and Districts to prioritize feasible grant applications based on success criteria, match funding sources, and leadership priorities.

**DR-4344 Round 1 HMGP Applications - Submitted on July 2**

- 8 applications submitted
  - \$17.4 million in total project costs (\$13.1 million in federal share, \$4.3 million in local match). \$500,000 in general fund match.

- Applications submitted by Community Development Commission (1), General Services (1), Sonoma County Water Agency (3), and Transportation and Public Works (3)
- DR-4353 HMGP Applications – submitted on September 4

- 1 application submitted
  - \$850,000 in total project cost (\$637,500 in federal share, \$212,500 in local match). \$212,500 in general fund match.
  - Application submitted by Fire and Emergency Services (1)

DR-4344 Round 2 HMGP Applications – submitted on September 4

- 11 applications submitted
  - \$21.4 million in total project costs (\$16 million in federal share, \$5.4 million in local match). \$4.5 million in general fund match.
  - Applications submitted by Fire and Emergency Services (1), General Services (1), Information Systems Department (1), Regional Parks (1), Permit Sonoma (4), Sonoma Water (1), and Transportation and Public Works (2)

The next steps are for Cal OES to complete its review of the applications and determine which to submit to FEMA for review and final approval. All projects receiving HMGP funding must be completed within three years from the date of award.

HMGP for DR-4382: The 2018 wildfires in Lake and Shasta County have become known as DR-4382, and also became a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This opened up HMGP funding and Notices of Interest (NOI) were due October 5, 2018. The Information Systems Department submitted 4 NOIs, and Sonoma Water submitted one NOI.

1. ISD: Hardening of Wireless Communication Infrastructure, \$400,000 total project cost
2. ISD: Critical Facility Power Retrofit, \$100,000 total project cost
3. ISD: Critical Facility Redundant Power Feed, \$250,000 total project cost
4. ISD: Critical Facility Redundant Internet Feed, \$100,000 total project cost
5. Sonoma Water: Sonoma Water Standby Power, \$500,000 total project cost

### C. FEMA Public Assistance

The Disaster Finance Team (consisting of participants from the Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Administrator's Office, and County Counsel) is working with FEMA and Cal OES on 22 project worksheets to claim reimbursement for response and recovery costs associated with the October 2017 fires, as well as repair/replacement costs for damages sustained to County property that are not covered by the County's insurance policies. These claims are being submitted through the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

As of October 10, 2018, the Disaster Finance Team estimates the County's total disaster related costs qualifying for FEMA's Public Assistance Program will be approximately \$37 million, of which we anticipate the County will be reimbursed approximately \$36 million over the next 2 to 5 years. FEMA has obligated 15 of the 22 projects and the County has received \$9.1 million in expedited reimbursement funding and \$246,000 for small permanent projects managed by Regional Parks and Transportation and Public Works.

The Disaster Finance Team is in the process of collecting and reviewing supporting documentation for about \$13 million (\$3.5 million paid out) in Mutual Aid/Assistance provided by 85 law enforcement agencies, 17 EMMA jurisdictions, 12 shelters, and 12 agencies through Department of Health during the fires and continues to work with FEMA, CAL-OES and County Departments to finalize the remaining five project worksheets. Claims for reimbursement will be filed with FEMA as additional disaster related costs are incurred and documentation is compiled. The Disaster Finance Team is also in the process of reviewing labor reports and personnel activity logs, and working with County Departments to reconcile approximately \$6 million in fire related labor costs that may be eligible for reimbursement.

D. Economic Development Administration – Disaster Supplemental Funding

Economic Development Administration (EDA) has an open funding opportunity to award grants to eligible entities to address economic challenges in disaster-impacted areas.

On October 12, 2018, the County’s Economic Development Board submitted a full grant application to the EDA to conduct design/engineering for broadband in specific unserved rural areas of the County. This project was developed with the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Information Systems Department. The submitted application is for \$605,500 to complete the design, engineering, and feasibility analysis of broadband in select locations.

Additional potential projects are being considered, including the following:

Project 1 - Revolving Loan Fund to provide credit to Sonoma County entrepreneurs traditionally excluded or denied loans from mainstream financial institutions.

Project 2 - Regional Construction and Trades Training Center.

Project 3 - AgTech Incubator for local agriculture and food/beverage manufacturing.

E. CAL FIRE Grants for Fire Prevention

The CAL FIRE Fire Prevention grant program, funded by the California Climate Investments (CCI) fund, aims to reduce the risk of wildland fires to habitable structures and communities. CAL FIRE opened the Fire Prevention program for FY 18-19 applications on October 17, 2018, with applications due December 19. The Office of Recovery is tracking this opportunity and coordinating with applicable County Departments and partners to consider applications. For more information see: [http://calfire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/firepreventiongrants](http://calfire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/firepreventiongrants)

In Summer 2018 CAL FIRE opened the Fire Prevention program for FY 17-18. Sonoma County applied for and was awarded the following grant application:

1. Northwest Roadway Safety, Fuels Reduction, and Community Chipper and Engagement Project. Transportation and Public Works is lead, in partnership with Fire and Emergency Services and Fire Safe Sonoma, Inc. Total: \$1,237,541; CAL FIRE \$1,082,969; Match: \$154,572
  - a. Match source: \$131,300 is from General Fund FY 2018 set aside; \$23,272 from in-kind volunteer labor tracked by Fire Safe Sonoma.

F. Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program Grant

The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, known locally as California HOPE, is administered in Sonoma County through the County Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Division. California HOPE counselors have helped to provide over 65,800 services and counseling sessions to community members (this data contains duplicate individuals). The program helps individuals and communities recover from disasters through community outreach, counseling, and access to mental health services for survivors of these disasters. Counselors are available to meet people wherever they are to provide crisis counseling, resource navigation, and disaster recovery education. Counselors help survivors understand their current reactions, reduce stress, receive emotional support, prioritize their needs and solve problems, choose coping strategies, and connect with people and agencies who can help. Bilingual counselors are available. This program is funded from a variety of sources. The initial recovery work is supported by short-term disaster grants from FEMA for \$4.3 million. The California HOPE funding from FEMA ends in January 2019, and Kaiser Permanente has confirmed an additional \$1 million. Sonoma County Department of Health Services is pursuing additional funding to continue California HOPE up to September 2019.

### 3. Looking Forward

#### A. Recovery and Resiliency Draft Framework

Your Board received and discussed the Draft Framework on September 25, 2018, and opened a 30-day public comment period on the document that ended October 26. The Draft Framework is available online at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/ORR/>. Print copies are available at the County Administrator’s Office at 575 Administration Drive, Suite 104A, Santa Rosa. Community members are encouraged to submit recovery related feedback, input, and questions to [recoveryinfo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:recoveryinfo@sonoma-county.org). Additional information is available on the Office of Recovery website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/ORR/>. For information on overall recovery efforts, visit [www.sonomacountyrecovers.org](http://www.sonomacountyrecovers.org)

**Timeline:** The Recovery and Resiliency Framework will be brought to your Board at this meeting for approval.

#### **Prior Board Actions:**

Regular Recovery updates have been provided to your Board since November 2017.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**      Goal 1: Safe, Healthy, and Caring Community

<b>Fiscal Summary</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 18-19 Adopted</b>	<b>FY 19-20 Projected</b>	<b>FY 20-21 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>			
<b>Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:</b>			
<b>Staffing Impacts</b>			
<b>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</b>	<b>Monthly Salary Range (A – I Step)</b>	<b>Additions (Number)</b>	<b>Deletions (Number)</b>
<b>Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):</b>			
<b>Attachments:</b>			
<b>Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:</b>			