



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

MENDOCINO COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Ukiah, California...July 10, 2007

This email is to announce the start of the process to develop a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County of Mendocino and the cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Willits and Ukiah. This plan is required under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), which emphasizes the need for mitigation planning to reduce a community's vulnerability to natural and human-caused hazards. In addition, the DMA 2000 requires a community to have a FEMA-approved plan in order to be eligible for certain types of pre- and post-disaster funding.

Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services has created a mitigation planning Task Force, including county and city representatives and other relevant agencies, to provide input for the development of the plan. An initial Task Force meeting was held on June 28, where the basics of the plan requirements and planning process were discussed. In addition, the Task Force selected the following hazards to be included in this version of the plan: dam failure, drought, flood, earthquake, hazmat event, landslide, structural and wildland fire, tsunami, and windstorm.

Two public workshops will be held later this fall to solicit public input for developing different ways to mitigate the effects of a disaster before it occurs. Examples of mitigation activities include seismically retrofitting critical facilities, increasing culvert capacities and other drainage improvements, and establishing defensible space for fire.

The County anticipates submitting a draft plan to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and FEMA for courtesy review by late November. In the meantime, should you have any questions or comments, please feel free contact me.

Bill Woodworth, Emergency Services Coordinator
Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services