

NOI Submission ▾

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Please complete all required fields.

You can save as a draft and return later to complete by clicking "Save Draft" at the bottom of the page.

When you are ready to submit this step, please click the blue "Save" button at the bottom of the page.

Record Title Format: [Jurisdiction Name] - [Program Name] - [Project Number]

Ex: Sacramento County - DR-Infrastructure - 1

*Project Numbers are based on the number of projects you are submitting for the grants.

Record Title

Mendocino County – MIT-RIP - 1

What Grant Program are you submitting for?

MIT-Resilient Infrastructure Program

Does the jurisdiction have existing capacity to manage the solicitation, selection, monitoring, environmental review compliance, and oversight of the program?

Yes

If Yes, please describe the capacity and staffing in detail.

The County of Mendocino receives millions in State and Federal grant funding annually for a variety of projects, programs, and activities and therefore has significant experience administering grant-funded projects to ensure adequate oversight, compliance, and execution. CDBG-DR MIT-RIP projects will be directed and overseen by the County Executive Office, Facilities and Fleet Division. The Assistant Facilities Manager will be responsible for managing the project, with support from Executive Office Administrative Analysts and Finance personnel. The County also maintains contracts for on-call Project Management support via third party consultants who may be called upon to support County staff depending on workload and other active projects. The County will provide documentation of the procurement process used to engage these consultants for approval from HCD prior to utilizing consultants on CDBG-DR projects.

In addition, the County of Mendocino is a non-entitlement jurisdiction for standard CDBG funding and is familiar with the record keeping and documentation requirements for that funding source. The County routinely conducts, either in-house or via consultants, environmental review of proposed projects to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For this project, the County anticipates procuring a consultant to provide CEQA and NEPA analysis and the corresponding environmental documentation. All new procurement of consultants and contractors for CDBG-DR projects will be conducted in compliance with state, federal, and local procurement regulations.

What is the Project Type?

Stand-alone Infrastructure

Choose the Eligible Applicant. Eligible Applicants are those cities and counties identified in Section 2.2.3 of the DR-Infrastructure Policies and Procedures.

Eligible Applicant (City/County)

Mendocino County

Please Type Jurisdiction Name

County of Mendocino

Special districts can include water districts, fire districts, school districts, etc.

Is this a project on behalf of another government entity or special district other than the Eligible Applicant?

No

Project Title

San Hedrin Tower Power Line Improvements and Site Hardening

A description or scope of work for stand-alone infrastructure projects is required. For FEMA PA and HMGP input N/A, we will look at your worksheet for the scope of work.

Project Description and/or Scope of Work

The County of Mendocino will replace existing failing power line poles which serve an existing microwave and radio communications tower located on Mount San Hedrin in Mendocino County. The County will also improve the existing equipment housing structure, as many structural, shell, mechanical and electrical systems have reached end-of-life and continue to deteriorate, to ensure that all necessary communications equipment housed on site is protected from both natural hazards such as wildfire as well as inclement weather events such as heavy rains and snow storms. The power lines provide electricity for the existing communications infrastructure housed on site to function properly and provide emergency communications, data transfer, and radio communications for first responders, law enforcement, County Department of Transportation staff, and a variety of state and federal agencies within Mendocino County.

The project will consist of developing a contractor scope of work using a previously-completed existing conditions assessment, procuring a design consultant to draft improvement plans, conducting the necessary NEPA and CEQA analysis to support the project, soliciting a contractor to complete the work, and implementing construction activities.

Please provide a brief description of the location of the project.

Project Location Description

Peak of Mount San Hedrin, also known as Big Signal Peak, and power pole alignment serving the facility. The tower site is located approximately at 39.516224, -123.090178, while the power pole alignment begins at approximately 39.493083, -123.18145 and ends at approximately 39.505767, -123.148783. See attached Site Map.

Project City

Willits

Project Zip Code(s)

95490

Format the Latitude and Longitude of the project in decimal form (e.g. 39.332962, -123.22534)

Project Latitude and Longitude

39.516224, -123.090178

Does the project service area benefit an LMI population or area?

Yes

If yes, describe how the project service area benefits an LMI population or area

The San Hedrin Communications Tower provides vital operational tools to a wide variety of local, state, and federal agencies tasked with law enforcement, fire protection and suppression, road maintenance and upkeep, and other community lifelines which are vital for both LMI and non-LMI residents of the region. Without an operational San Hedrin Communications Tower, both LMI and non-LMI residents would suffer from delayed emergency responses to 911 calls and other emergencies along with diminished effectiveness for emergency responders in the field due to impacts to communication capabilities. According to 2015 ACS data, the overall service area of the tower, which covers large portions of Mendocino County as well as small portions of Glenn, Lake, Tehama, and Trinity Counties, is 45.8% LMI. Please note that this calculation includes the entire population of all block groups which lie fully or partially within the service area of the San Hedrin tower. As shown on the Project Service Area Map (attached), the facility service area does not align precisely with Census Block Group boundaries and therefore insufficient data exists to precisely calculate the LMI population within the project service area.

It should be noted, however, that this facility, in addition to providing communications functionality for law enforcement and other first responders, also provides data linkages and internet connectivity for County facilities. For example, the San Hedrin tower provides internet access to the Covelo branch of the Mendocino County Library via microwave transmittal. The community of Covelo, identified by Census Block Groups 060450101002 and 060450101003, contains a population which is 68.59% LMI, is geographically isolated, with the nearest out-of-town services located approximately a one-hour drive away. In Covelo, the only publicly-accessible source of wireless internet access is via the local Mendocino County Library branch, which, anecdotally, is heavily used by community members for internet access, as private internet service infrastructure in the area is exceedingly limited. If a natural hazard such as a wildfire were to impact both the San Hedrin Communications Tower as well as private cell towers in the area, there would be significant impacts to LMI individuals and families in Covelo and the surrounding areas in their abilities to receive emergency communications and stay safe during the event.

A very similar situation occurred in Mendocino County during the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire; due to impacts from the fire, residents of the City of Willits were without cell phone access and internet service for several days, and the only public wireless internet connection available was via the Mendocino County Library Willits Branch, which remained connected due to the County microwave network. Improvements to the San Hedrin Communications Tower and its associated infrastructure will prevent a similar situation from occurring in Covelo, protecting vital community lifelines for LMI populations in Covelo.

Upload document that support the LMI service area (Optional)

7746.18 CDBG-DR Mendocino County MIT RIP 1 Site and Service Area Map 20201216.pdf 

Does the project service area benefit the MID?

Yes

If yes, describe how the project service area benefits a MID area (additional material and information may be required)

The San Hedrin Communications Tower provides both mobile radio and portable radio coverage to law enforcement, first responders, and local, state, and federal agencies operating in the MID area. By providing communications capabilities in these areas, residents of the MID receive rapid, consistent response from law enforcement, fire fighters, and other first responders while also allowing these first responders to communicate effectively in the field under rapidly changing circumstances.

Upload documentation that supports how the project benefits a MID area (Optional)

7746.18 CDBG-DR Mendocino County MIT RIP 1 Site and Service Area Map 20201216.pdf 

Provide the Census Tract/Block Group of the project service area, for example, Block 3001, 3002, 3003, etc.

What Census Tracts/Block Groups are served by this project?

The project serves 56 Census Block Groups in Mendocino County, plus two Census Block Groups in each of Lake, Glenn, Tehama, and Trinity Counties. These Block Groups are labeled on the Service Area Map and addendum.

Service Map (Optional)

7746.18 CDBG-DR Mendocino County MIT RIP 1 Site and Service Area Map 20201216.pdf 

Provide the current Project Status of the project.

Project Status

Design and Engineering Underway

Round 1 MIT Infrastructure Projects should be "Shovel Ready". Are project plans complete?

No

If no, describe status of plan development

The County retained a contractor to provide a scope and fee estimate for the project. A design consultant will be procured to design the structural upgrades to the facility. Given the nature of the power pole replacement component of the project, no design is needed beyond ensuring the appropriate specifications for the equipment to be installed.

Has a NEPA Environmental Review been completed?

No

Provide the Total Project Cost amount in dollars, including hard project costs and Activity Delivery Costs (ADCs).

Total Project Cost (\$ amount)

\$1,250,000

Total unmet need for the project.

Project Unmet Need

\$1,060,000

The total amount that is needed from CDBG-Mitigation funding.

Anticipated CDBG funding need (\$ amount)

\$1,060,000

Have you applied for other sources of funds for this project?

No

Provide a description of the basis for the cost estimate and/or unmet need of the project.

Basis for Cost Estimate / CDBG Funding Need

This cost estimate is based on quotes from vendors and contractors, along with documentation from previous comparable County projects over the last several years.

The documentation should clearly demonstrate the reasoning of the cost estimate and support the description of the cost estimate and/or unmet need.

**Provide cost estimate documentation (from a professional engineer, etc.)
(Optional)**

Was the project denied by FEMA for PA or HMGP funds?

No

For FEMA PA and HMGP Projects input N/A for how this is an Eligible CDBG activity.

Explain how this is an eligible CDGB activity.

This project is an eligible CDBG activity under 24 CFR 570.201 (c), Public Facilities and Improvements. This project consists of the rehabilitation of infrastructure and a structure which allow for functionality of a public facility which is turn used to provide communications for a variety of law enforcement, first responders, and other entities which maintain community lifelines.

Describe prior experience in implementing risk reduction projects of scale and scope similar to project being proposed

While the County of Mendocino only owns and maintains electric distribution line to serve this facility, the County has replaced nine power poles along this alignment over the past two years with six replacements in 2020 and three replacements in 2019. While these projects were not subject to NEPA requirements or some of the other requirements of CDBG funding, their successful completion reflects the ability and previous experience of the County of Mendocino in implementing projects similar to the one proposed.

Is the proposed project identified as a priority project in your hazard mitigation plan?

No

More than one Community Lifeline can be selected.

What community lifeline will this project protect?

Communication

How will this project reduce risk to community lifeline(s)?

By ensuring a resilient and adequate power supply to the communications facilities located on Mount San Hedrin, the County will ensure that communications capabilities are consistently available to first responders and law enforcement during both routine operations and future disaster events. The current power poles providing electricity to the facility are in poor maintenance condition following the relinquishment of the infrastructure from Comcast (formerly Adelphia) and need replacement to ensure consistent functionality and improved resilience from weather events and other hazards. The existing poles are damaged by bear marking and have also been subjected to significant wear-and-tear over time due to climatic conditions in the area, which frequently receives snow and freezing temperatures in the winter. This project proposes replacing the existing, wooden poles with steel poles of additional height. By installing steel poles, the infrastructure will be more resistant to both impacts from wildfire as well as damage from bears and other wildlife. The additional height of the proposed new poles will achieve additional clearance from surrounding vegetation, protecting the infrastructure from storms, high wind events, and damage from falling debris.

The San Hedrin Tower Equipment Housing structure is at end of life and is in need of upgrades to improve resiliency from weather events. The current structure is prone to leaking and susceptible to pest infestations and the existing electrical system is in need of upgrade to adequately power the on-site equipment. Improvements to this structure will protect functionality of County communications equipment from both hazard events and general wear-and-tear due to exposure to the weather, ensuring that communications functionality is available for first responders and law enforcement in northeastern Mendocino County.

How will this project improve resilience for underserved communities and vulnerable populations?

As discussed, the San Hedrin Communications facility provides vital internet access for County residents living in and around the underserved community of Covelo, which is approximately 68.59% LMI. This facility enables the only publicly-available wireless internet connection at the Mendocino County Library Covelo Branch to function. The current COVID-19 pandemic and the prevalence of remote learning illustrates the importance of ensuring public internet access for underserved populations. This service also offers a vital community lifeline during hazard events which impact cell communication functionality, as public wifi access can provide vital information to residents to ensure they stay safe and receive prompt updates from local officials.

In addition, ensuring that law enforcement, first responders, and other state and federal agencies have mobile and portable radio communications functionality to communicate effectively in the field provides a significant benefit to all residents of the project service area, including all underserved and vulnerable populations.

Can this project be replicated in other communities?

Yes

If yes, provide a description

While this project does not provide a new or novel approach to solving the problem at hand, it is a project which could be replicated in any other community which maintains its own electrical infrastructure or microwave communications infrastructure in any capacity.

Has CAL FIRE identified this project as a priority project?

No

Will you be able to quantitatively measure the impact the proposed project will have on current and future risk?

Yes

Eligible projects must be able to show anticipated impact on current and future risks.

Upload quantitative data showing a project's anticipated impact on current and future risks

7746.18 Power Lines Quantitative Approach 20201218.pdf 

Has an operations and maintenance plan been established for the project?

No

Assuming Spring 2021 start date, what is your expected period of performance? (anticipated start date and completion date)

The County intends to begin the proposed project on April 1, 2021 and complete the project by July 31, 2022.

If available, please provide a timeline of the submitted project.

Project Timeline (Optional)

