



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Department of Transportation

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USDA-RHS-CFDG-2023 Community Facilities Program Disaster Repair Grants County of Mendocino Application Winter Storm Road Clearing Equipment

Disasters: FEMA DR-4683-CA & DR-4699-CA

BACKGROUND

About Mendocino County

Additional resources are required to address and support disaster response efforts by the County of Mendocino. These efforts include repairing critical community infrastructure damaged by disasters and keeping essential infrastructure and facilities open during events. Mendocino County spans 3,500 square miles and is primarily rural, with a population density of approximately 26.1 per square mile¹.

Mendocino County is considered a low-income community using the definition of low-income communities as an application jurisdiction (community, county, or tribal area) that has less than 80% of the median household income of its state. Per census data, the median household income in the County is \$65,520². Against the median household incomes of the State of California (\$91,551³) Mendocino County makes up 71% of the state average. Additionally, according to the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index, Mendocino County scores 0.9726⁴ which indicates a high level of vulnerability. FEMA's National Risk Index positions Mendocino County in the 95.1 national percentile⁵, identifying it as having "very high" social vulnerability.

The impact of extreme weather events and other hazards, such as the severe winter storms of 2022 and 2023 as well as the 2020, 2018 and 2017 fires⁶, has been substantial. The County will significantly improve its disaster response capabilities by acquiring additional equipment through the USDA Community Facilities Program Disaster Repair Grant. This equipment will enable the County to respond more effectively to extreme weather events, ensuring access to critical areas and facilitating emergency response operations caused by excessive rainfall, high winds, and severe storms.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mendocinocountycalifornia/EDU685222>

² 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

³ 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

⁴ https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/interactive_map.html

⁵ <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

⁶ Mendocino County saw two of the ten largest California wildfires of record. <https://34c031f8-c9fd-4018-8c5a-4159cdf6b0d-cdn-endpoint.azureedge.net/-/media/calfire-website/our-impact/fire-statistics/top-20-largest-ca-wildfires.pdf?rev=22e40a3a996c42f8824d05eb7b5c9b27&hash=753B6436609C7AA62C802C3F98561EAA>

Role of the Department of Transportation

The Mendocino County Department of Transportation provides maintenance, engineering, technical assistance, administration, and business services to support the County Maintained Road System. This system includes 1,014 centerline miles of roadway and related features such as 157 bridges over 20-foot spans, 6,175 conduits under 20-foot spans for road drainage systems, and 14,557 road network signs and markers. The department operates seven yards throughout the county.⁷

In emergency weather situations, the Department of Transportation's focus is to ensure the safety and functionality of the County's transportation infrastructure. Their responsibilities include roadway clearing and maintenance, infrastructure repair, traffic management, emergency response support, and coordination with other agencies. These actions are aimed at keeping transportation systems functional and safe during severe weather events for effective emergency response and public safety.

IMPACT OF DECLARED DISASTERS

During DR-4683 and DR-4699, Mendocino County experienced severe weather conditions that caused numerous trees to fall due to high winds, heavy rains, and unprecedented snowfall. As a result, hundreds of trees blocked the County's 1,015 miles of maintained roads. The Department of Transportation, committed to serving a county that spans a geographic area larger than the entire state of Delaware, secured additional equipment through rentals to clear and chip the debris, addressing the emergency and keeping the roads open.

To prepare for future severe weather events, this project will acquire two portable woodchippers to be stationed at the Department of Transportation's Covelo and Point Arena yards. This will ensure accessibility for some of the most remote communities in the county. Additionally, it will enhance the County's ability to quickly respond to the need to access emergency equipment, such as nearby microwave and radio communication towers. By having woodchippers that can be deployed without relying on rental services (which are located over an hour and a half one way from the two DOT yards) and equipment prepositioned in the remote communities of Point Arena and Covelo, the County will be able to respond quickly, reduce delays in opening critical roads, ensure access to critical emergency infrastructure and clear roads during severe storms or other disasters.

PROJECT SERVICE AREA

One woodchipper each would be placed at the Department of Transportation's Covelo and Point Arena yards.

1. Covelo CPD:

1,394 total population⁸, 431 households⁹
\$45,162 median household income (Covelo CPD), \$91,551 median household income (California)¹⁰ (49% of CA median household income)

⁷ <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/transportation>

⁸ 2020 Decennial Census

⁹ 2022 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates

¹⁰ 2022 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates

2. Point Arena city:

460 total population¹¹, 219 households¹²

\$51,719 median household income (Point Arena city), \$91,551 median household income (California)¹³ (56% of CA median household income)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

https://data.census.gov/profile/Covelo_CDP,_California?g=160XX00US0616728

https://data.census.gov/profile/Point_Arena_city,_California?g=160XX00US0657876

PROJECT BUDGET

Budget Item	Cost per Unit	Quantity	Total	Federal Share	Non-Federal Share
Equipment			\$165,000.00	\$123,750.00	\$41,250.00
Bandit 12XP 12" Capacity Hand-fed Chipper	\$82,500.00	2	\$165,000.00	\$123,750.00	\$41,250.00
Management			\$33,236.00	\$24,927.00	\$8,309.00
Grant Management			\$24,312.00	\$18,234.00	\$6,078.00
Project Management			\$8,924.00	\$6,693.00	\$2,231.00
TOTAL			\$198,236.00	\$148,677.00	\$49,559.00

¹¹ 2020 Decennial Census

¹² 2022 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates

¹³ 2022 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates