



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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Proposed Amendments to 2026 Mendocino County Legislative Platform

On page 13, substitute the following language for what was titled "Climate Resilience & Renewable Energy"

CLIMATE CHANGE

ISSUE: With a population density of 26 people per square mile and over 3,500 square miles of mountainous terrain (including 129 miles of rugged coastline), Mendocino County rural economy lacks adequate resources to adequately overcome the climate change challenges it confronts.

Climate change is driven by environmental degradation from pollution and green house gas emissions globally. And while Mendocino County forests and ecosystems sequester more global warming carbon emissions than the county emits, it shoulders a disproportionate burden from the negative climate change impacts of global warming driven sea level rise, wildfires, flooding, severe storms, heat waves and droughts.

Per FEMA's Risk Index, Mendocino County is in the 95.1 national percentile of at risk areas and has a "very high" social vulnerability. The highest hazard ratings are wildfire (97.3), drought (99.4), earthquake (98.4), landslide (99.5), and riverine flooding (96.0). In recent years, climate related hazards continue to be experienced throughout the County - from the 2017 firestorm through the severe winter storm flooding of 2023.

As a low income rural region with constrained economic capacity, Mendocino County needs state and federal assistance to remediate global warming impacts and adapt to the new environmental conditions climate change imposes.

STATE & FEDERAL ACTION

- Support legislation and funding to modernize rural county zoning, permitting and enforcement activities that expedite transitioning to affordable homes & business that optimize climate change adaptations to improve community wellbeing.
- Support expansion of affordable solar on home and business roof tops and spaces to increase decentralized electricity grids and increase generation capacity as well as energy security.

- Support state and federal funding for rural remediation and redevelopment of environmental open spaces to increase solar & wind energy production as well as lower energy use by creating shade and natural cooling environments where people live and work.
- Support state and federal funding subsidies to retrofit homes and small businesses for energy conservation to lower housing and business operating costs and increase affordability.
- Support state and federal funding subsidies to transition to convenient, affordable and robust public electric bus services in rural communities.
- Support investments in rural and tribal climate change resiliency, mitigation and adaptation governance decision-making.
- Advocate for electric grid reliability investments utilizing local net zero energy resources.
- Advocate for energy conservation and efficient local government facilities, with a focus on rural counties.
- Support energy technology that facilitates energy conservation, efficiency, and greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Advocate for an expedited transition to transportation based on net zero carbon emission renewable fuels, charging/fueling infrastructure and zero emission vehicles.
- Support actions for decarbonization technologies and infrastructure to help rural communities build resilience and adapt to emerging climate change challenges.
- Support incentivizes to advance energy solutions aimed at reducing emissions and generating economic benefits for Mendocino County.
- Support state and federal action to compensate Mendocino County and its residents from harm caused by global climate change and provide resources to successfully adapt to changing environmental conditions.
- Support research and analysis of net zero emission energy technology; streamline and eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles in the review, permitting and implementation processes; increase investment in critical climate change adaptation infrastructure, and increase stakeholder involvement in shaping climate change solutions.
- Support programs that promote and enhance carbon capture.
- Support localized water storage system solutions, including rainwater catchment, that efficiently and effectively manage water resources in order to improve public and environmental outcomes.
- Support action and resource allocation for rural county sea level rise planning, mitigation and adaptation.
- Support legislation to capture and store carbon utilizing net zero emissions healthy forest management initiatives.
- Advocate for funding to rural counties, Tribal Nations and cities to implement climate change adaptation plans and projects.

- Advocate for state & federal funding to relocate residences and business to safer locations when climate change disaster hazards pose a threat to people and properties.
- Support increased investment in local job training opportunities with the goal of increasing skilled laborers qualified to consult, design, and install affordable renewable forms of energy production.

DISASTER PREVENTION, RECOVERY, RESILIENCY & MITIGATION

Between the two bullets which read:

- Support increased, flexible funding for local disaster preparedness, hazard mitigation, and recovery programs.
- Streamline state regulatory requirements for housing, infrastructure, and mitigation projects, especially post-disaster, by expanding exemptions, fast-tracking permits, and reducing red tape

Insert:

- *Advocate for a study on safe, sustainable, waterless sanitation practices to address urgent post-disaster sanitation needs and support long-term solutions to the housing crisis.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tw", enclosed within a circular loop.

Ted Williams, 5th District Supervisor
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors