

Mendocino County Redwood Complex Fire Long Term Recovery Priorities

Last Updated 3/7/18

Priority Ranking	Project Name	Local Contact Name	Description	Recovery Category			Cost
				Housing	Economic	Watershed	
1	Redwood Valley Water District: Replacement of inadequate infrastructure for rebuilding	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Redwood Valley Water District is an independent county water district with limited capacity to generate revenue due to a long standing moratorium. The Redwood Complex Fire destroyed over 350 single family homes in Redwood Valley. The infrastructure that exists does not meet standards for rebuilding for the 187 damaged parcels that connect to the Water District main lines. Projects to support rebuilding and provide substantial mitigation improvements include replacing water laterals with 1-inch piping to meet CA Residential Building Code, installing new fire hydrants within the burn area, replacing undersized water mains to improve seismic resiliency, and increasing storage supply to improve drought resistance.	x	x	x	\$9,157,000

2	Planning and Building Regulatory Assistance	Ignacio (Nash) Gonzalez Director Planning & Building Services gonzalezn@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6650	The County's Department of Planning & Building Services (PBS) is integral to all efforts to rebuild housing lost to the Redwood Complex Fire, which forced hundreds of property owners to pursue building permits. Additional professional support to PBS and to the community is necessary to leverage the department's ability to process applications. Property owners are working with County staff "at the counter" and dramatically impacting the time staff would usually spend processing applications. Support to fire survivors will provide them with a venue to learn about the process, and assist them in submitting applications that can be more quickly approved by staff. Professional support to the department will increase the County's ability to prioritize and quickly process zoning code amendments, rezoning applications, and other processes that support housing development.	x			\$1,200,000
3	Housing Reconstruction Assistance	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Nearly 400 homes were destroyed by the Redwood Complex Fire and over 18% of property owners are uninsured, according to information provided on debris removal Right of Entry forms. A significant portion of those who do have insurance are underinsured and will have additional barriers to reconstruction. Funding is needed to help rebuild uninsured and underinsured homes.	x	x		\$7,280,000

4	Garden's Gate Subdivision: Affordable housing infrastructure and development incentives to develop 220 new affordable units	Ignacio (Nash) Gonzalez Director Planning & Building Services gonzalezn@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6650	The development of new affordable housing is critical for renters and others impacted by the October 2017 wildfires. Approximately 40% of the households displaced by the fires were renters. With less than a 2% rental vacancy rate prior to the fires, these renters have few long term housing options. Rebuilding affordable houses for rent and ownership is essential. This pre-approved location is within 20 minutes of the most impacted area of the fire.	x	x		\$16,280,000
5	Public Road Repair in the Redwood Complex Fire burn area	Howard Dashiell Director Department of Transportation dashielh@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-2808	Although the majority of the 36,523 acres that burned in the Redwood Complex Fire was on private property, there was also considerable damage to county maintained roads both during the fire and over the course of debris clean up and removal activities. The non-federal match for this public road repair is significant, and the impacts and costs to repair private roads is not yet determined.		x	x	\$8,130,000
6	Removal of hazardous trees in public right of way and on private property	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	The County Department of Transportation is working on a public assistance project to clear trees on private property that have the potential to fall into public right of ways. This could help alleviate some tree concerns, but not the majority of tree removal issues. There are no solid solutions for the many other dangerous trees on private property that pose a significant barrier to fire survivors' rebuilding efforts.	x	x	x	\$4,500,000

7	Cost share requirements for Public Assistance, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and other federal and state programs	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Mendocino County has significant concerns about bearing a 6.25% cost share for Public Assistance programs. The county also has concerns that projects could be limited based on local share of costs required for Hazard Mitigation projects, which can be as much as 25% local share of costs. There is also inadequate technical assistance to share promising practices and funding strategies to maximize hazard mitigation and other recovery opportunities.	x	x	x	\$7,200,000
8	Recovery planning and risk reduction funding	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Few resources have been identified that pay for the long term leadership work of recovery. Some funding sources pay for immediate threats and/or specific projects that do not fully encompass all the local government resources necessary to support these projects or assure that appropriate resources are invested in community recovery, including immediate and longer term impacts to individual families as well as the broader economy. Resources are needed to support community engagement, community development and long term recovery strategic planning and implementation.	x	x	x	\$750,000
9	Cash flow mitigation strategies	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Too many of the funding sources that are available operate on a project specific reimbursement basis. Simultaneously, other revenue sources have been dramatically reduced in real time and additional grant funding will not be able to be earned because grant funded employees were diverted to emergency response and recovery efforts. Request is based on a 50% prepayment of current Public		x		\$6,100,000

			Assistance project estimates.				
10	Redwood Valley Elementary School: Housing Conversion Project	Steve Dunnicliff Deputy Chief Executive Officer County Executive Office dunnicls@mendocinocounty.org 707-463-4441	LACO, a local firm has provided free estimates and designs to convert a vacant school facility into 25 housing units on the existing school property. These units are inside the existing school district for the majority of fire survivors, and would include conversion of the gym and other outbuildings to become a local community center.	x			\$13,817,000
11	Private bridge improvements to protect the watershed	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Five private bridges were damaged or destroyed in the Redwood Complex Fire. These bridges provide access over critical watershed areas to properties that need public health and safety access, as well as adequate supports to rebuild in more resilient ways that protect the waterways.		x	x	\$1,080,000
12	Redwood Valley Fire Resilient Construction	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Even with defensible space and other fire wise best practices, there is strong evidence that implementing fire resistant practices on structures themselves are essential to protect from wildfires. This project would allow for fire-resistant materials for homes that were destroyed in the Redwood Complex Fire in order to mitigate fire danger for the rebuilt structures, resulting in increased security of life and property in future fire events.	x			\$6,387,000

13	Improved vegetation and forestry management	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	The North Bay/North Coast has experienced a sharp decline in forest health and a sharp increase in fuel loading. Better vegetation management is needed that includes services to elderly, disabled, and other special populations who may lack the resources to remove flammable vegetation as well as incentivize other fire resilient practices. Landowners of smaller parcels lack economy of scale, and struggle to manage their lands effectively due to the high costs of regulatory compliance and physical management. Funding is needed to create more resilient and fire safe communities with particular emphases on vegetation management, development of retention ponds for agricultural and fire suppression purposes, and better public/private partnerships between local, state and federal forest management practices.	x	x	x	\$3,500,000
14	Creating more resilient and fire safe communities	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Funding is needed to create long term fire-safe community plans, with particular attention to planning for secondary access roads and better ingress and egress in rural areas the implement fire wise development and remodeling strategies.	x	x	x	\$1,600,000

15	Replacement of culverts with insufficient flow capacity	Tammy Moss Chandler Recovery Director County Executive Office chandlert@mendocinocounty.org 707-234-6042	Based on the Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) report after the fire, many of the evaluated culverts were not sized to pass the 100-year flows and pose an immediate risk of flooding if not properly upgraded to compensate for the increased flows. Although priority fire damaged culverts are being replaces, these drainage features are at risk of failure if not replaced, which would threaten emergency responder access to the associated rural properties. This project will increase the capacity of approximately 92 stream crossings that are currently undersized for the potential increased flows following the fire.			x	\$4,736,800
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