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cityofriodell.ca.gov*



September 16, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution No. 1646-2025 Accepting the City's Updated Annex to the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Adopt Resolution No. 1646-2025

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In December of 2024, a coalition of Humboldt County cities and special districts began a planning process to prepare for and lessen the impacts of specified natural hazards by updating the Humboldt County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the partnership was formed to pool resources and to create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding success.

This effort represents the third comprehensive update to the prior hazard mitigation plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2020. The 26-member coalition of partners involved in this program includes unincorporated Humboldt County, the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Trinidad, and 18 special service districts. The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan was defined as the Humboldt County Operational Area. The result of the organizational effort will be a FEMA and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) approved multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Mitigation planning is the systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions and following through with an effective mitigation strategy. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability and can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. Mitigation can also protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability, and minimize post-disaster community disruption.

A planning team consisting of local officials has taken the lead in developing the hazard mitigation plan. All participating local jurisdictions have been responsible for assisting in the

development of the hazard and vulnerability assessments and the mitigation action strategies for their respective jurisdictions and organizations. The Plan presents the information in a unified framework to ensure a comprehensive plan covering the entire Humboldt County Operational Area. Additionally, the plan has been aligned with the goals, objectives and priorities of the State's multi-hazard mitigation plan.

A Steering Committee (SC) composed of representative stakeholders was formed early in the planning process to guide the development of the Plan. In addition, residents were asked to contribute by sharing local knowledge of their individual area's vulnerability to natural hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement has been solicited via a comprehensive public outreach campaign that included two rounds of public meetings, web-based information, a questionnaire, and multiple social media updates.

Once the hazard mitigation plan is adopted by all the jurisdictional partners and approved by FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for hazard available federal funding, currently the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The grant funds are made available to states and local governments and can be used to implement the long-term hazard mitigation measures specified within the HMP before and after a major disaster declaration.

The HMP is considered a living document such that, as awareness of additional hazards develops and new strategies and projects are conceived to offset or prevent losses due to natural disasters, the HMP will be evaluated and revised on a continual 5-year period.

The County of Humboldt was this cycle's lead agency who utilized the services of IEM, an emergency management consulting group. This cycle's update was conducted under a compressed timeline. Despite this compressed timeline the City of Rio Dell, County of Humboldt and McKinleyville Community Services District were the first three participants to be approved for adoption by FEMA.

Adoption by the City of Rio Dell is necessary for future hazard mitigation grants and most importantly, for compliance with California's AB 2140 which allows the city of Rio Dell to access reimbursement for disaster related costs beyond the 75% threshold set in the California Disaster Assistance Act. The City currently has AB 2140 cost waivers submitted to CalOES and pending adoption of this plan for review and hopeful approval.

A copy of the 'Volume 1: Area Wide Elements' is available on the County's website (382 pages)

Attachments:

- Hazard Mitigation Summary
- Letter from FEMA
- Resolution No. 1646-2026
- City of Rio Dell Updated Annex to the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 9
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

FEMA

August 19, 2025

Patric Esh
Program Coordinator
Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Service
826 4th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Reference: Hazard Mitigation Plan Approvable Pending Adoption
Humboldt County, CA

Dear Patric Esh:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed its review of the 2025 Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan and has determined that the plan is eligible for final approval, pending its formal adoption by Humboldt County and all participating jurisdictions. Please refer to the enclosed list of jurisdictions currently considered Approvable Pending Adoption (APA).

Formal adoption documentation must be submitted to FEMA Region 9 by at least one participating jurisdiction within one calendar year from the date of this letter. If no adoption is received within that timeframe, the plan must be updated and resubmitted for review.

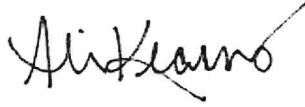
FEMA will issue formal approval of the plan upon receipt of the adoption documentation. Once approved, all other participating jurisdictions must adopt the plan within five calendar years of the approval date. Adoption of the plan is required to maintain eligibility for funding under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. All funding requests will be evaluated individually based on the specific eligibility criteria and requirements of the applicable HMA program.

Please note that while local hazard mitigation plans may include additional content to meet Element H: Additional State Requirements or other local objectives, FEMA's APA status does not constitute review or approval of any content exceeding FEMA's standard mitigation planning requirements.

Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan Approvable Pending Adoption Notice
August 19, 2025
Page 2 of 3

If you have any questions regarding the planning or review processes, please contact the FEMA Region 9 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team at fema-r9-mitigation-planning@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Kearns', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alison Kearns
Planning and Implementation Branch Chief
Mitigation Division
FEMA Region 9

Enclosures (2)

Humboldt County Plan Review Tool, dated August 19, 2025
Status of Participating Jurisdictions, dated August 19, 2025

cc: Robyn Fennig, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, California Governor's Office of
Emergency Services
Victoria LaMar-Haas, Hazard Mitigation Planning Chief, California Governor's Office of
Emergency Services

Status of Participating Jurisdictions as of August 19, 2025

Jurisdictions Adopted and Approved

#	Jurisdiction	Adoption Receipt Date

Jurisdictions Approvable Pending Adoption

#	Jurisdiction
1	Humboldt County
2	McKinleyville Community Services District
3	City of Rio Dell

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Period Extension Rule

On Aug. 15, 2024, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) final rule took effect and changed its application procedures. The rule extends the application period and allows the reopening of closed application periods under certain circumstances, enabling applicants to maximize available funding for hazard mitigation plans and rebuilding efforts. HMGP provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities.

Summary of Changes

- On Aug. 14, 2024, FEMA published a final rule that extends and adds additional flexibilities to the application procedures for HMGP. The final rule is effective for major disasters declared on or after Aug. 15, 2024.
- The updated rule makes the following changes to the HMGP application period:
 - Extends the application period from 12 months to 15 months from the date of the disaster declaration.
 - Increases FEMA Regional Administrators' authority to grant application period extensions in 30 to 120-day increments, for a total application period extension of up to 240 days.
 - Provides clear authority for FEMA to extend the application period beyond 240 days for extenuating circumstances outside of the applicant's control. FEMA is developing additional guidance regarding this.
 - Authorizes FEMA to re-open the HMGP application period for two circumstances: 1) if additional funding becomes available because of a recalculation in the amount of HMGP assistance, or 2) if an appeal on an application period extension denial is granted after the application period closes.
- This rule applies to HMGP awards made under major disaster declarations on or after Aug 15, 2024. **It does not apply to the HMGP Post Fire program.** For application procedures related to the HMGP Post Fire program, applicants should refer to the [2024 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).



FEMA

Table 1: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Procedure Changes

Prior Regulation	New Regulation
Application period is 12 months from the date of the major disaster declaration	Application period is 15 months from the date of the major disaster declaration
Regional Administrators can extend the application period up to 180 days, in 30 to 90-day increments	Regional Administrators can extend the application period up to 240 days, in 30 to 120-day increments
The prior regulation did not provide FEMA Headquarters clear authority to extend the application period	FEMA Headquarters can extend the application period beyond 240 days for extenuating circumstances outside of the applicant's control
The prior regulation did not provide FEMA with the authority to reopen the application period	FEMA has the authority to reopen application periods for up to 180 days, in limited circumstances

Benefits

- The application procedure changes will help our partners address risks to natural disasters and reaffirms FEMA's commitment to reducing barriers to participate in HMGP.
- The application deadline extension will allow communities more time to complete applications. Based on an analysis of application period extension requests under the previous regulation, 74% of applicants requested an extension beyond the 12-month application period and nearly 27% requested extensions beyond the Regional Administrator's authority to extend up to 18 months.
- This rule responds to numerous comments regarding the length of the application period and the inability to reopen it once it has closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 1646-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2025 UPDATE

WHEREAS, all of Humboldt County has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment and the County's economy; and,

WHEREAS, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and,

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation programs; and,

WHEREAS, a coalition of Humboldt County, Cities, Towns, Tribes and Special Districts with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within the Humboldt County Operational Area; and,

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell as follows:

1. Adopts in its entirety, the Introduction and Volume I: Area Wide Elements and Humboldt County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), and the Volume II Section 19 City of Rio Dell Jurisdictional Annex and all appendices of Volume II.
2. Will use the adopted and approved portions of the HMP to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
3. Will coordinate the strategies identified in the HMP with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
4. Will continue its support of the Steering Committee and continue to participate in the Planning Partnership as described by the HMP.
5. Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all HMP Planning Partners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, State of California, on September 16, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1646-2025 approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on September 16, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk

19. City of Rio Dell Annex

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the City of Rio Dell. The jurisdiction's governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in this multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update.

19.1. Planning Process

19.1.1. Contact Information

A key part of hazard mitigation planning is engaging the whole community. This plan was developed by the planning consultant IEM, with input from the participating jurisdictions, including the City of Rio Dell, the stakeholders and the public. The City of Rio Dell was represented during the planning process by the following individuals listed in Table 335.

Table 335: City of Rio Dell Point of Contact

Name (First, Last)	Job Title	Jurisdiction/Agency	Preferred Contact Info (Email and/or Phone)
Kyle Knopp	City Manager	City of Rio Dell	knoppk@cityofriodell.ca.gov

19.1.2. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders, including local and regional agencies, neighboring communities, representatives of businesses and academia, private organizations, nonprofit organizations and community-based organizations that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and vulnerable populations, were invited to be involved in the planning process and are recognized in Table 336. Stakeholders were invited to the stakeholder meetings through emails, calendar invites and phone calls. Additionally, they were encouraged to complete and share a public survey to gather more information. Lastly, all stakeholders were provided the opportunity to review the draft plan and provide feedback.

Table 336: Stakeholders Invited to Participate

Name (First, Last)	Job Title	Agency or Organization	Preferred Contact Info (Email and/or Phone)
Kevin Caldwell	Community Development Director	City of Rio Dell	Caldwellk@cityofriodell.ca.gov
Shane Wilson	Fire Chief	Rio Dell FPD	shawil22@aol.com

19.1.3. Public Outreach

Continued public involvement was imperative to the overall success of the plan's implementation. The update process provided an opportunity to solicit participation from new and existing stakeholders, publicize mitigation success stories, and seek additional public comment. The plan's maintenance and update will include continued public and stakeholder involvement and input through attendance at designated committee meetings, web postings, press releases to local media, and public hearings. Figure 31 illustrates how the public was encouraged to participate in the survey. The City of Rio Dell utilized the city hall to share public notices.

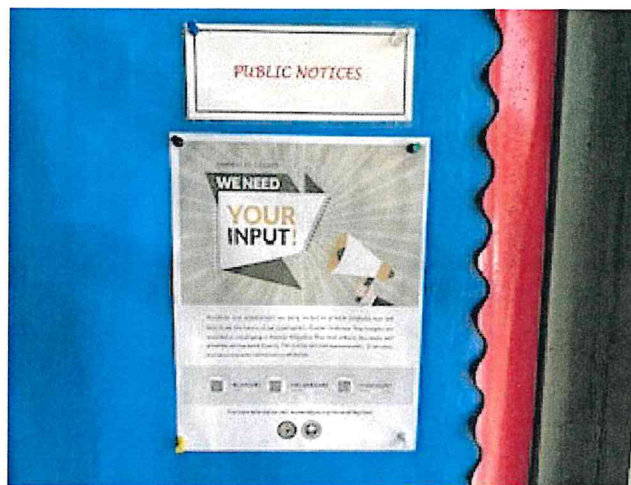


Figure 31: Public Outreach Methods

19.1.3.1. VULNERABLE POPULATION OUTREACH

Some Rio Dell residents may be disproportionately affected by natural hazard events for reasons other than proximity to high-risk areas. Vulnerable and underserved residents in Rio Dell may have less access to information and resources to help mitigate risk and increase preparedness for emergencies. To better understand the risks and vulnerabilities the city residents face, this planning update developed a bilingual public survey that collectively

identified ways to support, enhance and broaden capacity and resilience at the individual and social network level. Figure 32 displays how the city advertised the survey specifically to vulnerable populations. Some of outreach methods included resources such city calls and kiosks located around the City of Rio Dell.



Figure 32: Public Outreach to Vulnerable Populations

19.1.4. Plan Integration

19.1.4.1. INTEGRATION INTO LOCAL PLANNING MECHANISMS

This section identifies where such integration is already in place and where there are opportunities for further integration in the future. The successful implementation of this plan will require constant and vigilant review of existing plans and programs for coordination and multi-objective opportunities that promote a safe, sustainable community. Existing planning mechanisms into which this plan has been integrated are listed in Table 337.

Table 337: Previous Plan Integration for the City of Rio Dell

Plan Name	Description
Safety Element of the General Plan	The City of Rio Dell recently updated the General Plan. This plan directly referenced the last mitigation plan's summary of the hazards the city faced and incorporated mitigation actions from the last hazard mitigation plan, including all the high-priority actions.

The plan must also identify the local planning mechanisms where the updated hazard mitigation information and actions may be integrated in the future. The plan must describe each participant's process for integrating information from the mitigation strategy into their identified planning mechanisms. Table 338 displays how each community will integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms in the future.

Table 338: Future Types of Plan Integration for the City of Rio Dell

Type of Plan	Integration Method
Climate Action Plan (Regional)	This plan will align with the priorities identified in the updated hazard mitigation plan.

19.2. Risk Assessment

This plan must develop a comprehensive risk assessment to systematically identify the specific hazards and vulnerabilities that are of the most concern for each jurisdiction, as displayed in Table 339 and Table 340. For further information about these hazards, including extent, please refer to Volume 1 of this HMP.

Table 339: City of Rio Dell Hazards

Type of Hazard Event	Jurisdiction Impact? (Yes/No)	If Not, What Is the Rationale for Omitting Hazard?
Dam Failure	Yes	N/A
Drought	Yes	N/A
Earthquake	Yes	N/A
Extreme Temperatures	Yes	N/A
Flooding	Yes	N/A
Landslide	Yes	N/A
Tsunami	No	Outside of Tsunami Zone
Wildfire	Yes	N/A
Wind	Yes	N/A
Winter Weather	Yes	N/A

Table 340: City of Rio Dell Risk Assessment

Type of Hazard Event	Probability of Future Occurrence	People Impact	Property Impact	Economy Impact	Category
Dam Failure	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Drought	High	High	High	High	High
Earthquake	High	High	High	High	High

Type of Hazard Event	Probability of Future Occurrence	People Impact	Property Impact	Economy Impact	Category
Extreme Temperatures	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Flooding	High	Low	Low	High	Medium
Landslide	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Wildfire	Medium	High	High	High	High
Wind	High	High	High	Low	High
Winter Weather	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

Note: The process used to assign risk rankings is described in Volume 1.

19.2.1. Historical Events and Impacts

The following section lists past occurrences of natural hazards for which specific impacts and damages were recorded in the City of Rio Dell. Other hazard events that broadly affected the entire planning area, including the City of Rio Dell, are listed in the risk assessments in Volume 1.

19.2.1.1. HISTORICAL EVENTS

Table 341 presents a summary of the storm events that have occurred in the City of Rio Dell from Nov. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2024, from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). Rio Dell has experienced a relatively calm weather pattern in recent times, with one recorded storm event directly affecting it. However, the broader southern Humboldt region has faced several storm events, as documented by the NCEI. While Rio Dell itself may have avoided the brunt of these storms, neighboring areas have seen varying impacts, ranging from high winds to winter weather.

Table 341: NCEI Storm Event Database for the City of Rio Dell (2019-2024)

Location	Date	Event Type	Deaths	Injuries	Property Damage	Crop Damage
Rio Dell	02/19/2024	Thunderstorm wind	0	0	\$0	\$0

The NCEI database does not always capture localized hazard data. To address this gap, the City of Rio Dell has documented additional significant events, with their impacts detailed below.

DAM FAILURE

- No events have occurred related to this hazard. However, Scott Dam is 60 miles upriver and Scotia dam is 0.5 mile upriver; therefore, preparedness is key if one of the dams fails.

DROUGHT

- **2020:** The Water Shortage Contingency Plan was activated. There was an arbitrary state curtailment of water rights to the minimum necessary for public health. A near failure of the water infiltration gallery led to the redevelopment of the backup well site using Integrated Regional Water Management Planning grant dollars and USDA funding. There was no help from FEMA.

EARTHQUAKE

- **Dec. 6, 2024:** There was minor damage to roads.
- **Dec. 20, 2022:** A 6.4-magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks struck the town and caused over 300 structures to be initially deemed unsafe for occupation. Repairs needed by the community exceeded the \$500,000 allocated, and \$50,000 was spent on administrative costs at that time. The water system failed for a week, and 94 domiciles were red-tagged. Damage occurred to roads, wastewater, and water public infrastructure. Despite \$35 million in damage, there was no FEMA declaration.

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

- Extreme temperatures occur annually and leave the unhoused population exposed to freezing temperatures.

FLOODING

- **Nov. 20, 2024:** The area experienced slip-outs, sanitary sewer overflows, evacuations at the RV park, and trail flooding.
- **Mar. 13, 2023:** The City of Rio Dell issued a flood warning in the morning and said that portions of State Route 211 between Fernbridge and Ferndale (see Figure 33), as well as much of the Eel River Valley — including areas northwest of Loleta and the western portion of Cannibal Island Road — could go underwater.



Figure 33: Ferndale Bottoms Flooding

LANDSLIDE

- **2017:** There was residential damage, roadway damage, and damage to water and sewer infrastructure. A slip-out on Monument Road was a declared disaster at the federal level; however, FEMA was extremely difficult to work with and put a cap on the amount they would fund for the project.

WILDFIRE

- **April 16, 2020:** A sun blackout occurred with minimal direct impact to Rio Dell. However, resources were exhausted to assist with mutual aid.

WIND

- **Feb. 19, 2024:** The area experienced downed trees, power outages, and blocked roads.

WINTER WEATHER

- Annual winter weather caused slip-outs, power outages, and water disruptions.

19.2.2. Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

Table 342 provides information on a few key vulnerabilities for the jurisdiction.

Table 342: City of Rio Dell Vulnerabilities

Hazard	Vulnerabilities
Dam Failure	Scotia Pond and Scott Dam. Infiltration gallery and backup wells could be impacted.
Drought	Arbitrary actions by the Governor to unnecessarily curtail water rights. Possible water production issues in severe situations.
Earthquake	FEMA threshold issue for federal declaration poses existential risk. Vulnerable infrastructure.
Flooding	Loss of electricity, contamination of water supply, loss of property, structure and infrastructure damage, displace residents, increase of mosquitos, debris and emergency response delays.
Landslide	Injury of death to vulnerable residences, increased risk to emergency personnel, displaced residents, and loss of vegetation, leading to erosion.
Tsunami	Systems: Emergency services taxed by being an unimpacted jurisdiction responding for mutual aid purposes.
Wildfire	Rio Dell is noticing an increased risk due to the WUI.
Wind	Extended power outages and competition for limited backup fuel resources.
Winter Weather	People: Unhoused population vulnerable.

19.2.2.1.DEVELOPMENT CHANGES

Table 343 summarizes the development trends in the City of Rio Dell that have emerged since the preparation of the previous hazard mitigation plan, as well as the expected future development trends.

Table 343: Recent and Expected Future Development Trends

Type of Development	Recent Development	Future Development	Overall Vulnerability (Increased, Decreased, No Change)
Residential	25-unit permanent supportive housing	2-3 new developments per year	Slight increase
Commercial	None	New CAL FIRE Regional Headquarters	No Change

Type of Development	Recent Development	Future Development	Overall Vulnerability (Increased, Decreased, No Change)
Industrial	Northwestern Avenue near flood zone	1-2 per year possible	Slight increase

19.3. Capability Assessment

Local mitigation capabilities are essential for reducing the impact of hazards on communities. Local authorities can effectively mitigate hazards by leveraging existing authorities, policies, programs and resources. The City of Rio Dell performed an assessment of its existing capabilities for implementing hazard mitigation actions. The capability assessment is evaluated upon a multi-faceted approach, including:

- Planning and Regulatory capabilities
- Administrative and Technical capabilities
- Financial capabilities
- Education and Outreach capabilities

19.3.1. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Table 344 and Table 345 summarize the City of Rio Dell's planning and regulatory capabilities, including plans, policies, codes and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards.

Table 344: Plans

Plans	Does the Plan Address Hazards? (Y/N)	How Can the Plan Be Used to Implement Mitigation Actions?	When Was It Last Updated? When Will It Next Be Updated?
General Plan	Yes Assembly Plan: Yes	When evaluating new discretionary development.	Last Update: 03/2025 Next Update: 03/2027

Plans	Does the Plan Address Hazards? (Y/N)	How Can the Plan Be Used to Implement Mitigation Actions?	When Was It Last Updated? When Will It Next Be Updated?
Recovery Plan	Yes	The city's Emergency Handbook and the Local Hazards Mitigation Plan include procedures for restoring essential services.	Last Update: 01/2023 Next Update: 01/2026
Capital Improvement Plan	No	N/A	N/A
Climate Change Adaptation Plan	Yes	When evaluating new discretionary development.	Last Update: 08/2025 Next Update: 08/2025
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	N/A	N/A
Economic Development Plan	No	Acquiring grants for infrastructure.	N/A
Land Use Plan	Yes	Add new potential requirements/mitigation measures related to risks identified in the HMP.	Last Update: 03/2025 Next Update: 12/2027
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	The EOP is a component of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Last Update: 12/2003 Next Update: 12/2026
Stormwater Management Plan	No	N/A	N/A
Transportation Plan	No	N/A	N/A
Substantial Damage Plan	No	N/A	N/A

Plans	Does the Plan Address Hazards? (Y/N)	How Can the Plan Be Used to Implement Mitigation Actions?	When Was It Last Updated? When Will It Next Be Updated?
Debris Management Plan	No	N/A	N/A

Table 345: Regulations and Ordinances

Regulation or Ordinance	Does This Effectively Reduce Hazard Impacts?	Is It Adequately Administered and Enforced?	When Was It Last Updated? When Will It Next Be Updated?
Building Code	Yes	Yes	Last Update: 01/2023 Next Update: 01/2026
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	Yes	Last Update: 07/2017 Next Update: Unknown
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Last Update: 07/2018 Next Update: As needed per FIRM
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Last Update: 07/2014 Next Update: As needed
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Last Update: 02/2025 Next Update: As needed
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance	N/A	N/A	N/A
Acquisition of Land for Open Space and Public Recreation Use	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prohibition of Building in At-Risk Areas	No	N/A	N/A

19.3.2. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Table 346 and Table 347 summarize the City of Rio Dell's administrative and technical capabilities, including the staff members and their respective skills and the tools available to support mitigation actions.

Table 346: Administrative Capabilities

Administrative Capability	Status (Non-Vacant, Vacant)	Is Staffing Adequate?	Is Staff Trained on Hazards?	Is Coordination Effective?
Chief Building Official	Non-Vacant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grant Writer	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civil Engineer	Non-Vacant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Planner	Non-Vacant	No	Yes	No
Emergency Manager	Non-Vacant	No	Yes	No
Floodplain Administrator	Non-Vacant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator	Non-Vacant, part-time	No	No	No
Planning Commission	Non-Vacant	Yes	No	No
Fire Safe Council	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	Non-Vacant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Organizations Active in Disaster	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 347: Technical Capabilities

Technical Capability	Utilized? (Y/N)	How Has the Capability Been Used to Assess or Mitigate Risk in the Past?	How Can the Capability Be Used to Assess or Mitigate Risk in the Future?
Hazard Data and Information	Yes	Soils, geologic, and hydraulic reports and flood elevation certificates are required when appropriate.	By implementing the recommendations in the reports.

Technical Capability	Utilized? (Y/N)	How Has the Capability Been Used to Assess or Mitigate Risk in the Past?	How Can the Capability Be Used to Assess or Mitigate Risk in the Future?
GIS	Yes	Public Works was utilized to identify infrastructure.	Hazard identification, risk and vulnerability assessments.
Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes	The PD has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the County Sheriff and collaborates with the cities of Fortuna and Ferndale on mutual aid as needed.	Emergency shelter opportunities.

19.3.3. Financial Capabilities

Table 348 summarizes the City of Rio Dell's financial capabilities, which refer to the resources to fund mitigation actions. Discussing the funding and financial capabilities of the city is important to determine the kinds of projects that are feasible given their cost.

Table 348: Financial Capabilities

Funding Resource	Utilized? (Y/N)	What Types of Activities?	Can Be Used to Fund Future Mitigation Actions?	Can Be Used as a Local Match for a Federal Grant?
Capital Improvement Project Funding	Yes	Backup water wells	Yes	Yes
General Funds	Yes	Upgrade water wells	Yes	Yes
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP/404)	Yes	Seismic upgrades to the cross-river connection to the backup wells	Yes	No
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	No	N/A	Yes	No
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Funding Resource	Utilized? (Y/N)	What Types of Activities?	Can Be Used to Fund Future Mitigation Actions?	Can Be Used as a Local Match for a Federal Grant?
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	ADA Access, Owner Occupied Rehabilitation	Yes	Yes
Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Programs	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Programs	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property, Sales, Income or Special Purpose Taxes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Services	Yes	Yes, water and wastewater systems	Yes	Yes
Impact Fees from New Development and Redevelopment	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
General Obligation or Special Purpose Bonds	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Federal-Funded Programs	Yes	Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (USDA)	N/A	N/A

Funding Resource	Utilized? (Y/N)	What Types of Activities?	Can Be Used to Fund Future Mitigation Actions?	Can Be Used as a Local Match for a Federal Grant?
State-Funded Programs	Yes	State Water Resources Control Board, Clean California	Yes	No
Private Sector or Nonprofit Programs	Yes	Long-term recovery group, disaster case management, unmet needs funding for when the federal government did not show up for the December 2022 earthquake	Yes	Yes

19.3.4. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Table 349 summarizes the City of Rio Dell's education and outreach capabilities, which refer to programs and actions that can communicate information about and encourage risk reduction.

Table 349: Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach Capability	Used? (Y/N)	Does It Incorporate Hazard Mitigation?	Notes
Community Newsletter(s)	Yes	Yes	N/A
Hazard Awareness Campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week and School Programs)	Yes	Yes	N/A
Public Meetings/Events	No	N/A	N/A
Emergency Management Listserv	Yes	No	Mass alerting system to share information with residents
Local News	Yes	Yes	None

Education and Outreach Capability	Used? (Y/N)	Does It Incorporate Hazard Mitigation?	Notes
Distributing Hard Copies of Notices (e.g., Public Libraries, Door-to-Door Outreach)	Yes	No	N/A
Insurance Disclosures/Outreach	No	N/A	N/A
Organizations that Represent, Advocate for, or Interact with Underserved and Vulnerable Communities	Yes	No	Rio Dell Community Assistance Center (Providence)
Social Media	No	N/A	N/A
Every Door Direct Mailers	Yes	No	N/A

19.3.5. Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities

The capability assessment findings were reviewed to identify opportunities to expand, initiate or integrate capabilities to further hazard mitigation goals and objectives. These opportunities are included in Table 350. Where such opportunities were identified and determined to be feasible, they are included in the action plan.

Table 350: Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Planning and Regulations	The city would like to develop a City Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and now, with the latest LRA maps from CAL FIRE, a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Administrative and Technical	Additional training is always needed. The city lacks funding for a dedicated and consistent GIS effort.
Financial	Rio Dell is a severely economically disadvantaged community. Most grants require a local match, and the city is often unable to afford one, let alone a dedicated grant writer.
Education and Outreach	Education and outreach are currently available on an as-needed basis. The city is always open to additional education and outreach, but funding and capacity are limited.

19.4. National Flood Insurance Program

The City of Rio Dell has been a participant in the NFIP since 1982. Details of NFIP policies within the City of Rio Dell are provided in Table 351. Additional NFIP information is in Table 352 through Table 354. Continued compliance with NFIP standards is expected for the City of Rio Dell.

Table 351: City of Rio Dell NFIP Details

Community Name	Community Number	Total Premium + FPF ²⁶	Total Policy Count	Total Coverage	Total Losses
Rio Dell, City of	060064	\$0	0	\$0	5

Table 352: Floodplain Management

Question	Response
Who is the floodplain manager? Is this their primary or secondary role?	Community Development Director. Secondary.
Does the floodplain manager have adequate training and capacity for their role? If not, what else is needed?	Yes
How does the community enforce its floodplain rules? Does enforcement include monitoring compliance and acting to correct violations?	Through permit process and inspections.
When was the community's most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV)?	07/2021
Were any violations noted on the community's most recent CAV?	No
Is there an upcoming CAV? If no, is one needed?	Upcoming CAV: No Is one needed: No
When was the most recent floodplain management ordinance adopted?	07/2015

²⁶ FPF: Federal Policy Fee

Question	Response
Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, describe the steps the community has taken to achieve the CRS goals.	No
Does the community's floodplain management ordinance include any higher standards? If so, please list.	Yes, flood-resistant materials are required.
Who is responsible for permitting?	Planning and Building Department
How does the community issue development permits in the special flood hazard area?	Through the building permit process. It must be a foot above BFE. FEC is required for any proposed development in the floodplain. A surveyor is required to determine the BFE. A letter is then issued to confirm the findings.
Does the community maintain elevation certificates?	Yes
Does the community track the number of buildings in the special flood hazard area? If yes, are there any trends?	Yes Describe: No trends
How many repetitive loss (RL) structures does the community have?	None
How many severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures does the community have?	None
Have any RL/SRL properties been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
Who is responsible for making substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Building division coordinates with the county assessor.
How does the substantial damage/substantial improvement process work in your community?	Building division coordinates with the county assessor. If more than 50% of the value is improved, then they need to comply with all new floodplain regulations.
Is there sufficient staff and training to make substantial damage/improvement determinations?	Yes

Question	Response
How are substantial damage/substantial improvement requirements messaged to the public before and after an event?	We have utilized Every Door Direct Mailer (EDDM), newsletters, and our LED messaging system. Rio Dell uses a mass alerting system to share information when needed. Local media is also utilized to share requirements after an event.
Have any substantially damaged/substantially improved structures been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
How will the community remain in compliance with the NFIP moving forward?	Work with FEMA/NFIP to identify and implement necessary changes. Continue to follow floodplain ordinance and pursue ongoing training and education.

Table 353: Floodplain Mapping

Question	Response
How does the community support map change requests? This could be requests during the Risk MAP process or through Letters of Map Amendment or Revision.	The city or members of the public have not requested any map changes.
When did the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) become effective?	05/2017
When was the latest FIRM adopted?	2017
Is the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report in an accessible location? How would the public get access to their flood map information?	Yes Request to review
Does the community use any Risk MAP products? If so, describe.	No
Does the community collect updated floodplain data or modeling? Is this shared with partners and with FEMA?	Yes

Table 354: Flood Insurance and Outreach

Question	Response
How does the community educate the public on floodplain management and the availability of flood insurance, in and out of the floodplain?	As needed, based on inquiry
How does the community engage with insurance agents on flood insurance?	As needed, based on inquiry
Does the community (or state) have flood hazard disclosure laws?	Yes
How familiar is the public with their flood insurance options?	Not sure
How many properties have flood insurance in the community?	0
Are there any areas where flood insurance is lacking?	Unknown

19.5. Mitigation Strategy

The City of Rio Dell has adopted the same goals and prioritization process as those adopted by Humboldt County, which is described in Volume 1 of this plan. Previous mitigation actions and their statuses are in Table 355, while new mitigation action items and those carried forward from the previous plan are in Table 356.

19.5.1. Previous Mitigation Actions

Table 355: Previous Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Description	Status
RIO1	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in hazard areas, prioritizing those that have experienced repetitive losses and/or are located in high- or medium-risk hazard areas.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.

Mitigation Action	Description	Status
RIO2	Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans, ordinances and programs that dictate land use decisions in the community, including the city's Safety Element.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.
RIO3	Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.
RIO4	<p>Continue to maintain good standing and compliance under the NFIP through the implementation of floodplain management programs that, at a minimum, meet the NFIP requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the flood damage prevention ordinance. • Participate in floodplain identification and mapping updates. • Provide public assistance/information on floodplain requirements and impacts. 	Completed. However, we do not have a certified flood plain manager.
RIO5	Identify and pursue strategies to increase adaptive capacity to climate change, including, but not limited to the following: The participation, preparation and adoption of a Regional Climate Action Plan.	Carry forward- In active process.
RIO6	Purchase generators for critical facilities and infrastructure that lack adequate backup power, including the City's Fire and School facilities. The City hopes to install an emergency generator for City Hall, Police Department, Fire District and School District in the near future pending the availability of funds through LHMP.	Completed. New power backup systems were installed at City Hall, Corporation Yard and Wastewater Lift stations. In addition, a mobile backup generator was installed for the water system. No FEMA assistance was ever provided to accomplish these tasks. The status of the Fire District and School District is unknown.

Mitigation Action	Description	Status
RIO7	Plan to upgrade Radio equipment and towers to Interoperable Digital P25 infrastructure for the City Hall and Fire District.	Completed
RIO8	Retrofit/installation of undersized culverts and drainages to prevent flooding and erosion/ landslide damage.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.
RIO9	Installation of fire sprinklers at City Hall and Fire Station.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.
RIO10	Perform public education and outreach.	Completed. Newsletters have provided disaster-related educational outreach.
RIO11	Establish Joint Public Safety Dispatch and EOC.	This has been deferred until time and resources are appropriate and available.

19.5.2. Updated Mitigation Actions

Table 356: 2025 Mitigation Actions²⁷

#	Action Description	Priority	Lead Agency	Hazards Mitigated	Potential Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline	New and/or Existing Asset	Vulnerable Population Benefit?	Community Lifelines Benefit?
RIO1	Identify the location, acquire the site and construct a fuel storage facility for the Corporation Yard backup generator, as well as for public safety and allied agencies.	High	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, winter weather, wind, wildfire, landslide	HMGP, BRIC, PDM, CDBG, enterprise funds, general fund	\$500,000	Medium-term	New	Yes	Yes
RIO2	Identify the location, acquire the site and construct a multipurpose community center with the capacity for sheltering, aid distribution, supplies and serving as an assistance center when needed.	High	City of Rio Dell	Dam failure, drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, landslide, wildfire wind, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, PDM, CDBG, enterprise funds, general fund	\$7,000,000	Long-term	New	Yes	Yes
RIO3	Carry out a citywide stormwater evaluation study and develop a master plan to identify vulnerabilities and maintenance needs.	High	City of Rio Dell	Dam failure, flooding, landslide, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, PDM, CDBG, general fund	\$500,000	Long-term	Both	Yes	Yes

²⁷ BRIC: Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities, CDBG: Community Development Block Grant, FMA: Flood Mitigation Assistance, HMGP: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, PDM: Pre-Disaster Mitigation, STIP: State Transportation Improvement Program, SWRCB: State Water Resources Control Board

#	Action Description	Priority	Lead Agency	Hazards Mitigated	Potential Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline	New and/or Existing Asset	Vulnerable Population Benefit?	Community Lifelines Benefit?
RIO4	Update the emergency operations plan.	High	City of Rio Dell	Dam failure, drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, landslide, wildfire wind, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, PDM, general fund	\$20,000	Short-term	Existing	Yes	Yes
RIO5	Support the development of a Firewise Community program, and implement defensible space requirements, including education and outreach.	High	City of Rio Dell	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, wildfire	General fund	\$20,000	Medium-term	New	Yes	Yes
RIO6	Expand the infiltration gallery to reduce risk from low flow and landslides.	High	City of Rio Dell	Drought, flooding, landslide	SWRCB, HMGP, water fund	\$3,000,000	Long-term	Existing	Yes	Yes
RIO7	Improve the wastewater collection system mains, laterals and manholes.	High	City of Rio Dell	Flooding, winter weather	HMGP, SWRCB, enterprise fund	\$5,000,000	Long-term	Existing	Yes	Yes

#	Action Description	Priority	Lead Agency	Hazards Mitigated	Potential Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline	New and/or Existing Asset	Vulnerable Population Benefit?	Community Lifelines Benefit?
RIO8	Install fire sprinklers at City Hall.	Low	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, wildfire	CDBG, general and enterprise funds	\$180,000	Long-term	Existing	No	Yes
RIO9	Implement slip-out and slide protections on Monument Road.	Medium	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, flooding, landslide, wildfire, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, PDM, CDBG, road funds, general fund	\$3,000,000	Long-term	Existing	Yes	Yes
RIO10	Continue to support countywide initiatives identified in this plan.	High	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, floods, dam failure, drought, extreme temperatures, landslide, wildfire, wind, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, district funds	\$100,000	Short-term and ongoing	Both	Yes	All
RIO11	Establish a joint public safety dispatch and EOC.	High	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, floods, dam failure, drought, extreme temperatures, landslide, wildfire, wind, winter weather	HMGP, PDM, BRIC	\$3,000,000	5+ years	New	Yes	Safety and Security

#	Action Description	Priority	Lead Agency	Hazards Mitigated	Potential Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline	New and/or Existing Asset	Vulnerable Population Benefit?	Community Lifelines Benefit?
RIO12	Retrofit and install undersized culverts and drainage systems to prevent flooding and erosion/landslide damage.	Medium	City of Rio Dell	Landslide, flooding, wind, winter weather	HMGP, PDM, FMA	\$1,000,000	5+ years	Existing	Yes	Transportation
RIO13	Identify and pursue strategies to increase adaptive capacity to climate change, including but not limited to, participating in, preparing and adopting a Regional Climate Action Plan.	Medium	City of Rio Dell	All	Staff time and general funds	\$15,000	3-5 years	Both	Yes	All
RIO14	Where appropriate, support the retrofitting and the purchase or relocation of structures in hazard areas, prioritizing those that have experienced repetitive losses and/or are located in high- or medium-risk hazard areas.	High	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, flooding, landslide, wildfire	HMGP, PDM, FMA	\$2,000,000	3-5 years	Existing	Yes	All
RIO15	Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans, ordinances and programs — including the City's Safety Element — that dictate land use decisions in the community.	Low	City of Rio Dell	Dam failure, drought, earthquake, flooding, landslide, wildfire	Staff time, general funds	\$10,000	1-3 years	Both	No	All
RIO16	Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.	Low	City of Rio Dell	All hazards	Staff time, general funds	\$2,000	1-3 years	Both	Yes	All

#	Action Description	Priority	Lead Agency	Hazards Mitigated	Potential Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline	New and/or Existing Asset	Vulnerable Population Benefit?	Community Lifelines Benefit?
RIO17	Hire GIS personnel to assist in hazard identification and vulnerability assessments.	High	City of Rio Dell	All hazards	Staff time, general funds	\$50,000	1-3 years	Both	Yes	All
RIO18	Make physical improvements to the Avenues (Specifically first and Second Avenue) neighborhood to ensure emergency vehicles can access it.	High	City of Rio Dell	All hazards	HMGP, BRIC, city road funds, STIP, CDBG	\$1,500,000	3-5 years	Both	Yes	Safety and Security
RIO19	Evaluate the placement of fire hydrants against the new CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Zone Severity Mapping process for identifying priority areas for placing or replacing fire hydrants.	Medium	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, wildfire	HMGP, BRIC, CDBG	\$500,000	3-5 years	Both	Yes	Safety and Security
RIO20	Develop a second access route to Dinsmore Plateau via Rio Vista Lane.	Medium	City of Rio Dell	Earthquake, landslide, wildfire, wind, winter weather	HMGP, BRIC, CDBG	\$500,000	3-5 years	New	Yes	Transportation

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