

## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Local Agency Formation Commission

**FROM:** Stephen Lucas, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item 6.1 - Executive Officer's Report**

**DATE:** November 27, 2023 for the meeting of December 7, 2023.

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### ADMINISTRATION:

- *Disaster Planning:* Staff participated in a California Office of Emergency Services LISTOS Regional Disaster Ready Summit on September 15 in Chico which caused Staff to see a role for LAFCo to play in preparing for disasters. Locally, we have coordinated with the Butte County Office Emergency Services and provided information regarding the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. We see an opportunity for LAFCo to further assist with local disaster preparedness by using our knowledge of all local agencies obtained through municipal service reviews (MSR) to connect disaster needs with local agency resources. It is Staff's intention to develop a quick guide of local agencies and the ways and resources they can assist in emergencies. **NEW:** Staff was invited as a stakeholder to the kick-off meeting on November 15, 2023, for the development of the 2024 Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. It our expectation to remain a part of this process as time permits. Staff has also reached out to our member special districts to participate in this process. Additionally, Staff led a session at the recent CALAFCO Conference titled "*Disaster Recovery: Its Everyone's Business*", which is further discussed below.
- *District Support:* Staff was invited to a gathering at the 9,100 acre Gray Lodge on Wildlife Area on November 3, 2023, in support of Biggs West Gridley Water District who is an active partner in the Gray Lodge Water Supply Improvement Project. Construction recently wrapped up on 5 1/2 miles of upgrades to the canals that ship water from the Thermalito Afterbay to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area near Gridley. The work included replacing four county road bridges, seven large water-control structures, three farm bridges and 45 structures that move water into farm fields. BWGWD was instrumental in the development of the project and this year some 3,000 acres was able to be flooded in contrast to last years total of only 300 acres!

### PROJECT/GENERAL NOTES:

The following items/proposals are being reviewed, discussed and/or considered at various stages.

- **NEW - City of Biggs** – The City of Biggs in close coordination with Staff has developed a Phased Annexation Plan that outlines the City's intent to annex lands to the east of the City in order to enhance its exposure and opportunities along SR 99. Staff suggested the City seek a SB2 Planning Grant from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to prepare a Phased Annexation Plan. The Phased Annexation Plan (Plan) outlines four phases to pre-zone and annex approximately 520 acres adjacent to the eastern city limits (**Attachment 1**). The Plan envisions that pre-zone districts will be consistent with existing General Plan designations. Current acreage within the Biggs city limits is approximately 414 acres. When fully implemented, the project would facilitate potential development of approximately 2,380 new housing units. The City Council adopted the Plan on October 10, 2023. Staff is excited to work with our City partner on making this effort as success and continues to meet on the matter as necessary. The complete [Biggs Annexation Plan](#) can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

- **City of Gridley –**
  - **NEW Planning Process** – Staff has become aware of a number of concerns related the City planning processes related to agricultural mitigation, impacts to drainage and irrigation district facilities, noticing and the lack of early coordination with affected agencies such as Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Joint Water Districts and Reclamation District No. 833. In order to address these concerns, Staff has been actively reviewing City planning proposals to ensure the identified issues, - perhaps others – are adequately addressed by the City before taking actions. Most recently, Staff was informed of a City General Plan Amendment to reduce agricultural buffers on new development proposals from the existing 300ft to 100ft. Staff knew this was problematic for a number of agencies and for a number of reasons, most notably a lack of proper notice and coordination. To this end, Staff sent a letter (**Attachment 2**) to the City Planning Commission offering our comments. Staff also viewed the City Planning Commission meeting on November 15, 2023, at which the matter was freely discussed, comments received and was continued indefinitely. This will allow for proper public notice and coordination with affected agencies as required by law.
  - **MSR/SOI Update** – The City has expressed an interest in updating its MSR and SOI Plan in anticipation of new development proposals being considered. Staff entered into a Letter Agreement with the City to conduct this effort, similar to agreements with the City of Chico and City of Oroville.
- **City of Oroville MSR Update** – The City of Oroville is in the process to evaluate its growth goals and has determined that the City needs to update its SOI to accommodate new development goals and at the same time update its MSR to reflect its current service capabilities and financial position. The City has requested LAFCo update its MSR at City expense and executed a Letter Agreement with LAFCo to prepare the MSR update. The City has entered into a contract with Policy Consulting Associates to complete the project under LAFCo supervision. **NEW** Staff has assumed the responsibility to complete this project and expects to have a Public Review Draft available in December with a public meeting tentatively scheduled for February 2024.
- **Paradise Irrigation District MSR Update** –The MSR will evaluate PIDs current financial position and service capabilities. **NEW** The administrative draft has been completed and a public review draft is expected to be released soon.
- **Water Districts** - Staff has been assisting Butte Water District with service issues related to development proposals in the City of Gridley and its Sphere of Influence. The issues are related to mitigations for open canals that represent significant health and safety issues, which is also a LAFCo concern. There is also frustration with the City’s processing of entitlements/projects related to early consultations with affected agencies, timely public hearing notices to affected agencies and landowners, and other irregularities. The Commission has consistently directed its Staff to assist our member agencies when appropriate and we will continue to monitor this issue and assist however we can help so as to resolve these types of issues before a LAFCo application is submitted.
- **County Service Area (CSA) Reorganization** – At its June 13, 2023, meeting, the Board of Supervisors was provided with an update on the status of the CSA program, administered by the Butte County Public Works Department. The report indicated that many CSAs within the County are severely underfunded and pursuing additional funding is difficult given the costly Prop 218 process. Ultimately, staff was given direction by the Board to coordinate with LAFCo staff to potentially dissolve or consolidate underperforming or underutilized CSAs. Staff met with County PW staff on September 27 to further discuss and will report out to the Commission of any progress.
- **Water District Map Clean-up** – Staff is working with the Butte Water District to reconcile old and current maps of the District’s boundaries for the purpose of accurate record keeping and collection of stand-by fees. This process entails researching mapping discrepancies using old maps and annexation records. This effort will result in a final electronic (GIS) version of the District’s maps,

which will allow for better record keeping, collection of fees, and fairness amongst District customers during drought-years.

**CALAFCO:**

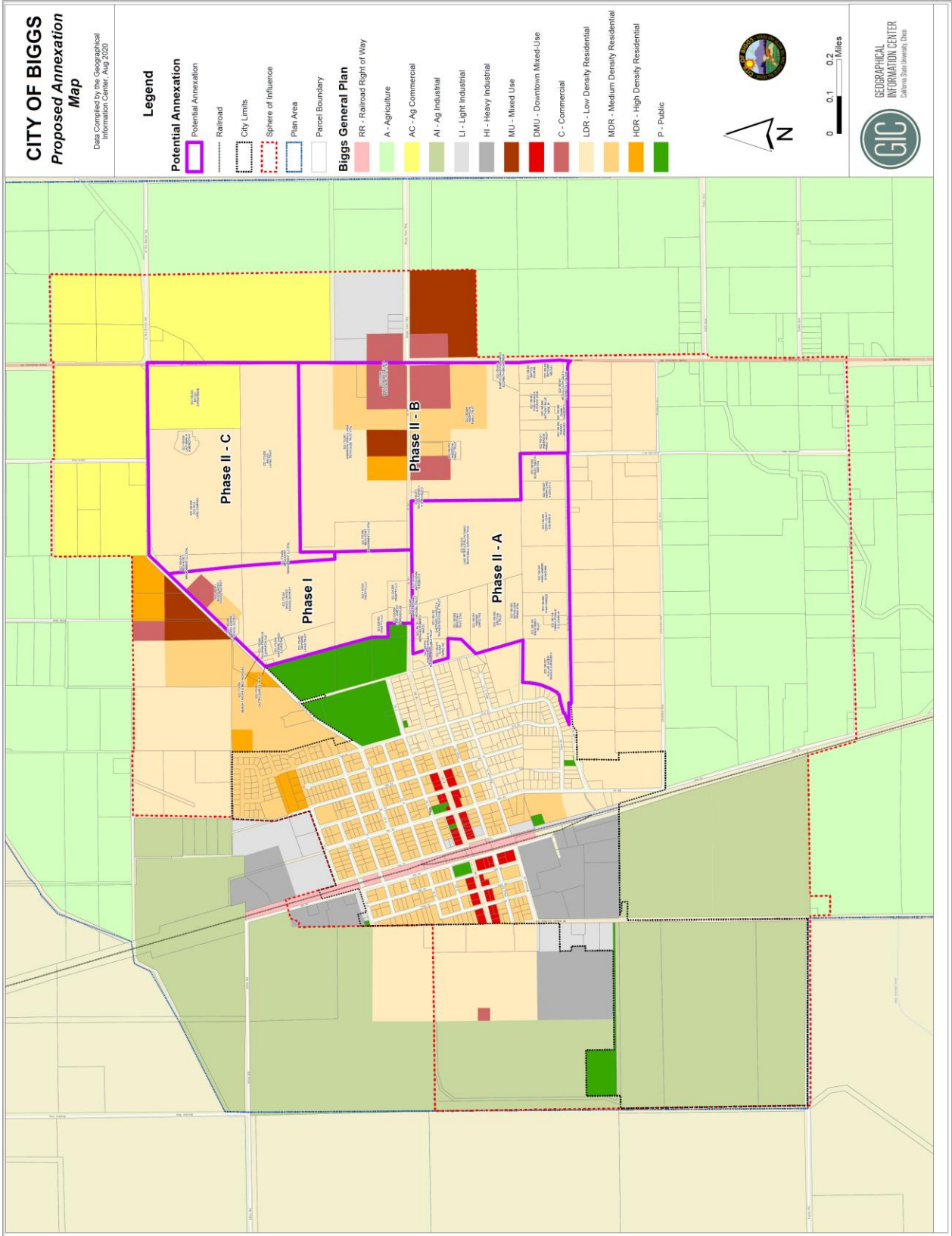
- The 2023 CALAFCO Annual Conference was held in Monterrey October 17-20.
  - Commissioner/Supervisor Connelly was re-elected to a new two year term as the CALAFCO Northern Region Director representing counties. As Prior Past Chair of CALAFCO, he will continue to serve on the CALAFCO Board Executive Committee.
  - The Executive Officer and Deputy Executive Officer presented a session titled “Disaster Recovery: Its Everyone’s Business” which focused on natural disaster planning and what role LAFCo’s can play. It was very well received. The PowerPoint presentation is attached for review (**Attachment 3**).

**LEGISLATION:** Commissioner Connelly, the Executive Officer and Legal Counsel were all reappointed as voting members of the Legislative Committee. The Committee’s work will begin shortly for the coming legislative session.

**APPLICATION ACTIVITY:**

APPLICATION ACTIVITY								
<i>Project Status As of November 17, 2023</i>								
File	Applicant	Project Name	Date Application Received	Certificate of Filing	LAFCO Hearing Date	Certificate of Completion	SBE Submittal Date	Additional Comments
11-06	Butte County	CSA No. 114 - Expansion of Powers	02/02/11	N/A	pending	N/A	N/A	Incomplete - On Hold
18-09	TWSD	Clay Pit State Recreation Area Annexation						On hold. Incomplete Application
19-12	County	CSA 158 - Mandville Park Subd. Annex	05/02/19	05/29/19	10/03/19			Approved w/ conditions - 218 Hearing
20-08	Oroville	Municipal Service Review Update (MSR)	05/20/20	N/A				In progress
20-09	LAFCO	Oroville Region Sewer & Water MSR	N/A	N/A				In progress
21-06	Landowners	Tuscan Water District Formation	02/22/21	10/01/21	12/02/21			Approved - awaiting election
22-10	Gridley	W Biggs-Gridley Rd Annexation No. 3	03/28/22	05/16/22	11/03/22	5/18/23	5/30/23	Completed
23-02	Chico	El Monte Ave Annex. No. 1	08/16/22	09/08/22	11/03/22			Will Record 8-1-25
23-03	Chico	Chico Canyon Annex. No. 8	08/16/22	09/08/22	02/02/23			Election results in
23-05	Chico	W East Ave Annex. No 1	08/16/22	09/08/22	10/06/22			Will Record 8-1-24
23-09	Paradise	PID - MSR Update 2022	11/15/22	n/a				In progress
23-12	Gridley	MSR Update 2022	01/06/23	n/a				In progress
23-13	Biggs	W Rio Bonito Road Annex. No. 8	01/13/23	02/13/23	05/04/23	10/18/23	10/23/23	Completed
23-15	BWD	BWG Water District Reorganization	05/25/23	06/26/23	08/03/23	9/8/23	9/11/23	Completed

- Attachments: 1. Biggs Annexation Plan 2023  
 2. Butte LAFCo Letter to City of Gridley – November 14, 2023  
 3. CALAFCO Conference Disaster Recovery Presentation





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**BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

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(530)538-7784 • Fax (530)538-2847 • www.buttelafo.org

November 14, 2023

City of Gridley  
Attn.: Planning Commissioners  
685 Kentucky Street  
Gridley, CA 95948

Re: City of Gridley General Plan Amendment Proposal

The Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) received an email on November 9, 2023, notifying us of the City’s intent to modify sections of the General Plan (GP) Land Use Element pertaining to Agriculture Setbacks. This letter is meant to express a number of concerns our agency has with the proposal, including procedural errors, CEQA determination, and inconsistency with prior documents including the City of Gridley Sphere of Influence.

*Consultation*

LAFCo did not receive proper notice of the City’s intent to amend the General Plan Land Use Element. Government Code Section 65352 provides that prior to taking action to adopt or amend a general plan, the local agency shall first allow for involvement of other public agencies, including the Local Agency Formation Commission, via referral of the project for comment. LAFCo staff was first made aware of the proposal via email on November 9, 2023, suggesting that LAFCo staff could go view the proposed language and accompanying staff report for the November 15, 2023 Planning Commission meeting on the City’s website. Further, Senate Bill 18 (Government Code Section 65352.3) provides that prior to the adoption of or any amendment of a General Plan, a local government agency must notify the appropriate tribe of the opportunity to conduct consultation. Consultation pursuant to the Government Code, means the meaningful and timely process of seeking, discussing, and considering carefully the views of others. The staff report does not indicate that any agency outreach was made to any affected entity, including tribal consultation.

*Notice*

Government Code Section 65355 requires the City to conduct a noticed public hearing pursuant to Government Code Sections 65090 and 56091 which requires either individual mailed notice to affected parcel owners or publication in the newspaper. The Planning Commission Staff Report indicates that notice was only available at City Hall and on the City website.

*Environmental Review*

LAFCo has concerns with the City’s determination that the project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3) “Common Sense” exemption. No

substantial analysis is provided as to how the project would not have a significant effect on the environment with absolute certainty. The loss, conversion, or impact on agricultural lands is a significant issue that must be adequately discussed in order for the legislative body to make an informed decision, and for the public to fully understand the consequences of the action.

*Inconsistencies with Previously Adopted Documents*

The proposed amendments to the General Plan create inconsistencies with the City's adopted Sphere of Influence. In 2000, LAFCO approved an SOI amendment for the City of Gridley and included conditions requiring a 300-foot agricultural setback/buffer for parcels abutting agricultural lands along the unincorporated boundary. In 2010, the City's SOI was amended again, but without the 300-foot buffer condition as the City had adopted General Plan language requiring all new development adjacent to cultivated agricultural lands to provide buffers. Amending General Plan language that was the basis for LAFCO's decision not to include the 300-foot buffer condition is problematic and concerning.

It should be noted that the current City of Gridley General Plan language regarding agricultural buffers provides for the width of the buffer to be determined and/or reduced on a case-by-case basis based on the unique circumstances of the parcel(s). As such, the buffer for a proposed development already has the potential to be reduced to 100-feet with the proper analysis and discussion. In any event, the Butte County Board of Supervisors has been firm on the need for a fixed 300-foot buffer without exception for new development and the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner supports this.

The protection of agricultural lands is a fundamental legislative charge given to LAFCo by the State Legislature. It is widely recognized that if the City of Gridley is to grow, the conversion of land supporting agricultural uses is necessary. Over the years, careful consideration has been given to local and county-wide policies to ensure that urban growth and agricultural uses can coexist. The City's intent to modify this language without proper consultation is concerning and cannot be supported by this agency.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Costa*

Shannon Costa  
Deputy Executive Officer

# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

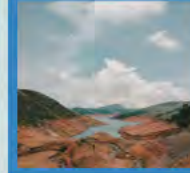
Guest  
Speakers



Santa Cruz  
LAFCO



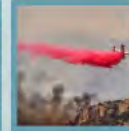
Butte  
LAFCO



Mendocino  
LAFCO



Q&A



Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)

# TODAY'S PANELIST:

\*Shannon Costa (Butte LAFCO; Moderator)

\*Uma Hinman (Mendocino LAFCO)

\*Joe Serrano (Santa Cruz LAFCO)

\*Steve Lucas (Butte LAFCO)



# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

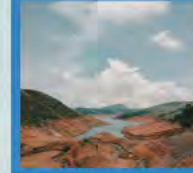
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LAFCO



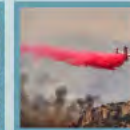
Butte  
LAFCO



Mendocino  
LAFCO



Q&A



Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)


# THE CAMP FIRE

## 5 Years Later

### Background

*Did the camp to Paradise or did Paradise come to the camp?*

- Continuing concerns began in 2008
- Long history of "bad fire history"
- State infrastructure report on development in areas with fire, floods, strong winds and large fire
- Unburned areas may not meet present building performance requirements
- Team emergency in 2016
- Disaster priority: affordable housing to reduce and working conditions



### The Disaster

Severe drought conditions in California without precipitation.

Severe drought conditions began in 2012.

Wildfire activity increased in the area.

No resources available for wildfire in the area.

November 8, 2018

Health and safety in California's homes and schools.

• "Paradise" is the name of the town that was destroyed by the Camp Fire.



### The Warning Signs

1000+ acres of the community of Paradise, CA had a significant fire risk.

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### LAFCOs

How We Fit In

- Outreach
- Partnership
- Advocacy



### Paradise Sewer Project

"Sewer service is vital to these recovery."

"Transition to the City of Chico will be the most important and a community's priority."

"Paradise is a priority for the City of Chico."

"Paradise is a priority for the City of Chico."





### Post-Fire Recovery

Recovery is a long and complex process.

Recovery is a long and complex process.

Recovery is a long and complex process.

Recovery is a long and complex process.



# Background

*Did fire come to Paradise or did Paradise come to the fire?*

- \*Gold mining operations began in 1859
- \*Long history of "four-by-fouring"
- \*Septic requirements result in development up into very rural Pines, Magalia, Stirling City, and fringes of Town
- \*Supervisors welcome any/all development waiving infrastructure improvements
- \*Town incorporated in 1979
- \*Paradise provides affordable housing to retirees and working commuters



# The Warning Signs

- \*2005 study by Cal Fire warned Town of Paradise of the risk of an ember-driven wildfire
- \*2008 Humboldt Fire and BTU Lighting Complex Fires threaten Town
- \*2009 Butte County Civil Grand Jury concludes “significant constraints” and “capacity limitations” on evacuation routes within Town
- \*PG&E fails to inspect main transmission line for many years
- \*Town of Paradise infrastructure “improvements” limit use of main evacuation routes
- \*Town of Paradise 1994 GP describes the Towns high risk for wildfire but still supports the development of 3,500 houses and 15,000 more people
- \*Town emergency plans did not consider catastrophic worst-case scenario



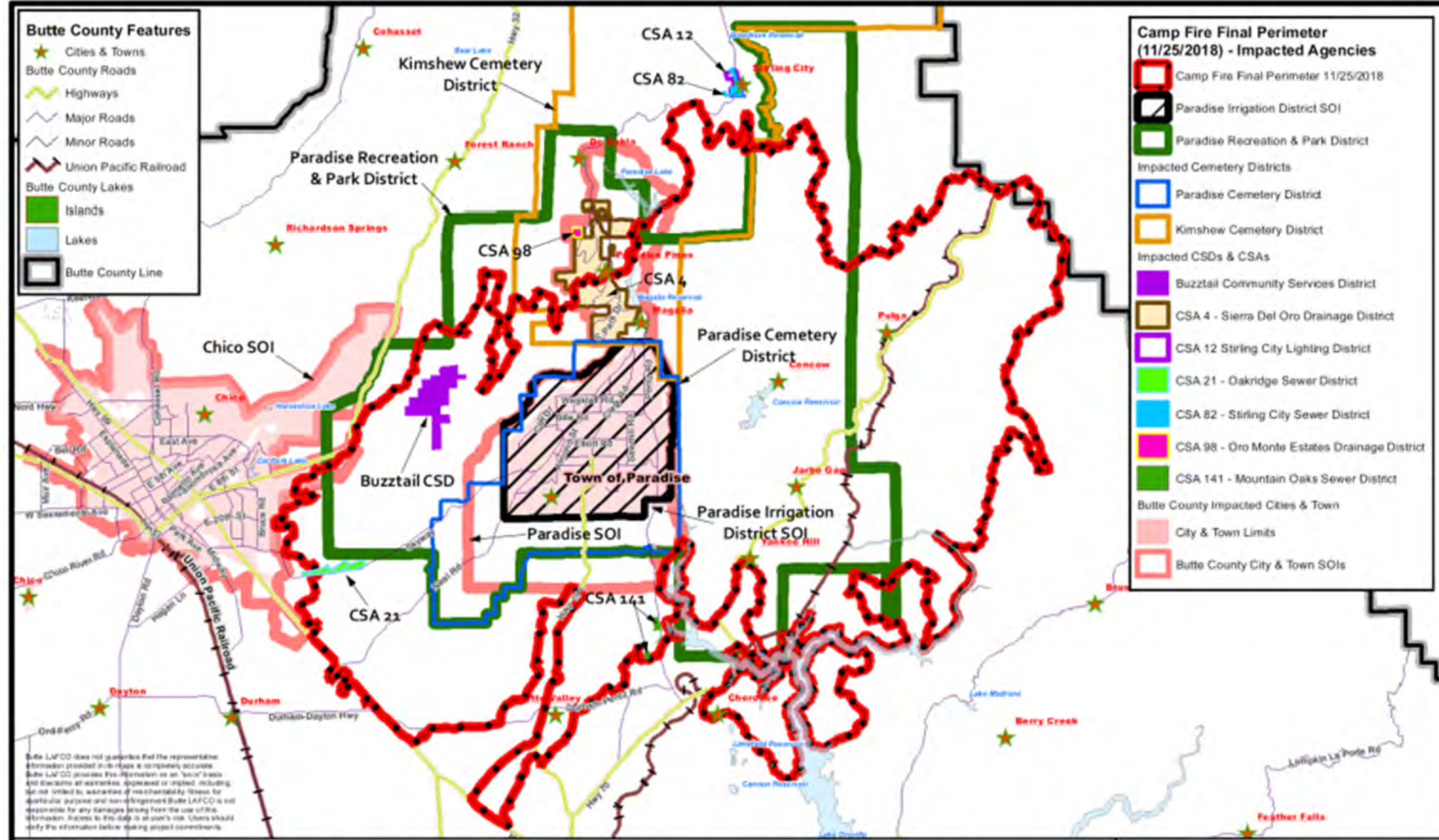
# The Disaster

- \*Land is primed for wildfire- 200 days without precipitation
- \*Failed PG&E equipment ignites a wildland fire
- \*Wildfire quickly becomes wind-driven
- \*No systematic evacuation warning due to failure in communication equipment
- \*Evacuation of 30,000 people on roads compromised by fallen trees or power lines/poles
- \*Deadliest and most costly fire in California's history
  - > Killed 85 civilians
  - > Destroyed 18,000 structures (95% of Town stock)
  - > Permanently displaced 21,000 residents
  - > Cost \$422 billion



**November 8, 2018**





Butte LAFCO does not guarantee that the representative information provided in this report is completely accurate. Butte LAFCO provides this information on an "as-is" basis and disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and non-infringement. Butte LAFCO is not responsible for any damages arising from the use of this information. Access to this data is at user's risk. Users should verify the information before making project commitments.

# BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

## Camp Fire Final Perimeter (11/25/2018) - Impacted Agencies

**Camp Fire Final Perimeter (11/25/2018) - Impacted Agencies**

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

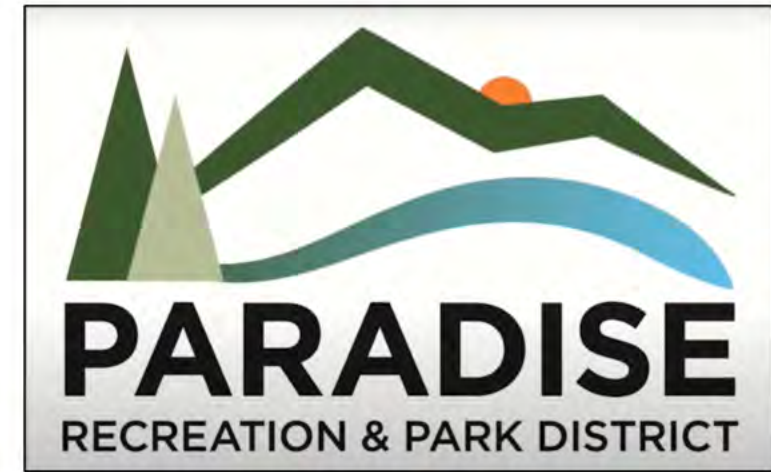
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Data: Butte County, LAFCO

Action:	Date:	Res.:
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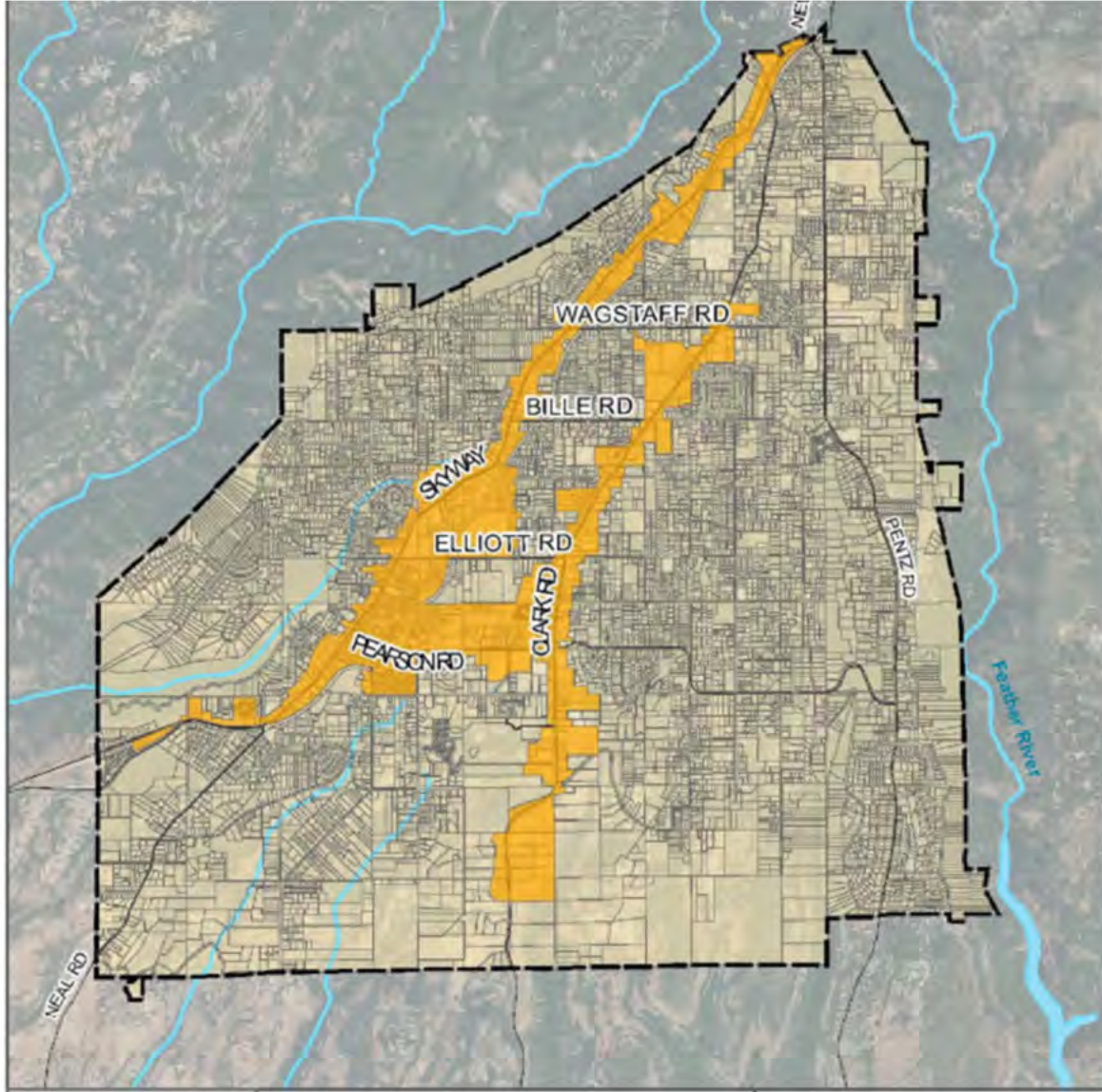
# LAFCOs

## *How We Fit In*

- \*Outreach
- \*Partnership
- \*Advocacy



# Paradise Sewer Project



- \*Sewer service is vital to Town recovery**
- \*Connection to the City of Chico WPCP is the most economical and environmentally friendly option**
- \*Identify the project as an Extension of Services by Contact (GCS 56133)**
- \*Establish ourselves as a partner**
- \*Downsize project based in reality**
- \*Plan for the future**



# Post-Fire Recovery

\*Rebuilding is SLOW but steady

- > 2,000 SFR rebuilt and 380 MFR
- > 7,000 residents have returned
- > 350 commercial businesses have opened/reopened
- > Full build-out expected into 2050 and beyond

\*Focus is on adaptation to life in a fire-prone area

\*Social services remain prevalent

\*Robust Safety Element adopted

\*2019 - Town adopts Long-Term Recovery Plan to identify citizen-driven priority recovery projects:

*Hazard tree removal, design standards, wildfire adaptation, road widening & connection improvements, early warning signals, etc.*



*Reimagining Paradise*





**Guest  
Speakers**



**Santa Cruz  
LAFCO**



**Butte  
LAFCO**

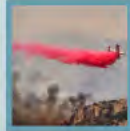
# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

**Mendocino  
LAFCO**



**Q&A**



**Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)**

# Drought Emergency

## Mendocino LAFCO



**Setting: Mendocino County**

- Countywide water service providers
  - > 16 water districts
  - > 18 private water companies
  - > 3 cities
  - > 11 SWSs
- Water users
  - > City of Fort Bragg
  - > Very small water districts, markets and community water systems
- Water users
  - > City of Ukiah
  - > City of Willits
  - > Small water districts, markets and community water systems

**Background: Why was this drought so severe?**

- 10th year of a drought
- July 2021 driest on record
- 1st the Dumb Snow Summer for hottest on record
- Most severe drought in 125 years
  - > Lack of precipitation
  - > Atmospheric heat (supersat demand)
  - > Historic heat

**Drought Emergency (2020 - 2021)**

- 2019-2020 - reduced winter precipitation caused concern among water managers
  - > No reduction from water users, no releases from water supplies, media not engaged
- 2020-2021 - continued dry conditions
  - > Media engaged
- April 2021 - Governor Newsom declared drought emergency from dry bed of Lake Mendocino
- Countywide Drought Task Force

**Coastal Communities**

Water users: small coastal water districts and character preservation dependent suppliers

Problems:
 

- > Fort Bragg - low water situation due to low flow in Sage River
- > Mendocino - no municipal water system, shallow wells

Solutions:
 

- > Mendocino - treated water from inland sources
- > Fort Bragg - desalination plant in Fort Bragg
- > Long term - surface and bank storage facilities
- > Distribution from City of Fort Bragg to small water systems and private sources being met?

**Village of Mendocino**

- No community water systems all private or shallow wells
- Wells went dry at alarming rates
- Supplemented with treated water
- SWCCSD not a water service provider, however:
  - > The threat with Mendocino (and of other Districts)
  - > Provided water from Ukiah to property owners within the District boundaries
  - > SWCCSD provided water from school tanks to business of students with dry wells
  - > County requests grant to fund and coordinate deliveries of treated water

**Inland Communities: Russian River Watershed**

- Approximately 600,000 people in three counties depend on the Russian and Divisadero for their water
- Threatened of Fort Bragg through the Russian Valley Project agreement
- Three primary storage reservoirs: Pillsbury, Mendocino and Solano
- Russian River water sources & rights very complex (agencies, communities, individuals, corporations)
- Regulators consider moratoriums, mandated consolidations, protective actions

SWRCB requires drought declaration by the Governor and an emergency regulation from the SWSB in order to issue authorizations for purchasing water rights. Politically charged, legal challenges, lengthy processes

Consolidated water board and SWRCB compliance: inspections of water rights holders
 

- > SWRF for an reporting errors
- > Districts address consolidated dimensions of their water right holders

Executive Orders address drought conditions and regulator support and challenging for local agencies to understand and achieve compliance

**Regulatory Obstacles**

**Redwood Valley County Water District**

- Population of 4,000 over 16 square miles
- Some of the most rural customers for the larger area of Redwood
- 16 wells, none in close proximity to water user Fort Bragg
- Recent water supply of Redwood County Water District through emergency water
- 16 wells located from 1971 - 1981, 2002
- Overhead a owners limited to 30 gallons per person per day
- New position of the SWRCB could state regulators to initiate investigation of the general district water status
- SWRCB initiated an ongoing investigation of four water districts in Redwood Valley and the City of Ukiah water services longer construction considered by CA to date

**Lake Mendocino**

- Somehow Water Agency and Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Improvement District established in 1992 to improve the on-site supply demand planning of the reservoir and support construction with the SWRCB
- Established first ever Voluntary Water Drought Agreement
  - > An alternative to certain levels, water rights holders voluntarily reduce their water use and share available water with other participants and other water rights holders

**Media Release**

State Water Board approves unprecedented voluntary water sharing agreement for Russian River

Waterboard program offers incentives for water conservation during drought

**Drought Disaster Lingering Effects**

- SWRCB the effects of 2021 drought emergency
- March 28, 2022 set (Lakeland) resolution
- Operational level as a result of reduced incoming quantities with the reduction
- Reduced reserves of voluntary water rights holders in high reduction in the water users
  - > Reduced water supply
  - > Increased in water users
  - > Emergency infrastructure
- Agriculture effects
- Approved new necessary to address and discuss
- Threatened services

**LAFCO: How We Fit In**

- Offered support and partnership
- 2021 Letter reminding agencies of SWRCB requirements
- 2022 Participated in Countywide coordination meetings
- 2022 Letter to SWRCB supporting voluntary coordination letter of Ukiah Valley water agencies
- Brought to light the water hauling that occurs between coastal agencies on a regular basis
- Using water hauling data in development of MS&TSD studies
- Threatened water districts for next round of MS&TSD studies

**Recovery & Planning**

- Mendocino County Water Agency
- City of Fort Bragg
  - > Surface reservoirs
- Mendocino City CSD/MUSD
  - > Water storage tanks
- MS&TSD studies for water service providers
- Focus on effort with SWRCB to consolidate Ukiah Valley water agencies into a single regionalized water system

# Drought Emergency (2020 - 2021)

\*2019-2020 – reduced winter precipitation caused concern among water managers  
> No reduction from water users, no notices from water suppliers, media not engaged

\*2020-2021 – continued dry conditions  
> Media engaged

\*April 2021 – Governor Newsom declared drought emergency from dry bed of Lake Mendocino

\*Countywide Drought Task Force



# Background: *Why was this drought so severe?*

\*9th year of a drought

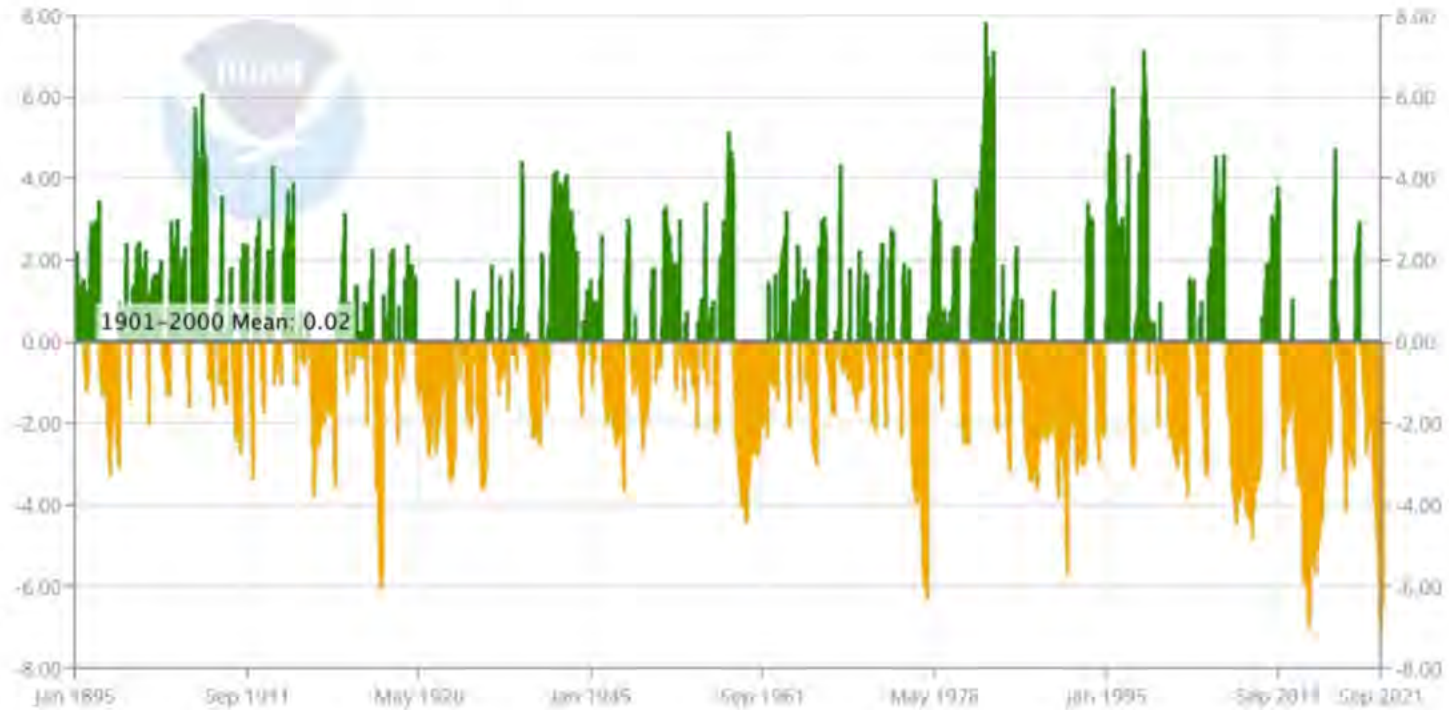
\*July 2021 driest on record

\*Tied the Dust Bowl summer for hottest on record

\*Most severe drought in 126 years

- > Lack of precipitation
- > Atmospheric thirst (evaporative demand)
- > Intense heat

California Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI)



# Setting: *Mendocino County*



## \*Countywide water service providers

- > 14 special districts
- > 19 mutual water companies
- > 3 cities
- > 21 SSWS

## \*Coastal areas

- > City of Fort Bragg
- > Very small water districts, mutuals and community water systems



## \*Inland areas

- > City of Ukiah
- > City of Willits
- > Small water districts, mutuals and community water systems

# Coastal Communities



**\*Water sources:** small coastal watersheds and shallow precipitation-dependent aquifers

**\*Problems:**

- > Fort Bragg – sea water intrusion due to low flows in Noyo River
- > Mendocino – no municipal water system; shallow wells

**\*Solutions:**

- > Immediate – hauled water from inland sources
- > Near-term – desalination plant in Fort Bragg
- > Long-term – surface and tank storage facilities

**\*Distribution from City of Fort Bragg to small water systems and private sources along coast**



# ***Village of Mendocino***

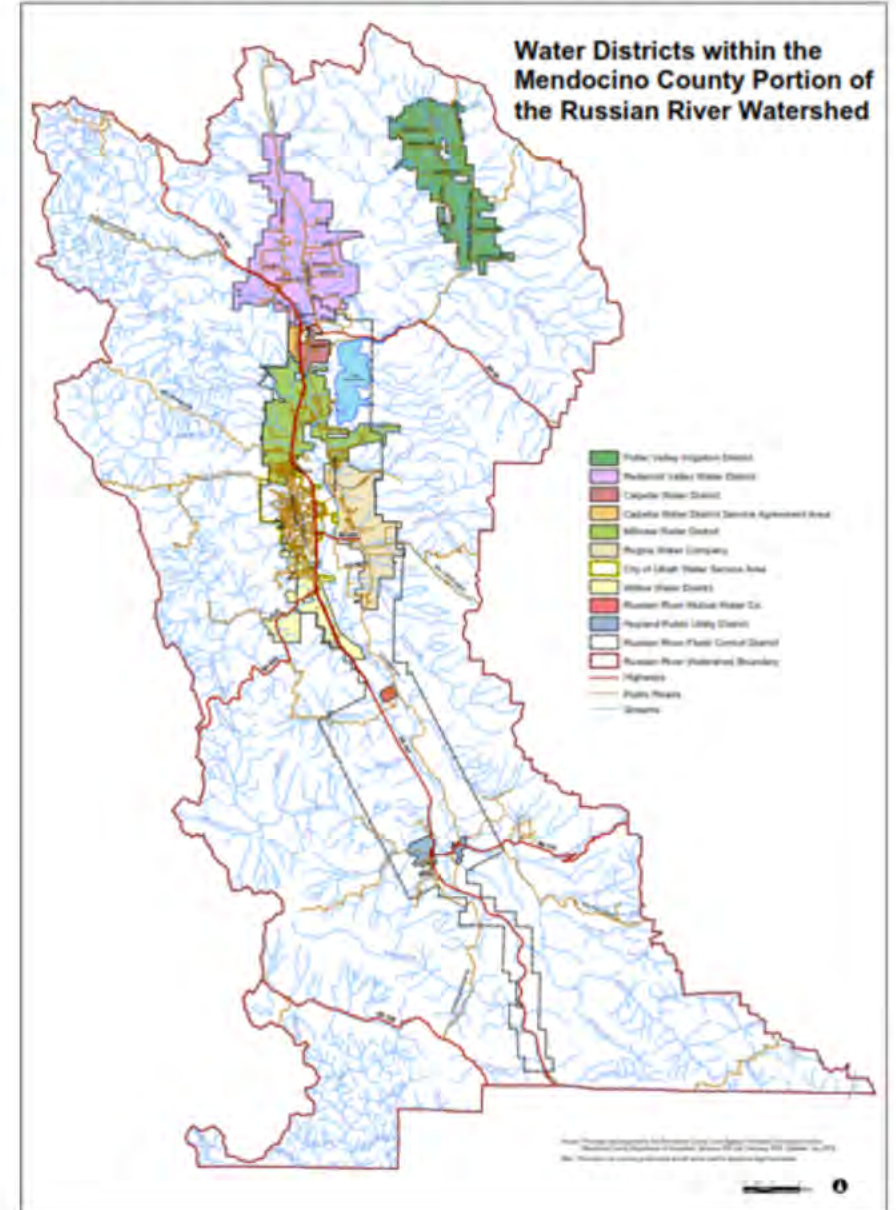


- \*No community water system; all parcels on shallow wells
- \*Wells went dry at alarming rates
- \*Supplemented with hauled water
- \*MCCSD not a water service provider, however...
- \*Partnered with Mendocino Unified School District
- \*Provided water from district's own tanks to property owners within the district boundaries
- \*MUSD provided water from school tanks to families of students with dry wells
- \*County secured a grant to fund and coordinate deliveries of bottled water



# Inland Communities: *Russian River Watershed*

- \* Approximately 600,000 people in three counties depend on the Russian and diverted Eel River water
- \* Diversion of Eel River water through the Potter Valley Project uncertain
- \* Three primary storage reservoirs: Pillsbury, Mendocino and Sonoma
- \* Russian River water sources & rights very complex (agencies, communities, individuals, corporations)
- \* Regulators consider moratoriums, mandated consolidations, protective actions



# Lake Mendocino

**\*Sonoma Water Agency and Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Improvement District established an MOU** to improve the annual supply/demand planning of the reservoir and support communication with the SWRCB

**\*Established first ever Voluntary Water Sharing Agreement**

> As an alternative to curtailments, water rights holders voluntarily reduce their water use and share available water with other participants and junior water rights holders



**State Water Board approves unprecedented  
voluntary water sharing agreement for Russian River**

***First-ever program offers alternative to curtailments during drought***

# ***Redwood Valley County Water District***

\*Population of 3,000; area of 15 square miles

\*Some of the most impacted customers for the longest period of time

\*Ag water: intake in Lake Mendocino; surplus water from RRFC

\*Domestic water: supplied by Millview County Water District through emergency intertie

\*Ag water curtailed from early 2021 - late 2022

\*Domestic customers limited to 55 gallons per person per day

\*Dire position of the RVCWD caused state regulators to initiate investigation of the greater Ukiah Valley water retailers

\*SWRCB Initiated the proposed consolidation of four water districts in the Ukiah Valley and the City of Ukiah water services (largest consolidation considered in CA to date)



- \*SWRCB requires a drought declaration by the Governor and an emergency regulation from the SWB in order to issue curtailments to exercising water right holders Politically charged, legal challenges, lengthy processes
- \*Conducted curtailment and SB 88 compliance inspections of water rights holders
  - > Staff time on reporting errors
  - > Did not address unauthorized diversions of non-water right holders
- \*Executive Orders addressing drought conditions and response vague and challenging for local agencies to understand and achieve compliance

## ***Regulatory Obstacles***



**State Water  
Resources  
Control Board**



# Drought Disaster

## *Lingering Effects*



- \*Still feeling the effects of 2021 drought emergency
- \*March 29, 2023: last curtailments rescinded
- \*Financial hardships a result of reduced revenue during mandatory water use reductions
- \*Increased erosion of extremely dry soils led to high sediment in the streams/rivers
  - > Reduced water quality
  - > Resulted in access issues
  - > Damaged infrastructure
- \*Agricultural stress
- \*Weakened trees vulnerable to storms and disease
- \*Environmental stresses

# **LAFCO:** *How We Fit In*

\*Offered support and partnership

\*2021 Letter reminding agencies of 56133 requirement

\*2021 Participated in Countywide coordination meetings

\*2022 Letter to SWRCB supporting voluntary consolidation of Ukiah Valley water agencies

\*Brought to light the water hauling that occurs between coastal agencies on a regular basis

\*Using water hauling data in development of MSR/SOI studies

\*Prioritized water districts for next round of MSR/SOI studies

# Recovery & Planning

\*Mendocino County Water Agency

\*City of Fort Bragg  
> Surface reservoirs

\*Mendocino City CSD/MUSD  
> Water storage tanks

\*MSR/SOI studies for water service providers

\*Focused effort with SWRCB to consolidate Ukiah Valley water agencies into a single regionalized water system



**It's A Dry Year.**  
**Save Water With Us.**



# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

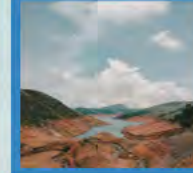
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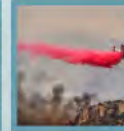
Butte  
LAFCO



Mendocino  
LAFCO



Q&A



Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)



# LAFCO's Role After Multiple Natural Disasters

Local Agency Formation Commission  
of Santa Cruz County




**Countywide Fire Protection Service and Sphere Review:**

Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District	Fellon Fire Protection District
Ben Lomond Fire Protection District	Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District
Boulder Creek Fire Protection District	Santa Cruz City Fire Department
Branchforte Fire Protection District	Scotts Valley Fire Protection District
Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County	Watsonville City Fire Department
County Service Area 4 (Pajaro Dunes) County Fire	Zayante Fire Protection District
County Service Area 48 (County Fire)	<b>Total: 13 Fire Agencies</b>


Adopted Version - October 13, 2021

**Countywide Road CSAs Service and Sphere Review (34 in total)**



Adopted Version (November 7, 2021)

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-D Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Website: [www.santacruzlafco.org](http://www.santacruzlafco.org)  
Phone: (831) 454-2055



**\*CZU Fire (2020) - over 85k acres scorched; 1,500 buildings destroyed**

- > Countywide Fire MSR: analyzed the 13 fire agencies;
- > Resulted in large consolidation (2021), a fire reorganization (2023), and ongoing discussions about shared services opportunities

**\*LAFCO's role focused on service efficiency (now and for the future)**

**\*Flooding (2023) - infrastructure failures; \$27 million in damages**

- > Countywide Road CSA MSR: analyzed 34 road-related CSAs;
- > Resulted in internal improvements, new "Zones of Benefit" maps, better coordination with residents

**\*LAFCO's role focused on transparency and proactive partnerships**

# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

Guest  
Speakers



Santa Cruz  
LAFCO



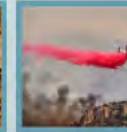
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LAFCO



Mendocino  
LAFCO



Q&A



**Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)**



# Could We or *Should* We?



# ...Are you a Foxhole or *Helicopter LAFCO?*

**Should LAFCO MSR's extend beyond existing population growth, housing, service capabilities and personnel?**

LAFCO has the authority of **cities**, but how might LAFCO be better off **if** **LAFCO** **MSR's** **did** **not** **extend** **beyond** **existing** **population** **growth**, **housing**, **service** **capabilities** **and** **personnel**?

**What Goals & MSR Look At?**

MSR's are designed to...

**Let's Focus On Disaster...Meeting Post Recovery and MSR's**

When to take California MSR's of Disasters...  
Cal OES

**WARNING OF RESOURCES**

MSR's are designed to...

**Program Focus Area?**

MSR's are designed to...

**IS IT???**

THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MSR'S IS TO...

**Preparedness planning costs a few extra dollars to enhance our MSR's that could save communities thousands in recovery!**

**WE PLAN OR WE PAY THE PRICE!**

**MSR's: Do No Harm**

MSR's are designed to...

**Do MSR's Promote / Incentive Planning & Mitigation, Resilience?**

MSR's are designed to...

**Local Resilience**

MSR's are designed to...

# Should LAFCO MSR's extend beyond examining population growth, finances, service capabilities and governance?

LAFCOs have the authority if *desired*, but how might LAFCOs handle it?

**GCS 56430(a)(7):** *'Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.'*

# WHAT COULD A MSR LOOK AT?

## \*Climate Change/Hazards:

- > Drought - Floods - Fires - Earthquakes – Mudslides
- > Extreme Heat - Power Outages

## \*New technologies/infrastructure:

- > Electric vehicles/charging stations – Broadband
- > Community Choice Aggregation - Recycled/Reclaimed water

## \*Regional relationships with COGs, GSAs, AQMDs?

- > Is it time for LAFCOs to exert more regional land use influence?

## \*Ag land protections for marginal lands?

- > It is time to re-define "agriculture" based on suitability/water sustainability?

## \*Housing Shortage/Homelessness?

- > Should LAFCo's say more about housing choices, densities, restrictive codes?



# Let's Focus On Disaster's...Moving Past Recovery and Into **Preparedness!**

**Where to Start:** *California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)*



**Cal OES**

*"We know that our vulnerable communities are disproportionately impacted when a disaster strikes. Prepare California targets funds to areas where they are needed most to improve infrastructure, mitigate disasters and save lives."*

*- Ryan Buras (Deputy Director of Recovery, CalOES)*

# MAPPING OUT RESOURCES

## PHYSICAL RESOURCES - COMMUNICATION TOOLS - SERVICES - FACILITIES



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**MAPPING COMMUNITY  
Strengths and Resources**

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

	Resource	Strength
<b>PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>  Tools, equipment, etc.		
		<b>Opportunities</b>

	Resource	Strength
<b>COMMS TOOLS / CHANNELS</b>  Ways, tools that can be used to communicate key disaster response information		
		<b>Opportunities</b>



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**MAPPING COMMUNITY  
Strengths and Resources**

	Resource	Strength
<b>SERVICES</b>  Direct services to community members		
		<b>Opportunities</b>

	Resource	Strength
<b>FACILITIES</b>  Places that can be utilized for preparedness, response, recovery services		
		<b>Opportunities</b>

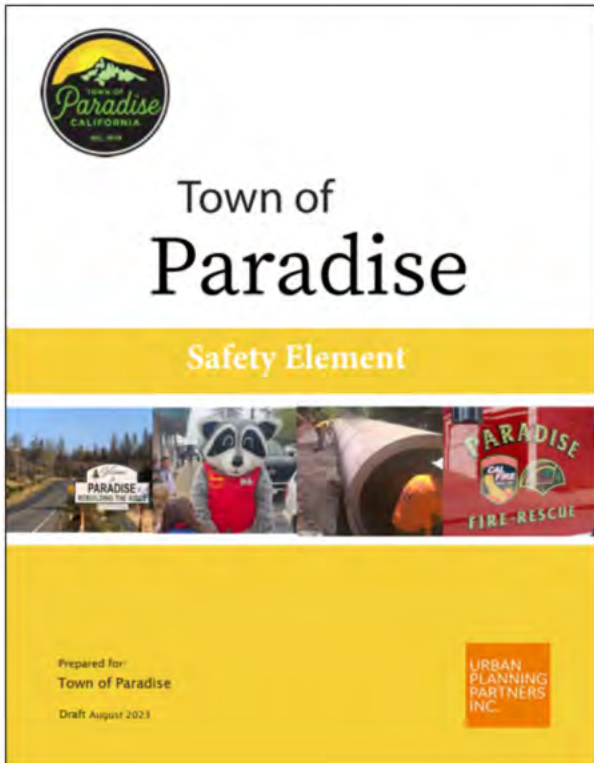
# PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

- \***Local Capacity Building** – Actions that **improve local capacity building** to mitigate and recover from natural disasters.
- \***Whole Community Approach** – Mitigation plans/actions that integrate a whole community risk reduction approach, by linking the full capacity of **private** and **community-based organizations** (CBO) with the participation of **local, tribal, state,** and **federal** government partners.
- \***Protection of Life and Property** – Actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards and their effects such as retrofits of buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or removal of structures from a hazard area.
- \***Public Education and Awareness** – Actions to inform citizens and elected officials about disaster preparedness. hazards.
- \***Nature-Based Solutions to Hazard Risk** – Actions that minimize hazard loss by preserving, mimicking, or restoring the functions of natural systems.



# LOCAL RESOURCES

- \*Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- \*GP Safety Element
- \*CDC Environmental Justice Indicators
- \*Emergency Operations Plan



Overall Environmental Justice Rank	Social Vulnerability	Racial/ Ethnic Minority Status	Minority Status	<b>TEXT-ONLY VERSION</b> Social vulnerability module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial/Ethnic Minority Status                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Minority Status</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Socioeconomic Status                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Poverty</li> <li>▫ No High School Diploma</li> <li>▫ Unemployment</li> <li>▫ Housing Tenure</li> <li>▫ Housing Burdened Lower-Income Households</li> <li>▫ Lack of Health Insurance</li> <li>▫ Lack of Broadband Access</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Household Characteristics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Age 65 and Older</li> <li>▫ Age 17 and Younger</li> <li>▫ Civilian with a Disability</li> <li>▫ Speaks English "Less than Well"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Housing Type                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Group Quarters</li> <li>▫ Mobile Homes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Environmental Burden Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Pollution                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Ozone</li> <li>▫ PM2.5</li> <li>▫ Diesel Particulate Matter</li> <li>▫ Air Toxics Cancer Risk</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potentially Hazardous and Toxic Sites                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ National Priority List Sites</li> <li>▫ Toxic Release Inventory Sites</li> <li>▫ Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Sites</li> <li>▫ Risk Management Plan Sites</li> <li>▫ Coal Mines</li> <li>▫ Lead Mines</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Built Environment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Recreational Parks</li> <li>▫ Houses Built Pre-1980</li> <li>▫ Walkability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Transportation Infrastructure                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ High-Volume Roads</li> <li>▫ Railways</li> <li>▫ Airports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water Pollution                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Impaired Surface Water</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Health Vulnerability Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-existing Chronic Disease Burden                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Asthma*</li> <li>▫ Cancer*</li> <li>▫ High Blood Pressure*</li> <li>▫ Diabetes*</li> <li>▫ Poor Mental Health*</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		Socioeconomic Status	Poverty No High School Diploma Unemployment Housing Tenure Housing Burdened Lower-Income Households Lack of Health Insurance Lack of Broadband Access	
		Household Characteristics	Age 65 and Older Age 17 and Younger Civilian with a Disability Speaks English "Less than Well"	
		Housing Type	Group Quarters Mobile Homes	
	Environmental Burden	Air Pollution	Ozone	
			PM2.5	
			Diesel Particulate Matter Air Toxics Cancer Risk	
		Potentially Hazardous & Toxic Sites	National Priority List Sites Toxic Release Inventory Sites Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Sites Risk Management Plan Sites	
			Coal Mines Lead Mines	
			Recreational Parks Houses Built Pre-1980	
Built Environment	Walkability			
	High-Volume Roads			
Transportation Infrastructure	Railways			
	Airports			
Water Pollution	Impaired Surface Water			
Health Vulnerability	Pre-existing Chronic Disease Burden	Asthma*		
		Cancer*		
		High Blood Pressure*		
		Diabetes*		
		Poor Mental Health*		

# IS HAZARD MITIGATION / DISASTER PLANNING A MUNICIPAL SERVICE?

## MSR QUESTIONS:

Does the agency have specialized plans for specific types of disaster?

Do goals/actions address current problems?

Identify an agency's risk of exposure to disaster events?

Does the agency appropriately plan for a disaster event?  
Are these plans up to date?

Identify agency partners during and after an emergency?

Identify special populations and disadvantaged communities?



# NORMAL IS NO MORE...

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

## Fire Department To Lead Emergency Response To Homelessness

by [ROBERT J. HANSEN](#)

September 6, 2023

The City of Sacramento has established a new “Incident Management Team” (IMT) to ensure that all available resources are being utilized and leveraged in the best manner possible for response to the homelessness crisis.

The Mayor also said the City’s new emergency response to homelessness will be led and directed by the Fire Department. **“Fire will now coordinate the activities of DCR, the Police Department, Code Enforcement, County behavioral health workers, the park rangers and our outside service partners like Hope Cooperative.”**



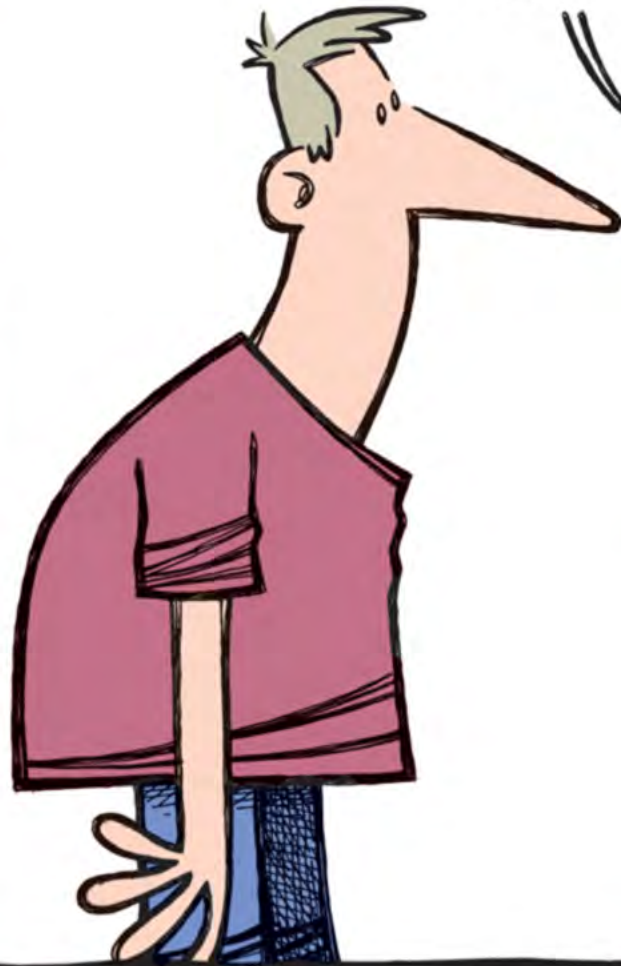
**Preparedness** planning costs a few extra dollars to enhance our MSR's that could save communities thousands in recovery!

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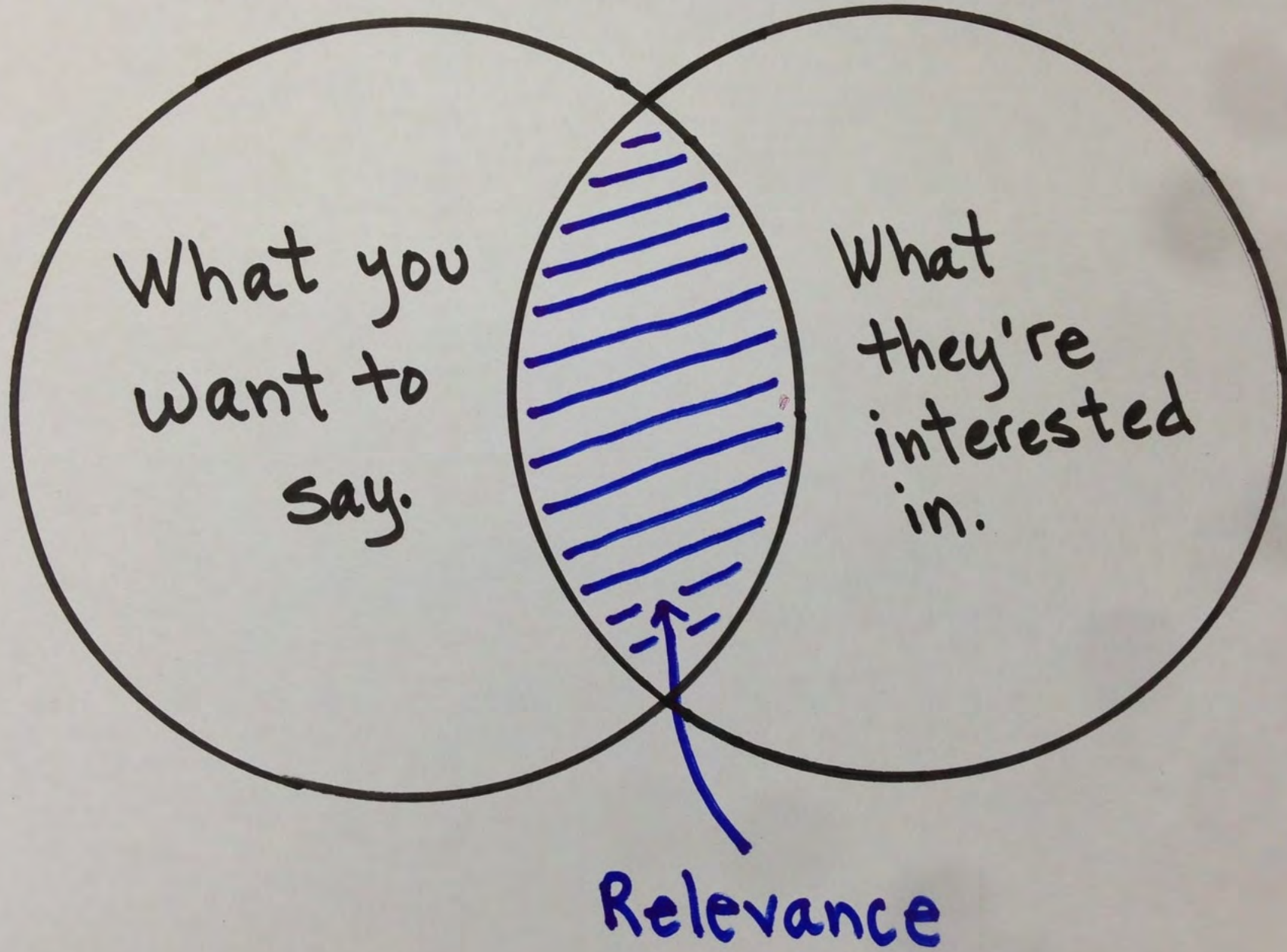


THE GOOD NEWS  
IS THAT WE'RE  
CONSISTENT.

IS IT???



B. Rich  
HEDGEYE



# Disaster Recovery

*It's Everyone's Business*

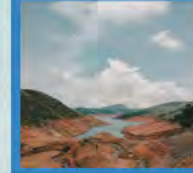
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Mendocino  
LAFCO



Q&A



Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (3:30 to 5:00pm)

# Q&A

## Contact Information

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