

# Notice of Exemption

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
U.S. Mail: Street Address:  
PO Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95812

**From:**

Mendocino County Planning & Building  
860 N Bush Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Contact: Julia Krog  
Phone: 707-234-6650

County Clerk:  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**Fee Exempt per Government Code section 27383**

Project Title: Local Flood Emergency Response Plan and Flood Fight Storage Containers

Project Applicant: County of Mendocino, Executive Office

Project Location - Specific: Unincorporated areas of Mendocino County

Project Location - City: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Mendocino County is an at-risk region that requires additional resources to effectively address and support county-wide efforts around flood planning, resiliency, and response effectively. With only four incorporated cities, the County's 3,800 square miles are primarily rural, and the majority of its ~91,000 residents live in or near the wildland-urban interface—interspersed between various population pools and pockets. Climate change has exacerbated hazards faced in this area in recent years, which include wildfire, drought, extreme heat events, severe winter storms, and associated flooding, poor air quality due to wildfires, agriculture and forestry pests and diseases, dune and bluff erosion, landslides and debris flows, and sea-level rise. Per FEMA's National Risk Index, Mendocino County is in the 95.1 national percentile, has a "very high" social vulnerability, and the highest hazard type risk ratings are wildfire (97.3), drought (99.4), earthquake (98.4), landslide (99.5), and riverine flooding (96.0). In recent years, climate change-related hazards continued to be experienced throughout the County—from the 2017 firestorm through the severe winter storms of 2023. The project enables improved planning and County response capabilities during climate hazards that could impact infrastructure, including possible dam failure or landslides caused by excessive rainfall, flooding, and severe storms. The project addresses the loss of communications capability during climate hazard events, allowing the County of Mendocino to more effectively utilize a vital emergency communications method that has proven exceedingly valuable during previous emergency events. Key project components include: (1) preparation of a local flood emergency plan, (2) development and installation of maps and decision support tools for the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), (3) additional emergency communications equipment for the EOC, and (4) installation of four flood flight shipping containers to be placed strategically throughout the County.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

**Exempt Status: (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21070(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15303(e) (new construction)
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: 15268 (ministerial projects) and 15269(c) (emergency projects)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project involves the preparation of a local flood emergency plan, maps, decision tools as well as improved emergency communications equipment and the installation of four flood flight shipping containers. The project is both categorically and statutorily exempt under CEQA Guidelines sections

15303(e), 15268, and 15269(c). CEQA Guidelines section 15303(e) includes new construction of accessory structures such as the four flood flight shipping containers. CEQA Guidelines section 15268 covers ministerial projects including building permits related to the four flood flight shipping containers. CEQA Guidelines section 15269(c) involves actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency such as the preparation of a local flood emergency plan, maps, decision tools and improved communications equipment for the County's Emergency Operations Center.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Julia Krog Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-234-6650

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: Julia Krog Date: April 25, 2024 Title: Director, Planning & Building

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_