

PROCLAMATION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE DEVELOPING 2026-2027 EL NINO EVENT AND WINTER STORM SEASON

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and Mendocino County Code section 7.04.050 empowers the Mendocino County Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said county is affected, or likely to be affected, by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in the past several years, California has experienced increasingly severe and destructive storms, including atmospheric river events that have caused widespread flooding, mud and debris flows, landslides, high winds, power outages, road and highway closures, evacuation orders, damage to homes and critical infrastructure, and disruption of essential services; and

WHEREAS, climate change is intensifying these weather and hydrologic extremes in California, contributing to increasingly severe swings between drought and flooding, and heightening the risks that extreme storms pose to communities, infrastructure, natural resources, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, California is entering the 2026–2027 wet season amid the ongoing development of a strong and likely historic El Niño event in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2026, based on the foregoing and under the provisions of Government Code 8558(b), Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency related to the anticipated impacts of the 2026-2027 El Niño season and directed State agencies to take early actions to protect vulnerable communities, critical infrastructure, and emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the potential impacts of the 2026–2027 El Niño and winter storm season may exceed the County's normal day-to-day operational capabilities and may require extraordinary preparedness measures, expedited procurement, additional personnel and contractual resources, and enhanced coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, regional agencies, the State of California, federal agencies, utility providers, transportation agencies, and other public and private partners; and

WHEREAS, the ability to rapidly procure equipment, supplies, materials, services, and other resources; enter into agreements and contracts; mobilize personnel; and coordinate with other governmental and private entities is necessary to ensure the County is adequately prepared to respond to the potential impacts of the 2026–2027 El Niño and winter storm season; and

WHEREAS, proactive mitigation measures to reduce the potential impacts of flooding, storm-related damage, debris flows, landslides, and other hazards associated with

severe winter weather are necessary to protect life and property, preserve critical infrastructure and essential services, and enhance the County's resilience to the potential impacts of the 2026–2027 El Niño and winter storm season; and

WHEREAS, immediate and proactive preparedness actions are necessary to reduce the potential impacts of severe weather, protect life and property, preserve critical infrastructure and essential services, and enhance the County's ability to respond effectively to emergency conditions; and

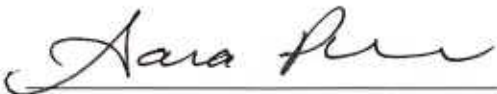
WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Director of Emergency Services hereby proclaims that a local emergency exists throughout Mendocino County due to the developing 2026-2027 El Niño Event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Director of Emergency Services proclaims that:

1. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Mendocino County due to the developing 2026-2027 El Niño event and winter storm season.
2. As a consequence of said conditions and pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and Mendocino County Code section 7.04.050, a local emergency now exists throughout Mendocino County due to the developing 2026-2027 El Niño event and winter storm season.
3. During this local emergency the powers, functions and duties of the Mendocino County Director of Emergency Services and the emergency organization of Mendocino County shall be those prescribed by State law, and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved emergency services plans of the County of Mendocino.
4. This proclamation shall be submitted to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting a Director's Concurrence as well as making California Disaster Assistance Act and all applicable state funding and resources available to the County and seek all available forms of disaster assistance and relief programs, including a request for a Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster.

WHEREUPON, the Director of Emergency Services declared said Proclamation adopted and SO ORDERED.

9/29/26
Date


Sara Pierce, Interim CEO
Director of Emergency Services
County of Mendocino