

**SECTION 1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Santa Rosa County Local Mitigation Strategy

In this updated 2021 - 2026 mitigation strategy the residents of Santa Rosa County have considered seriously the risks posed by natural disaster and their vulnerability to those risks. After reviewing risks and vulnerabilities, the community has agreed upon mitigation goals, objectives and measures intended to reduce, or in some cases, eliminate future losses due to these risks.

Risks that have been analyzed in this iteration of the local mitigation strategy include:

- Flooding (Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, and Thunderstorms)
- Severe Storms and Lightning (Including Hurricane Winds)
- Tornadoes and Waterspouts
- Wildfire
- Heat Waves and Droughts
- Winter Storms and Freezes
- Erosion (Inland and Coastal)
- Tsunamis/Rogue Waves

This local mitigation strategy seeks to accomplish the following:

- Identify and describe hazards to which Santa Rosa County is vulnerable;
- Identify and assess the facilities, structures and other assets within Santa Rosa County that are most vulnerable to particular hazards;
- Set goals and objectives as a strategy to mitigate property against future losses; and
- Based upon these goals and objectives, identify and prioritize mitigation projects that will take advantage of available funding and reduce future losses.

PURPOSE

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that if States and local governments do not have approved multi-hazard mitigation plans in place and a disaster occurs, they will not be entitled to public assistance and other federal disaster funding. In addition, local jurisdictions are required to review and revise their plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit the plan for approval every 5 years in order to remain eligible for the mitigation project grant funding.

The Santa Rosa County Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force is comprised of local government agencies, businesses, and residents. The most recent plan was dated 2016-2021, and the Task Force has met each year to discuss mitigation progress and to submit the required annual LMS report to the State. The purpose of the local mitigation strategy (LMS) is to identify and assess the natural and technological risks which may face the County and its municipalities and develop local strategies to reduce the impact of potential future disasters.

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PLAN ORGANIZATION

This Plan is divided into five main sections to address the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for a local mitigation plan, plus appendices.

The plan is completed as follows:

- Section 1 – Executive Summary
- Section 2 – Planning Process
- Section 3 – Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Section 4 – Mitigation Strategy, Goals and Objectives
- Section 5 – Plan Maintenance

Appendices

- Appendix A: Adoption Resolutions
- Appendix B: LMS Task Force Bylaws
- Appendix C: Steering and Working Committee Meeting Agendas
- Appendix D: Steering and Working Committee Minutes
- Appendix E: Steering and Working Committee Notices
- Appendix F: Flood Mitigation Plan – Annual Evaluation Report & Plan for Public Information
- Appendix G: Critical Facilities List