



## Countywide Flood Risk Management Assessment

### The motivation

Sonoma County incurs the most recurrent flood damages of any county in the 11 western states. More than 99 percent of flood damages in Sonoma County have been attributed to atmospheric river events (Corringham, Thomas W. *et al.*, "Atmospheric Rivers Drive Flood Damages in the Western United States," *Science Advances* 5 (12), December 4, 2019, pg. 2). Climate forecasts agree that flooding will become more extreme in Sonoma County in the future with increased atmospheric river activity, including more frequent, and longer duration, and higher intensity storms. Currently, flood risk management (FRM) is highly disaggregated in the County, spread across multiple agencies and levels of government, meaning there is little coordination or comprehensive planning for countywide flood-risk management among these organizations.



### The effort and expected outcomes

**This effort seeks to identify gaps in flood risk management services across Sonoma County in order pursue a more comprehensive and integrated countywide flood management and adaptation strategy.** The study will convene agencies with FRM responsibilities (operational, planning, analysis, emergency response) to have an interactive discussion about the status quo of how FRM services are delivered to the public. Through this collaborative process the group will establish a shared understanding of flood risk management needs, challenges, and opportunities. Partners will identify potential overlaps and gaps in services, discuss the opportunities presented by new forecasting tools and technology, and consider ways to align resources and collaborate. The effort includes a desktop analysis of existing resources, a partner kick-off meeting, surveys, interviews, and an in-person workshop for partner agencies.

Key outcomes of this assessment include: 1) Clarifying flood management responsibilities and opportunities, 2) Improving interagency and inter-jurisdiction coordination, 3) Improving positioning for state and federal funding, 4) Reducing risk to life safety and property via enhanced organizational effectiveness, 5) Enhancing environmental protection. **A final recommendations report will summarize potential strategies to improve countywide flood risk management service provision and to inform continued collaboration and funding.**

### Funding

The project is funded by the County of Sonoma's Climate Resiliency Fund. Funding is also leveraged by Sonoma Water and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) labor hours funded by the Water Security Fund. Project goals are aligned with the County's Strategic Plan and the Sonoma Water Climate Adaptation Plan.

### Participating Parties

**Effort led by:** Sonoma Water, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management (with support from *HDR, Inc* as consultants)

**Key Partners:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure, Sonoma County Climate Action and Resiliency Division, Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Windsor, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, Sonoma RCD, Gold Ridge RCD, West County Community Services, Russian River Alliance, Cafecitos, Catholic Charities, Nuestra Comunidad, Laguna Foundation