

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Sea Level Rise Roadway Impact Study

Protecting Our Coastal Roads

Rising seas and changing weather are already affecting Mendocino County's coastline — including the roads we rely on every day. Sea level rise may cause more frequent and long-term flooding of low-lying roads, as well as increased coastal erosion from stronger storms, especially along areas already prone to flooding or erosion.

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is leading the Sea Level Rise (SLR) Roadway Impact Study to understand how flooding, erosion, sea level rise, and other climate impacts affect county- and city-managed roads. The goal is to protect coastal communities by keeping transportation safe and reliable now and into the future.

This study is being funded through a Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning grant. It focuses only on local public roads and does not include private roads nor state highways. While the scope is limited, the results will help guide future planning and funding for the areas most at risk from sea level rise.



JOIN US AT COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

We want to hear from you! MCOG is hosting two in-person and one virtual community workshops to provide an overview of this study and gather feedback from the community on which locations should be prioritized for further study. There will be a formal presentation followed by time for questions and answers, and an activity to collect your feedback.

- Wednesday, March 25, 5:30–7:00 p.m., Point Arena City Hall, 451 School Street
- Thursday, March 26, 5:30–7:00 p.m., Fort Bragg Town Hall, 363 Main Street N.
- Tuesday, March 31, 5:30–7:00 p.m., Zoom link: www.tinyurl.com/MCOGRoadway or dial-in at 1-669-900-9128 and enter webinar ID: 823 2266 8517#

Should you need Spanish interpretation, please email info@mendocinoSLRstudy.org by Friday, March 13 so that we can ensure that is available on the date you plan to attend.

PROJECT GOALS & APPROACH

The project team has identified 14 potentially at-risk road segments. Since November 2025, MCOG has collected community feedback using an online survey. Over the next few months, MCOG, supported by a team of engineers and scientists, will narrow this list down to five priority road segments for further analysis based on vulnerability, feasibility, community impact, and feedback from surveys and upcoming workshops. While we understand that there are likely more than five areas at risk to sea level rise impacts, the scope of this project is limited to an in-depth analysis of only five priority roadway segments.

At each priority road segment, planners and engineers will explore and evaluate ways to modify or protect road segments to reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion risks due to sea level rise risks, such as raising or rerouting roads, improving drainage, or reinforcing shorelines.

Potential solutions for each road segment will be evaluated for level of protection, convenience/service to road users, construction complexity, and cost.

A Draft Feasibility Report will summarize the findings and recommend protective solution for each priority roadway segment. The report will be open for public review at an MCOG Board meeting. While no construction or design work will occur during this study, the report will help local agencies seek future funding for implementation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions or more information, please visit our project website at www.mendocinoSLRstudy.org or contact info@mendocinoSLRstudy.org. You can also contact Dr. Laura Garza at (707) 463-4495 with questions. We encourage you to reach out with any inquiries or questions about the project.



Figure 1 – Map of potential sites.