



UNDERSTANDING THE FEMA PROCESS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

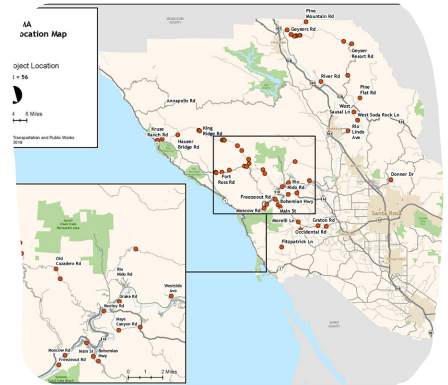


STAGE 1: FEDERAL DECLARATION

Sonoma County does not have funds for damages resulting from disasters and relies on state and federal support, which requires compliance with certain regulations. Once a federal disaster declaration is made, the County meets with FEMA and Cal OES to determine scope of damage, address application procedures, requirements for eligibility and documentation, project planning, and funding options. This stage typically takes six months to one year.

STAGE 2: SITE VISITS

Once a list of projects is identified, site visits are coordinated with all agencies for agreement on number of locations, extent of damage, work completed, issues related to hazard mitigation, historic preservation, environmental regulations, and project costs. The time schedule for this stage varies and is set by our funding partners; it is not under the County's control.



STAGE 3: DESIGN & ENGINEERING

After project sites and scope are approved, design and engineering of permanent repairs can move forward. Due to the complexity of damage and repairs following natural disasters, including obtaining environmental permits, purchase of additional right-of-way, and challenging site conditions requiring advanced construction techniques, this stage typically takes one to three years.

STAGE 4: PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

The Department of Transportation and Public Works performs permanent infrastructure repairs across multiple sites, including bridge and road repairs, clearing of landslides and stabilizing roads, removing hazard trees, fixing drainage and replacing culverts, guardrails, road signs, and other critical safety infrastructure. This stage typically takes three to five years.

