



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

860 NORTH BUSH STREET • UKIAH • CALIFORNIA • 95482

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY INTEGRATED WILDLIFE DAMAGE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIR)**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR (SCH #2018082076)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Mendocino, as Lead Agency, has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Program Project.

PUBLIC REVIEW TIMELINE: The public review timeline will occur for 60 days, beginning on June 13, 2019 and ending at **5:00 PM on August 12, 2019**. The County must receive all written comments within this time period. Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Ignacio "Nash" Gonzalez, AICP, Recovery Director (former Interim Planning Director), at the following:

County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482

Email: gonzalezn@mendocinocounty.org
Fax: 707-463-5649

PROJECT LOCATION: The IWDM Program addresses the entirety of Mendocino County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is approval of the IWDM Program to protect agricultural and livestock commodities, human health and safety, natural resources, and property from wildlife damage. The IWDM Program would include the approval of Mendocino County's five-year Cooperative Services Agreement (CSA), including annual work plans (work and financial plans) required by the five-year CSA, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services California Office (WS-CA) for wildlife damage management assistance in the County. While the CSA would fund an initial five-year term during which WS-CA would implement the IWDM Program in the County, the IWDM Program being analyzed in the EIR is not limited to five-years. Rather, the proposed project would adopt and establish the IWDM Program for ongoing implementation in the County. Any future discretionary actions by the County necessary to implement the Program would need to be evaluated for consistency with the IWDM Program and conformance with the EIR.

The Draft EIR also evaluated a Non-Lethal Program Alternative at an equal-level to the proposed project. The Non-Lethal Program Alternative would not use or recommend lethal methods to attempt to resolve wildlife damage. It is assumed for the Non-Lethal Alternative that Mendocino County would contract with an outside governmental or non-governmental agency to provide personnel who would give technical information and operational assistance on non-lethal management methods to livestock managers. Similarly, the Draft EIR included an equal-level analysis of a variation to the Non-Lethal Program Alternative, wherein lethal wildlife damage management would be used exclusively for the protection of human health and safety, and the only method of euthanasia allowed would be lethal gunshot.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The IWDM Program would be applicable throughout the entire County, but would primarily occur on lands used for agricultural purposes, and would not be anticipated to involve substantial activity on any sites which are included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

SIGNIFICANT ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the IWDM Program and two equal-weight alternatives under two environmental baselines: the CEQA Baseline and the No Program Baseline. The Draft EIR did not identify any significant environmental impacts of the project under the CEQA Baseline, and, consequently, mitigation measures were not required. Where environmental effects are identified under the No Program Baseline, the Draft EIR recommends improvement measures to reduce impacts. With the implementation of the improvement measures proposed, the IWDM Program would result in significant and unavoidable environmental effects with respect to two CEQA topics: Biological Resources and Noise.

As noted above, two equal-weight alternatives were analyzed under both the CEQA Baseline and the No Program Baseline: the Non-Lethal Program Alternative and the variation to the Non-Lethal Program Alternative. Where environmental impacts are identified under the CEQA Baseline, the Draft EIR recommends mitigation measures to reduce such impacts. Similarly, where environmental effects are identified under the No Program Baseline, the Draft EIR recommends improvement measures to reduce such effects. The only significant and unavoidable effects identified in the Draft EIR for the alternatives are related to noise issues (under both the CEQA Baseline and No Program Baseline).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the County of Mendocino, Department of Planning and Building Services, 860 North Bush Street, Ukiah, California, except on specified holidays. In addition, the Draft EIR will be available for review at the following Mendocino County Library locations, during their respective hours of operation (please visit www.mendolibrary.org for hours of operation):

- Fort Bragg Library, 499 E. Laurel Street, Fort Bragg, California
- Ukiah Library, 105 N. Main Street, Ukiah, California
- Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California

The Draft EIR is also available online at <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/public-notice>.

DRAFT EIR COMMENT MEETING: The County will conduct a public meeting to solicit input and comments from public agencies and the general public on the Draft EIR for the IWDM Program Project. The meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2019, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. **This meeting will be held at the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, California, 95482.**

There will be no transcription of oral comments at these meetings. Comments received will be summarized by staff for inclusion in the Final EIR. Those who wish to have their verbatim comments incorporated in the Final EIR must submit their comments in writing.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about this project, please contact Ignacio Gonzalez, County of Mendocino, at gonzalezni@mendocinocounty.org.