

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.



Pictures of potential sites that are impacted by erosion and flooding.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We want to hear from you! Help us identify the roads that, in your experience, are most affected by flooding, erosion and sea level rise. Take our community survey to share your experiences with climate impacts and suggest roads that should be studied. All input helps guide the project, even if not every road is further studied. Scan the QR code or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCOG-SLR to take the survey so you can be part of building a more resilient Mendocino Coast.



PROJECT GOALS & APPROACH

Since the project began in May 2025, the project team has identified 14 potentially at-risk road segments. Over the next few months, MCOG, supported by a team of engineers and scientists, will narrow this list down to five priority road segments based on vulnerability, feasibility, and community impact. While we understand that there are likely more than five areas that are 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 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 shared for public review at an MCOG Board meeting. While no construction or design work will occur during this study, the report will help MCOG seek future funding for implementation.

NEXT STEPS

We encourage you to complete the survey (see link/QR code on the first page) by February 2026 so we can better understand how climate impacts are affecting the roads you use every day. We will also hold two in-person workshops and one virtual workshop in spring 2026 to provide more details and gather input to help us confirm the five final roadway segments selected for further analysis. Once scheduled, details on the workshops will be available on the project website and on MCOG's website at www.mendocinocog.org. 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.



Figure 1 – Map of potential sites.