



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES**

860 NORTH BUSH STREET · UKIAH · CALIFORNIA · 95482  
120 WEST FIR STREET · FT. BRAGG · CALIFORNIA · 95437

Ignacio Gonzalez, Interim Director  
Telephone: 707-234-6650  
FAX: 707-463-5709  
Ft. Bragg Phone 707-964-5379  
Ft. Bragg Fax 707-961-2427  
pbs@mendocinocounty.org  
www.mendocinocounty.org/pbs

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 5, 2018  
TO: RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY THE OCTOBER 2017 WILDFIRES  
FROM: MIKE OLIPHANT CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL  
SUBJECT: REPLACING STRUCTURES WITHIN THE BURN AREA

To whom it may concern:

Residents who have lost structures due to the fire within Mendocino County should be aware that after the Army Corps of Engineers has cleaned and cleared their properties, a Building/Grading permit is required to replace any type of fill-material within the excavated area of the previous structure.

Additionally, when a new proposed replacement structure is being placed within the previous foundation footprint area, or where the soil has been excavated or disturbed during the foundation/debris removal process, a letter of approval with the compaction test report from a design professional such as: a Civil, Structural, or Geotechnical Engineer addressing soil compaction and verifying a minimum soil bearing capacity of 1500 lbs. per sq. ft. will be required at the time of application/plan submittal for the new structure.

The Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), (707) 463-4363, has a process to request slide dirt and shale from roadside cleanup. Typically, MCDOT hauls to properties closest to the slides to minimize cost to the County. MCDOT would waive the distance requirement in this case for fire victims; however, all other standard program provisions apply. MCDOT would work with grading professionals selected by the fire survivor who is the property owner to review the soils before transport.

If you have other questions about the Re-building Process, Planning & Building Services will be providing a "Rebuilding 101" Educational Opportunity at the County's next Community Meeting on January 17, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at Eagle Peak Middle School in Redwood Valley. The purpose of this educational forum is to provide those affected by the fire with an understanding of the permit process as well as the requirements for plan submittals. Please contact staff at 707-234-6650 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Enclosure: Preliminary Lien Notices – no direct costs should be incurred by property owners for debris removal provided by US Army Corps of Engineers contractors and sub-contractors.



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## *NEWS RELEASE*

CONTACT: (707) 463-4441

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Ukiah, California: December 29, 2017**

### ***Debris Cleanup Notices and Liens***

It has come to the attention of the County of Mendocino that numerous fire survivors received a California Preliminary Notice from subcontractors working on debris cleanup in the affected area. Fire survivors **SHOULD NOT PAY** any contractor directly as the result of this notice, nor any future notice or bill related to debris removal they may receive.

This type of notice is typically filed pursuant to Civil Code Sections 8200 and 9300 to preserve a contractor's right to file what is commonly referred to as a "mechanic's lien", which is filed against a property by an unpaid contractor, subcontractor, laborer, or material supplier. This notice is NOT a lien or a bill, and there is no reason to anticipate any liens will be filed on affected properties that are being cleaned up by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Consolidated Debris Removal Program.

Contracts through USACE for debris removal are backed by the State and Federal government, and USACE is solely responsible for direct payment to the contractor. No payments should be made to individual contractors by the property owner. The Consolidated Debris Removal Program is being provided at no direct charge to property owners (property owners are only responsible for the portion of funding allocated for debris removal in their existing homeowners insurance policy). For any insurance related payment, property owners will work directly with Mendocino County.

If any fire survivor participating in USACE's Consolidated Debris Removal Program receives further notifications of this nature, or any other correspondence from a contractor that requests money or indicates that the property owner has unpaid bills in relation to cleanup, **DO NOT PAY THEM**, please contact the Mendocino County Fire Recovery Team in the Executive Office at 707-463-4441 or [ceo@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:ceo@mendocinocounty.org).