



**20
26**

Together Forward

Community Emergency Preparedness

March 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM *North Fair Oaks Community Council Study Session*

Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar, Director SMC Emergency Management





Tonight's Agenda

01

Introduction to Emergency Management

What we do and why it matters

02

Community Assessment Key Findings

What 2,847 residents told us

03

Unincorporated Areas & Emergency Management

How EM works in North Fair Oaks

04

How You Can Prepare Today

Actions you can take right now



What Is Emergency Management?

Helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters



Preparedness

Planning and training for emergencies



Response

Coordinating resources when disasters strike



Recovery

Helping communities rebuild and restore



Mitigation

Reducing risk before disasters happen



Standardized Emergency Management System: Cities

(SEMS)



Standardized Emergency Management System: North Fair Oaks

(SEMS)



What This Means for North Fair Oaks

As an unincorporated community, North Fair Oaks has a direct relationship with County departments



Your Voice Matters

The Community Council advises the Board of Supervisors on public safety, health, and community well-being.



Direct County Support

County departments provide services that cities handle independently, including emergency planning.



Our 2025 Community Assessment

Understanding household preparedness, evacuation needs, and barriers to safety

2,847

RESPONDENTS

July through December 2025



20 cities, towns, and unincorporated areas



Available in English, Spanish, and Chinese



Online survey with extensive community outreach

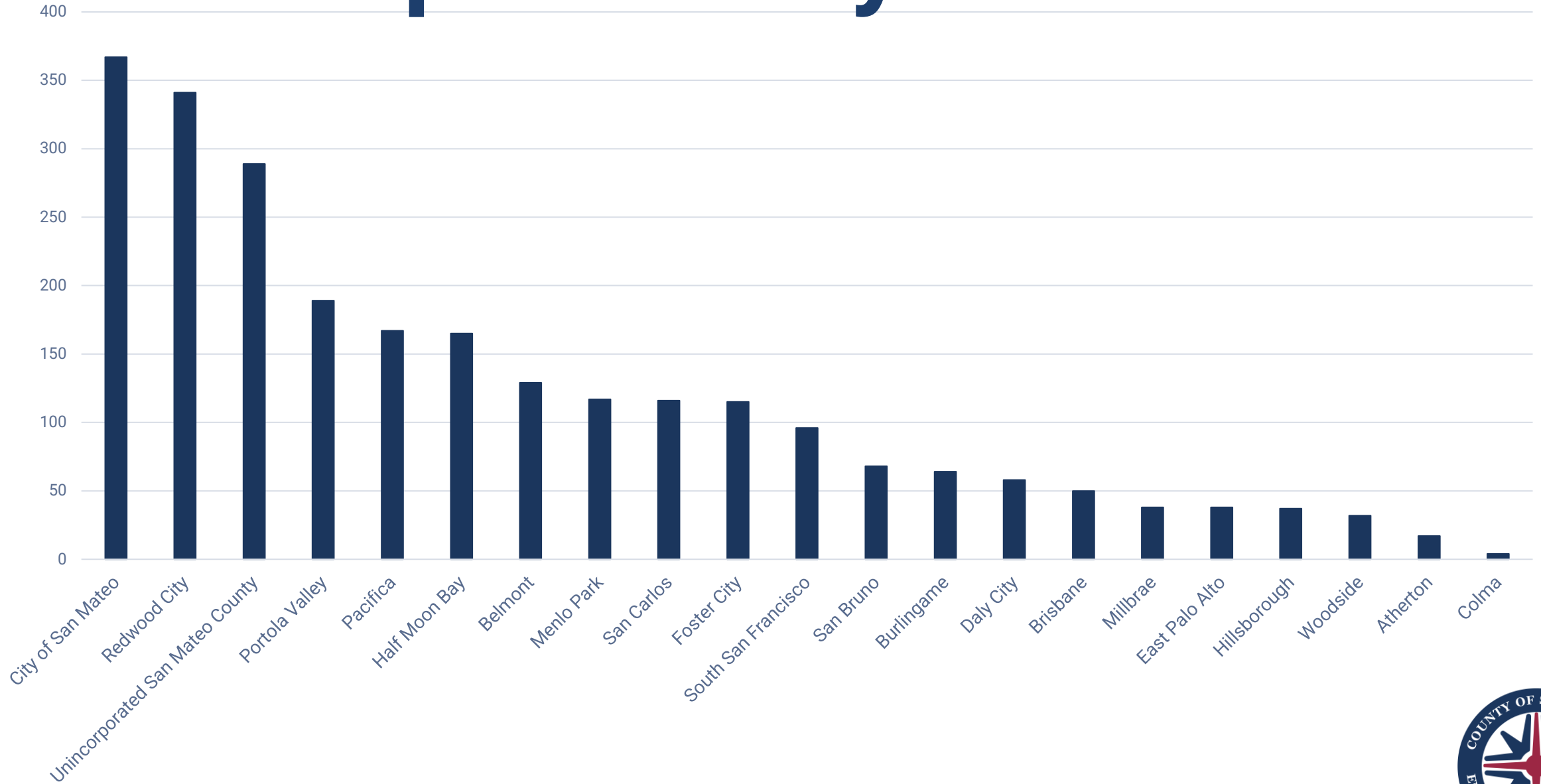


Equity-informed design prioritizing underserved populations

Funded through Measure K investments in emergency planning and community engagement



Respondents by Location



How Prepared Were Respondents?

Doing Well

- ✓ 66% signed up for alerts and warnings
- ✓ 58% assembled or updated supplies
- ✓ 53% took steps to make homes safer
- ✓ SMC Alerts are widely trusted
- ✓ Batteries and first aid kits common

Need Work

- ⚠ Communication plans uncommon
- ⚠ Few designated meeting places
- ⚠ Emergency drills rarely practiced
- ⚠ Multi-day water/food supply gaps
- ⚠ Neighborhood planning is rare



Top Concerns Among Residents

01

62%

Earthquakes

Consistent concern across the entire county

02

53%

Wildfires

Highest in coastal and hillside communities

03

51%

Power Outages

Top concern in East Palo Alto, San Bruno, Half Moon Bay

Wildfires had the highest number of "extremely concerned" respondents; earthquakes were the broadest concern overall.



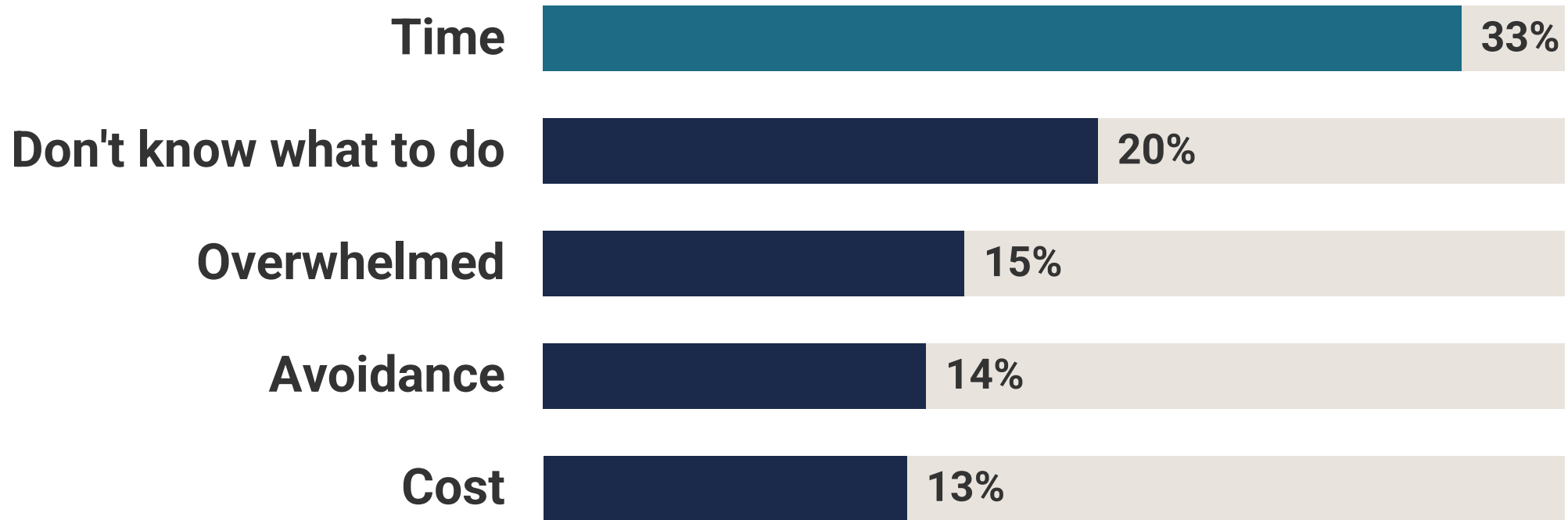
We Want to Hear North Fair Oaks' Top Concerns



- Which natural hazards have you experienced in your community in North Fair Oaks?
- Which natural hazards pose the greatest risks to your community in North Fair Oaks?
- What mitigation ideas should be a top priority for North Fair Oaks communities?



Barriers to Preparedness



Key Insight: Spanish-speaking respondents were nearly twice as likely to cite lack of information (37%) and cost (19%) as barriers. Language access is critical.



What Would Help People Prepare?

 **61%**

Evacuation routes and
shelter information

 **46%**

Emergency contact
information

 **45%**

Preparedness education
materials

 **45%**

SMC Disaster
Application

 **43%**

Emergency preparedness
workshops

 **~25%**

Financial assistance
for supplies



How You Can Prepare Today

01

Sign Up for SMC Alert

smcalert.info Receive emergency notifications in your preferred language.

02

Build a Go-Bag

Water, food, medications, copies of documents, phone charger. Enough for 3 days.

03

Make a Family Plan

Designate a meeting place. Know your evacuation routes. Share plans with family.

04

Know Your Neighbors

Community connections save lives. Check in on those who may need extra help.



IN COOPERATION
WITH CAL FIRE



Thank you

Your engagement tonight strengthens emergency preparedness for all of North Fair Oaks.



SMC Alert
smcalert.info



Web
smcgov.org/dem

