



**Lower Eel River Estuary  
Sea Level Rise  
Vulnerability Assessment**

**Community Meeting #1 Summary  
March 2, 2026 | Loleta Fireman's Pavilion**

## **Overview**

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District hosted the first community meeting for the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment on March 2, 2026 to share project information and gather early input from community members. This meeting marks the beginning of the community engagement process and will help guide ongoing data collection, analysis, and future planning efforts. 15 landowners were in attendance and outreach efforts on a one-on-one basis are continually available.

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **1:00 – 1:10 PM | Welcome and Meeting Overview**

- Introductions and acknowledgments
- Purpose of the meeting
- Review of agenda and format

### **1:10 – 1:40 PM | Project Overview Presentation**

- Study area and project context
- Historical and current conditions
- Flooding, groundwater, and sea level rise considerations
- Project goals, scope, and anticipated outcomes
- Project timeline and key milestones
- Opportunities for community input and involvement
- Next steps

### **1:40 – 2:00 PM | Community Discussion and Mapping Activity**

- Mapping of flooding experiences (location, timing, impacts)
- Identification of areas of concern, including roads and infrastructure
- Discussion of community values and priorities
- General questions and feedback

## Meeting Summary

The meeting began with a welcome and overview of the project, followed by a presentation covering study area conditions, flooding and sea level rise considerations, and the project's goals and timeline.

Following the presentation, participants engaged in an open discussion and mapping activity. Attendees were invited to share their experiences with flooding, identify areas of concern, and discuss local priorities related to land use, infrastructure, and long-term conditions in the estuary.

The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce the project and begin gathering community input that will support ongoing analysis and planning.

## What We Heard

Community members shared input on local conditions and concerns, including:

- Flooding impacts to agricultural lands and access routes
- Drainage, groundwater, and levee performance
- Areas of recurring or anticipated flooding
- The importance of maintaining working lands alongside restoration efforts

Input was collected in a generalized format to respect privacy and will be used to inform ongoing analysis.

## Next Steps

This meeting is one step in an ongoing process to better understand risks and identify potential responses.

Upcoming and ongoing opportunities for involvement include:

- Landowner conversations and site visits
- Online survey participation
- Additional outreach and engagement
- A future community meeting to review draft findings
- 

Information gathered will be incorporated into the Community Visioning Report and used alongside technical analysis to support future planning and funding opportunities.

## Stay Involved

If you were unable to attend or would like to share input, we welcome your participation. Please reach out to HCRC's Watershed Restoration staff or email [eelsealevelrise@googlegroups.com](mailto:eelsealevelrise@googlegroups.com).