

# Measure O

## Roads, Disaster Preparedness, 9-1-1 Response Times & Needs

Summer/Fall 2024





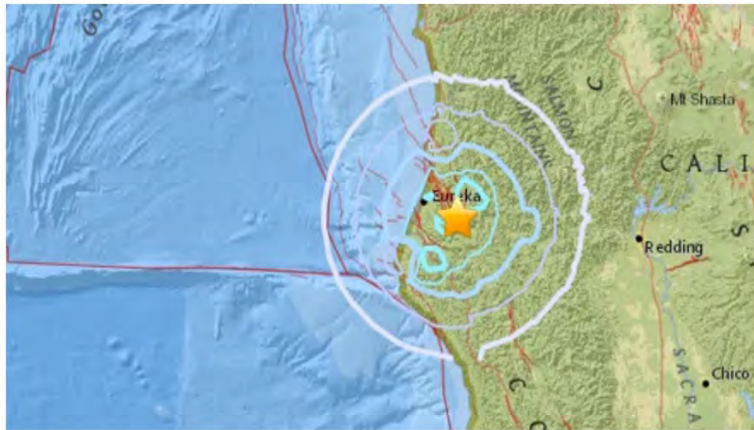
## What's the Issue?

- Over the past three decades, Sacramento has taken over \$500 million in revenue from Humboldt County's budget.
- Each and every year, the combination of unfunded mandates and state takeaways is costing us more than \$25 million.
- With the State's current budget deficit, more takeaways are on the way.
- As we explore our budget, it becomes clear that we need additional, guaranteed sources of local funding just for Humboldt County, that cannot be taken by Sacramento.



## Civil Grand Jury Report

'Not Adequately Prepared': Civil Grand Jury Says Humboldt County Must Improve Its Disaster Planning



The report notes that communities in our region are especially susceptible to such catastrophes given the extreme weather fluctuations, wildfire risk, tectonic activity and steep, erosive topography.



## Disaster Preparedness

Natural disasters have become a fact of everyday life, and Humboldt County needs to be better prepared.



## Disaster Preparedness Needs



We need to harden, repair, and upgrade our roads, and public infrastructure, so that we can ensure that in the case of an earthquake, fire, snow, or flooding, residents can stay safe and evacuate quickly.



## Late Federal and State Reimbursements harm Normal Maintenance

Average 3 years to get approvals

Typically 6-10 years to get  
reimbursement

**-\$10 million** - amount of road  
maintenance funds waiting  
on reimbursement by  
Federal/State, going back 7+ years

Late,  
unpredictable  
and not  
guaranteed





Shelter Cove Rd (2017) Before



Shelter Cove Rd After

# HumboldtCounty California's Redwood Coast



Lighthouse Road (2019) Before

# Humboldt County California's Redwood Coast



Lighthouse Road After



Ishi Pishi Rd Before

# Humboldt County California's Redwood Coast



Ishi Pishi Rd After



## Impact of roads conditions on 9-1-1 Response Times



**'We need gas and food': Rains obliterate Redwood Valley roads, trapping residents**



## SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT

### Slide on Alderpoint Road alters route for firefighters

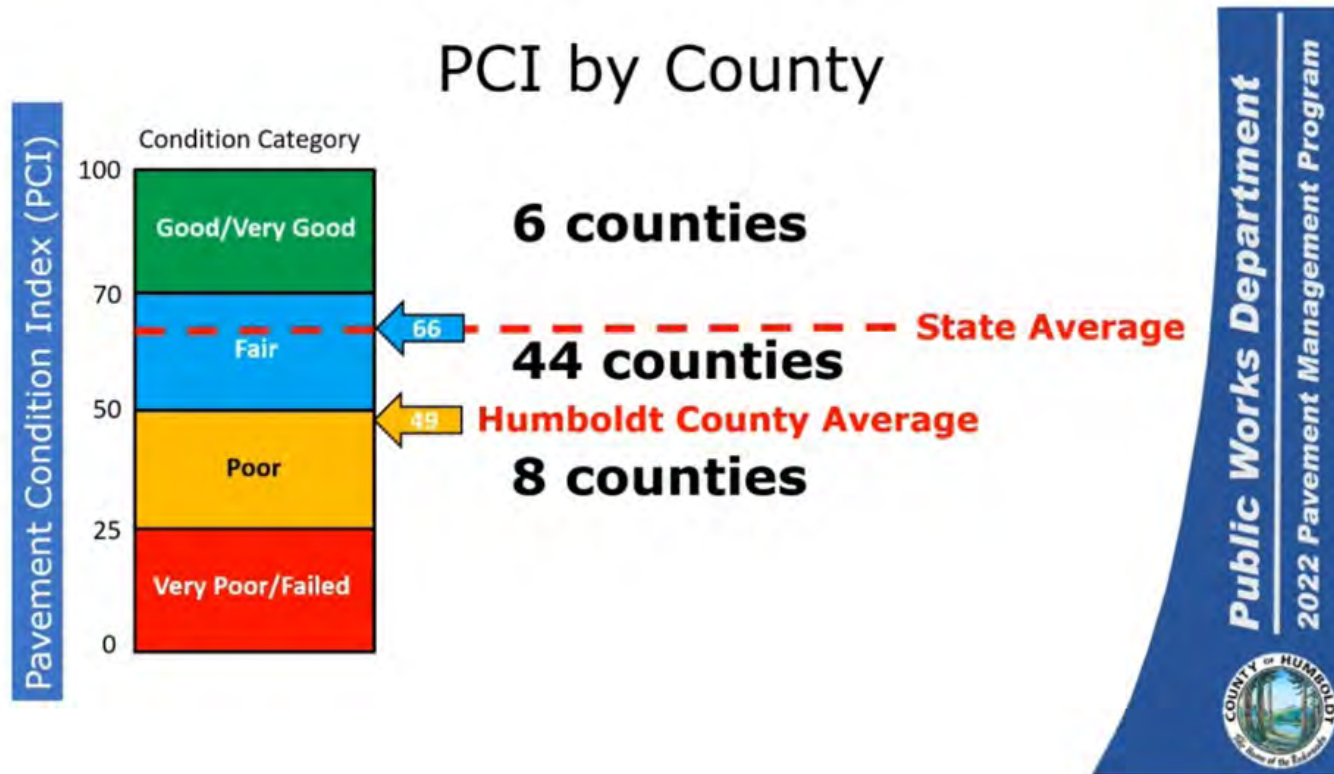
“... we had to find a way around by going Dyerville Loop Road.”

Cal FIRE estimated **the detour took roughly 30 more minutes** to get out on scene.

*Friday, Aug. 9 Cal FIRE responding to the Hogtrap Road fire Southeast of Garberville*



## Humboldt County has some of the worst pavement conditions in the state



At current levels of funding, most County roads will be rated as “failed” by 2033.

# Humboldt County California's Redwood Coast



PCI = 100



PCI = 100



# HumboldtCounty California's Redwood Coast



PCI = 63



PCI = 62



## Humboldt County Avg PCI = 49



PCI = 45



PCI = 42



## \$500 million in road pavement needs

- Humboldt County has \$500 million in need for road pavement over the next 10 years.
- Delaying maintenance will only increase costs in the long run



At current levels of funding, most County roads will be rated as "failed" by 2033.



**PCI = 10**



**PCI = 5**

6-10x more expensive to repair than a road graded 70+



## Investing In Humboldt's Roads Creates Local Jobs

- **Supplies:** Asphalt, concrete and other materials are most often purchased locally.
- **Services:** Contract work has totaled more than \$100 million over the last 10 years, spurring work for local contractors and truck drivers, among others.
- **County road crews:** Handle day-to-day needs for more than 1,200 miles of roads around the county.



## Community Priorities for Measure O

A recent independent community survey showed top community priorities are:

- Creating local jobs
- Maintaining and improving 911 emergency response times
- Repairing deteriorating bridges
- Maintaining local streets and roads to reduce the need for future repairs
- Repairing deteriorating county roads
- Providing communications services for medical and first responders
- Fixing potholes
- Maintaining evacuation routes
- Maintaining bus services for seniors, low-income and people with disabilities
- Becoming eligible for additional state and federal matching funds for road repair (Redwood Drive)



# Top Voter Concerns

## Ranked by Very Convincing

38%

**(FAIR SHARE)** Currently, nearly half of the counties in California, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, have passed transportation measures that give them access to billions in matching funds from the State and Federal Government that Humboldt County can't currently access. It's past time that OUR residents got the same benefits as the big cities in order to improve OUR local streets and roads.

38%

**^(DEFICIT)** The state is facing a \$46 billion deficit this year, and the Governor has proposed millions in funding cuts in Humboldt County that will severely reduce local services. All funds raised by this measure are legally required to stay in Humboldt County, ensuring local control and sufficient funds to address the needs of our local residents.

36%

**^(PCI)** A recent study found that we have some of the worst pavement conditions in the state – with more than 50% of County roads rated “poor” or “failed.” At current levels of funding, most County roads will be rated as “failed” by 2033 – including letting some turn back into gravel. This measure will help us clear the backlog of repair projects and keep our roads safe and well-maintained going forward.

35%

**(LOCAL CONTROL)** Over the past three decades, the state has taken over \$500 million in revenue from Humboldt County's budget. This measure provides our area with a guaranteed source of local funding that cannot be taken by the state and requires that our tax dollars are spent locally.

32%

**^(CHEAPER NOW)** Humboldt County has \$500 million in need for road repairs over the next 10 years. Delaying maintenance and repairs to our roads only increases costs in the long run – letting conditions worsen until roads have to be replaced entirely. This measure will help repair and maintain roads while construction costs are still relatively affordable.

## **Measure O: Ordinance Requirements**

- One-cent sales and use tax (not applied to groceries, prescription, medical/dental services, real estate, diapers, feminine hygiene products, education, rent)
- Generates approximately \$24 million annually
- Public disclosure, citizen oversight, annual audits, all funds spent locally, cannot be taken by State
- Available to leverage Humboldt's fair share of state and federal funding



## Citizen Oversight

- 3 levels of accountability and transparency
  1. **Funding work group**: recommends multi-year funding allocations to Board in open session
  2. **Technical committees**: Roads and transit develop and present project plans in public meetings to technical committees at HCAOG
  3. **Audit Committee**: Annually reviews actual expenditures in open session



## Where Can I Get More Information on Measure O?

- The County will continue to update the community about Measure O, Humboldt County's essential services needs and fiscal condition.

➤ Get more information at:  
[Roads911.com](http://Roads911.com)



JOIN  
the  
CONVERSATION

