



1. SIERRA CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Source: Sierra City Fire Protection District

1.1 LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

This annex was developed by the local hazard mitigation planning team for the Sierra City Fire Protection District. Members are listed below in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Local Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact		Alternate Point of Contact	
Name and Title:	Scott Hall, Fire Chief	Name and Title:	Glen Haubl, Chairman of the Fire Commission
Address:	PO Box 257 Sierra County	Address:	
Phone Number:		Phone Number:	
Email:	Scottdhall58@gmail.com	Email:	glenhaubl17@comcast.net
Contributors:			
Name and Title:	Scott Hall,		
Method of Participation:	Attended Steering Committee/Planning Partner meetings,		

1.2 JURISDICTIONAL PROFILE

1.2.1 Overview

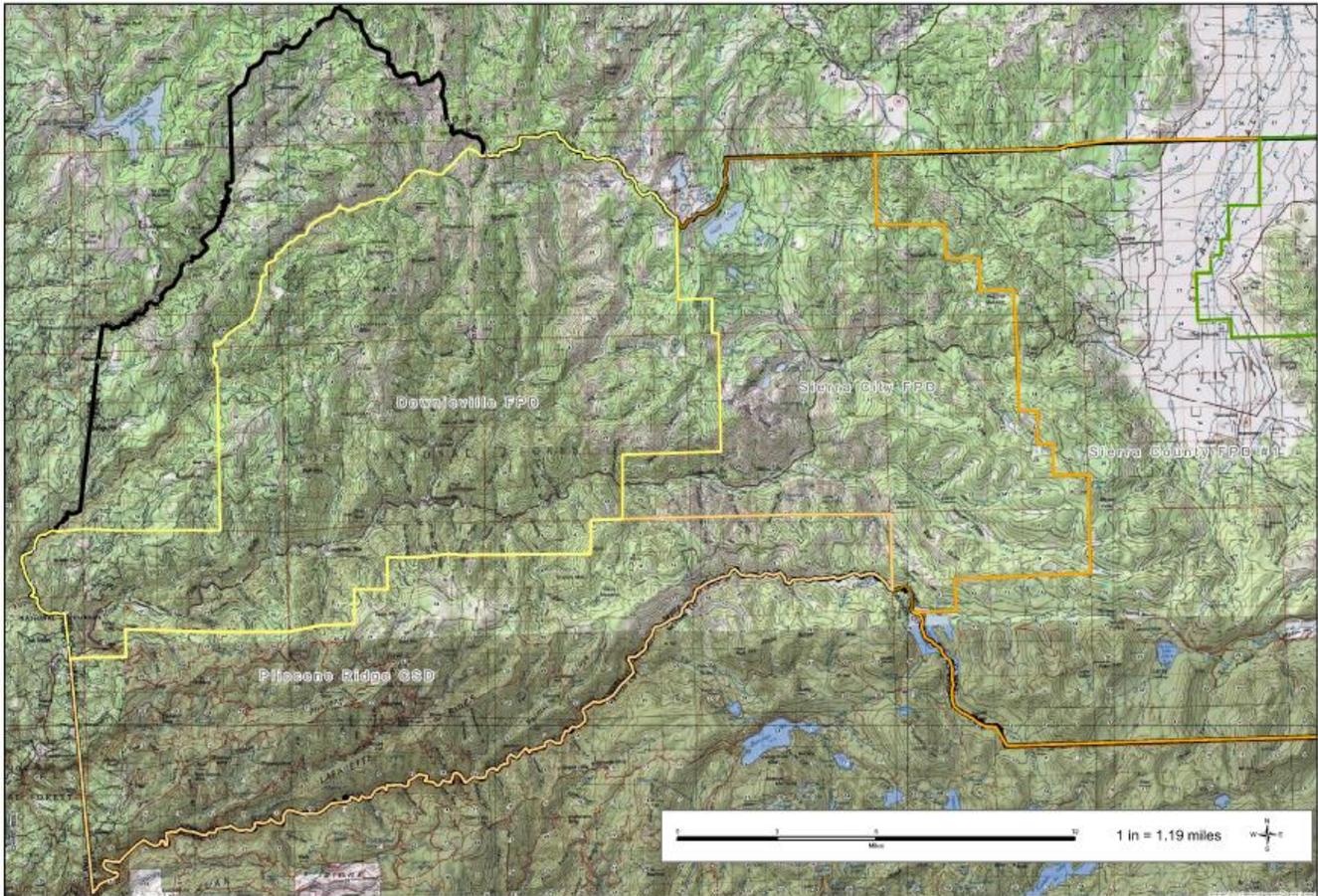
The District participates in the Public Protection Class Rating System and has a rating of 7.



1.2.2 Service Area

The District serves an area of approximately 175 square miles and an estimated 250 residents and provides fire protection services to the communities of Sierra City, Green Acres.

Figure 1. Sierra City Fire Protection District Service Area (brown outline)



1.2.3 Governing Body

The District is governed by an elected 5-member Board of Directors, which assumes responsibility for the adoption of this plan. The Fire Chief will oversee the plan’s implementation.

1.2.4 Assets

Asset	Value
Property	
Vacant Land in Sierra City	\$30,000
Equipment	
Rescue	\$100,000
Type 6	\$100,000
Type 6	\$50,000
Type 3	\$250,000



Water Tender	\$200,000
Total:	\$700,000
Critical Facilities	
Station 1	\$200,000
EMS Shed	\$50,000
Sand Shed	\$250,000
Bassetts Fire Station	\$100,000
Sierra City Community Hall	\$400,000
Total:	\$600,000

1.3 CURRENT TRENDS

There are minimal anticipated changes in services provided by the District. The resident population is static, but the visitor population will continue to increase. Call volume may increase over the next few years. Since the increase in visitor population after the Covid pandemic, approximately 50% more visitors spend time in the backcountry which may result in increased call volume in response to emergencies.

1.4 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section describes an assessment of existing capabilities for implementing hazard mitigation strategies. The introduction at the beginning of this volume of the hazard mitigation plan describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning.

Findings of the capability assessment were reviewed to identify opportunities to expand or improve upon capabilities to further hazard mitigation goals and objectives. Where such opportunities were identified and determined to be feasible, they are included in the action plan.

1.4.1 Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Jurisdictions have the ability to develop plans and programs and to implement regulations to protect and serve community members. An assessment of planning and regulatory capabilities is presented in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Plan, Study or Program	Date of Most Recent Update	Comment
Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	2025 – In progress	The CWPP update is underway

Opportunities to Expand Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

The District is currently participating in the ongoing update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.



1.4.2 Fiscal Capabilities

Assessing a jurisdiction's fiscal capability provides an understanding of the ability to fulfill the financial needs associated with hazard mitigation projects. This assessment identifies both outside resources, such as grant-funding eligibility, and local jurisdictional authority to generate internal financial capability, such as through impact fees. An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resource	Accessible or Eligible to Use?
Community Development Block Grants	No
Capital Improvements Project Funding	No
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	No
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service	No
<i>If yes, specify:</i> NA	
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	No
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	No
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	No
Withhold Public Expenditures in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
State-Sponsored Grant Programs	Yes
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	No

Opportunities to Expand Fiscal Capabilities

The District is committed to supporting Countywide outreach mitigation action *CW-3: Provide notification through links on the website or email distribution for available grant funding opportunities to the Planning Partnership.*

1.4.3 Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Planning, regulatory, and fiscal capabilities provide the backbone for successfully developing a mitigation strategy; however, without appropriate personnel, the strategy may not be implemented. Administrative and technical capabilities focus on the availability of personnel resources responsible for implementing all the facets of hazard mitigation. These resources include technical experts, such as engineers and scientists, as well as personnel with capabilities that may be found in multiple departments, such as grant writers. An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in Table 1-4.



Table 1-4. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Staff/Personnel Resource	Available?
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Staff with training in benefit-cost analysis	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Surveyors	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Emergency manager	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Grant writers	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	
Procurement Services and Management	No
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i> NA	

Opportunities to Expand Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The District is committed to expanding this capability through Mitigation Action 6: *Support outreach and education in the community to increase the capacity of volunteer staff through the Firewise program through their website and the annual meeting each May.*

1.4.4 Education and Outreach Capabilities

Regular engagement with the community on issues regarding hazard mitigation provides an opportunity to directly interface with community members. Assessing this outreach and education capability illustrates the connection between the government and community members, which opens a two-way dialogue that can result in a more resilient community based on education and public engagement. An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in Table 1-5.

Table 1-5. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Criterion	Response
Do you have a public information officer or communications office?	No
Do you have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	No
Do you have hazard mitigation information available on your website?	No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i> NA	
Do you use social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	



Do you have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation?	Yes
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	Firewise
Do you have any other programs in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information?	No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	NA
Do you have any established warning systems for hazard events?	Yes
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	Three evacuations sirens in Sierra City FPD service area. These also notify volunteer firefighters of calls coming in.

Opportunities to Expand Education and Outreach Capabilities

The District will continue to participate in future education and outreach with the Firewise program by including Mitigation Action 5: *Continue to coordinate with Firewise for public education and outreach for defensible space.*

1.4.5 Community Classifications

Other programs, such as Storm Ready, can enhance a jurisdiction’s ability to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to natural hazards. These programs indicate a jurisdiction’s capability to go beyond minimum regulatory requirements in order to create a more resilient community. These programs focus on communication, mitigation, and community preparedness to minimize the impact of natural hazards on a community. Classifications under various community mitigation programs are presented in Table 1-6.

Table 1-6. Community Classifications

	Participating?	Classification	Date Classified
FIPS Code	No	N/A	N/A
UEI#	No	N/A	N/A
Community Rating System	No	N/A	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	No	N/A	N/A
Public Protection	Yes	7	Before 2020
Storm Ready	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise	Yes	N/A	N/A

1.4.6 Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change

An adaptive capacity assessment evaluates a jurisdiction’s ability to anticipate impacts from future conditions. By looking at public support, technical adaptive capacity, and other factors, jurisdictions identify their core capability for resilience against issues such as extreme heat. The adaptive capacity assessment provides jurisdictions with an opportunity to identify areas for improvement by ranking their capacity high, medium, or low. The community’s adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in Table 1-7.



Table 1-7. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change

Criterion	Jurisdiction Rating ^a
Technical Capacity	
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Implementation Capacity	
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Champions for climate action in local government departments	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Public Capacity	
Residents' knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Residents' support of adaptation efforts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	



Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	

- a. High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement;
 Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.

1.5 INTEGRATION

For hazard mitigation planning, “integration” means that hazard mitigation information is used in other relevant planning mechanisms, such as capital facilities planning, and that relevant information from those sources is used in hazard mitigation. This section identifies where such integration is already in place, and where there are opportunities for further integration in the future. Resources listed at the end of this annex were used to provide information on integration. The progress reporting process described in Volume 1 of the hazard mitigation plan will document the progress of hazard mitigation actions related to integration and identify new opportunities for integration.

1.5.1 Opportunities for Future Integration

The capability assessment in this annex indicates opportunities to integrate this mitigation plan with other jurisdictional planning/regulatory capabilities. Capabilities were identified as integration opportunities if they can support or enhance the actions identified in this plan or be supported or enhanced by components of this plan. The capability assessment identified the following plans and programs that do not currently integrate hazard mitigation information but provide opportunities to do so in the future:

- Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

1.6 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Special purpose districts are not eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, any new assets or infrastructure developed by the district is in compliance with the floodplain regulations established by the County.

1.7 RISK ASSESSMENT

1.7.1 Jurisdiction-Specific Natural Hazard Event History

Table 1-8 lists past occurrences of natural hazards for which specific damage was recorded in this jurisdiction. Other hazard events that broadly affected the entire planning area, including this jurisdiction, are listed in the risk assessments in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.



Table 1-8. Past Natural Hazard Events

Type of Event	Declaration Title	State or Federal Disaster #	Declaration Date	Damage Assessment
Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-Line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR-4699-CA	4/3/2023	Multiple trees down on roadways with potential reduced response times due to lack of access.
Fire	Wildfires	DR-4558-CA 2020-06	8/22/2020	While not directly involved in the large scale fires Sierra City Fire resources were tasked with providing coverage for portions of the USFS direct responsibility areas due to lack of resources.
Biological	Covid-19 Pandemic	DR-4482-CA	3/22/2020	The duration of the pandemic required use of medical personal protective clothing more than what would normally be required. This related to an increased expenditure of funds for PPE.
Severe Storm	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides	DR-1628-CA 2006-01	2/3/2006	The Bassetts wildfire caused road closures and burned close to structures in the Bassetts area. Local Sierra City fire resources were used for several days which potentially hampered response capabilities within the district.
Flood	Extreme Rainfall	2005-07	11/7/2005	\$504,323 Response times along the Highway 49 corridor were hampered due to roadways being washed out limiting travel to a single lane.

1.7.2 Hazard Ranking

The prioritization and categorization of identified hazards for the District is based principally on the Priority Risk Index (PRI), a tool used to measure the degree of risk for identified hazards in a particular planning area. The PRI was used to assist the District in identifying hazards that pose the most significant threat. Table 1-9 presents a local ranking of all hazards of concern for which this hazard mitigation plan provides complete risk assessments. As described in detail in Volume 1, the ranking



process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard, along with its potential impacts on people, property and the economy.

Table 1-9. Hazard Risk Ranking Summary

Hazard	Weighted Risk Factors					PRI	Risk Ranking
	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Climate Change		
Avalanche	.60	.60	.40	.40	.30	2.3	Medium
Dam Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	None
Drought	1.2	.60	.80	.10	.40	3.1	High
Earthquake	.30	.60	.80	.40	.20	2.3	Medium
Extreme Heat	1.2	.60	.80	.10	.40	3.1	High
Flood	.90	.60	.80	.10	.30	2.7	Medium
Landslide/Mass Movement	1.2	.60	.60	.40	.30	3.13.1	High
Volcanic Activity	.30	.30	.80	.10	.20	1.7	Low
Wildfire	1.2	.60	.80	.40	.30	3.3	High
Winter Storm	1.2	.60	.80	.10	.40	3.1	High

1.7.3 Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan provides complete risk assessments for each identified hazard of concern. This section provides information on a few key vulnerabilities for this jurisdiction. Available jurisdiction-specific risk maps of the hazards are provided at the end of this annex.

The following jurisdiction-specific issues have been identified based on a review of the results of the risk assessment, public involvement strategy, and other available resources:

- The large visitor population can increase call volume in the backcountry which leaves the town area without first responders.
- Volunteer fire service in general is losing members at a high rate. The District is constantly short-staffed.
- Dead and downed fuels in the forests surrounding Sierra City and Bassets need to be mitigated with heavy equipment. This would need to be done by outside contractors.

Mitigation actions addressing these issues were prioritized for consideration in the action plan presented in this annex.



1.8 HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

This section includes the following components of the mitigation strategy for this jurisdiction:

- Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Matrix
- Mitigation Action Prioritization
- Mitigation Action Classification and Natural Hazards Addressed

Table 1-10. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Matrix

Action Number	Action Description	Community Lifeline Addressed	Benefits New or Existing Assets	Goals and Objectives Met	Lead and Support Implementers	Benefits Equity Priority Community?	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Timeline
1	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in hazard areas, prioritizing those that have experienced repetitive losses and/or are in high- or medium-risk hazard areas.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	Existing	Goal:	Lead: Fire Chief Support: Chairman of the Fire Commission	Yes	Very High (\$1,000,000 and above)		Long-Term (5 years or more)
2	Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that address natural hazards within the service area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWPP 	Food, Hydration, Shelter	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time, General Fund	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
3	Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
4	Purchase generators for District-owned critical facilities and infrastructure that lack adequate backup power, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hall 	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation	Existing	Goal:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	High (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)		Short-Term (less than 5 years)



5	Continue to coordinate with Firewise for public education and outreach for defensible space.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
6	Support outreach and education in the community to increase the capacity of volunteer staff through the Firewise program through their website and the annual meeting each May.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
7	Institute a fuels reduction program	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
8	Support the Countywide mitigation actions outlined in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Haz Mat; Water Systems	New and Existing	Goals:	Lead: Fire Chief Support: Chairman of the Fire Commission	Yes	Low (\$0-\$50,000)	Staff Time	Short-Term (less than 5 years)



1.9 PUBLIC OUTREACH

Broad public participation in the planning process helps ensure that diverse points of view about the jurisdiction’s needs are considered and addressed. Jurisdictional outreach efforts are listed in Table 1-1

Table 1-1. Public Outreach

Local Outreach Activity	Date	Number of People Involved
District staff supported the countywide outreach efforts for this plan	Throughout the planning process	About 200

1.10 INFORMATION SOURCES USED FOR THIS ANNEX

The following technical reports, plans, and regulatory mechanisms were reviewed to provide information for this annex.

- **District Finance Records** used for the asset values

The following outside resources and references were reviewed:

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex Development Toolkit**—The toolkit was used to support the identification of past hazard events and noted vulnerabilities, the risk ranking, and the development of the mitigation action plan.