



# 1. SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1



Source: Sierra County Fire Protection District #1

## 1.1 LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

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

Table 1-1. Local Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact		Alternate Point of Contact	
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Contributors:			
Name and Title:	Rick Maddalena,		
Method of Participation:	Attended Steering Committee/Planning Partner meetings, reviewed/edited draft annex response with consultant Megan Brotherton		
Name and Title:	Kelly Champion, Rick Maddalena, and Jeff McCollum assembled data for annex response		
Method of Participation:	District Board of Directors reviewed draft annex as an itemized agenda topic at their June 17, 2025, monthly meeting		



## 1.2 JURISDICTIONAL PROFILE

### 1.2.1 Overview

The Sierra County Fire Protection District #1 provides fire protection and basic EMS support service for the eastern portion of the County. The District was formulated in 1930 and bonded together the individual efforts of the Volunteers within the Calpine, Sierraville and Sattley Volunteer Fire Departments. The District annexed areas around Loyalton and Verdi/ Long Valley in 2004. Although the District does not have formal responsibilities for wildland fire nor EMS, the District owns fire apparatus and rescue equipment that support the mission of their partners (US Forest Service, Cal Fire, and Eastern Plumas HealthCare) that does have those responsibilities.

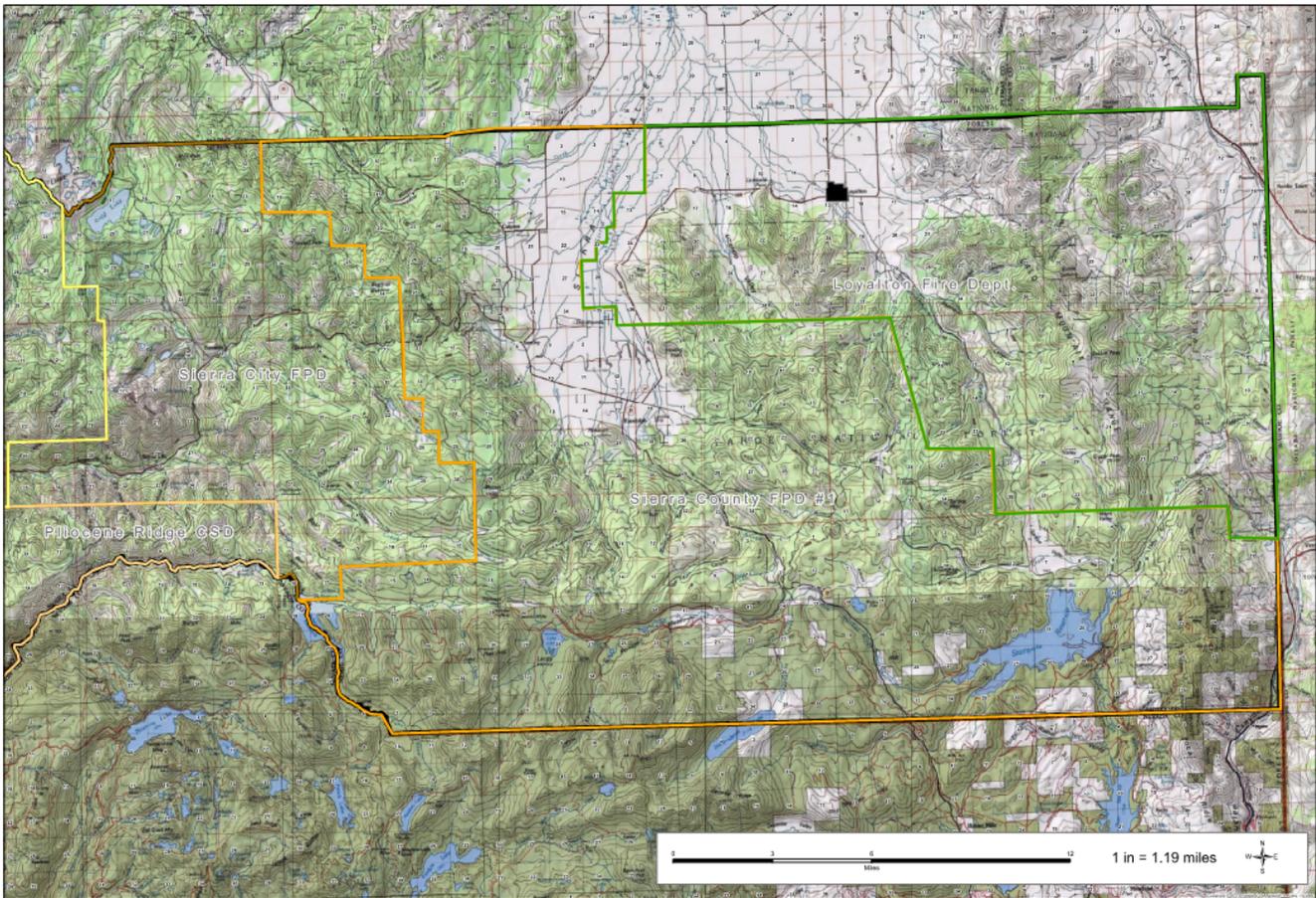
The District participates in the Public Protection Class Rating System and currently has a rating of 6/6x.

### 1.2.2 Service Area

The District provides fire and emergency medical support services (EMS) to a 329,512 acre or 514.9 square mile portion of Sierra County, from the Crest of the Sierra east to the Nevada state border, and from Nevada County to Plumas and Lassen Counties, excluding the City of Loyalton. The District maintains and operates three Stations: Station 82 in Sierraville, Station 83 in Sattley, and Station 84 in Calpine. The District meets its protection mandate to Sierra Brooks, Loyalton Pines and the neighboring ranches near Loyalton via a service contract with the City of Loyalton. Similarly, services for Long Valley and Verdi CA are provided via a service contact with Truckee Meadows Fire District.



Figure 1-1. Sierra County Fire Protection District # 1 Service Area (orange outline)



### 1.2.3 Governing Body

The District is governed by a 7-member Board of Directors appointed by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Directors assumes responsibility for the adoption of this plan. The Fire Chief will oversee the plan’s implementation.

### 1.2.4 Assets

Asset	Value	
<b>Equipment</b>		
3 Type 1 Engines (E-182, 83,84)	\$ 100K, 55K, 75K	
Type 2 Engine (E282)	\$ 70K	
2 Type 3 Engines (E-382, 384), 1 Type 6 Engine (E683)	\$ 50K, 55K	
3 Type 1 Water Tenders (WT82, 83,84)	\$150K, 150K, 150K	
2 Light 4x4 Rescue Vehicles (R82, R84)	\$ 100K, 50K	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,005,000</b>	
<b>Critical Facilities</b>	Building	Content
Station 82, 102 E. Main, Sierraville, CA (two structures)	\$1.3MM, 1.2MM	250K,119K
Station 83, 156, Main Street, Sattley CA	\$1.2MM	70K



Asset	Value
Station 84 129, County Road, Calpine CA	\$1.7MM 250K
Fillippini Water Tanks, Hwy 49 @ Fillippini Road	\$40K
Sattley Well and Water Tanks, 157 Main Street, Sattley	\$15K
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,099,000</b>

### 1.3 CURRENT TRENDS

Perhaps related to building code performance, the number of structure fires in the District has declined over time. Seldom are there more than four or five in a year. Opposing that trend is an annual increase in responses calls to vehicle accidents and medical needs. Although the population growth within the District has declined, the volume of commuters on the highways and number of tourist in the area has greatly increased. Both increasing demands challenge the financial resources of the district as those temporary occupants and those passing through do not contribute (except for a small share of transient-oriented tax collected for the District).

### 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
County Wide Fire Protection Plan	2014 with map edits in 2024	Revision expected in 2025.
District Capital Improvement Plan	2024	Update Planned for 6/25.

#### *Opportunities to Expand Planning and Regulatory Capabilities*

The District does not have authority to establish planning or building codes without direct approval by the County Board of Supervisors and has not been delegated the authority to enforce local or State regulations.



An opportunity does exist for partnership with the County to expand regulations that would require clearing on vacant lots and certain commercial properties which are widespread issues in the County frustrating the efforts of Firewise organizations.

### 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	Unknown
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service	Yes
<i>If yes, specify:</i>	
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Unknown
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	Unknown
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	Unknown
Withhold Public Expenditures in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
State-Sponsored Grant Programs	Yes
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	Yes
USDA Grants and Low-Interest Loans	Yes

### Opportunities to Expand Fiscal Capabilities

The District is not confident that they have an opportunity to issue bonds or add service fees. There are some minor opportunities to increase participation in providing additional resources to Federal and Cal OES partners thereby increasing revenue in excess of cost of providing these services. Grant writing has been with limited success because of the small population served as well as the limited number of incidents per year.

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	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Staff with training in benefit-cost analysis	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Surveyors	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	Med
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Emergency manager	Med
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Grant writers	Low
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	
Procurement Services and Management	Med
<i>If Yes, Department /Position:</i>	

**Opportunities to Expand Administrative and Technical Capabilities**

The primary opportunity for the District to enhance these admin and technical capabilities is to enter into professional service agreements.

**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?	Basic
Do you have hazard mitigation information available on your website?	No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	
Do you use social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	



Criterion		Response
Do you have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation?		Yes
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	5 Firewise Community Boards	
Do you have any other programs in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information?		No
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>		
Do you have any established warning systems for hazard events?		Yes
<i>If yes, briefly describe:</i>	County Everbridge System	

### Opportunities to Expand Education and Outreach Capabilities

This is a low priority area for the District. There is a limited opportunity to provide community warning systems by re-activating sirens once used to summon firefighters.

### 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	06091	06091	N/A
UEI#	N/A	N/A	
Community Rating System	ISO	6, 6X	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	At County Level	N/A	N/A
Public Protection (ISO)	Yes	6, 6X	N/A
Storm Ready	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firewise	Yes	5 communities in the District	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 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Technical Capacity</b>	
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>	
<b>Implementation Capacity</b>	
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	Medium
<i>Comment:</i>	<i>Two stations with backup power, third in progress</i>
Champions for climate action in local government departments	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	
<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>	
<b>Public Capacity</b>	
Residents' knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	Low to Medium
<i>Comment:</i>	
Residents' support of adaptation efforts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	
Residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Medium
<i>Comment:</i>	
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment:</i>	



Criterion	Jurisdiction Rating <sup>a</sup>
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 Co. adoption of FEMA flood plain – Integrate mapping
- Sierra Co. Fire Safe Council CWPP – Integration of wildfire risk assessment
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Integrate financial planning. The CIP and HMP projects will be integrated as appropriate

## 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
Wildfire	Bear Fire	N/A	2024	No structures were burned, but fencing was damaged and fire suppression damage
Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-Line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR-4699-CA	4/3/2023	Power outages and travel restrictions
Flood	Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (on Hwy 49)	EM-3592-CA	3/10/2023	Minor damage to two homes in Sierraville, minor flooding to Fire Station 82
Fire	Wildfires (Loyalton Fire)	DR-4558-CA 2020-06	8/22/2020	3 Structures lost in Longvalley
Biological	Covid-19 Pandemic	DR-4482-CA	3/22/2020	Impacted staffing of volunteers
Flood	2008 January Storms	2008-01	1/5/2008	
Severe Storm	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides	DR-1628-CA 2006-01	2/3/2006	Minor damage to two homes and travel to medical facilities delayed
Flood	Extreme Rainfall	2005-07	11/7/2005	\$504,323
Severe Storm	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mud and Landslides	DR-1155-CA 97-01	1/4/1997	Damaged Homes in Sierraville
Wildfire	Cottonwood/Crystal Fires	N/A	1994	Burned much of the east side of the Tahoe National Forest Crystal fire burned multiple homes in Verdi NV
Flood	Severe Winter Storm, Mud & Land Slides, & Flooding	DR-979-CA 93-01	2/3/1993	Minor damage to Fire Station in Sierraville
Flood	Severe Storms & Flooding	DR-758-CA 86-01	2/21/1986	One home damaged in Sierraville
Flood	1980 April Storms	80-01 thru 80-25	4/1/1980	
Drought	Drought	EM-3023-CA	1/20/1977	
Flood	Heavy Rains & Flooding	DR-183-CA	12/24/1964	
Flood	1963 Floods and Rains	No number	2/7/63, 2/26/63, 2/29/63, 4/22/63	
Flood	1962 Floods and Rains	No number	10/17/62, 10/25/62, 10/30/62, & 11/4/62	



Type of Event	Declaration Title	State or Federal Disaster #	Declaration Date	Damage Assessment
Fire	1960 Major Fires	No number	8/16/1960	1959 Intense Battle to Save Cambel Hot Springs 1960 Ranch Burned at Stampede Valley

### 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	.30	.30	.20	.40	.30	1.5	Low
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	.90	.80	.20	.30	3.1	High
Landslide/Mass Movement	.30	.30	.20	.40	.30	1.5	Low
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:



- Many roads in the District are not plowed regularly. An over-snow all-terrain vehicle is needed for medical rescues in remote areas during winter months.
- Many portions of the District are not served by community water systems. The District uses three Type 1 water tenders to supply fire suppression water to these areas and to supplement USFS and Cal Fire needs. All three are 1970's vintage trucks that need replacement.

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: Determine if Station 82 can be modified to protect against flooding	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Sierra County Planning and Building Department	Yes	Very High (\$1,000,000 and above)	General Fund	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"> <li>• CIP</li> <li>• CWPP</li> </ul>	Food, Hydration, Shelter	New and Existing	Goals: Assist with CIP Update in 2025	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Fire Safe Council	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	Goal: Purchase/Install the generators for Station 83 and Sattley water supply system	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Sierra County OES	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.	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation	Existing	Acquire within two years	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Contract Engineer	Yes	High (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)	FEMA HMA, General Fund, Assistance for	Short-Term (less than 5 years)



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
								Firefighter Grants (AFG)	
5	Over-snow all-terrain vehicle (from CIP)	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation	New and Existing	Goal: Acquire within 3 years.	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Fire Chief	Yes	High (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)	HSGP, EMPG, AFG	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
6	Water Tender (from CIP)	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation	New and Existing	Goal: Acquire within 3 years.	Lead: District Board of Directors Support Fire Chief:	Yes	High (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)	General Fund	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
7	Develop Helicopter Dip tank at Deerwater Airport	Safety & Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health & Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation	New and Existing	Goal: Develop within 2 years.	Lead: District Board of Directors Support: Sierra County Public Works	Yes	High (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)	General Fund, AFG, EMPG, HSGP	Short-Term (less than 5 years)
5	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 1-11

Table 1-11. Public Outreach

Local Outreach Activity	Date	Number of People Involved
SCFPD #1 Web Site	Ongoing	Unknown
5 Fire Wise Communities	Current in 2024	20-30

## 1.10 INFORMATION SOURCES USED FOR THIS ANNEX

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

- **SCFPD Capital Improvement Plan** was used to develop the capability assessment and mitigation action plan.
- **County adopted building codes** were referenced for the capability assessment.

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.
- Sierra County website was accessed to establish population served by the District