

City of Placerville
MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2005
TO: City Council
FROM: George Nielsen, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: **ADOPTION OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation that the City Council approve the attached resolution adopting the City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan. A copy of the plan is on file with the City Clerk.

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by adding section 322 – Mitigation Planning. Congress decided that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should place more emphasis on the planning process to promote and support sustainable, disaster resistant communities. Mitigation is defined as “sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards and their effects”. As of November 1, 2004, a mitigation plan approved by FEMA and the State is required from any community that wishes to obtain funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program or the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program to reduce potential damages.

The City of Placerville’s Plan was developed through a collaborative process with other local response agencies and stakeholders. The City Plan will actually become a part of the larger El Dorado County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The collaborative group included representatives from various City and County departments, local citizens with various areas of expertise, the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services, El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Fire Protection District, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the California Department of Forestry.

City Council approval of the Plan is required before submittal to the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) and FEMA and before eligibility for any hazard mitigation funding. A copy of the plan will be on file with the City Clerk and staff can be available to discuss highlights of the Plan. Police Department staff will forward the final approved Plan to County OES who will submit the Plan to State OES and FEMA as part of the El Dorado County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This plan is a required precursor to applying for any future funding to carry out mitigation activities.

George Nielsen
Chief of Police

Approved for submittal to City Council:

John Driscoll
City Manager/Attorney

Reviewed for Fiscal Impact:

Dave Warren
Director of Finance

RESOLUTION _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PLACERVILLE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF PLACERVILLE
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, Congress decided that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should place more emphasis on the planning process to promote and support sustainable, disaster resistant communities; and,

WHEREAS, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by adding section 322 - Mitigation Planning. Mitigation is defined as “sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards and their effects” and;

WHEREAS, effective November 1, 2004, a mitigation plan approved by FEMA and the State is required from any community that wishes to obtain funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program to reduce potential damages;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council has reviewed and hereby adopts the City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan for the benefit of the City of Placerville for the purpose of increasing safety for its citizens during natural hazard events, while reducing the risk of loss of life and property. The City Plan will be incorporated into and become a part of the El Dorado County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Placerville held on May 10, 2005, by Council member _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council member _____.

A poll vote was taken, which stood as follows:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

There being a majority of votes “AYE” Motion carried and was so ordered.

Roberta Colvin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Zito, City Clerk

City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan

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I. Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide a planning document that will assist City Officials, residents, and business owners in offsetting future costs by using lessons learned from past historical events and applying those lessons to future events.

Through the process of mitigation, the City of Placerville is prepared to take corrective steps to lessen the effects and costs of future events.

Scope

The City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses natural hazards which can and have occurred within the City of Placerville and areas that those natural hazards will influence.

Participants in the Planning Process

The following list represents all participants in the City level planning process.

Chief George Nielsen	Placerville Police Department
Captain Mike Scott	Placerville Police Department
PSSS Linda VanHorn	Placerville Police Department
DRL Cyndy Bryant	Placerville Police Department
DRT Aaron Pratt	Placerville Police Department
Bat Chief Mark Johnson	El Dorado County Fire Protection District
Steve Calfee	City of Placerville – Community Development Director
Gary Valladeo	City of Placerville – Public Works Director
Robert Shinkle	City of Placerville – Senior Engineering Tech
Sgt. Marty Hackett	EDSO OES
Dep Scott Stewart	EDSO OES
Dep Todd Crawford	EDSO OES
Tania Donnelly	EDSO OES
George Wheeldon	Citizen – Geologist
Rowland Maddox	Citizen – Mapping Expert
Patty Noble	Citizen – Insurance Rep
Jim Hill	Citizen – Intercounty Title Co

Description of the Planning Process

City staff participated in a collaborative planning process realizing that the City Plan would ultimately be a part of the El Dorado County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (EDCMJHMP). City staff followed the planning process detailed in the EDCMJHMP document and additionally conducted separate work specific to the City of Placerville.

The City's planning process, consisted of the following meetings:

May 13, 2004:	Initial County-wide orientation meeting.
June 2, 2004:	County-wide work group meeting.
July 7, 2004:	City planning meeting – drought, flooding, severe winter storm and land subsidence.
July 21, 2004:	City planning meeting – earthquakes.
August 16, 2004:	City planning meeting – wildfires.
August 31, 2004:	County-wide work group meeting.
September 27, 2004:	City planning meeting – hazard mitigation document review.
March 10, 2005:	Local Disaster Council meeting – document/process review.
April 14, 2005:	Local Disaster Council meeting – document/process review.
May 10, 2005:	City of Placerville City Council meeting – City of Placerville Hazard Mitigation Plan document approval and adoption.

II. Hazard Identification and Analysis

Criteria for Qualitative Assessment

	Assigned Value	Definition
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Likelihood of Occurrence

Highly likely	3	Near 100% annual probability
Likely	2	Between 10 and 100% annual probability
Possible	1	Between 1 and 10% annual probability
Unlikely	0	Less than 1% annual probability

Spatial Extent

Large	3	More than 50% of area affected
Moderate	2	Between 10 and 50% of area affected
Small	1	Less than 10% of area affected

Potential Impact

Catastrophic	4	High Number of deaths/injuries possible. Most than 50% of property in affected areas damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of facilities for 30 days or more
Critical	3	Multiple number of deaths/injuries possible. More than 25% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of facilities for more than one week.
Limited	2	Minor injuries only. More than 10% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of facilities for more than one day.
Minor	1	Very few injuries, if any. Only minor property damage and minimal disruption on quality of life. Temporary shutdown of facilities

Hazard Risk Ratings

Hazard	Likelihood	Spatial Extent	Potential Impact	Hazard Rating
Wildfire	2	2	4	8
Flood	2	2	2	6
Severe Winter Storm	1	3	1	5
Earthquake	0	2	2	4
Drought	0	3	1	4
Land Subsidence	0	1	1	2

Estimated Risk Levels for the City of Placerville

High Risk Hazards	8-10
Moderate Risk Hazards	5-7
Low Risk Hazards	1-4

III. Community Vulnerability Assessment

Methodologies Used

In order to perform an objective analysis of this project and determine the potential impacts upon the City, the following tasks were completed:

1. Risk Assessment of the Community
2. Review of past incidents
3. Review of City Infrastructure
4. Drive to each potential hazard location to evaluate potential hazard
5. Evaluate needs to offset potential hazard
6. Obtain and review data regarding Natural Hazards Locally
7. Develop Goals, Objectives and Levels of Service to assist in evaluating the City's capabilities and impacts.
8. Determine reconstruction costs for post incident losses

Overview of Jurisdiction

The City of Placerville is located in the western foothill region of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. At 1,866-foot elevation, the City is comprised of moderate to steep, heavily vegetated terrain. Placerville has an area of approximately 8.72 square miles and a population of 9,610 people. Since Placerville is a historical city and the County Seat of El Dorado County, the daily population often swells to over 20,000 people. The following page shows the boundaries of the City of Placerville, along with a brief map of the identified hazard locations.

Development Trends

Development within the City of Placerville consists of new and infill projects in both the commercial and residential areas. New commercial development is concentrated to the south side of Placerville Drive and the Point View Drive area. New residential development is concentrated to the outlying areas of Placerville and is pushing towards the city limits mostly in the areas of Bedford Avenue, the Lumsden property off Wiltse Road, and the property south of Blairs Lane.

Development in the City of Placerville will have the following affects on anticipated hazards, which will have the most potential impact on the City:

Wildfires: New development and current buildings within areas considered high fire dangers are subject to special review that addresses the issues of combustible wood frame buildings, fire retardant roof coverings and groundcover, and clearance around the structures to reduce the risk of fire damage.

Flooding: New development and current buildings within areas considered to be in the 100-year flood plane are subject to special review that addresses issues of flood proofing and channel improvements to reduce the risk of flood damage. Drainage and soil compaction are also considered in new developments.

Earthquake: New development and current buildings are subject to special review that addresses issues of strengthening, changing the use of, and ensuring structural soundness to reduce the risk of a seismically induced ground failure and shaking.

Severe Winter Storm: New development and current buildings within the City of Placerville should all be prepared for the affects of a Severe Winter Storm ensuring that all buildings are structurally sound to withstand the affects of a major storm.

Land Subsidence: New development in the City of Placerville are required to submit a soils and foundation engineering report as well as a grading, erosion, and sediment control plan.

Drought: New developments and current building within the City of Placerville should all be prepared for the affects of a drought and should use native and drought resistant plants in landscaping designs.

High Potential Loss Properties Critical Facilities and Hazmat Sites

- 1) **Governmental Facilities**
 - A) City Hall, 487 Main St.
 - B) Public Works/Corporation Yard, 3231 Big Cut Rd.

- C) Town Hall, 549 Main St.
 - D) US Post Office, 3045 Sacramento St.
 - E) El Dorado County Fire Department Station 25, 3034 Sacramento St.
 - F) Placerville Police Department, 730 Main St.
 - G) Animal Control, 2301 Coolwater Creek Rd.
 - H) El Dorado County Government Offices, 360 Fair Ln. 330 Fair Ln.
 - I) Superior Court, 2850 Fairlane Ct.
 - J) Superior Court, 495 Main St.
 - K) District Attorneys Office, 515 Main St. and 520 Main St.
 - L) Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.
 - M) Probation Department, 471 Pierroz Rd.
 - N) Public Health, 931 Spring St.
 - O) Mental Health, 935 Spring St.
 - P) Library, 345 Fair Ln.
 - Q) Juvenile Hall, 299 Fair Ln.
 - R) County Jail, 300 Forni Rd.
 - S) Social Services, 3057 Briw Rd.
 - T) Chamber of Commerce, 542 Main St.
 - U) El Dorado County Sheriffs Office, 300 Fair Ln.
 - V) CHP, 3031 LoHi Way.
 - U) USFS, 100 Forni Rd.
- 2) Schools & Day Care Facilities**
- A) El Dorado High School, 561 Canal St.
 - B) Sierra Elementary School, 1100 Thompson Way.
 - C) 7Th Day Adventist School, 1900 Broadway Dr.
 - D) Schnell Elementary, 2871 Schnell School Rd.
 - E) Markham Middle School, 2800 Moulton Dr.
 - F) Happy Kids Day Care, 2786 Coloma St.
 - G) Federated Church Preschool, 1031 Thompson Way.
 - H) First Friends Preschool, 3132 Sheridan St.
 - I) Montessori County Day School, 2771 Spear St.
 - J) Montessori of Placerville, 2776 Ray Lawyer Dr.
 - K) A Tutoring Place, 2979 Coloma St.
 - L) Mother Lode Union District Office, 3783 Forni Rd.
 - M) Placerville Union Elementary School District, 1032 Thompson Way.
 - N) Creative Kids, 2869 Cold Springs Rd.
 - O) Montessori Christian, 1139 Bush Ct.
 - P) Placerville Union School Transportation, 2871 Schnell School Rd.
- 3) Apartment Complexes**
- A) Carson Ridge Apts, 2838 & 2848 Schnell School Rd.
 - B) Cottonwood Sr. Apts, 2801 Clay St.
 - C) Cottonwood Apts, 3030 New Jersey, 2788 & 2766 Clay St.
 - D) Deerview Park Apts, 2880 Schnell School Rd.
 - E) Placer Village Apts, 2789 Ray Lawyer Dr.
 - F) Placerville Apts, 2684 Coloma Ct.

- G) Ridgecrest Apts, 2684 Woodridge Ct.
 - H) Ridgeview Manor, 2980 Coloma St.
 - I) Sunrise Apts, 880 Conrad Ct.
 - J) Sunrise Garden Apts, 1400 Woodman Cir.
 - K) Tunnel St Senior Apts, 2880 Tunnel St.
 - L) Woodridge East Apts, 2811 Cold Springs Rd.
- 4) **Senior Homes and Assisted Living**
- A) El Dorado Convalescent, 3280 Washington St.
 - B) Placerville Pines, 1040 Marshall Way
 - C) Sunshine Manor, 3112 Washington St.
 - D) Sierra Manor, 863 De Bernardi Ct.
- **There are several other single-family residences that house non-ambulatory residents. Snowline Hospice has a list of these residences.
- 5) **Utilities**
- A) Hunt & Sons Inc., 2891 Mosquito Rd.
 - B) 76 Products, 1145 Broadway Ct.
 - C) Sierra Energy, 561 Placerville Dr.
 - D) Suburban Propane, 386 Placerville Dr.
 - E) El Dorado Irrigation District, 2890 Mosquito Rd.
 - F) City Sewer, 2300 Coolwater Creek Rd.
 - G) City Water Treatment Plant, 3499 Pardi Wy.
- 6) **Commercial Complexes**
- A) Broadway Plaza, 1319 Broadway Dr.
 - B) County Fair, 47 Fair Ln.
 - C) Hangtown Village Square, 1200 Broadway Dr.
 - D) Discovery Plaza, 2885 Ray Lawyer Dr.
 - E) Venture Village, 2864 Ray Lawyer Dr.

Vulnerability to Hazards

Wildfires:

A wildfire is the most dangerous hazard that is likely to occur within the City of Placerville. The impact of a wildfire is great, with the potential to cause high numbers of deaths/injuries and/or property damage.

- Located at 1,866-foot elevation and heavily vegetated, the City of Placerville is classified as having medium to high fire hazards. This places a majority of the City, including some business districts, at high risk.
- The identified areas of the City of Placerville that have been listed as a high risk for wildfire is everything south of Highway 50, Placerville Drive and Cold Springs Road.
- The likelihood that a wildfire would cause catastrophic damage is greatly influenced by fuel moisture, temperature, humidity, topography, wind and human behavior.
- Areas of thick vegetation are more prone to suffer from a wildfire.

- There have been wildland fires that have occurred in the past however with the lack of documentation an exact number of fires and the dates are not possible to list.
- The most recent wild land fire that has occurred within the City of Placerville occurred in the Coon Hollow area in the summer of 2004.
- Wild land fires are impossible to predict however during certain conditions a major wildfire is more probable and should be prepared for.
- An insurance company estimates for reconstruction of a damaged home would be approximately \$100.00 per square foot.
- Personal Property loss is generally based on 33% of the replacement value of the structure.
- There are approximately 500 residential structures in the City of Placerville listed in the high fire danger areas.
- The average size of those 500 structures is 1396 square feet per structure
- It is unlikely that all 500 structures would be lost in a single catastrophic fire, however if all 500 structures were lost, the cost to rebuild would be \$69,800,000.
- The personal property loss for all 500 structures is estimated to be \$23,034,000 based on the 33% of the replacement value of the house.
- Broadway business district, Main St business district and the Placerville Dr business district are all located in the high fire danger areas of the City of Placerville.
- The replacement costs of each business are approximately the same as replacement of each residential structure.

Flooding:

Flooding is the second most dangerous hazard likely to occur within the City of Placerville

- The City of Placerville does have identified 100 and 500 year flood zones.
- There is one stream that flows thru the City of Placerville, Hangtown Creek. There are 3 tributaries that feed Hangtown Creek, Hangtown Creek Tributary, Randolph Canyon and Cedar Ravine.
- The areas of greatest risk for flooding are:
 - All of Smith Flat in the City, Broadway west of Smith Flat to Main St, the entire length of Main St, Highway 50 from Bedford Ave to Placerville Dr off ramp, Placerville Dr from Highway 50 to Pierroz Rd, and Pierroz Rd would be affected by Hangtown Creek.
 - Airport Rd, and Broadway from Airport Rd. to where it connects with Hangtown Creek at Smith Flat would be affected by Hangtown Creek Tributary.
 - Mosquito Rd from the City limits to Broadway where it connects with Hangtown Creek would be affected by Randolph Canyon
 - Cedar Ravine from the City limits to where it connects with Hangtown Creek at Main St would be affected by Cedar Ravine.
- There has been flooding in the City of Placerville in the past however due to the lack of documentation a list of exact number of floods and the dates are not possible.

- Floods are impossible to predict, however under certain conditions a flood could occur and should be prepared for.
- An insurance company estimates for reconstruction of a damaged home or business would be approximately \$100.00 per square foot.

Earthquake:

An earthquake is the third most dangerous hazard that is likely to occur within the City of Placerville.

- The Melones Fault does run thru the city limits of Placerville.
 - The Melones Fault runs from the north to the south and goes directly under the El Dorado County Superior Court house at 495 Main St.
- Per an article published in the Mountain Democrat January 19th, 1994, there have been 562 recorded earthquakes within a 62 mile radius of Placerville between 1850 and 1966.
- Per the same article the Melones Fault has not moved in 100,000 years and is not expected to move anytime soon.
- Earthquakes are impossible to predict, and since they can occur at any time they should be prepared for.
- An insurance company estimate for reconstruction of a damaged or destroyed home or business would be \$100.00 per square foot.

Severe Winter Storm:

A Severe Winter Storm is the fourth most dangerous hazard likely to occur within the City of Placerville.

- Placerville, which is located at the 1866 foot elevation in the western foothill region of the Sierra Nevada, has the potential to be affected by a Severe Winter Storm.
- A Severe Winter Storm which brings a higher than normal amount of precipitation would affect vast parts of the City, however would most likely cause minimal amounts of damage.
- There has been Severe Winter Storms in the past however due to the lack of documentation, a list of exact number of storms and the dates are not possible.
- The most recent high impact Severe Winter Storm was in January 1997. This storm resulted in areas of moderate to major damage outside the City but minimal damage within the City.
- Severe Winter Storms are impossible to predict, however with today's advances in meteorology, a warning of an impending storm may be possible.
- Severe Winter Storms are going to happen in the future and preparation should be made to lessen the impact of a Severe Winter Storm.
- An insurance company estimates for reconstruction of a damaged or destroyed home or business would be \$100.00 per square foot.

Land Subsidence:

Land Subsidence is the fifth most dangerous hazard likely to occur within the City of Placerville.

- The City of Placerville has an extensive history of mining activity.

- The City of Placerville has experienced land subsidence in the forms of mine cave-in as well as minor landslides, however due to lack of documentation, a list of the exact number and dates is not possible.
- The areas most affected by mine cave-ins are those areas in which there was a heavy concentration of mining.
- The areas most affected by landslides are new construction areas and those areas with poor drainage.
- Land subsidence can be triggered by a multitude of factors and can be unpredictable.
- Areas of new construction and where there was mining activity should be prepared for the chance of a land subsidence.
- An insurance company estimates for reconstruction of a damaged or destroyed home or business would be \$100.00 per square foot.

Drought:

A drought is the least dangerous hazard to occur within the City of Placerville.

- The City of Placerville does not have a major agricultural base.
- The effects of a drought would be wide spread however would not cause injuries. Damage would most likely be limited to landscaping.
- Droughts have occurred in the past and will occur in the future and should be prepared for by using native and drought resistant plants.
- Since a drought would not cause an excessive amount of damage no reconstruction costs have been estimated.

Conclusions on Hazard Risk

1. **Wildfires:** A wildfire is most likely to occur on an annual basis, the damage caused by a wildfire could be wide spread with a catastrophic potential impact to the residents and visitors to the City of Placerville.
2. **Severe Winter Storm:** The City of Placerville has suffered from severe winter storms in the past. The affect from a Severe Winter Storm would be wide spread with a minimal risk to the residents and visitors.
3. **Flooding:** The City of Placerville does have listed 100 and 500 year flood planes, however the damage caused by flooding would be confined to small areas of the City. A flood does have the potential to cause large amounts of property damage however there is a minimal risk to the residents and visitors.
4. **Land Subsidence:** The City of Placerville has had instances of minor land subsidence mainly caused from past mining activities. The damage caused from a land subsidence would be site specific and poses minimal risk to residents and visitors.
5. **Earthquake:** The City of Placerville has an identified fault zone running underneath the City. A substantial amount of time has passed since the last earthquake, however it should be expected that a remote chance exists that the City of Placerville could experience an earthquake.

6. **Drought-** The City of Placerville does not have a significant agricultural community within the city limits. Therefore the affects of a drought would cause minimal risk to the residents and visitors to the City. The affects of a drought would have a greater affect on wildfires (fuel moisture) and domestic water usage (landscaping).

IV. Mitigation Considerations

Mitigation Capabilities Assessment

1. INTRODUCTION

This portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the City of Placerville's current capabilities to mitigate the affects of natural hazards which were identified and analyzed in Section II (Hazard Identification and Analysis), and Section III (Community Vulnerability Assessment). The Mitigation Capabilities Assessment includes an examination of the following local government capabilities:

Staff & Organizational Capability
Technical Capability
Policy & Program Capability
Fiscal Capability
Political Willpower

The purpose of conducting the capabilities assessment is to identify potential hazard mitigation opportunities already available to the City of Placerville.

2. STAFF & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

The City of Placerville is governed by an elected five member City Council who bears the responsibility of serving the people and improving the quality of life in the City. The City has a number of professionally staffed departments to serve the residents and to carry out the day to day administrative activities. These are the different departments within the City:

Administration	Community Development	Police Department
Public Works / Engineer	City Manager/Attorney	
Parks and Recreation		

The **City Administrative Office** is responsible for the oversight and management of the City's budget and fiscal programs and coordination of City events and personnel.

The **Community Development Department's** responsibilities include: developing and maintaining the City's General Plan and Housing Element; conducting public hearings on land use proposals; construction plan reviews; issuance of building permits; correcting Housing Code violations; nuisance abatement; and finally, to seek and obtain grant funding from numerous Federal and State agencies for community programs.

The **Police Department** is responsible for providing the City's general law enforcement services using sound police administrative practices within the guidelines of current law.

The **Public Works / Engineering Department** is responsible for Planning, Constructing, Operating, Maintaining, and expanding all of the City's Major Infrastructure. This includes streets, water and wastewater, storm drainage, and subdivisions. The department is divided into four operating divisions:

- Administration
- Engineering
- Corporation Yard
- Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fire suppression services and emergency medical aid is supplied by contract to the City by the **El Dorado County Fire Protection District (EDCFPD)**.

3. TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

Technical Expertise

The City of Placerville has a Community Development Department which has five full-time professionals with a combined experience of over 70 years. Those 5 positions are a Senior Building Inspector, a Community Development Director, an Associate Planner, a Community Development Specialist and an Administrative Secretary. The City also employs several Engineering Technicians and has tenured employees with the Public Works staff and Parks and Recreation. The Police Department has specific training and experience in critical incident response and management including use of the Incident Command System(ICS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). The Police Department works closely with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (EDSO OES) and the EDCFPD.

Internet Access

City officials and employees have Internet access at different work stations in each Department. The City maintains a webpage that serves a variety of purposes.

4. FISCAL CAPABILITY

The City of Placerville has a limited fiscal capability due to continued revenue reductions across the board.

5. POLICY AND PROGRAM CAPABILITY

This part of the capabilities assessment includes the identification and evaluation of existing plans, policies, practices, programs, or activities that decrease the community's vulnerability to natural hazards. Activities that decrease hazard vulnerability should be sustained and enhanced if possible. Activities that increase hazard vulnerability should be reconsidered and thoroughly addressed.

Emergency Operations Plan

The City of Placerville maintains and periodically updates the City's Emergency Plan in collaboration with the EDSO OES. The plan was last updated in April 2005 and is pending final review and approval. The City is a member of the El Dorado County Local Disaster Council.

City of Placerville General Plan

The City of Placerville's General Plan states its goals in regards to the health and safety for the residents of the City. The City's Goals and Policies to accomplish those goals are stated below.

Geological Hazard

Goal- To prevent loss of lives, injury, and property damage due to geological hazards

Policies

- Lands with significant, identified geological hazards shall be designated for open-space and low intensity uses until it becomes feasible to mitigate the health and safety risks.
- The City shall require the following information and plans to be submitted for all projects subject to discretionary review by the City in areas of moderate or high slope instability and areas with identified soil instability problems.
 - Engineering geologic report
 - Soils and foundation engineering report
 - Grading, erosion, and sediment control plan
 - Plan review letter evidencing review of all proposed development by a qualified engineering geologist
 - As-built construction report, including building plans, explanation and discussion of any deviations from the approved grading plan, the location and results of field tests, results of laboratory tests, and a statement that the work was performed under the supervision of and in accordance with recommendations of the engineering geologist and/or soils engineer
 - Signature of an engineering geologist certified by the State of California and/or a soils engineer registered in the State of California.
- The City shall ensure that both public and private developments in areas with significant identified geological hazards are sited to minimize the exposure of structures and improvements to damage resulting from geological hazards and to minimize the aggravation of off-site geological hazards.
- Development in areas of lava-capped underground streams shall be properly engineered to allow for the free flow of water.
- The suitability of soil and/or rock formations should be one of the prime considerations for determining the type and intensity of development permitted.
- The City shall establish an ongoing program to collect and maintain current geological data.

- The City shall retain on an ongoing basis a qualified consulting geologist to assist the City in updating its geological data and to review geological reports prepared in connection with new development projects.

Earthquake

Goal- To prevent loss of lives, injury, and property damage due to the collapse of buildings and critical facilities and to minimize disruption of essential services in the event of an earthquake.

Policies:

- The City shall, as required by State law, inventory all potentially hazardous buildings within the city and develop a mitigation program, including requirements for strengthening buildings, changing the use of the buildings to an acceptable occupancy level, or demolishing the building.
- The City should ensure that all public facilities, such as buildings, water tanks, and reservoirs, are structurally sound and able to withstand seismic shaking and the effect of seismically-induced ground failure.
- The City shall ensure that privately-owned and maintained above-ground petroleum products storage tanks and their retaining walls are structurally sound and able to withstand seismic shaking and the effects of seismically-induced ground failure.

Flooding

Goal- To prevent loss of live, injury and property damage due to flooding

Policies:

- The City shall continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. To this end, the City shall ensure that local regulations are in full compliance with standards adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- New residential development shall be constructed so that the lowest floor is at least one foot above the 100-year flood level.
- Non-residential development shall be anchored and flood-proofed to prevent damage form the 100-year flood, or alternatively, elevated to at least one foot above the 100-year flood level
- Existing development shall comply with policies when improvements are made costing at least 50 percent of the current market value of the structure before the improvements
- The City shall provide for channel improvements to and tree and brush clearing along watercourses in Placerville to reduce flooding

Wildland and Urban Fires

Goal- To prevent loss of lives, injuries, and property damage due to wildland and urban fires

Policies:

- Areas of high and extreme fire hazards shall be subject to special review, and building and higher intensity uses shall be limited unless the hazards are mitigated to a point acceptable by the Fire Department.

- All new development in areas of high and extreme fire hazards shall be constructed with fire retardant roof coverings
- The City shall require the installation of an approved interior sprinkler system in all new combustible wood frame commercial buildings of 5,000 square feet or more.
- All new development in areas of high and extreme fire hazards shall provide for clearance around the structures and the use of fire-resistant groundcover
- The City shall encourage the Fire Department to maintain a regular program of fire inspection for commercial and industrial buildings
- The City will ensure in approving and constructing new roads and streets that they are adequate in terms of width, turning radius, and grade to facilitate access by firefighting apparatus. All plans for new streets for areas within the Urban Service Area and/or sphere of influence of the City shall be reviewed by the ... Fire Department to ensure that City standards are met since there is a high probability that these areas will be annexed to the City at some point in the future.
- All new development shall be required to meet the minimum fire flow rates and other standards specified by the City's Fire Code.
- Future roadway systems and networks shall be designed with at least one means of egress other than the access in all developing areas
- The City shall not approve any medium or high density residential developments unless they are served by a street system with at least two streets capable of carrying peak load traffic
- Parcel splits and multi-family developments shall not be allowed in areas served by narrow streets until minimum access can be guaranteed to emergency vehicles at all times
- In approving commercial, industrial, and multi-family developments, the City shall ensure all structures are located within 150 feet of an access useable by fire trucks
- Existing streets shall be upgraded to meet City Subdivision Ordinance standards wherever possible
- Parking shall be restricted on streets less than 28 feet in width curb to curb
- The City shall continue to aggressively enforce its fire code and weed abatement regulations
- The City shall encourage the EDCFPD to enact and enforce a weed abatement ordinance for the unincorporated area within the Fire District's service area
- The City shall strive to restrict vehicular access and recreational use of undeveloped foothill areas during critical fire hazard periods
- The City shall adopt a uniform system for numbering structures, residences, and businesses.
- The City shall remove obstructions obscuring street signs and require that house numbers be legible from the street. Commercial structures with rear street access shall be identified with the business name and street address in a clear and conspicuous manner on the rear of the building

Land Subsidence

Mine Shafts and Openings

Goal- To protect the public from the hazards posed by old mine shafts and openings

Policy:

- The City shall enforce the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance requiring the identification and capping of all abandoned mine shafts and openings

6. POLITICAL WILLPOWER

The City understands the need for mitigation efforts and is supportive within the financial means available to the City. Therefore it is expected that the current and future political climates are favorable for supporting and advancing future hazard mitigation strategies.

Mitigation Goals

It is not the design of this section to list the exact details of what corrective action should be taken, but to merely offer the basis to which the City should build upon to reduce the impact that a natural disaster will have upon the City.

1. Objectives

The City of Placerville should make every effort to implement and improve on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as take the necessary steps to reduce or eliminate hazards that are posed by environmental factors.

The City should continue with and improve upon, the programs and policies that reduce the effects of naturally occurring disasters.

The City should reconsider and revise the programs and policies that increase the risk to the public in an effort to reduce those potential hazards.

The City's Hazard Mitigation Plan should be updated and revised when City Officials deem it to be necessary.

V. Implementation

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to outline the possible implementation methods of the proposed mitigation actions identified in the preceding section.

B. Mitigation Actions

1. Prevention

The City of Placerville should take all steps necessary in an effort to lessen the impact of a major natural disaster prior to the occurrence of that natural disaster. The preventive measures that are already in place that reduces the risk of a major disruption in critical services should continue to be practiced and from time to time be updated as the needs of the City and community change.

2. Property Protection

The City of Placerville should take into consideration and prepare for the impacts that a natural disaster will have on both public and private property. The City should look at retrofitting critical facilities to help reduce the loss of that facility during a natural disaster.

3. Natural Resource Protection

The City of Placerville should also take into consideration and prepare for the impacts that a natural disaster will have on natural resources in the area. The City of Placerville is rich with natural resources which serve as the back drop for the community. To protect the natural beauty of the City will help spark the economic recovery from a natural disaster. The City's plan to use hazardous areas as recreational areas should continue to be a priority.

4. Structural Projects

The City of Placerville should continue in following the General Plan goals for new and other structural projects. The City should from time to time revise and update its policies, procedures and practices when approving and having new and other structural projects implemented.

5. Emergency Services

The City of Placerville should continue to update and train new and tenured employees in respects to hazard reduction and enforcement of City Ordinances that directly effect

hazard mitigation. The City should also plan and prepare for any unexpected costs that might occur during a natural disaster from the response of emergency services.

6. Public Information and Awareness

The City of Placerville should work with local news organizations in an attempt to inform and keep the public aware of issues that affect both them as individuals as well as the community as a whole. The City should also create a network with local news organizations, business leaders and community leaders that has the ability to quickly pass along information.

C. EXISTING PROGRAMS

The City of Placerville currently has mitigation programs already in place. Those programs are listed in the General Plan and have goals and policies which are specific to geological hazards. Those goals and policies can be found in this Hazard Mitigation Plan under Section IV (Mitigation Considerations), subsection A (Mitigation Capabilities Assessment), number 5 (Policy & Program Capability).

These goals and policies will be continued to be used, reviewed, and updated, when necessary, on a regular basis as well as after any natural disaster that occurs.

D. LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

The City of Placerville depends upon a variety of taxes and fees that support our general fund. These taxes and fees support a majority of the City's infrastructure. Current fiscal constraints have left the City with a very marginal surplus. The City uses grant funding, when available, to gap-fund necessary projects within the City.

The City cannot accomplish major projects without significant increases in revenue, whether it comes from taxes, fees or grants.

VI. Evaluation and Enhancement

A. MONITORING, REPORTING, REVISIONS AND UPDATES

The City of Placerville has a unique topography that is ever changing. The needs of the community as well as the City to improve public safety changes with the times. Even though there is that constant change and upgrades in hazard mitigation, disasters happen. Those disasters do not usually occur at the most opportune times and are fairly unpredictable. The City of Placerville will take the opportunity to, after each disaster, take the lessons learned from a particular disaster, compare it to previous disasters of the like, and apply those lessons to this Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The City of Placerville has created relationships with allied agencies, including El Dorado County Sheriffs Office, which oversees the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for El Dorado County. The El Dorado County Sheriff's OES division has 4 dedicated staff including one Sheriff Sergeant, two Sheriff's Deputies and one department analyst. The City of Placerville works in partnership with the OES on disasters and the hazard mitigation that goes along with those disasters.

The City of Placerville will also set up a set timetable to review and revise the Hazard Mitigation Plan to go along with the ever-changing needs of the community.

The City of Placerville will also continue to be involved with the public through our Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) strategy where citizens have a forum to voice their concerns. The citizens of Placerville may also at anytime voice their concerns to the City regarding mitigation issues.