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**TO:** PLANNING COMMISSION

**MEETING DATE:** MAY 11, 2026

**FROM:** ERIN VENTURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT

**SUBJECT:** GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT AMENDMENT

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review the amended Safety Element, and do the following:

1. Consider and discuss the item before them;
2. Open the public hearing;
3. Gather public comment;
4. Close the public hearing;
5. Recommend the City Council find the Project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061(b)(3);
6. Recommend the City Council approve the proposed General Plan Amendment to incorporate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Safety Element as presented; and
7. Adopt **Planning Commission Resolution No. 25-26-xx**, thereby memorializing the Commission's recommendations.

### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2024 and 2025, City staff worked with the County to identify hazards and potential mitigations in preparation of the drafting of a Countywide Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The updated LHMP is in compliance with AB2140, which enables the City to qualify for additional funding in the event of an emergency.

### **DISCUSSION**

In April 2026, the City Council adopted the LHMP. To complete the process of adoption, it must be incorporated into the City's General Plan Safety Element.

The meeting materials from the City Council can be reviewed in the following links below:

1. [April 6, 2026 City Council Meeting](#) (Item 7B - Consent Agenda)
2. [May 4, 2026 City Council Meeting](#) (Item 7B - Consent Agenda)

The link above for the April 6, 2026 City Council meeting provides access to the LHMP which includes the Appendices and Annex E (the City of Sutter Creek Annex).

Any amendments to the General Plan must first be reviewed by the Planning Commission and then recommended to the City Council. See attached Draft Safety Element, which incorporates the LHMP.

### **CEQA**

The Sutter Creek General Plan Environmental Document was adopted in April 2011 (SCH No. 2012062034).

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council determine that the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 where the amendment is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Resolution 25-26-XX
2. Draft Safety Element