



Date: January 14, 2025

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: James Blattler, Emergency Services Program Manager

Title: **Adopt the 2024 Nevada County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

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**Recommended Action:** That Council adopt Resolution 2025-06 approving the 2024 Nevada County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update including the Town of Truckee specific Annex and authorize staff to make necessary adjustments if required by FEMA.

**Discussion:**

Through the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), the US Congress set a goal to encourage local governments and states to develop plans and undertake projects to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on a community before disasters occur. Federal requirements established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of this legislation, include a requirement that hazard mitigation plans (HMP) be reviewed and updated a minimum of every five years, and following any major disaster declaration, to maintain eligibility for funding and technical assistance from State and Federal hazard mitigation programs. Currently, the Town is beyond the 5-year compliance window with the 2018 plan.

In support of regionalism, cost, and work efficiencies, the Town of Truckee continued the past practice of meeting DMA 2000 requirements through a Nevada County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) as an agency-specific annex within the plan. The 2024 MHMP is a countywide document that includes a variety of jurisdictions within the county under the County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services umbrella. The Town of Truckee's separate Annex in the plan covers hazard mitigation planning specific to the Town.

**2040 General Plan**

The adoption of the MHMP aligns with the Town's 2040 General Plan. Under Goal SN-6: Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery of the Safety and Noise Element, action SN-6.8 "Local Hazard Mitigation Plan" identifies the need to coordinate with Nevada County to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additionally, each identified mitigation action is directly tied to policies or actions in the Safety and Noise Element, as referenced below.



**Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Contents**

Volume 1 of the MHMP provides detailed information on the planning process and planning area, risk assessment including the identification of hazards of concern, capability assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance. Attachment 2 is the executive summary of the MHMP, and the full Volume 1 can be reviewed [here](#).

Volume 2 of the plan consists of the participating agency-specific annexes including the Town of Truckee Annex (Attachment 3). Volume II can be reviewed in its entirety [here](#). Within each annex, the plan provides a community profile, capability assessment and integration, compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), growth and development trends, a Truckee-specific risk assessment, and finally mitigation strategies and prioritization to address the identified hazards of concerns. The community-specific hazard ranking is based on problems and impacts identified by the risk assessment conducted in Volume I of the MHMP. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard; the potential impacts of the hazard on people, property, and the economy; community capabilities to address the hazard; and changing future climate conditions. The 12 hazards of concern are as follows:

- Avalanche (Low)
- Dam Failure (Medium)
- Drought (Medium)
- Earthquake (Medium)
- Extreme Cold (Medium)
- Extreme Heat (Medium)
- Flood (Medium)
- Hazardous Materials Release (Low)
- Landslide (Low)
- Wildfire (High)
- Winter Storm (High)
- Volcano (Low)

### Identified Mitigation Actions

The Town of Truckee Annex identifies 15 total mitigation actions the Town would like to pursue to reduce the effects of the hazards of concern. The actions are dependent upon available funding (grants, local match availability, and local funding availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in Town priorities.

Each action was assigned a priority level based on an extensive evaluation criteria analysis including life safety, property protection, cost-effectiveness, political, legal, fiscal, environmental, social vulnerability, administrative, hazards of concern, climate change, timeline, community lifelines, and other local objectives. A numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the valuation criteria and the action priority is based on a cumulative numeric score, Low (0-6), Medium (7-10), and High (11-14).

For an action item to be placed in the annex, the action must identify a realistic funding source, and be achievable within a 5-year timeframe if funding was available. Additionally, for any mitigation project to be eligible for federal mitigation grant programs, the action must be included within the MHMP. For added reference and context, aligned policies and actions in the Safety and Noise Element of the Town 2040 General Plan have also been identified below (“SN-X.X”). Detailed action item descriptions can be found on pages 57 to 76 of Attachment 3.

- High Priority
  - Evacuation Vulnerability, Risk, and Strengthening Assessment (SN-2.J, SN-2.K, SN-6.2, SN-6.4, SN-6.8, SN-6.9, SN-6.E)
- Medium Priority
  - Repetitive Flood Loss Mitigation (SN-3.2)
  - Substantial Damage Management Plan (SN-6.H, SN-6.I)
  - Roadway Vegetation Management (SN-6.4, SN-2.6, SN-2.B)
  - Conduct Unreinforced Masonry Inventories and Identify Retrofit Projects (SN-5.2, SN-5.B)
  - Identify Solutions to I-80 Gridlock (SN-6.5)
  - Donner Lake Area Erosion Control and Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (SN-3.6)
  - Tahoe Donner Fuel Break Projects (SN-2.6, SN-2.7, SN-2.B, SN-2.F)
  - Trout Creek Restoration Reach 1, Phase 2 (SN-3.3)
  - Stormwater Drainage Improvements (SN-3.6)
  - Sierra Meadows (Old Mill Rd.) Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (SN-3.6)
  - Tahoe Donner Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (SN-3.6)
- Low Priority
  - Public Service Center Transit Facility Expansion (SN-6.9)

- Public Service Center Vehicle Garages (SN-6.1)

**Approval Process**

To have a valid plan, both the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and FEMA need to review and approve the plan and the jurisdictional governing body must also approve the plan. The initial draft was submitted to CalOES on August 30, 2024. CalOES subsequently requested revisions to meet current Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements. All CalOES comments were addressed, and a revised draft of Volume 1 and the Nevada County Annex were resubmitted to CalOES on November 18, 2024. CalOES approved the revised draft and forwarded the plan to FEMA Region IX for review and issued plan approval pending adoption on November 29, 2024. The County Board of Supervisors approved the MHMP on December 10, 2024.

The remaining jurisdictional annexes were resubmitted to Cal OES on November 27, 2024. CalOES approved the revised draft plan and forwarded the MHMP to FEMA Region IV for review and approval on January 2, 2025. FEMA is expected to issue approval pending local adoption by mid-February based on a 45-day review period. Council approval of the plan before FEMA approval will ensure the most expedited path to a valid plan. Given FEMA’s existing approval of Volume 1 and the Nevada County Annex, there is little risk of FEMA requesting any changes. Additionally, authorizing staff to make any necessary adjustments required by FEMA identified through their review will avoid the need to return to Town Council for re-approval. Any requested changes made by FEMA will be based on Federal requirements to have a valid and approved plan.

It should be noted that any requested changes from the Council at this stage will require the entire plan to be re-submitted to CalOES and later to FEMA for re-review. This process could add 90 or more days before receiving another approval pending adoption. The Town will have the ability to update the MHMP after final plan approval through the ongoing maintenance requirements and annual reviews.

**Priority:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact with the recommended action to adopt the MHMP. Any mitigation project identified in the plan will either leverage grant funding or be proposed for consideration by the Council for incorporation into a future Capital Improvement Plan or Annual Operating Budget.

**Public Communication:**

Extensive public outreach was conducted to ensure the public was given opportunities to provide input into the development of the MHMP. A public [website](#), and [project StoryMap](#) were created to improve accessibility, an on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was circulated which generated over 100 responses, and hazard mitigation discussions occurred during community outreach events such as the Truckee Donner Recreation & Park District Golden Hour. Additionally, a two-week public review and input period was conducted in August 2024 after the completion of the final draft. The public review period was shared directly with the Tahoe-Truckee Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) group to help ensure the draft plan reached our local vulnerable populations for input. Public comments and edits were reviewed by the planning team and incorporated into the draft prior to submission to CalOES and FEMA.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 2025-06 - Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

Attachment 2 – Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Executive Summary (Volume I)

Attachment 3 – Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Introduction and Town of Truckee Annex (Volume II)