



Annex B City of Colfax

B.1 Introduction

This Annex details the hazard mitigation planning elements specific to the City of Colfax, a participating jurisdiction to the Placer County LHMP Update. This Annex is not intended to be a standalone document, but appends to and supplements the information contained in the base plan document. As such, all sections of the base plan, including the planning process and other procedural requirements apply to and were met by the City. This Annex provides additional information specific to the City of Colfax, with a focus on providing additional details on the risk assessment and mitigation strategy for this community.

B.2 Planning Process

As described above, the City of Colfax followed the planning process detailed in Section 3 of the base plan. In addition to providing representation on the Placer County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC), the City formulated their own internal planning team to support the broader planning process requirements. Internal planning participants, their positions, and how they participated in the planning process are shown in Table B-1. Additional details on plan participation and City representatives are included in Appendix A.

Table B-1 City of Colfax Planning Team

Name	Position/Title	How Participated
Amy Feagans	Planning Director	Provided edits and updates to past annex. Provided updated hazard identification, vulnerability and capability information. Provided updated mitigation projects.
John Brownlee	Building Official	Provided data on development in the City since 2010.
Wes Heathcock	Community Services Director	Attended Meetings. Provided edits and updates to past annex

Coordination with other community planning efforts is paramount to the successful implementation of this plan. This Section provides information on how the City integrated the previously-approved 2010 Plan into existing planning mechanisms and programs. Specifically, the City incorporated into or implemented the 2010 LHMP through other plans and programs shown in Table B-2.

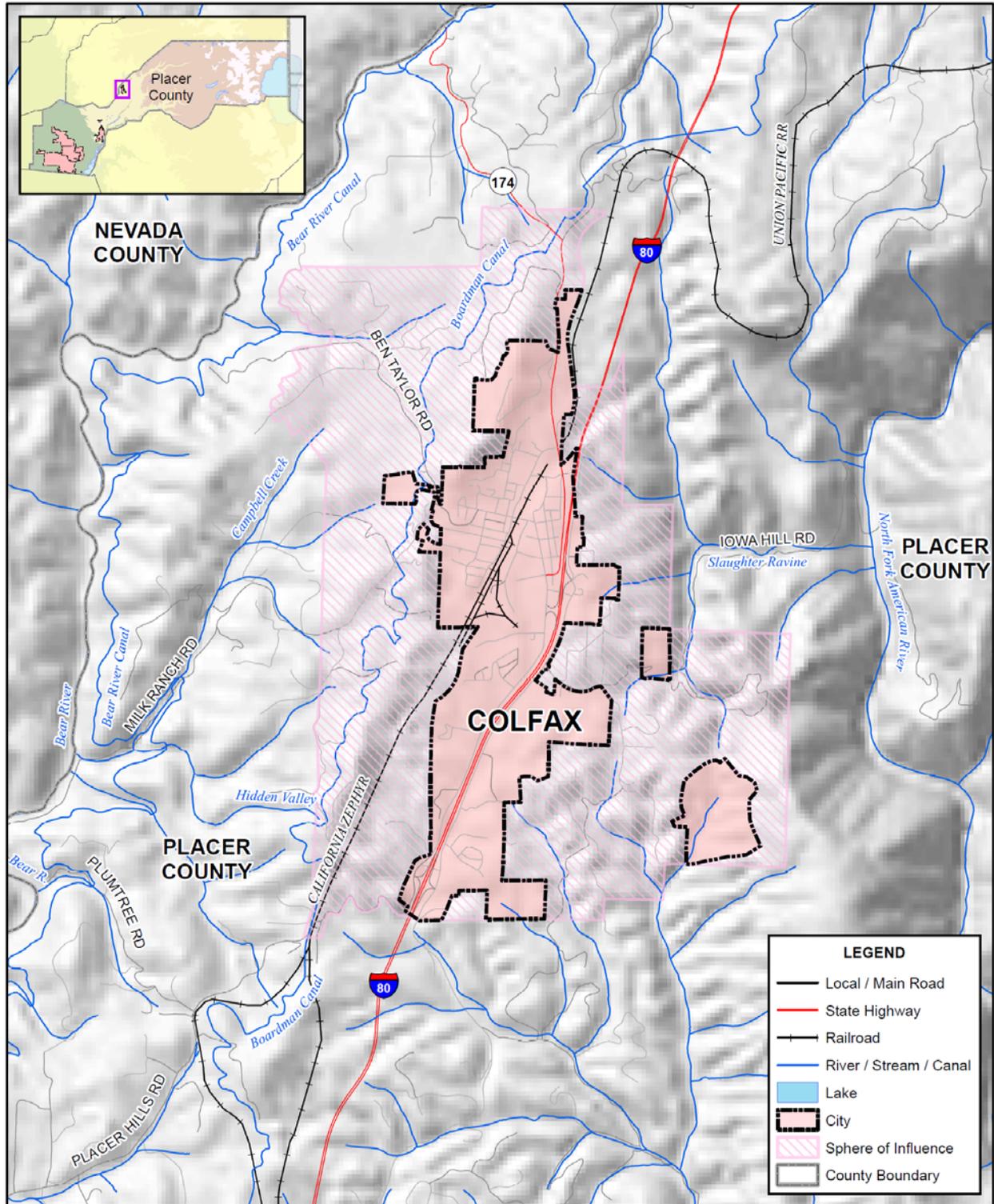
Table B-2 2010 LHMP Incorporation

Jurisdiction	Planning Mechanism 2010 LHMP Was Incorporated/Implemented In. Details?
City of Colfax	The LHMP was adopted by City Council in 2010, but the City did not incorporate the plan into other documents. There were several reasons why this did not occur and included, financial constraints of the City resulting in very limited planning activities over the last five years and lack of consistent planning and other staff involved in the 2010 LHMP Update and responsible for plan implementation.
City of Colfax	Although not specifically part of City activities, many of the regional wildfire projects from the 2010 LHMP Update that were implemented since the last plan provided a direct benefit to the City of Colfax. Incorporation and implementation were coordinated by local Fire Safe Councils and Placer County Fire, and used existing area CWPPs.
City of Colfax	The LHMP is considered a supporting document to the General Plan that will be incorporated into the Safety Element during the next General Plan update. The next General Plan update timeframe will occur prior to expiration in 2020.

B.3 Community Profile

Figure B-1 displays a map and the location of the City of Colfax within Placer County.

Figure B-1 City of Colfax Basemap



Data Source: Placer County, CAL ATLAS; Map Date: 2015.

B.3.1. Geography and Climate

The City of Colfax is the northern-most incorporated city in Placer County, located in the Sierra Nevada Foothills at a general elevation of 2,400 feet above msl. The City covers an area of 1.3 square miles and straddles I-80 approximately 16 miles north of Colfax and east of Grass Valley.

Colfax average temperatures range from the low 80°F to low 90°F during the summer to the mid 30°F to low 40°F during the winter. Colfax receives an average of 45.59 inches of rain and 18.9 inches of snow annually.

B.3.2. History

Colfax was originally inhabited by the Maidu Indians. In 1849 during the frenetic days of the Gold Rush, southeast of present-day Colfax, Illinoistown (previously known as Alder Grove) rose as a major supply hub for the Sierra Foothill mining camps. In 1865, destiny doomed the thriving community when transcontinental railroad engineers bypassed it. Railroad construction Camp 20 became the town site of choice. Camp 20 was later renamed Colfax in honor of Schuyler Colfax, who visited the town in 1865 when he was Speaker of the House, assuring the construction crew that the government was committed to completing the transcontinental railroad. The town went on to become a major switching and maintenance station for the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific, and in 1876 a terminus for the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad, serving the fruit orchards of the area and Nevada County gold mines. Colfax was incorporated as a city in 1910.

B.3.3. Economy

Colfax is the home several major employers: GKM Corporation, Winner Chevrolet, Placer Union High School District, Hills Flat Lumber, Sierra Energy, Crispin Cider, and Sierra Market. US Census estimates show economic characteristics for the City of Colfax. These are shown in Table B-3.

Table B-3 City of Colfax Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over

Industry	Estimated Employment	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0	0.0%
Construction	120	11.5%
Manufacturing	93	8.9%
Wholesale trade	18	1.7%
Retail trade	139	13.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	116	11.1%
Information	11	1.1%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	45	4.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	51	4.9%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	199	19.0%

Industry	Estimated Employment	Percent
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	135	12.9%
Other services, except public administration	26	2.5%
Public administration	94	9.0%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2009-2013 Estimates

B.3.4. Population

The California Department of Finance estimated the January 1, 2014 total population for the City of Colfax was 1,998.

B.4 Hazard Identification and Summary

Colfax’s planning team identified the hazards that affect the City and summarized their frequency of occurrence, spatial extent, potential magnitude, and significance specific to Colfax (see Table B-4). In the context of the plan’s planning area, there are no hazards that are unique to Colfax.

Table B-4 City of Colfax Hazard Identification Table

Hazard	Geographic Extent	Probability of Future Occurrences	Magnitude/Severity	Significance
Agricultural Hazards	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Avalanche	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Dam Failure	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Drought and Water Shortage	Significant	Likely	Critical	Medium
Earthquake	Significant	Occasional	Critical	Medium
Flood: 100/500 year	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Flood: Localized Stormwater Flooding	Significant	Occasional	Limited	Medium
Landslides and Debris Flows	Limited	Occasional	Limited	Medium
Levee Failure	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Seiche (Lake Tsunami)	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Severe Weather: Extreme Heat	Significant	Likely	Limited	Low
Severe Weather: Freeze and Snow	Significant	Likely	Limited	Low
Severe Weather: Fog and Freezing Fog	Significant	Limited	Limited	Low
Severe Weather: Heavy Rains and Storms (Thunderstorms/Hail, Lightning/Wind/Tornadoes)	Significant	Likely	Critical	Medium
Soil Bank Erosion	Significant	Occasional	Limited	Low
Subsidence	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	low
Volcano	Significant	Likely	Catastrophic	High
Wildfire	Significant	Unlikely	Catastrophic	High
Hazardous Materials Transport	Limited	Unlikely	Negligible	Low
Geographic Extent Limited: Less than 10% of planning area Significant: 10-50% of planning area Extensive: 50-100% of planning area		Magnitude/Severity Catastrophic—More than 50 percent of property severely damaged; shutdown of facilities for more than 30 days; and/or multiple deaths Critical—25-50 percent of property severely damaged; shutdown of facilities for at least two weeks; and/or injuries and/or illnesses result in permanent disability Limited—10-25 percent of property severely damaged; shutdown of facilities for more than a week; and/or injuries/illnesses treatable do not result in permanent disability Negligible—Less than 10 percent of property severely damaged, shutdown of facilities and services for less than 24 hours; and/or injuries/illnesses treatable with first aid		
Probability of Future Occurrences Highly Likely: Near 100% chance of occurrence in next year, or happens every year. Likely: Between 10 and 100% chance of occurrence in next year, or has a recurrence interval of 10 years or less. Occasional: Between 1 and 10% chance of occurrence in the next year, or has a recurrence interval of 11 to 100 years. Unlikely: Less than 1% chance of occurrence in next 100 years, or has a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years.		Significance Low: minimal potential impact Medium: moderate potential impact High: widespread potential impact		

B.5 Vulnerability Assessment

The intent of this section is to assess Colfax’s vulnerability separate from that of the planning area as a whole, which has already been assessed in Section 4.3 Vulnerability Assessment in the main plan. This vulnerability assessment analyzes the population, property, and other assets at risk to hazards ranked of medium or high significance that may vary from other parts of the planning area. In addition, although ranked as low significance by the community, the 100-year flood hazard is also included in the below analysis. For more information about how hazards affect the County as a whole, see Chapter 4 Risk Assessment in the main plan.

B.5.1. Assets at Risk

This section identifies Colfax’s assets at risk, including values at risk, critical facilities and infrastructure, historic assets, and growth and development trends.

Values at Risk

The following data from the Placer County Assessor’s Office is based on the 2015 Assessor’s data. The methodology used to derive property values is the same as in Section 4.3.1 of the base plan. This data should only be used as a guideline to overall values in the County, as the information has some limitations. The most significant limitation is created by Proposition 13. Instead of adjusting property values annually, the values are not adjusted or assessed at fair market value until a property transfer occurs. As a result, overall value information is most likely low and does not reflect current market value of properties within the County. It is also important to note, in the event of a disaster, it is generally the value of the infrastructure or improvements to the land that is of concern or at risk. Generally, the land itself is not a loss. Table B-5 shows the 2015 Assessor’s values (e.g., the values at risk) broken down by property type for the City of Colfax.

Table B-5 City of Colfax – Total Assets at Risk by Property Use

Property Use	Parcels	Total Land Value	Improved Parcel Count	Improved Structure Value	Total Value
Agricultural	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Commercial	236	\$14,522,057	71	\$22,372,620	\$36,894,677
Industrial	39	\$6,017,055	16	\$10,130,484	\$16,147,539
Institutional	12	\$676,080	9	\$4,324,806	\$5,000,886
Natural/Open	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Residential	610	\$30,030,239	599	\$69,684,204	\$99,714,443
Total	897	\$51,245,431	695	\$106,512,114	\$157,757,545

Source: Placer County 2015 Parcel/Assessor’s Data

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

For purposes of this plan, a critical facility is defined as:

Any facility, including without limitation, a structure, infrastructure, property, equipment or service, that if adversely affected during a hazard event may result in severe consequences to public health and safety or interrupt essential services and operations for the community at any time before, during and after the hazard event.

This definition was refined by separating out three classes of critical facilities as further described in Section 4.3.1 of the base plan.

An inventory of critical facilities in the City of Colfax from Placer County GIS is shown on Figure B-2 and detailed in Table B-6. Details of critical facility definition, type, name, address, and jurisdiction by hazard zone are listed in Appendix F.

Figure B-2 City of Colfax – Critical Facilities

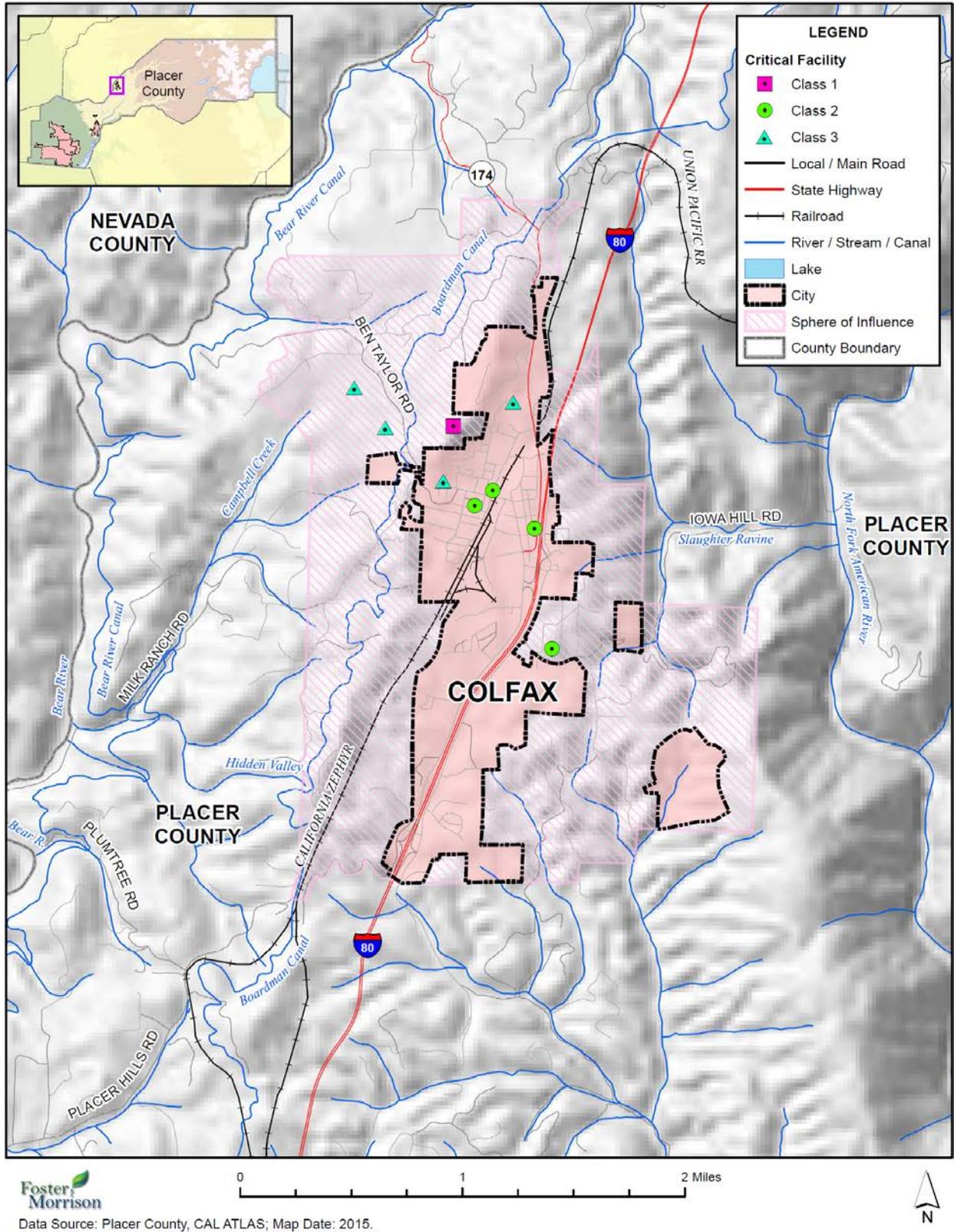


Table B-6 City of Colfax – Critical Facilities Inventory

Critical Facility Category	Facility Type	Facility Count
Class 1	-	-
Class 2	Fire Station	2
	PCSO	1
Class 3	Hall	1
	Water Treatment Plant	1
Total City of Colfax		5

Source: Placer County GIS

Natural Resources

The City of Colfax has a variety of habitat types that include urban, annual grasslands, seasonal wetlands, riparian zones, and oak savannah woodlands. These environments support plant and wildlife that include protected and special status species listed in the Table B-7.

Table B-7 Threatened Species in the City of Colfax Planning Area

Common name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	State Status
Birds			
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	SC	–
Long-eared myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	SC	–
Long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>	SC	–
Small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	SC	–
Spotted bat	<i>Enderma macalatum</i>	SC	SSC
Yuma myotis bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	SC	SSC
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	SC, MNBMC	SSC
Vaux’s swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	–	SSC
Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	MNBNC	SSC
Lawrence’s goldfinch	<i>Carduells lawrencei</i>	SC, MNBMC	–
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	–	T
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelalus tricolor</i>	SC, MNBMC	SSC
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC, MNBMC	SSC
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipeter gentilis</i>	SC	SSC
Insects			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	–
Shirrtail Creek stonefly	<i>Megalencra sierra</i>	SC	–
Sagehen Creek goracean caddisfly	<i>Goracea oregano</i>	SC	–
Spiny rhyacophilan caddisfly	<i>Rhyacophila spinata</i>	SC	–

Common name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	State Status
Amphibians			
Foothill yellow legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	SC	SSC
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora dratonii</i>	T	SSC
Northwestern pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorat marmorata</i>	SC	SSC
California horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum frontale</i>	SC	SSC
*Status explanations			
Federal E – listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act T – listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act MNBMC – Fish and Wildlife Service: Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern SC = species of concern, formerly Category 2 candidate for federal listing – = no listing status		State E = listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act T = listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act SSC = species of special concern – = no listing status	

Source: City of Colfax Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements Project Environmental Impact Report

Historic and Cultural Resources

The City of Colfax has three registered federal historic sites:

- Colfax Freight Depot – 7 Main St.
- Colfax Passenger Depot – Main St. and Railroad Ave.
- Stevens Trail – Roughly bounded by Iowa Hill, Canyon of North Fork of American River until at Secret Ravine, to top of ridge of Colfax

In addition to the registered sites, there are several assets within Colfax that define the community and represent the City’s history. Some of the historical sites of importance to Colfax are listed below.

- Neff House at 55 West Grass Valley St.
- The Colfax Hotel at Grass Valley St. and Railroad St.
- Chamber of Commerce Rail Car
- Perkins-Lobner Victorian on Railroad St.
- Colfax Fruit Sheds
- Lincoln Highway and Highway 40 routes went through the City
- Schuyler Colfax statue at Grass Valley St. and Railroad St.
- Northwestern Pacific Caboose, Number 28 at Main St. and Grass Valley St.
- Fire Bell Tower at the north end of the Colfax Freight Depot
- Hydraulic Monitor at the foot of the flagpole on North Main St.
- Judge Jacob Kuenzly home at Depot St. and Pleasant St.
- Masonic Building and IOOF Building on North Main St.
- Colfax Record Newspaper building at 25 W. Church St.
- Colfax City Hall at 33 South Main St.
- Colfax Theater at 49 South Main St.
- Building currently housing the Colfax Branch Library at South Main St. and Church St.
- All of the other buildings along the west side of North and South Main St.
- Colfax Cemetery on North Canyon Way
- Cape Horn railroad roadbed

Growth and Development Trends

The City of Colfax saw steady population growth between 2000 and 2010, with an estimated 22.9 percent growth rate. However, population growth in Colfax between 2010 and 2015 slowed. This can be seen in Table B-8.

Table B-8 City of Colfax – Past Growth

City	2000 Population	2010 Population	% Change 2000-2010	2015 Population	% Change 2010-2015
Colfax	1,597	1,963	22.9	1,994	1.6%

Source: 2013-20121 City of Colfax Housing Element, California Department of Finance E-1 Report

Development since 2010 Plan

The City Planning Team reviewed building permit data since 2010. One new residential property and two commercial buildings were built since the 2010 LHMP. With no floodplain in the City, these properties were not built in the floodplain. Since the whole of the City is in the Very High Fire Severity Zone, they would have been built in these very high fire risk areas. The Planning Team noted that changes to the State Building Code requires that new construction be more fire resistive due to the entire City being in the Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFS). In addition the State Fire Code requires that all new dwellings have fire sprinklers. This will help mitigate the spread of fire from one house to another.

Given the severe wildfire risk within the City of Colfax, any new development since the 2010 plan would have increased the vulnerability of the community to additional loss during future fires. However, effective building codes and construction standards within the City will assist mitigating potential losses from any new development. With continued population growth, the City’s vulnerability to wildfire will likely continue to increase as well.

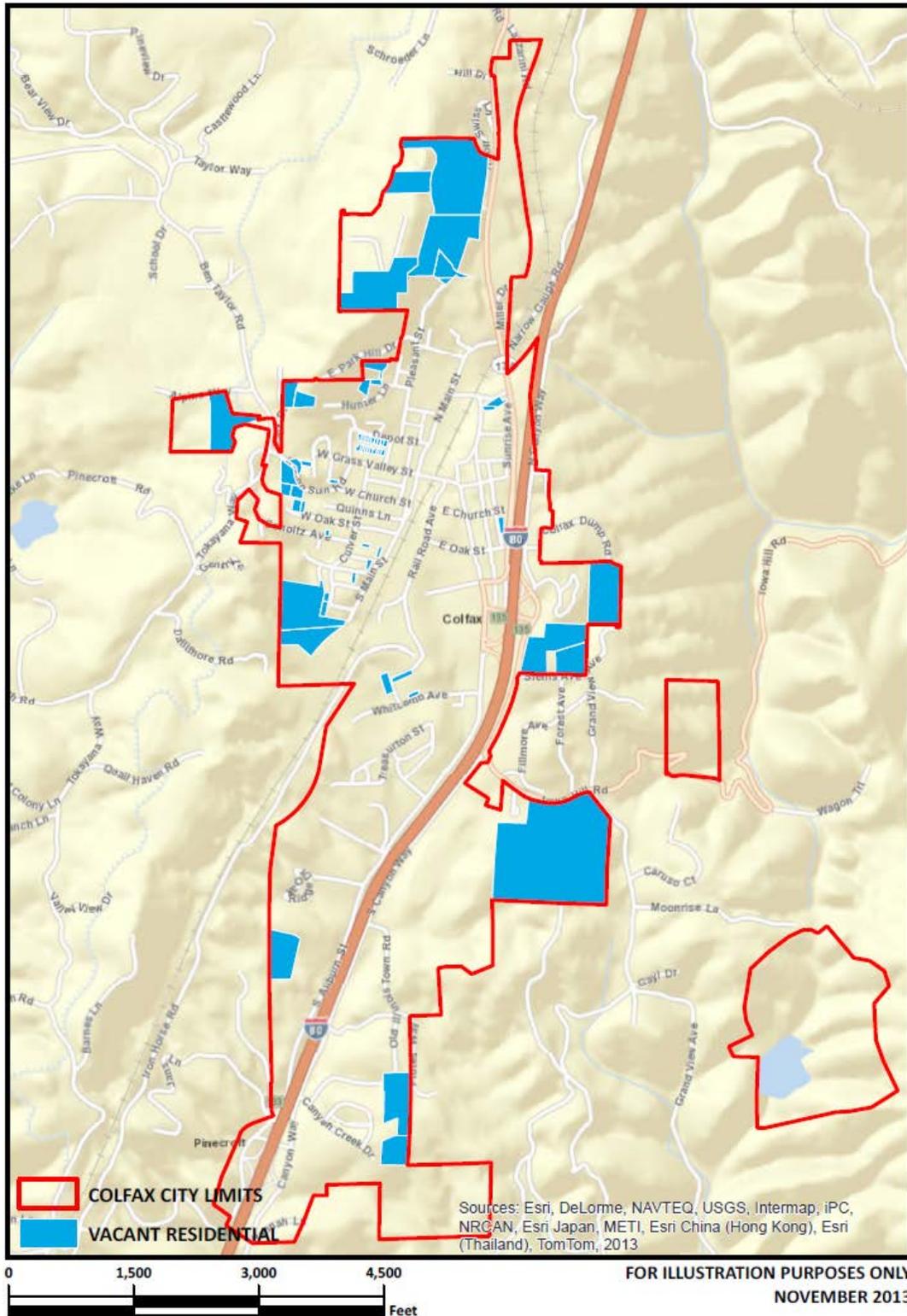
Future Development

New development in Colfax continues to be slow. While there are a few areas for new development, the majority of the undeveloped land in the City is very sloped and therefore challenging to build.

The Sacramento Council on Governments (SACOG) modeled population projections for the City of Colfax and other areas of the region in 2012 for a Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy report. This forecast uses a 2008 base year estimate with projections to 2020 and 2035 for population, housing units, households and employment. SACOG estimated the City population in 2020 and 2035 to be 1,788 and 1,976 respectively.

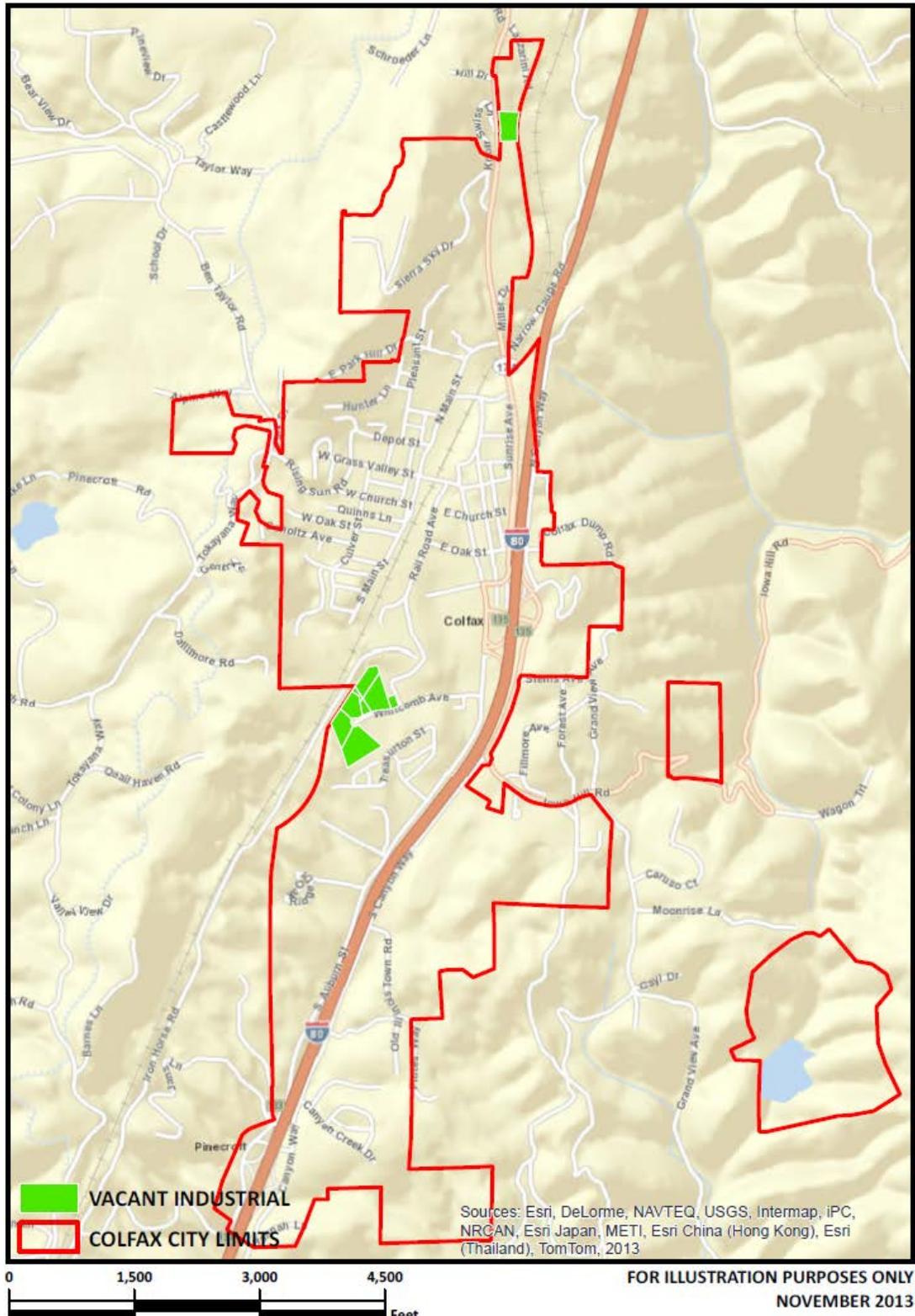
In the City’s 2013-20121 Housing Element, maps of vacant residential and industrial lands were created. These are areas where future development could occur in the City. These are shown in Figure B-3 and Figure B-4.

Figure B-3 City of Colfax – Residential Vacant Land Inventory Map



Source: 2013-2021 City of Colfax Housing Element

Figure B-4 City of Colfax – Industrial Vacant Land Inventory Map



Source: 2013-2021 City of Colfax Housing Element

B.5.2. Priority Hazards: Vulnerability Assessment

This section provides the vulnerability assessment, including any quantifiable loss estimates, for those hazards identified above in Table B-4 as high or medium significance hazards. Impacts of past events and vulnerability of the City to specific hazards are further discussed below (see Section 4.1 Hazard Identification in the base plan for more detailed information about these hazards and their impacts on the Placer County planning area). Methodologies for calculating loss estimates are the same as those described in Section 4.3 of the base plan. In general, the most vulnerable structures are those located within the WUI areas, unreinforced masonry buildings, and buildings built prior to the introduction of modern building codes.

An estimate of the vulnerability of the City to each identified priority hazard, in addition to the estimate of risk of future occurrence, is provided in each of the hazard-specific sections that follow. Vulnerability is measured in general, qualitative terms and is a summary of the potential impact based on past occurrences, spatial extent, and damage and casualty potential. It is categorized into the following classifications:

- **Extremely Low**—The occurrence and potential cost of damage to life and property is very minimal to nonexistent.
- **Low**—Minimal potential impact. The occurrence and potential cost of damage to life and property is minimal.
- **Medium**—Moderate potential impact. This ranking carries a moderate threat level to the general population and/or built environment. Here the potential damage is more isolated and less costly than a more widespread disaster.
- **High**—Widespread potential impact. This ranking carries a high threat to the general population and/or built environment. The potential for damage is widespread. Hazards in this category may have occurred in the past.
- **Extremely High**—Very widespread with catastrophic impact.

Drought and Water Shortage

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Likely
Vulnerability—High

The impact of a drought on the City of Colfax is primarily one of water supply; however, the impact to natural resources in the area is also a concern. In addition, drought conditions contribute to increased wildfire risk. Domestic water for the City of Colfax is provided by the Placer County Water Agency. The source of water for the City of Colfax is the South Fork of the Yuba River and the Bear River. The water is conveyed from Lake Spaulding via the PG&E Drum Canal, into the Agency's Boardman Canal, and then in a pipe to the Colfax Water Treatment Plant. Near the City's ballpark, the Agency has an additional 1.0 million gallon reservoir.

A multiple year drought can severely compromise the water supply within the district and adversely impact natural resources. Most recently, after 2 years of below-average rainfall and very low snow-melt run off, Governor Brown, in 2014, declared a state of emergency for drought conditions statewide. The final California Department of Water Resources showed snowpack water content at only 5 percent of normal. With the unknowns of drought and globally changing climate conditions, the City continues to promote water conservation throughout the community.

Future Development

As the population in the area continues to grow, so will the demand for water. Water shortages in the future may be worsened by drought, as the City relies on surface water for its water source. Increased planning will be needed to account for population growth and increased water demands.

Earthquake

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Occasional

Vulnerability—Medium

Placer County is traversed by a series of northwest trending-faults that are related to the Sierra Nevada uplift. According to the Safety Element of the General Plan, the City of Colfax is located in a seismically active region, and while the City has no recent experience with earthquake effects, it is reasonable to assume the potential exists for moderate ground shaking to occur one or more times over the next century, especially if an epicenter is located nearby, such as was the case in 1975 in Oroville, which is approximately 40 miles north of Colfax.

The Colfax General Plan Safety Element notes that the State’s listing of active faults does not include any showing surface rupture in the City of Colfax, but relatively little fault mapping has been completed in the region. A study for the nearby City of Colfax notes that “potentially active” faults in the area include the Bear Mountain and the Melones Faults, which are in the vicinity of Colfax, and are located about three to four miles to the west and east of Colfax, respectively. Earthquakes on these faults would have the greatest potential for damaging buildings in Colfax, especially the unreinforced masonry structures in the older part of the city.

Additionally, Colfax may experience ground shaking from distant major to great earthquakes on faults to the west and east. For example, to the west, both the San Andreas fault (source of the 8.0 estimated Richter magnitude San Francisco earthquake that damaged Sacramento in 1906) and the closer Hayward fault have the potential for experiencing major to great events. To the east in Nevada, the several faults associated with the series of earthquakes in 1954, especially the major (7.1 Richter magnitude) December 16, 1954 Fairview Peak event (about 100 miles east of Carson City) could cause minor ground shaking in Colfax.

Future Development

The City enforces the state building code, which mandates construction techniques that minimize seismic hazards. Future development in the City is subject to these building codes.

Flood: 100/500 year

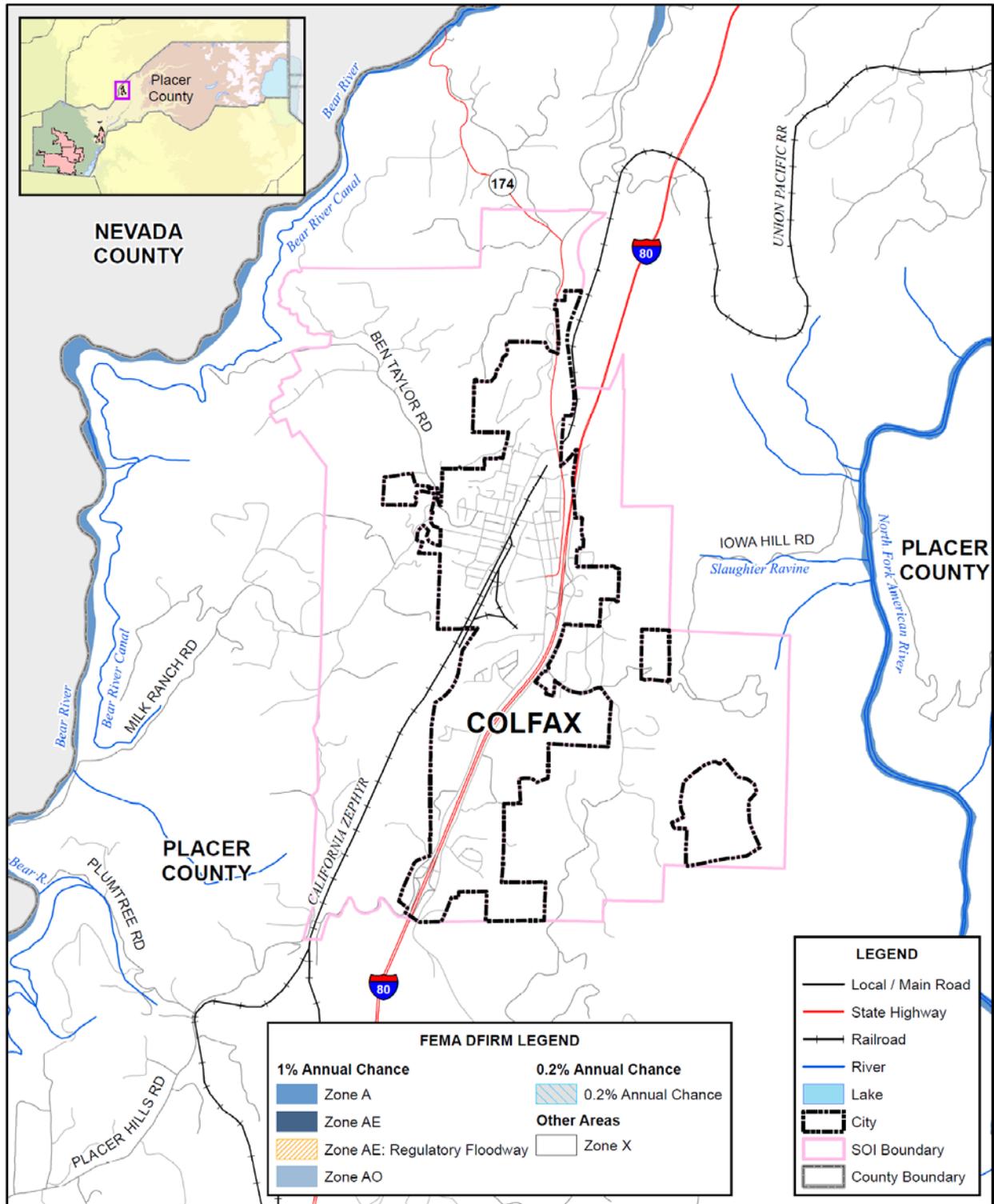
Vulnerability to Flood: 100/500 year

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Unlikely

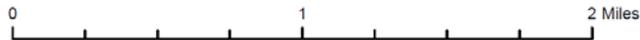
Vulnerability—Low

Flooding generally is not a significant hazard to the City of Colfax, but limited localized stormwater flooding has occurred occasionally during heavy rainfalls. Figure B-5 shows there are no FEMA floodplains within the City limits. Based on this data, there is no 100- or 500-year flood risk in the City.

Figure B-5 City of Colfax Floodplains



Data Source: Placer County, CAL ATLAS, FEMA Preliminary DFIRM 2010; Map Date: 2015.



Values at Risk

GIS was used to determine the possible impacts of flooding within the City of Colfax. The methodology described in Section 4.3.7 of the base plan was followed in determining structures and values at risk to the 1% (100-year) and 0.2% (500-year) annual chance flood event. With no FEMA mapped floodplains within the City of Colfax, there are no values at risk to the 1% or 0.2% floods.

Insurance Coverage, Claims Paid, and Repetitive Losses

Because there are no 100- or 500-year floodplains within the City of Colfax, it does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City also does not participate in CRS. NFIP Insurance data indicates that as of September 15, 2014, there are no flood insurance policies in the City and no repetitive loss buildings.

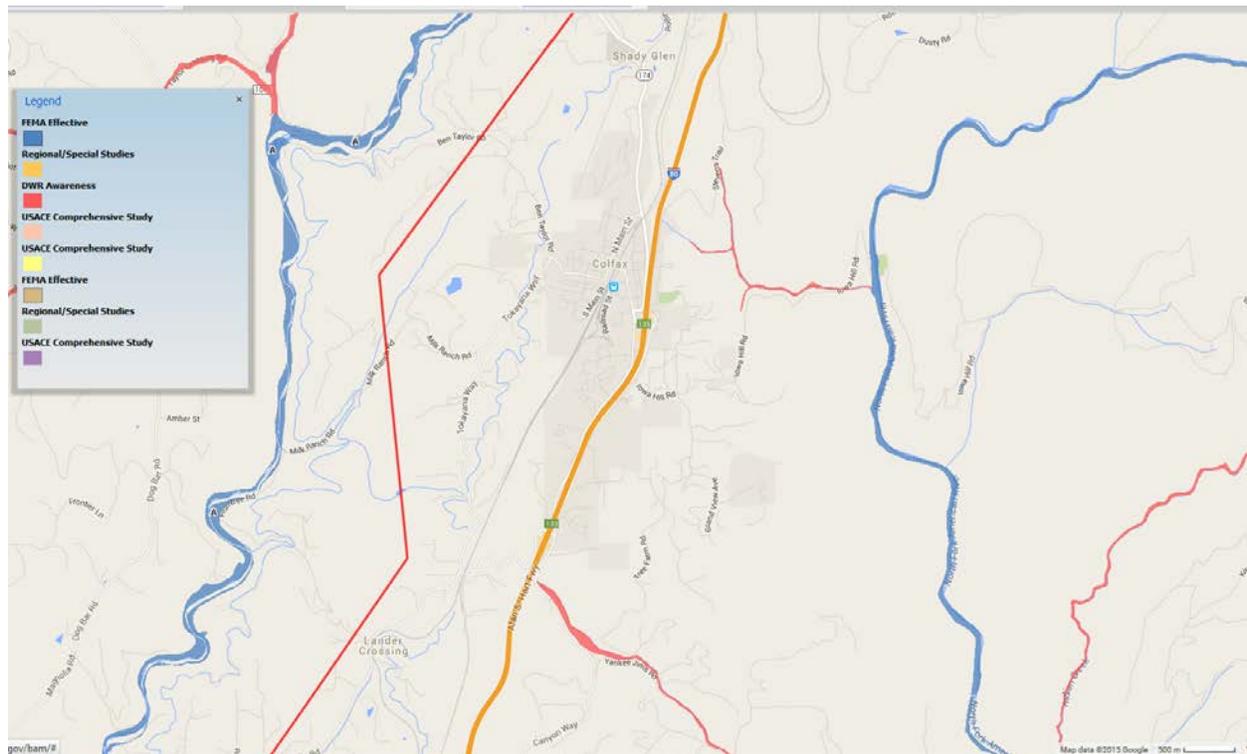
California Department of Water Resources Best Available Maps (BAM)

The FEMA regulatory maps provide just one perspective on flood risks in Placer County. Senate Bill 5 (SB 5), enacted in 2007, authorized the California DWR to develop the Best Available Maps (BAM) displaying 100- and 200-year floodplains for areas located within the Sacramento-San Joaquin (SAC-SJ) Valley watershed. SB 5 requires that these maps contain the best available information on flood hazards and be provided to cities and counties in the SAC-SJ Valley watershed. This effort was completed by DWR in 2008. DWR has expanded the BAM to cover all counties in the State and to include 500-year floodplains.

Different than the FEMA DFIRMs which have been prepared to support the NFIP and reflect only the 100-year event risk, the BAMs are provided for informational purposes and are intended to reflect current 100-, 200-, and 500-year event risks using the best available data. The 100-year floodplain limits on the BAM are a composite of multiple 100-year floodplain mapping sources. It is intended to show all currently identified areas at risk for a 100-year flood event, including FEMA's 100-year floodplains. The BAM are comprised of different engineering studies performed by FEMA, Corps, and DWR for assessment of potential 100-, 200-, and 500-year floodplain areas. These studies are used for different planning and/or regulatory applications. They are for the same flood frequency, however, they may use varied analytical and quality control criteria depending on the study type requirements.

The value in the BAMs is that they provide a bigger picture view of potential flood risk to the City than that provided in the FEMA DFIRMs. This provides the community and residents with an additional tool for understanding potential flood hazards not currently mapped as a regulated floodplain. Improved awareness of flood risk can reduce exposure to flooding for new structures and promote increased protection for existing development. Informed land use planning will also assist in identifying levee maintenance needs and levels of protection. By including the FEMA 100-year floodplain, it also supports identification of the need and requirement for flood insurance. The BAM map for Colfax is shown in Figure B-6.

Figure B-6 City of Colfax Best Available Map



Source: California DWR

Future Development

Because there are no 100- or 500-year floodplains within the City of Colfax, all future development will occur outside of FEMA mapped floodplains.

Flood: Localized Stormwater Flooding

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Occasional
Vulnerability—Medium

Flooding and other issues caused by severe weather events-primarily heavy rains and thunderstorms-can often pose a risk to the community. Primary concerns include impacts to infrastructure which provides a means of ingress and egress throughout the community. In addition to the high waters, these localized flooding areas also cause problems with pavement deterioration and debris. Because of storm drain improvements completed since 2010, damages from localized flooding have been significantly reduced.

Future Development

Future development in the City will add more impervious surfaces and need to drain those waters. The City will need to be proactive to ensure that increased development has proper siting and drainage for stormwaters. The risk of localized flooding to future development can also be minimized by accurate

recordkeeping of repetitive localized storm activity. Mitigating the root causes of the localized stormwater flooding will reduce future risks of losses.

Landslide and Debris Flows

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Occasional

Vulnerability—Medium

The Safety Element also identifies other local geologic hazards, which may or may not be associated with earthquake shaking. These include a moderate to very high erosion hazard; the potential for soil liquefaction in or near stream beds or nearby slopes that are highly saturated with water; and landslides due to a variety of slope, vegetation, and development conditions. However, no injuries to people or property damage from landslides have been identified within the City of Colfax.

Future Development

The likelihood of a development occurring in a landslide area is reduced because the City would require mitigation engineering in the design. The costs to mitigate landslide potential would reduce the viability of a proposed project.

Severe Weather: Heavy Rains and Storms (Thunderstorms/Hail, Lightning/Wind/Tornadoes)

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Likely

Vulnerability—Medium

According to historical hazard data, severe weather is an annual occurrence in the City of Colfax. Damage and disaster declarations related to severe weather have occurred and will continue to occur in the future. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are the most frequent type of severe weather occurrence in the area. Wind and lightning often accompany these storms and have caused damage in the past. In addition to localized flooding issues, the storms can cause several mudslides and lightning can cause many electrical poles to short.

Problems associated with the primary effects of severe weather include flooding, pavement deterioration, and debris issues. Areas located on West Church Street as described above are the areas of the City most often affected during these heavy storm events.

Future Development

The City enforces the state building code and other ordinances, which regulate construction techniques that minimize damage from heavy storms and rain. Future development in the City is subject to these building codes. New critical facilities such as communications towers should be built to withstand hail damage, lightning, and heavy rains.

Wildfire

Vulnerability to Wildfire

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Likely

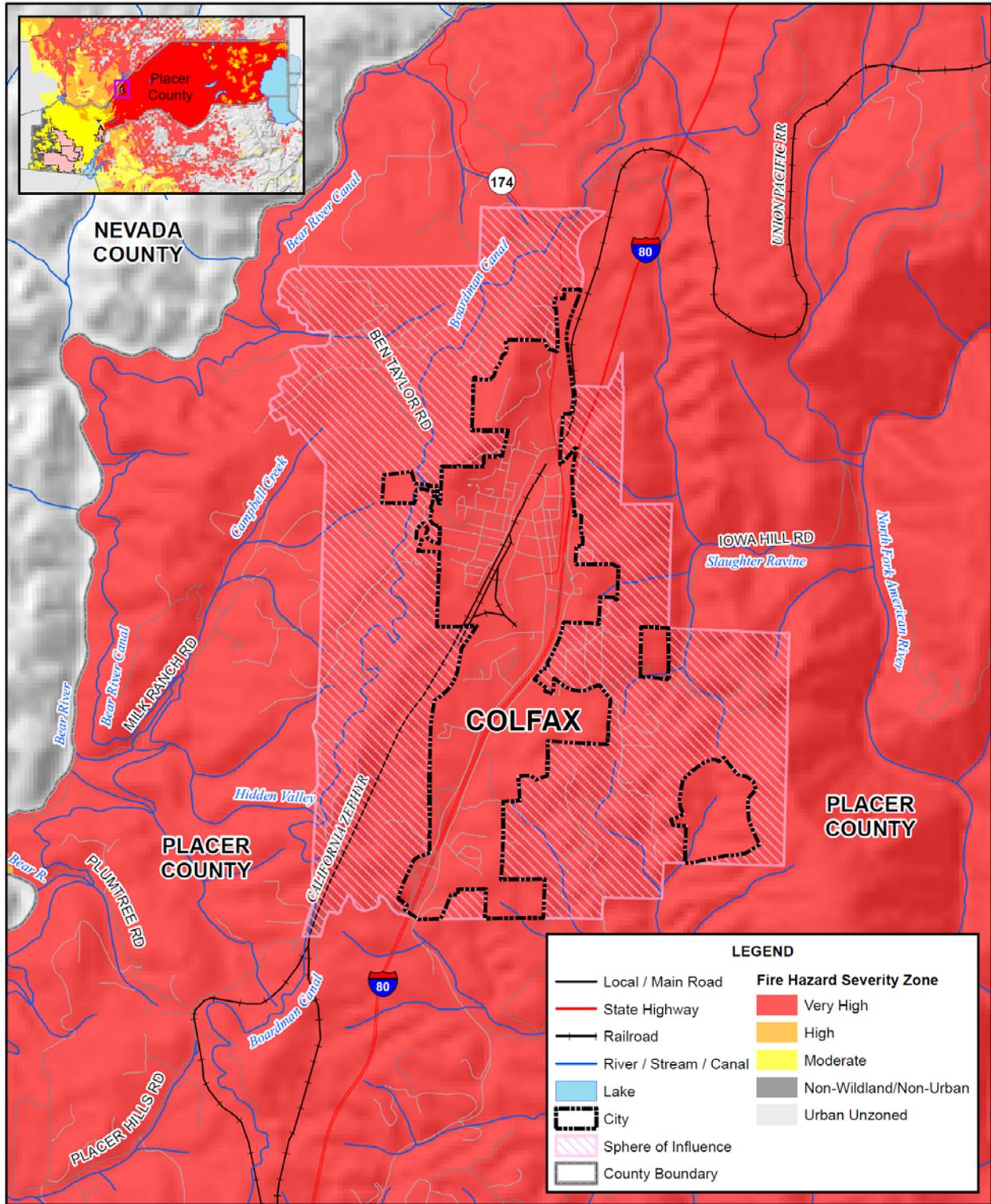
Vulnerability—Extremely High

Wildfire is a constant threat to the City of Colfax. The Safety Element of Colfax’s General Plan notes that Colfax and the surrounding area is designated as a “very high hazard area”, and wildland and wildland urban interface fires do occur relatively frequently. The 2004 Stevens Fire threatened the city. The Safety Element describes the following three factors that contribute to the wildfire hazard within the city and surrounding areas:

- A climatic pattern with long dry summers, clear skies with maximum solar radiation, high daytime summer temperatures, and extremely low relative humidity.
- Vegetation communities which often have adapted to this seasonal drought by becoming fire tolerant (e.g., chaparral), and have high fuel loading.
- Human settlement patterns which often are interspersed with areas of heavy vegetation/fuel accumulations along canyons, slopes, and foothill areas.

As illustrated in Figure B-7, the entire community of Colfax and surrounding areas are at a very high threat of wildfire.

Figure B-7 City of Colfax Fire Hazard Severity Zones



0 1 2 Miles



Data Source: Placer County, CAL FIRE SRA (14_2) 11/2007, LRA 12/2008, FRA/LRA 9/2007 DRAFT, CAL ATLAS; Map Date: 2015.



Values at Risk

Analysis results for Colfax are shown in Table B-9, which summarizes total parcel counts, improved parcel counts and their structure values by occupancy type as well as the percentage of parcels affected by fire. Based on CAL FIRE data, all of the City of Colfax falls within the Very High Fire Severity Zone.

Table B-9 City of Colfax – Count and Value of Parcels by Property Use and Fire Severity Zone

Fire Severity Zone	Property Use	Total Parcel Count	Total Land Value	Improved Parcel Count	Improved Value	Total Value*	% of Affected Parcels to Total
Very High	Agricultural	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	0%
	Commercial	236	\$14,522,057	71	\$22,372,620	\$36,894,677	100%
	Industrial	39	\$6,017,055	16	\$10,130,484	\$16,147,539	100%
	Institutional	12	\$676,080	9	\$4,324,806	\$5,000,886	100%
	Natural/Open Space	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	0%
	Residential	610	\$30,030,239	599	\$69,684,204	\$99,714,443	100%
	Total		897	\$51,245,431	695	\$106,512,114	\$157,757,545

Source: Placer County 2015 Parcel/Assessor's Data, CAL FIRE

*Land and structure values

Population at Risk

The Fire Severity Zone dataset was overlaid on the parcel layer. Those residential parcel centroids that intersect the severity zones were counted and multiplied by the 2010 Census Bureau average household factors for each jurisdiction and unincorporated area. Results were tabulated by jurisdiction. According to this analysis, there is a total population of 1,426 residents of Colfax residing within the Very High Fire Severity Zone. This is shown in Table B-10.

Table B-10 City of Colfax – Count of Improved Residential Parcels and Population by Fire Severity Zone

Fire Severity Zone	Improved Residential Parcels	Population*
Very High	599	1,426

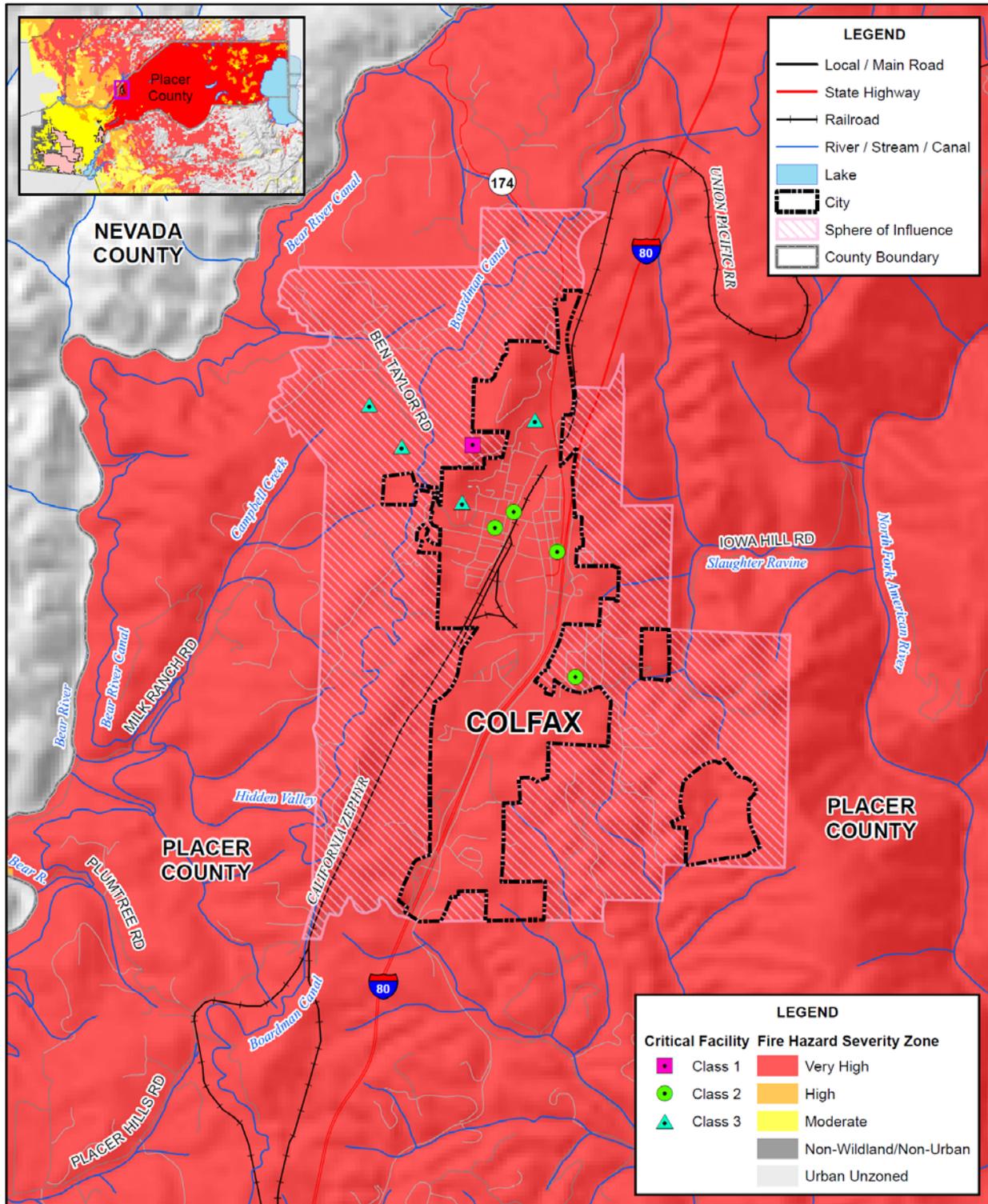
Source: Placer County 2015 Parcel/Assessor's Data, CAL FIRE

* Average household populations for Colfax (2.38) from the 2010 US Census were used

Critical Facilities at Risk

Wildfire analysis was performed on the critical facility inventory in Placer County and all jurisdictions. GIS was used to determine whether the facility locations intersect a fire severity zone provided by CAL FIRE, and if so, which zone it intersects. There are five facilities in the moderate or higher fire severity zone in the City. These are shown in Figure B-8 and detailed in Table B-11. Details of critical facility definition, type, name and address and jurisdiction by fire zone are listed in Appendix F.

Figure B-8 City of Colfax – Critical Facilities in the Fire Severity Zones



0 1 2 Miles

Data Source: Placer County, CAL FIRE SRA (14_2) 11/2007, LRA 12/2008, FRA/LRA 9/2007 DRAFT, CAL ATLAS; Map Date: 2015.



Table B-11 City of Colfax – Critical Facilities in the Fire Severity Zones

Fire Hazard Severity Zone	Critical Facility Class	Facility Type	Facility Count
Very High	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	Fire Station	2
		PCSO	1
	Class 3	Hall	1
		Water Treatment Plant	1
		Total Very High	5
High	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
	Total High	0	
Moderate	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
	Total Moderate	0	
Non-Wildland/Non-Urban	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
	Total Non-Wildland/Non-Urban	0	
Urban Unzoned	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
	Total Urban Unzoned	0	
Total			5

Source: CAL FIRE, Placer County GIS

Future Development

Since the whole of the City is located in a very high fire severity zone, all future development in the City is at risk to wildfire. However, building codes in force reduce the risk to new construction based on the use of more wildfire resistant construction.

Hazardous Materials Transport

Likelihood of Future Occurrence–Unlikely

Vulnerability–High

The Union Pacific Railroad line passes through the City of Colfax. Hazardous materials are regularly shipped via the rail line and, while unlikely based on past occurrences, an incident involving a rail accident within the City could have devastating effects.

The City has little control over the types of materials that are shipped via the rail line. With regard to government activities, the content of shipments may be confidential for reasons of security and/or is generally unknown to the City. While the City has little influence over the types of material transported via the rail line, the potential for rail incidents can be reduced by ensuring that at-grade crossings within the City are operating in a safe and effective manner.

Interstate 80 passes through the City as well. This is a designated Cal Trans haz-mat routes.

Populations at Risk

To determine the populations at risk from a transportation-related hazardous materials release within identified transportation corridors, an analysis was performed using GIS. A one mile buffer was applied to both sides of Highways 20, 49, 65, 80, 89, 174, 193, and 267, as well as the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroads. The result is a two-mile buffer zone around each transportation corridor that is used for risk-analysis.

Analysis was done for jurisdictions found in Table B-12. This table shows total population that are within the proximity of this two-mile buffer of all the highway and railroad corridors. Using GIS, the buffered corridor was overlaid on the improved residential parcel data. Those parcel centroids that intersect the buffered corridor were counted and multiplied by the 2010 Census Bureau average household factors for the City. According to this analysis, there is a total population of 45,398 in the buffered corridors.

Table B-12 City of Colfax–Jurisdictional Populations at Risk in Haz-Mat Corridors

Jurisdiction	Residential Parcels	Population
Colfax	610	1,452

Source: Cal Trans, Placer County GIS, US Census Bureau

* Average household populations from the 2010 US Census were used: Colfax– 2.38.

Critical Facilities at Risk

To determine the critical facilities at risk from a transportation-related hazardous materials release within identified transportation corridors, an analysis was performed using GIS. A one mile buffer was applied to both sides of Highways 20, 49, 65, 80, 89, 174, 193, and 267, as well as the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroads. The result is a two-mile buffer zone around each transportation corridor that is used for risk-analysis.

Analysis was done for the City and is detailed in Table B-13. This table shows critical facilities located within the proximity of this two-mile buffer of all the highway and railroad corridors. Some facilities fall in the highway routes, some in the rail routes, and some fall in both the highway and rail routes. According to this analysis, there are 5 critical facilities in the buffered corridors.

Table B-13 City of Colfax – Critical Facilities at Risk in Haz-Mat Corridors

Hazardous Materials Route	Critical Facility Class	Facility Type	Facility Count
Hazardous Materials Highway Route	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
		Total Hazardous Materials Highway Route	0
Hazardous Materials Railroad Route	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	-	-
	Class 3	-	-
		Total Hazardous Materials Railroad Route	0
Combined Hazardous Materials Highway and Railroad Route	Class 1	-	-
	Class 2	Fire Station	2
		PCSO	1
	Class 3	Hall	1
		Water Treatment Plan	1
	Total Combined Routes	5	
Total			5

Source: Cal Trans, Placer County GIS

Future Development

Development will continue to occur in hazmat affected areas. It is important that the City make residents who choose to live or develop in hazmat zones about the possibility of being affected by a hazmat spill.

B.6 Capability Assessment

Capabilities are the programs and policies currently in use to reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. This capability assessment is divided into five sections: regulatory mitigation capabilities, administrative and technical mitigation capabilities, fiscal mitigation capabilities, mitigation education, outreach, and partnerships, and other mitigation efforts.

B.6.1. Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-14 lists regulatory mitigation capabilities, including planning and land management tools, typically used by local jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities and indicates those that are in place in the City of Colfax.

Table B-14 City of Colfax Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Plans	Y/N Year	Does the plan/program address hazards? Does the plan identify projects to include in the mitigation strategy? Can the plan be used to implement mitigation actions?
Comprehensive/Master Plan	Y 1998	Housing Element was updated in 2014. The General plan addresses hazards in the safety element. Mitigation actions are included in many elements. The General Plan is used to implement mitigation actions.
Capital Improvements Plan	Y	
Economic Development Plan	Y	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Y	
Continuity of Operations Plan		
Transportation Plan		
Stormwater Management Plan/Program	Y	Terrence Lowell and Associates
Engineering Studies for Streams	N	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Y	Y, it is a WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) plan, Y
Other special plans (e.g., brownfields redevelopment, disaster recovery, coastal zone management, climate change adaptation)		
Building Code, Permitting, and Inspections	Y/N	Are codes adequately enforced?
Building Code	Y	Version/Year: 2013 CBC
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score		Score:
Fire department ISO rating:	Y	Rating: 5
Site plan review requirements	Y	Design Guidelines in Zoning Ord
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	Y/N	Is the ordinance an effective measure for reducing hazard impacts? Is the ordinance adequately administered and enforced?
Zoning ordinance	Y	Updated in 2012. It is effective and adequately enforced.
Subdivision ordinance	Y	
Floodplain ordinance	N	No 100- or 500-year floodplain in the City.
Natural hazard specific ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)		
Flood insurance rate maps	N/A	

Elevation Certificates
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses
Erosion or sediment control program Y Terrence Lowell and Associates
Other
How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?

The City of Colfax General Plan Program, 2020

The City of Colfax General Plan Program serves as the blueprint for future growth and development and provides comprehensive planning for the future. It encompasses what the City is now, and what it intends to be, and provides the overall framework of how to achieve this future condition (see the discussion in Section 4.3.1 Growth and Development Trends).

The current General Plan is considered outdated. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by 2016. The most substantive changes in this document will be the Land Use, Circulation and Natural Resources Elements. Minor changes will be made to bring the document into internal consistency to the Safety, Community Design, and Economic Development Elements. No changes are anticipated to the Noise Element.

The current Safety Element, for the most part, provides accurate and current information and focuses on safety issues to be considered in planning for the present and future development of the Colfax Planning Area. Identified hazards include fire, geologic/seismic, erosion, flooding, and hazardous materials. Mitigation-related goals, policies, and actions are presented below.

Goal 7.9.1:	To protect the community of Colfax from injury, loss of life, and property damage resulting from natural catastrophes and any hazardous conditions.
Policy 7.9.1.1:	Require a review of all potential hazards in areas to be developed.
7.9.1.A	Actions: Make information relating to potential hazards on site specific areas in the City available to all City agencies and related City leadership and planners.

Goal 7.9.2:	To effectively minimize risks associated with seismic hazards by regulating the design and siting of new development in the City of Colfax.
Policy 7.9.2.1	Avoid placement of critical structures, public facilities, and high-occupancy structures in areas prone to ground failure during an earthquake.
Policy 7.9.2.2	Establish acceptable seismic safety standards so that all new buildings shall be constructed to resist the stresses and ground shaking produced during earthquakes.
Policy 7.9.2.3	Require a review of all potential geological hazards, including seismic hazards, for all developments in identified hazardous areas.
7.9.2.A	Action: Record information on potential geologic and seismic hazards with parcel or subdivision maps.

7.9.2.B	Action: Review Building Code requirements to determine the adequacy of standards necessary to protect against all seismic hazards and to assure that the Code is current with the latest technological advances.
7.9.2.C	Action: Develop programs in cooperation with other public agencies to increase public awareness of seismic hazards and to assure that the Code is current with the latest technological advances.

Geological Hazards

Goal 7.9.3	New development proposed within areas of potential geological hazards shall not be endangered by, nor contribute to, the hazardous conditions on the site or an adjoining properties.
Policy 7.9.3.1:	Adequate mitigation shall be required on sites with landslide potential, or erodible soils to protect against injury and property damage and to assure a level of development which will not accelerate runoff or degrade water quality.
Policy 7.9.3.2	Replanting of vegetation following development shall be required on all slopes prone to erosion and/or instability. Drought resistant plant types shall be used for landscaping on post development slopes where excess water might induce land slippage or soil erosion.
Policy 7.9.3.3	Encourage clustering of development away from areas considered geologically unstable.
7.9.3.A	Actions: Adopt and enforce a comprehensive Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance, requiring control of existing erosion problems, as well as the installation of erosion, sediment, and runoff control measures in new developments.
7.9.3.B	Actions: Adopt regulations relative to zoning and subdivision ordinances which regulate land alterations, road construction or structural development on slopes of 15 percent or greater.

Wastewater Treatment

Goal 7.9.4	To insure the adequate wastewater collection, treatment and safe disposal.
Policy 7.9.41	The City shall limit development if the limits of the Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) are reached.
Policy 7.9.4.2	The City shall promote efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand by:
A.	Require water-conserving design and equipment in new construction;
B.	Encouraging retrofitting with water-conserving devices;
C.	Design waste water systems to minimize inflow and infiltration to the extent economically feasible.
Policy 7.9.4.3	The City shall encourage pre-treatment of commercial and industrial wastes prior to their entering community collection and treatment systems.
7.9.4.4	The city shall permit on-site sewage treatment and disposal on parcels where all current regulations can be met and where parcels have the area, soils, and other characteristics that permit such disposal facilities without threatening surface or groundwater quality or posing any other health hazards.
7.9.4.A	Actions: The City shall proceed with the design, financing and construction of capital improvements of the current wastewater treatment system to meet future growth and development demands.
7.9.4.B	Actions: City staff shall monitor and report quarterly to the City Council on the current inflow levels of the WWTP.

7.9.4.C	Actions: The city shall continue to evaluate and collect development fees to cover the maintenance and improvements required in the wastewater system.
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Fire Hazard Safety

Goal 7.9.5	To protect the public from wildland and urban fire hazards and reduce the risks of wildfires and structural conflagrations by mitigating or minimizing use and development in high fire hazard areas, and by maximizing fire prevention measures and citizen awareness of fire hazards.
Policy 7.9.5.1	All new development shall be constructed, at a minimum, to the fire safety standards contained in the California Fire and Building Codes.
Policy 7.9.5.2	Require all new developments, including single family dwellings on existing parcels of record, to provide adequate access for fire protection.
Policy 7.9.5.3	Amend City Ordinances to include specific road standards developed in conjunction with Colfax Fire Department.
7.9.5.A	Action: Enforce the existing City Ordinance regarding weed abatement on lots and larger properties within city-limits.
7.9.5.B	Action: Adopt an ordinance for the provision of fire-resistant materials and landscaping, and the use of early warning systems such as sprinklers with alarms for all new developments.
7.9.5.C	Action: To the maximum extent feasible conduct-periodic inspections of vacant properties to ensure that dry weeds and other combustible fuels are not permitted to accumulate.

City of Colfax Emergency Operations Plan

The City of Colfax Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Plan addresses the planned response for the City to emergencies associated with disasters, technological incidents, or other dangerous conditions created by either man or nature. It provides an overview of operational concepts, identifies components of the City emergency management organization, and describes the overall responsibilities of local, state, and federal entities.

B.6.2. Administrative/Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-15 identifies the personnel responsible for activities related to mitigation and loss prevention in Colfax.

Table B-15 City of Colfax's Administrative and Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Administration	Y/N	Describe capability Is coordination effective?
Planning Commission	Y	City Council sits as PC when needed
Mitigation Planning Committee	N	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (e.g., tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Y	Storm draining clearing, tree trimming for defensible space (fire danger)

Mutual aid agreements	Y	Cal Fire and other fire agencies
Other		
Staff	Y/N FT/PT	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations? Is staff trained on hazards and mitigation? Is coordination between agencies and staff effective?
Chief Building Official	Y, P/T	Y, Y, Y
Floodplain Administrator	N	
Emergency Manager	Y	Community Services Director
Community Planner	Y P/T	
Civil Engineer	Y	
GIS Coordinator	Y	
Other		
Technical	Y/N	Describe capability Has capability been used to assess/mitigate risk in the past?
Warning systems/services (Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	Y	City is part of the Everbridge program through Placer Sheriff Dept. and Placer Alert (cell phone register to receive alerts)
Hazard data and information		
Grant writing	Y	
Hazus analysis		
Other		
How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?		

Source: City of Colfax

B.6.3. Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Table B-16 identifies financial tools or resources that the City could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities.

Table B-16 City of Colfax's Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Funding Resource	Access/ Eligibility (Y/N)	Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?
Capital improvements project funding	Y	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Y	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Y	
Impact fees for new development	Y	
Storm water utility fee	Y	
Incur debt through general obligation bonds and/or special tax bonds	Y	

Funding Resource	Access/ Eligibility (Y/N)	Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?
Incur debt through private activities	Y	
Community Development Block Grant	Y	
Other federal funding programs		
State funding programs	Y	
Other		
How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?		

Source: City of Colfax

B.6.4. Mitigation Education, Outreach, and Partnerships

Table B-17 identifies education and outreach programs and methods already in place that could be/or are used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information. More information can be found below the table.

Table B-17 City of Colfax’s Mitigation Education, Outreach, and Partnerships

Program/Organization	Yes/No	Describe program/organization and how relates to disaster resilience and mitigation. Could the program/organization help implement future mitigation activities?
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	Y	ALTA CERT (through Alta Fire dept), Red Cross
Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	N	
Natural disaster or safety related school programs	Y	CSOs thru Placer County Sheriff
StormReady certification		
Firewise Communities certification		
Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	Y	Haz Mat transport training with UPRR and residents
Other		
How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?		

The City contracts with the Placer County Sherriff’s Department to provide police services. The 24 hour per day service includes patrol, detectives, evidence, juvenile services, dispatch center, traffic enforcement and traffic accident investigation. Other specialized units that are available upon need include: S.W.A.T,

Dive/Rescue Team, Explosive Ordinance Detail, K-9/Narcotic Detection, Air Operations, Bike Patrol, Mounted Patrol, Reserve Details, D.U.I., and Targeted Enforcement and Search and Rescue Operations.

The City contracts with the California Department of Forestry to provide fire safety services. The 24 hour per day service includes a paid part-time Fire Chief, fire marshal services, dispatch and staffing. The Department maintains active volunteer program with 17 members. The City maintains two volunteer staffed fire stations.

The City also utilizes the new county-wide Wide Area Rapid Notification (WARN) system. WARN is a regional system that can be used by all Placer County law agencies as well as fire departments, the Office of Education and the Office of Emergency Services. WARN utilizes a list of telephone numbers and addresses from the phone company. Officials can pinpoint a geographic area, then type in a message that a computer automated voice will read to residents. The system is used for a variety of purposes including missing persons, fire evacuations, snow days and more.

B.6.5. Other Mitigation Efforts

The City of Colfax has many other ongoing mitigation efforts that include the following:

- The City has increased enforcement of its weed abatement ordinance since 2002.
- The Colfax Lions Club is ensuring that all homes within the city have adequate address signs.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant has been upgraded, which will lessen the potential of a contamination event. Ongoing improvements to the Colfax Water Treatment Plant will improve water quality and serve an additional 231 more housing units.

B.7 Mitigation Strategy

This section describes the mitigation strategy process and mitigation action plan for the City of Colfax's inclusion with the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

B.7.1. Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The City of Colfax adopts the hazard mitigation goals and objectives developed by the HMPC and described in Chapter 5 Mitigation Strategy.

B.7.2. NFIP Mitigation Strategy

The City of Colfax does not have any FEMA floodplains and thus does not participate in the NFIP nor the CRS.

B.7.3. Mitigation Actions

The planning team for the City of Colfax identified and prioritized the following mitigation actions based on the risk assessment. Background information and information on how each action will be implemented and administered, such as ideas for implementation, responsible office, potential funding, estimated cost, and timeline are also included. General processes and information on plan implementation and maintenance

of this LHMP by all participating jurisdictions is included in Section 7, Plan Implementation and Maintenance, of the base plan.

Action 1. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into Safety Element of General Plan

Hazards Addressed: All hazards

Issue/Background: Local jurisdictional reimbursement for mitigation projects and cost recovery after a disaster is guided by Government Code Section 8685.9 (AB 2140). Specifically, this section requires that each jurisdiction adopt a local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as part of the Safety Element of its General Plan. Adoption of the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan may be by reference or incorporation.

Other Alternatives: No action

Existing Planning Mechanisms through which Action will be Implemented: Safety Element of General Plan

Responsible Office: City of Colfax Planning Department

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: Jurisdictional board/staff time

Potential Funding: Local budgets

Benefits (avoided Losses): Incorporation of an adopted LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan will help jurisdictions maximize the cost recovery potential following a disaster.

Schedule: As soon as possible

Action 1. Continue Annual Weed Abatement Ordinance

Hazards Addressed: Wildland fire hazards within the City Limits

Issue/Background: The City of Colfax is classified as a “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” Local Responsibility Area (LRA) by CDF in compliance with the Bates Bill (California Government Code sections 51175-51188). The city is surrounded by State Responsibility Area (SRA) rated as high fire hazard. Wildfire is a constant threat to the city. There are several vacant parcels, and some developed properties, which have excessive growth of grass and other potential ladder fuels each year. If left untreated these fuels increase the fire hazard within the city limits. Further, one large parcel near the Interstate 80 exit is used by CDF as a staging area during fire season and this lot needs to be available for use. Note that the City is in the process of revising its grading ordinance to further delineate what is vegetation removal and what is grading. The intent is to facilitate vegetation removal without a lengthy permit process.

Other Alternatives: Continue to rely on property owners to take action without prompting, which has not worked historically

Existing Planning Mechanism(s) through which Action Will Be Implemented:

- General Plan, 1998 The Safety Element recognizes that Colfax and the surrounding area are designated as a “very high hazard area” with regard to wildland and urban-wildland fires. Flooding is not recognized as a hazard to the City as no portions are located within the 100-year floodplain. The Safety Element notes that the State’s listing of active faults does not include any showing surface rupture in the City of Colfax, but relatively little fault mapping has been completed in the region.
- The City upgraded its building code to the 1997 Universal Building Code in 2003.
- In 2004, the City updated its Hillside Development Guidelines to address wildfire issues, particularly vegetation management and restrictions when building on slopes.
- The City has increased enforcement of its weed abatement ordinance in 2002.
- The Colfax Lions Club is ensuring that all homes within the city have adequate address signs.

Responsible Office/Partners: City Manager; Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council

Project Priority: Very High

Cost Estimate: Inspect all parcels in the City to determine which ones need treatment—\$4,000. To reduce costs, some of this could be done by the Volunteer Fire Department. Re-inspect— \$2,000. To reduce costs, some of this could be done by the Volunteer Fire Department. For those parcels which do not comply, the City must perform the work at \$500 to \$1,000 per parcel. Technically, this cost is recovered by tax liens on the property but in reality the City has to carry the cost for some time, and the likelihood of recovery is low.

Benefits (Losses Avoided): The direct benefit would be to the 2000 residents of Colfax City and their business community. Plus Colfax High School enrolls 1000 students plus faculty and the Colfax Elementary School enrolls 380 students plus faculty. The City is also home to the largest publisher of medical forms in Northern California. Protecting the residents, students, businesses, and workforce in this community from wildfire is the greatest benefit from this project.

Potential Funding: Grants, City General Fund

Timeline: Annually in the Spring before fire season is declared, assuming funding is available.

Action 2. *Colfax Schools Evacuation Site Shaded Fuel Break*

Hazards Addressed: The mitigation goals of this project are to put a 200’ wide Shade Fuel Break on the ridge line to the west of the Colfax High and Elementary Schools to help protect this area from a wildfire approaching from the surrounding unincorporated areas.

Wildfire is the largest hazard this community faces. If a wildfire rages through this community unchecked the ability for Colfax City and area’s within its sphere of influence to rebuild and survive are slim. It’s not only an issue of if but when this community and its population will be threatened by wildfire. Wildfire has knocked at the door 3 times in the past 7 years. As the brush continues to grow the likelihood of a wildfire succeeding in opening that door continues to grow. This project will at least start the process to giving this community and its population a fighting chance.

Issue/Background: The City of Colfax encompasses 1.3 square miles. Wildfire is a constant threat. The Safety Element of Colfax’s General Plan notes that Colfax and the surrounding area are designated as a “very high fire hazard area”, and wildland and urban-wildland interface fires do occur relatively frequent, with a significant interface fire (the “Narrow Gauge Fire”) burning close to the edge of town in 2001. The 2001 Ponderosa Fire and the 2004 Stevens Fire also threatened the city.

The Colfax Elementary School and Colfax High School are located in a feasible location for an evacuation site but a Shade Fuel Break needs to be in place in the event of a wildfire coming out of the Bear River drainage to the West of their location.

Other Alternatives: No Action

Existing Planning Mechanism(s) through which Action Will Be Implemented:

- General Plan, 1998 The Safety Element recognizes that Colfax and the surrounding area are designated as a “very high hazard area” with regard to wildland and urban-wildland fires.
- The City upgraded its building code to the 1997 Universal Building Code in 2003.
- In 2004, the City updated its Hillside Development Guidelines to address wildfire issues, particularly vegetation management and restrictions when building on slopes.
- The City has increased enforcement of its weed abatement ordinance in 2002. •
- The Colfax Lions Club is ensuring that all homes within the city have adequate address signs.

Responsible Office/Partners: City of Colfax and Placer County

Project Priority: Very High

Cost Estimate: \$400,000

Benefits (Losses Avoided): The following sections show the value of property and key inventories at risk within the City of Colfax. Utilizing Placer County assessor data, the following information was obtained for the City of Colfax.

Property Type	# of units	Value
Residential	701 Units	\$90,073,829
Commercial	119 Units	\$24,574,567
Industrial	26 Units	\$16,714,795
Total	850 Units	\$131,363,191

2004 Certified Roll Values Property Type Units Net Value

Potential Funding: Grants

Timeline: Complete assessment and plan, and identify sources of funding, by no later than the next update of this plan, due in 2020

Action 3. Evaluate the Need and Feasibility of Improving Fire Prevention for the Historic Business District

Hazards Addressed: Potential Structural Fires within the business district of Colfax City

Issue/Background: Much of the historic downtown of Colfax was built over a century ago. While most of the individual buildings do not qualify for classification as historic, due to past interior remodeling, etc., the aggregate of the Historic District is essential to the character and even the survival of the City. These buildings do not have interior sprinklers or even smoke alarms or emergency lighting. Some buildings share attic space, which could easily spread a fire from one business to another, as happened in historic Nevada City, CA a couple of years ago. This project will evaluate the historic downtown business buildings to see what fire prevention measures are advisable, what are feasible to accomplish, and identify sources of funding

Other Alternatives: No Action

Existing Planning Mechanism(s) through which Action Will Be Implemented:

- General Plan, 1998 The Safety Element recognizes that Colfax and the surrounding area are designated as a “very high hazard area” with regard to wildland and urban-wildland fires. Flooding is not recognized as a hazard to the City as no portions are located within the 100-year floodplain. The Safety Element notes that the State’s listing of active faults does not include any showing surface rupture in the City of Colfax, but relatively little fault mapping has been completed in the region.
- The City upgraded its building code to the 1997 Universal Building Code in 2003.
- In 2004, the City updated its Hillside Development Guidelines to address wildfire issues, particularly vegetation management and restrictions when building on slopes.
- The City has increased enforcement of its weed abatement ordinance in 2002.
- The Colfax Lions Club is ensuring that all homes within the city have adequate address signs.

Responsible Office/Partners: City Manager

Project Priority: Very High

Cost Estimate: TBD

Benefits (Losses Avoided): While the Assessor Roll book puts a value of \$24.6 million of all 119 businesses in Colfax (which includes businesses outside of the Historic District), the buildings in the Historic Downtown are actually irreplaceable. If any of these buildings is lost to fire, the character of the Historic District would be lessened or even lost. This would negatively impact the ability of the City to survive since the Historic District is one of its major attractions for tourists and visitors and their dollars.

Potential Funding: Grants

Timeline: Complete assessment and plan, and identify sources of funding, by no later than the next update of this plan, due in 2020.