



Annex P Placer Hills Fire Protection District

P.1 Introduction

This Annex details the hazard mitigation planning elements specific to the Placer Hills Fire Protection District, a participating jurisdiction to the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (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 District. This Annex provides additional information specific to the Placer Hills Fire Protection District, with a focus on providing additional details on the risk assessment and mitigation strategy for this special district.

P.2 Planning Process

As described above, the District 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 District 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 P-1. Additional details on plan participation and District representatives are included in Appendix A.

Table P-1 District Planning Team

| Name | Position/Title | How Participated |
|----------------|--|--|
| Chief Ian Gow* | Fire Chief | Attended meetings. Provided input on past hazards. Filled out hazard ID table. Provided information on capabilities. Provided information on past and future mitigation actions. Reviewed and provided information and edits to Annex. |
| Elsa Hucks | Placer County Fire | Reviewed document. Provided information and edits to Annex. |
| Luana Dowling | Placer County Firewise Communities Coordinator | Reviewed document. Provided information and edits to Annex. |
| Gary Kirk | Retired Battalion Chief | Reviewed document. Provided information and edits to Annex. |

*Foresthill and Placer Hills FPD share one Chief officer and have no other Administrative staff to support this planning effort.

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

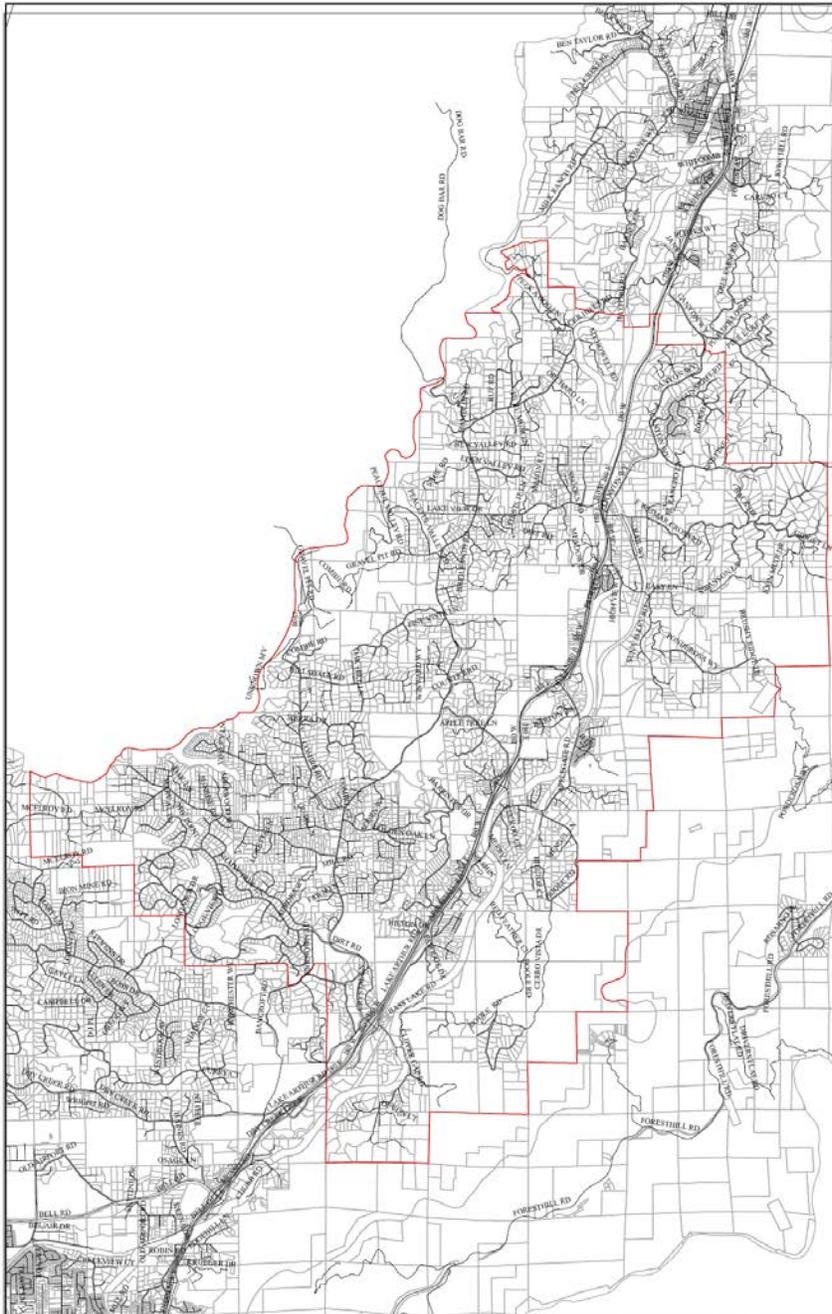
Table P-2 2010 LHMP Incorporation

| Jurisdiction | Planning Mechanism 2010 LHMP Was Incorporated/Implemented In. Details? |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Placer Hills Fire Protection District | Overall, the District did not incorporate the 2010 LHMP Update into other planning mechanisms due to lack of funding. |

P.3 District Profile

The Placer Hills Fire Protection District service area is illustrated in Figure P-1.

Figure P-1 Placer Hills Fire Protection District



Source: Placer Hills Fire Protection District

P.3.1. District Information and Background

The Placer Hills Fire Protection District (Placer Hills FPD) services a 34 square mile area that houses approximately 3,500 full time residents and a day population of about 12,000 people. The District services the communities of Applegate, Clipper Gap, Eden Valley, Meadow Vista, and Weimar.

In 1949, community members of the Meadow Vista came together through the Grange to create the Meadow Vista Fire Department. In 1988, the Meadow Vista Fire Protection District, Company No. 31 and the Ponderosa Fire Brigade annexed to become the Placer Hills Fire Protection District.

Placer County established Company No. 31 in 1979 at the Weimar Institute to assist in the County contract with the California Department of Forestry. In 1980, members of the Applegate and Weimar communities came together to develop Engine Company No. 31. The community built the fire station in Applegate in 1983 and the County provided an engine and a water-tender. John Velican provided an engine for the Ponderosa Fire Brigade.

With start-up monies budgeted by the Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer Hills Fire Protection District built a new station at Weimar Crossroads and purchased a new mini-pumper quick attack in 1990. Also in the same year, the Fire Board hired a part-time Fire Marshal to establish a fire prevention program throughout the District. The Placer County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 4225-B, County Code Chapter 7.50 creating the legal authority for fire districts to collect fees in order to mitigate the impacts of new development. The Placer Hills Fire Protection District started collecting the Fire Facilities Fees in late 1990 and has been able to purchase/lease state of the art firefighting engines and equipment.

To further enhance the fire protection of this District, the Fire Board passed a Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment in 1991, which provided daytime staffing during weekdays. Placer Hills Fire Protection District started providing non-transporting Advanced Life Support Services in October 1997. In September 2001 the District staffed one engine with a crew of two, 24 hours per day and an additional engine with 2 during work hours and fire season weekends. The community approved another Benefit Assessment of \$49 in June 2004. This enabled the District to staff an engine at both the Meadow Vista and Weimar fire stations 24/7. The Fire District runs approximately 1,000 calls every year.

P.4 Hazard Identification and Summary

The District's planning team identified the hazards that affect the District and summarized their frequency of occurrence, spatial extent, potential magnitude, and significance specific to the District (see Table P-3).

Table P-3 Placer Hills Fire Protection District Hazard Identification Table

| Hazard | Geographic Extent | Probability of Future Occurrences | Magnitude/Severity | Significance |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Agricultural Hazards | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Avalanche | Limited | Unlikely | Limited | Low |
| Dam Failure | Limited | Occasional | Negligible | Low |
| Drought and Water Shortage | Extensive | Likely | Critical | High |
| Earthquake | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Flood: 100/500 year | Limited | Occasional | Negligible | Low |
| Flood: Localized Stormwater Flooding | Extensive | Highly Likely | Low | Medium |
| Landslides and Debris Flows | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Levee Failure | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Seiche (Lake Tsunami) | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Severe Weather: Extreme Heat | Extensive | Highly Likely | Limited | Medium |
| Severe Weather: Freeze and Snow | Extensive | Highly Likely | Limited | Medium |
| Severe Weather: Fog and Freezing Fog | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Severe Weather: Heavy Rains and Storms (Thunderstorms/Hail, Lightning/Wind/Tornadoes) | Limited | Highly Likely | Negligible | Low |
| Soil Bank Erosion | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Subsidence | Limited | Unlikely | Negligible | Low |
| Wildfire | Extensive | Highly Likely | Catastrophic | High |
| Hazardous Materials Transport | Extensive | Highly Likely | Critical | High |
| 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 | | |

P.5 Vulnerability Assessment

The intent of this section is to assess the District’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. For more information about how hazards affect the County as a whole, see Chapter 4 Risk Assessment in the main plan.

P.5.1. Assets at Risk

This section considers the District’s assets at risk, specifically critical facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, and growth and development trends. Table P-4 lists District assets identified by representatives from the District as important to protect in the event of a disaster.

Table P-4 Placer Hills Fire Protection District—Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, and Other District Assets

| Name of Asset | Facility Type | Address | Replacement Value | Hazard Info |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Station 84 | Essential | 16999 Placer Hills Road Meadow Vista, CA 95722 | \$4,000,000 | N/A |
| Station 85 (District Office) | Essential | Applegate, CA 95703 | \$2,000,000 | N/A |
| Station 86 | Essential | 100 W. Weimar Crossroads Weimar, CA 95736 | \$3,000,000 | N/A |

Source: FFPD

It is important to note that there are several elderly, disabled, and low income people in the Placer Hills area. In the case of a wildfire evacuation, these people may not have transportation. Likewise, in the event of a power outage during the winter months, these special populations may not be able to get to a shelter for warmth.

Natural Resources

Population growth and development trends within District boundaries are covered in Section 4.3.1 of the main plan and in the individual annexes of the incorporated communities falling within the service area of the District.

Growth and Development Trends

Population growth and development trends within District boundaries are covered in Section 4.3.1 of the main plan and in the individual annexes of the incorporated communities falling within the service area of the District.

Development since 2010 Plan

Population growth since 2010 within District boundaries are covered in Section 4.3.1 of the main plan and in the individual annexes of the incorporated communities falling within the service area of the District.

P.5.2. Estimating Potential Losses

This section provides the vulnerability assessment, including any quantifiable loss estimates, for those hazards identified above in Table P-3 as high or medium significance hazards. Impacts of past events and vulnerability of the District to specific hazards are further discussed below (see Section 4.1 Hazard Identification 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 floodplain, in the wildland urban interface, other priority hazard areas, unreinforced masonry buildings, and buildings built prior to the introduction of modern building codes.

An estimate of the vulnerability of the District to each identified 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

Drought is a significant hazard, especially to the forested areas of the District. Drought conditions stress and leave the forest susceptible to disease and insect infestation. As a result of recent drought conditions throughout California, infestations of the Pine Beetle are on the rise. Several areas within the District forests show signs of Pine Beetle and thus will become more vulnerable to wildfire. Drought conditions also may impact the water supply of people residing within District boundaries.

Flood: Localized Stormwater Flooding

Likelihood of Future Occurrence—Highly Likely
Vulnerability—Medium

Heavy rains occur on an annual basis in the Placer Hills FPD service area. Impacts to the area usually include mild flooding. The District identified flooding impacts in the winter of 2014. Though a drought was affecting much of California, heavy rains caused mild to moderate damages in the area. Property

damage and infrastructure damages were recorded. Damage estimates were unavailable. No injuries or deaths occurred as a result of the flooding.

Severe Weather: Extreme Heat

Likelihood of Future Occurrence–Highly Likely

Vulnerability–Medium

Extreme heat is a concern to the District. During extreme hot weather, the risk of wildfire increases. This can be further exacerbated during periods of drought. Also vulnerable to the effects of extreme hot weather is the elderly population located within District boundaries. The District contains a significant elderly population, with some residing in homes that have not been sufficiently updated to protect against extreme temperatures.

Severe Weather: Freeze and Snow

Likelihood of Future Occurrence–Likely

Vulnerability–Medium

Freeze and snow is a concern to the District. During periods of freeze and snow, pipes in both residential and commercial buildings freeze and crack, and transit becomes difficult with many roads in the area freezing over. The impact to the area road system is not just a concern to residents, but also to the emergency service crews who can become immobilized during emergency situations. Even the small snow events that occur half a dozen times every year in the Weimar area create significant traffic issues for cars and school buses. According to the Placer Hills FPD planning team, winter storms resulting in up to three feet of snow occurred in 1990 causing moderate property damage, and closing businesses, schools, and roads creating significant impacts to the area. Also vulnerable to the effects of freeze and snow is the elderly population located within District boundaries. The District contains a significant elderly population, with some residing in homes that have not been sufficiently updated to protect against extreme temperatures.

Wildfire

Likelihood of Future Occurrence–Highly Likely

Vulnerability–High

Several of the communities within the District boundaries are listed on the National Fire Plan’s “Communities at Risk” list as set forth in Section 4.1 of the main plan. These include the communities of: Applegate, Meadow Vista, and Weimer.

The state fire data classifies the entire district as an area of extreme fire hazard. Using state fuel models, the types of fuels present within District boundaries tend to dry out during summer months creating the extreme fire conditions.

The most notable, wildfire to impact the District is the Ponderosa Fire. This fire occurred in 2001 and burned 2,462 acres of forestland. This event closed Interstate 80 for a period of time. In 2009, the 49 fire

burned over 60 structures. In 2014, the Foresthill and Applegate fires did significant damages to property and infrastructure. While not within District boundaries, this fire was located only a mile away. Given the extreme fire hazard specific throughout the District and surrounding areas, similar events are expected to occur in the future.

Hazardous Materials Transport

Likelihood of Future Occurrence–Highly Likely

Vulnerability–High

Hazardous materials transportation poses a risk to the public and to District staff. These incident pose a physical risk to District staff, and can tie up staff for many hours.

P.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 capabilities assessment is divided into four sections: regulatory mitigation capabilities; administrative and technical mitigation capabilities; fiscal mitigation capabilities; and mitigation education, outreach, and partnerships.

P.6.1. Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Table P-5 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 District.

Table P-5 Placer Hills Fire Protection District’s 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 | N | |
| Capital Improvements Plan | Y | |
| Economic Development Plan | N | |
| Local Emergency Operations Plan | Y | |
| Continuity of Operations Plan | N | |
| Transportation Plan | N | |
| Stormwater Management Plan/Program | N | |
| Engineering Studies for Streams | N | |
| Community Wildfire Protection Plan | N | |

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| Other special plans (e.g., brownfields redevelopment, disaster recovery, coastal zone management, climate change adaptation) | N | |
| Building Code, Permitting, and Inspections | Y/N | Are codes adequately enforced? |
| Building Code | N | Version/Year: |
| Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score | N | Score: |
| Fire department ISO rating: | Y | Rating: 4 |
| Site plan review requirements | N | |
| | | Is the ordinance an effective measure for reducing hazard impacts? |
| Land Use Planning and Ordinances | Y/N | Is the ordinance adequately administered and enforced? |
| Zoning ordinance | N | |
| Subdivision ordinance | N | |
| Floodplain ordinance | N | |
| Natural hazard specific ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire) | N | |
| Flood insurance rate maps | N | |
| Elevation Certificates | N | |
| Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses | N | |
| Erosion or sediment control program | N | |
| Other | N | |
| How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk? | | |
| | | |

Source:

As indicated above, the District, in conjunction with the County, has several programs, plans, policies, and codes and ordinances that guide hazard mitigation. Some of these are described in more detail below.

New Development: Project Guidelines, 2001

These guidelines contain fire prevention requirements for new development. Key elements include requirements for the following:

- Addresses and Access
- Water Supply
- Sprinkler Systems
- Vegetation Abatement
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Hydrants

P.6.2. Administrative/Technical Mitigation Capabilities

The Board is comprised of 5 members and is selected by registered voters within the District. The Board serves as the governing body for the District’s residents. The Board of Directors approves District Rules and Regulations and, through the Fire Chief, ensures adherence to District policies. The Placer Hills FPD provides services through three fire stations: Meadow Vista, Applegate, and Weimar.

Placer Hills FPD’s dispatch services are provided by the Placer County Sheriff’s Office 911 center in Auburn. The 911 center uses computer aided dispatching to ensure optimal resource monitoring and management utilizing the closest resource backed up by station cover assignments in a multi-tiered alarm structure. Table P-6 identifies the personnel responsible for activities related to mitigation and loss prevention in the District.

Table P-6 Placer Hills Fire Protection District’s Administrative and Technical Mitigation Capabilities

| Administration | Y/N | Describe capability Is coordination effective? |
|--|--------------|--|
| Planning Commission | Y | In coordination with Placer County |
| Mitigation Planning Committee | N | |
| Maintenance programs to reduce risk (e.g., tree trimming, clearing drainage systems) | N | |
| Mutual aid agreements | Y | |
| 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 | In coordination with Placer County |
| Floodplain Administrator | N | |
| Emergency Manager | Y | In coordination with Placer County |
| Community Planner | N | |
| Civil Engineer | Y | In coordination with Placer County |
| GIS Coordinator | Y | In coordination with Placer County |
| 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 | In coordination with Placer County |
| Hazard data and information | Y | |
| Grant writing | N | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hazus analysis | N |
| Other | |
| How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk? | |
| | |

P.6.3. Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Table P-7 identifies financial tools or resources that the District could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities.

Table P-7 Placer Hills Fire Protection District'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 | N | |
| Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes | N | |
| Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services | N | |
| Impact fees for new development | Y | Used for capital expenses |
| Storm water utility fee | N | |
| Incur debt through general obligation bonds and/or special tax bonds | Y | |
| Incur debt through private activities | N | |
| Community Development Block Grant | N | |
| Other federal funding programs | N | |
| State funding programs | N | |
| Other | N | |
| How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk? | | |
| | | |

P.6.4. Mitigation Outreach and Partnerships

Table P-8 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. Additional information can be found after the table.

Table P-8 Placer Hills Fire District 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. | N | |
| 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 | School programs |
| StormReady certification | N | |
| Firewise Communities certification | Y | |
| Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues | N | |
| Other | N | |
| How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk? | | |
| | | |

The Placer Hills FPD has automatic aid agreements with bordering Districts and mutual aid agreements with other fire agencies throughout the area. The District relies heavily upon this aid from neighbors.

The District also works with other agencies on wildfire-related matters. Working with professional fire experts from the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection helps ensure that the District’s work complements state and federal work and is up to standard for controlling wildfires.

P.6.5. Other Mitigation Efforts

The District is involved in a variety of mitigation activities including public education, fuels management projects, and other activities to reduce fuel loads and fire risk. These mitigation activities include:

- Public Education and Fire Safety
 - ✓ A variety of public outreach activities are conducted throughout the district on an annual basis.
 - ✓ The District has a program where they make address signs and provide them to the public at cost.
 - ✓ The District also coordinates the use of the County Chipper for local residents.
- Defensible Space
 - ✓ In recent years due to lack of funding, the district has limited involvement in the enforcement of the defensible space program. When funding has been available, the District provides annual defensible space inspections of area residents.
 - ✓ The District currently operates an elderly assistance program where they coordinate volunteers to clear properties.

P.7 Mitigation Strategy

P.7.1. Mitigation Goals and Objectives

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

P.7.2. Mitigation Actions

The planning team for the District identified and prioritized the following mitigation action 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, partners, potential funding, estimated cost, and schedule are included.

Action 1. Assess And Enhance Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHFPD) Onsite Water Requirements For Minor Lot Splits

Issue/Background Statement: Rapid containment of wildfires and structure fires are a high priority for the PHFPD. At present, minor lot splits (four or fewer parcels), do not have sufficient requirements for onsite storage of water for firefighting. This project would evaluate appropriate requirements and propose an ordinance for adoption by the Placer Hills Fire Protection District Board of Directors. This ordinance will be based on the NFPA 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting and/or on the Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000.

Other Alternatives: The alternative is to continue to rely solely upon the availability of the PHFPD water tender, and mutual aid water tenders from other local government entities.

Existing Planning Mechanisms through which Action Will be Implemented:

Responsible Office: Fire Chief Ian Gow, Placer Hills Fire Protection District

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The cost to evaluate requirements and prepare the ordinance would come out of normal operating expenses. The cost to the developers of a minor lot splits would be approximately \$2,000 per storage tank. In some cases, multiple homes could share a tank.

Benefits (Losses Avoided): Homes in the PHFPD area are presently valued at a median price of over \$400,000 with many homes selling for a far higher cost. The \$2,000 cost to the developer for onsite water storage represents one-half of one percent of the value of the median home price. On-site water storage is an inexpensive way to improve fire suppression capabilities for a home. It also increases the fire safety of the surrounding homes and wildlands because the faster a structure fire is contained, the less likelihood there is that it will spread. The water would also be used to protect homes from encroaching wildfire.

Potential Funding: Unknown

Schedule: Complete assessment and ordinance proposal by the end of calendar year 2005.