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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 29, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach, Information and General Services Agency

SUBJECT: Emergency Preparedness Board Objective

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

In 2023 the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) launched the *Roadmap to Resilience*, a comprehensive county-wide strategic planning effort comprised of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2024), Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2025), and the Evacuation Study (2024) (<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/2711/Roadmap-to-Resilience>). This effort came on the heels of over a year of direct community engagement that included field tours with Firewise Communities, thirty-four Virtual Office Hours informational listening sessions, and the collection of over 2,200 community risk reduction surveys. Evacuation emerged as the top concern among residents county-wide, with much of the feedback received focused on vegetation along roadways.

The 2024 Evacuation Study identified the five most evacuation-impacted communities county-wide and additionally captured the localized evacuation-related priorities of twenty-three Firewise Communities. Since its completion, OES has used the Evacuation Study to guide programming and resource deployment to address hazardous vegetation through a variety of measures at the individual, community, and landscape scale. This has included securing grant funds for shaded fuel break projects on private, state, and federal land, providing free community green waste bins, and implementing community roadside chipping efforts.

To date, OES has projects planned, underway, or completed in all five of the most evacuation impacted communities and has supported nineteen of the twenty-three Firewise Communities in addressing their self-identified concerns around hazardous vegetation along evacuation routes. Work in the most evacuation impacted communities includes the following:

1. **Alta Sierra:** Included in FEMA/HMGP funded Roadside Vegetation Project and support for Community Green Waste Events.

2. **Greenhorn Road:** USFS funded Critical Evacuation Grant with the Banner Mountain Firewise Community for hazardous vegetation removal on 17 parcels.
3. **Cascade Shores/Banner Mountain:** Greater Banner Mountain Ingress/Egress Project included in CAL FIRE NEU 2025 Strategic Fire Plan.
4. **Lake of the Pines:** USFS funded Critical Evacuation Grant for hazardous vegetation removal along 12 miles of priority roadways.
5. **Lake Wildwood:** FEMA/HMGP funded Lower Deer Creek/Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project for 1,100 acre shaded fuel break.

In addition to working in the most evacuation impacted communities, OES has leveraged our Good Neighbor Agreement with USFS Tahoe National Forest to address community identified priorities and developed new partnerships and projects with CAL FIRE's Washington Ridge Crew to extend the level of programming offered to improve evacuation outcomes. Attachment A provides maps and descriptions of work planned and underway.

On-the-ground mitigation efforts have been complemented by robust community engagement around planning and preparedness and partnership with the Sheriff's Office who leads evacuations for our county. The Sheriff's office stays ready for potential evacuations with functional exercises and ICS trainings. Furthermore, they have expanded resources that directly benefit our community through the Nevada County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (NCSSAR) Evacuation Team and the Sheriff's Office Humane Animal Rescue Team (H.E.A.R.T.).

OES and the Sheriff's Office partner around the shared mission of community outreach and education, increasing community awareness and capacity around evacuation readiness. The Sheriff's Office has an assigned staff in OES (Sergeant Liller) who serves as EOC Coordinator during an activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), helping to address unmet community needs after evacuating. Currently, OES and the Sheriff's Office are partnering on an effort to identify an alert and warning platform that meets the unique needs of our rural county.

In 2026 OES will seek to advance implementation of the 2024 Evacuation Study, specifically through hazardous vegetation abatement projects that address identified priorities and through community engagement to enhance planning and preparedness around evacuation in partnership with the Sheriff's Office.

To inform our approach we invite the Board to discuss resources available to support this effort and the primary focal points we should pursue.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services

Submittal Date:

Revision Date: