



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Informational presentation from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and Sheriff’s Office regarding the Nevada County Evacuation Study.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the presentation from the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and Sheriff’s Office.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff’s Office, and in collaboration with allied first responder agencies, facilitated an evacuation study identifying and focusing on the five most evacuation-vulnerable areas in Nevada County. This study was funded by the CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Evacuation Route Planning and Development Grant Program totaling \$135,422. The study was conducted in partnership and contract with Pyroanalysis, LLC and Ladris. Key elements of the study include:

- **Document research** examining county and regional planning efforts.
- **Stakeholder interviews** engaging first responders, community leaders, and key stakeholders.
- **Field surveys** inspecting evacuation routes and critical infrastructure.
- **Data analysis** using advanced traffic and fire behavior modeling.
- **SB 99 accessibility assessment** reviewing compliance with accessibility and safety.
- **Emergency evacuation assessment** utilizing evacuation modeling software.
- **Human behavioral considerations** with a focus on public awareness, education, and timely communications.
- **Fire behavior analysis** conducting historical and predictive analysis.
- **Community-identified evacuation concerns** directly engaging and gathering community knowledge of key evacuation concerns in neighborhoods.

Based on analysis of the key elements, the following communities were identified as the five most evacuation-vulnerable areas in Nevada County:

- Alta Sierra
- Greenhorn

- Cascade Shores/Banner Mountain
- Lake of the Pines
- Lake Wildwood

The study includes findings and recommendations offering critical insights and actionable strategies to enhance community resilience. The study underscores the need for strategic planning related to fuel mitigation and roadway improvements priorities. The study also highlights the importance of collaboration with the community so solutions can effectively be implemented based on local realities.

Moving forward this study provides defensible projects that the County, partners, and stakeholders can leverage to put forward for future funding opportunities and implement evacuation improvement focused projects. The results of this study have already begun to shape proactive defensible space roadside inspections and wildfire mitigation focused grant programming.

Item Initiated by: Mike Vingom, Sheriff Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office & Paul Cummings, Program Manager, OES

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services, OES