

Project Charter: Board Objective: Climate Resiliency

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Project Sponsor: Alison Lehman

1. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Why is this project needed, what history is relevant, set the context of the project?

The Board of Supervisors renewed Climate Resiliency as one of their priority objectives for 2024. The work will seek to meet the objective goal of: “Safeguard Nevada County’s economic durability, environmental integrity and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions while maintaining our rural quality of life.”

2. PROJECT SCOPE AND TIMELINE

The Climate Resilience project scope is outlined by the 7 initiatives presented at the Board Workshop.

1. Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure:
 - a. Continue to research and evaluate opportunities for Community Choice Aggregation
 - b. Explore partnerships, such as NID, for water infrastructure and establish drought resiliency plan and task force per SB 552.
 - c. Continue path to ZEV fleet infrastructure.
2. Healthy Natural and Working Lands:
 - a. Explore biomass and biochar solutions.
 - b. Leverage sustainable recreation in alignment with RRMP.
 - c. Explore strategies to support farmers and ranchers with local food production.
 - d. Workforce development opportunities within forest health
 - e. Community education on forest health and forest management initiatives
3. Public Health:
 - a. Community education related to the impacts of climate events:
 - i. Air pollution / air quality
 - ii. Extreme heat events
 - iii. Fire / smoke impacts
4. Promote Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Storage Capacities
 - a. Identify opportunities for both County-owned buildings and properties as well as opportunities for private owners throughout the County.
 - b. Enhance access to existing energy efficiency resources for income-eligible County residents.
 - c. Connect and identify incentives for energy efficiency, building electrification and decarbonization.
5. Develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
 - a. Use RRPG and SNEW funding to develop our Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
 - b. Consider risks and benefits of a CEQA qualified versus non-CEQA qualified plan
 - c. Plan development takes 18-24 months.
6. Enhance Community Collaboration
 - a. Utilize RRPG funding to develop a Western County sustainability cohort.
 - b. Leverage RRPG funding to expand tribal capacity.
 - c. Support Energy Action Plan (EAP) working group and implement EAP Pathways to the extent feasible

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- d. Promote workforce development through energy auditors and contractors.
- e. Host 2024 Sustainability Summit in September.
- 7. Pursue Funding and Advocacy
 - a. Engage in advocacy opportunities which align with County priorities
 - b. Identify State and Federal funding opportunities and submit grant applications where opportunities align with the goals and objectives.

3. WORKGROUP MEMBERS – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Team Member Name	Department	Roles/Responsibility
Core Working Group:		
Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator	CEO	Project Co-Manager
Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst	COB	Project Co-Manager
Taylor Wolfe, Public Information Officer	CEO	Communications Representative
Barry Anderson, Senior Management Analyst	CEO	Sr. Management Analyst, CEO Office
Kimberly Parker, Program Manager, Economic Development	CDA	Economic Development Program Manager
Erika Seward, Senior Administrative Analyst	CDA	Sr. Admin Analyst, Recreation
Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II	CEO	Administrative Analyst II / Project Support
Ian Thomas, CivicSpark Fellow	COB	Project Support
Amy Cobden, Administrative Analyst II	CEO	Administrative Analyst II/Grants
Steve Frisch/Kristin York/Sherry Hao	SBC	Support of CAP Development / SNEW program, Advocacy, Collaboration, Funding Pursuits, Project Support
Ad-Hoc Members		
Supervisor Bullock	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy
Supervisor Hall	BOS	Initiative Support: Enhance Collaboration and Community Capacity, Advocacy
Objective Members		
George Shureck, Interim Director Public Works and Director of Building	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Trisha Tillotson, Director CDA	CDA	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure

Steve Monaghan, Director IGS	CEO	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure
Craig Griesbach, Director OES	OES	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
Brian Foss, Planning Director	CDA	Initiative Support: Develop Climate Strategic Plan
David Garcia, Program Manager Solid Waste	CDA	Initiative Support: SB1383 Implementation
Ryan Gruver, Director Health and Human Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure
Robin Vanvalkenburgh, Manager Transit Services	CDA	Initiative Support: Protect and Harden Critical Infrastructure
Chris De Nijs, Agricultural Commissioner	CDA	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration
Kathy Cahill, Director of Public Health	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure
Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Analyst OES	OES	Initiative Support: Enhance Carbon Storage and Sequestration, Forest Management
Caleb Dardick, Assistant CEO	CEO	Initiative Support: CCA, Communications
Justin Drinkwater, Director of Facilities	IGS	Initiative Support: Critical Infrastructure
Rachel Pena, Director Social Services	HHSA	Initiative Support: Advocacy, Collaboration and Community Capacity, Critical Infrastructure

The Climate Resiliency Objective Working Group will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month from 3:00pm – 4:30pm. Prior to each monthly meeting, a specific agenda will be developed with a clear objective, and members of the Core Working Group as well as Objective Members can self-select their attendance based on the relevancy of the agenda objective. For any members deemed essential for the given meeting, we will proactively follow-up to ensure their attendance. While the specific content will change across the meetings, the overall goal of the larger working group meetings is to engage in dialogue, develop strategy, and move Year 2 Goals forward.

In addition, the Ad-Hoc Climate Resiliency subcommittee, comprised of Supervisor Bullock, Supervisor Hall, Ariel Lovett, Jeffrey Thorsby, Mandy Stewart, and Ian Thomas, will meet the 4th Tuesday of every other month. Ad Hoc subcommittee meetings will focus on the progress and overall development of the climate objective. Additionally, time will be allocated towards the development of content and key objectives for the 3rd Annual Sustainability Summit to be held in September 2024.

Climate Resiliency is closely related to multiple other board objectives, specifically Emergency Preparedness, Economic Development, and Recreation. As such, the ultimate stakeholder group is expansive, and it is imperative that we continue to align and collaborate with key representatives as the work evolves.

4. HIGH LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:

Major Stakeholders:

List Project Team Members, County Leadership Stakeholders, Additional Stakeholders along with their title and a note about their specific interest area or role (why they are a stakeholder).

- Nevada County Board of Supervisors (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Nevada County CEO Team (leadership, policy, and budget support)
- Sierra Nevada Energy Watch (SNEW / CAAP development and support)
- Nevada County Community Development Agency (workforce development, business recovery and resilience, impacts to agricultural economy, viable outdoor economy)
- Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency (supportive services, addressing public health impacts, emergency response during a climate event, support for most at-risk individuals)
- Climate Transformation Alliance (policy and budget support)
- Town of Truckee (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- City of Nevada City (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- City of Grass Valley (alignment and collaboration with policies and projects)
- Sierra Business Council (RRPG partner, member of the CTA, policy, grants, projects)
- Cal OES, BLM, and National Forest Service (impact mitigation/prevention, managing healthy forests, workforce, education, emergency response during a climate event)
- Cal Fire (impact mitigation/prevention, managing healthy forests, workforce, grants, emergency response during a climate event, advocacy for fire insurance and resources)
- Energy Action Plan Community Workgroup (policy, community engagement, and Pathways implementation)
- Air Quality Management District (alignment with funding and policy)
- Nevada County Contractors Association (workforce development and energy efficiency strategies)

High Level Risks and Assumptions:

Successful implementation of effective climate resilience strategies requires significant coordination between County departments and external partners. Achieving alignment on the goals and priorities, as well as the methodology for implementing and achieving said goals, will create efficiency. Capacity constraints could influence the timeline by which various projects and initiatives are undertaken.

The potential exists for community sensitivity around how these initiatives could impact economic development or individuals. Consideration will be given to prioritizing community values and mitigating any negative unintended consequences such as increases in consumer business costs or other economic impacts.

Considerable state and federal funding has been allocated towards climate resiliency work. Given the budget deficit at the state level as well as the budget challenges at the federal level, the availability of certain funding opportunities over the coming years may be curtailed. Additionally, with 3,033 counties nationally, the available dollars will quickly be oversubscribed for, thus we will need to act fast on opportunities which become available.

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5. Communications Plan:

Providing community education, sharing information, and messaging the work that Nevada County and partners is doing in the space of Climate Resiliency is a critical component in the success of this initiative. In partnership with the PIO team and *ad hoc* and community partners, we will identify opportunities to share information, particularly as we engage the community in climate action planning.

6. Summary Budget:

The Board allocated \$200,000 to the Climate Resilience Budget in its first year focused on a Civic spark Fellow, education and climate action plan development. The initiative does not have a staffing budget. Project-specific costs approved and carrying over from current budget allocations include approximately \$125,000 for education and climate action plan development. In addition, staff secured a \$650,000 grant that will leverage \$200,000 toward a climate action plan, \$100,000 toward staffing, and \$80,000 toward a development of a sustainability collaborative (the balance of the grant support community partner initiatives).

Charter Budget Annual 24/25 Climate Resiliency					
Initiative/Project	Board Workshop \$ (Board Priority Assign. GF)	Costs			Revenue Note
		Other Funded Costs	Unfunded Costs (e.g. grant or other future opportunity?)	Total Cost (approx.)	
Developing Climate Action and Adaptation Plan	\$100,000	\$200,000*		\$300,000	CAAP Development is 18-24 months / SNEW and RRPB will fund all non-CEQA items. *Leveraged through RRPB. Not accounted for is plan development leveraged through SNEW/PGE resources, and previously allocated resources.

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Community Coordination and Capacity / RRPB Sub Awards / Nisenan capacity		\$163,000		\$163,000	RRPB Award allocated \$325k for sub awards including western collaborative, tribal capacity, CTA operations, and new partnerships / split over 2 years
CivicSpark Fellow	\$40,000			\$40,000	
Staffing – CAP and RRPB Administration		\$50,000		\$50,000	RRPB funded \$100k for 2-year performance period
Education and Advocacy including Annual Sustainability Summit	\$20,000			\$20,000	
Total	\$160,000	\$413,000		\$573,000	

Please attach, list, or link source documents and active plans related to this objective.

Approved by (Project Sponsor): _____ Date: _____