

From: Zachariasen, Judith@DOC
To: Zachary Ruybal
Cc: OLRA@DOC; OPR State Clearinghouse; Newton, Jeff@DOC
Subject: Nevada County Safety Element
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 1:59:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from judith.zachariasen@conservation.ca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Zachary Ruybal,

The California Geological Survey (CGS) has received the Draft Safety Element (DSE) for Nevada County. We find the DSE to be largely adequate for addressing issues related to geology and specifically geologic hazards. However, we have a few suggestions. This email conveys recommendations from CGS concerning geologic issues related to the project area as addressed in the DSE.

Earthquake Faults and Ground Shaking Hazard

The DSE discusses active faults and earthquake hazards in the County, correctly noting that the hazard is greater in the eastern part of the county near Truckee. However, the DSE appears to rely almost entirely on historical earthquakes in concluding, regarding unreinforced masonry buildings in Truckee, that “the previous earthquake history has not shown these structures to be at significant risk during normal events.” If “normal events” are defined as those similar in magnitude, distance, and effect to earthquakes that have occurred in the last ~150 years of historical record, that may be true. However, it would be worthwhile to include a discussion of the faults mapped through Truckee that have documented latest Pleistocene to Holocene activity, including the Polaris and Dog Valley faults, and that have a record of surface rupture associated with significantly larger earthquakes than historically observed. Unreinforced masonry buildings could be at noticeably greater risk from such earthquakes. We should note that although the Polaris and Dog Valley faults have not yet been evaluated for zoning under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, they are on CGS’s list and are likely to be evaluated soon.

Further information regarding Holocene surface faults in the Truckee region can be found at:

Polaris fault:

- L. E. Hunter, J. F. Howle, R. S. Rose, and G. W. Bawden, LiDAR-Assisted Identification of an Active Fault near Truckee, California, Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Vol. 101, No. 3, pp. 1162–1181, June 2011, doi: 10.1785/0120090261
- Lewis E. Hunter, Ronn S. Rose, Bruce Hilton, William McCormick, Todd Crampton; Discovering the Polaris Fault, Martis Creek Dam, Truckee, California. *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* 2018; 24 (1): 111–120. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2113/gseegeosci.24.1.111>

Dog Valley fault:

- Pierce, I., & Koehler, R. (2023). 3D Paleoseismology from iOS Lidar and Structure from Motion Photogrammetry: a case study on the Dog Valley fault, California. *Seismica*, 2(1). <https://doi.org/10.26443/seismica.v2i1.208>

If you have any additional comments or questions, please feel free to call or email.

Thank you,

Judy Zachariasen



Judith Zachariasen, PhD, PG, CEG

Senior Engineering Geologist
Fault Zoning Unit Supervisor
Seismic Hazards Program

California Geological Survey

715 P Street, MS 1900, Sacramento, CA 95814

T: (916) 879-2844

E: judith.zachariasen@conservation.ca.gov

From: [Alex Keeble-Toll](#)
To: [Zachary Ruybal](#)
Cc: [James Blattler](#)
Subject: Re: Safety Element
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 11:40:11 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks for flagging this James. Zachary - my hunch is that whenever CodeRED is mentioned you can replace with Nevada County Alert and Warning System. CodeRED is the “brand,” alert and warning system is the “thing.” In particular for plans and community education campaigns that are expected to have a durable “lifespan” I would like to see us pivot to references the thing not the brand so that way if marketplace conditions necessitate a change we don’t then have cascading impacts and the need to update a bunch of materials and plans.

Thanks,

Alex
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2026, at 9:45 AM, Zachary Ruybal
<Zachary.Ruybal@nevadacountyca.gov> wrote:

Hi James,

Thank you very much for sending this over and giving me this information, I really appreciate it!

Respectfully,

Zachary Ruybal
Associate Planner

<image002.png>

[Planning Department](#)
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170
PO Box 599002, Nevada City, CA 95959-7902
Main 530.265.1222 Direct 530.470.2488

**Please note that I am out of the office every other Friday as follows: 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26, etc.*

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From: James Blattler <jblattler@townoftruckee.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 9:43 AM
To: Zachary Ruybal <Zachary.Ruybal@nevadacountyca.gov>
Cc: Alex Keeble-Toll <Alex.Keeble-Toll@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: Safety Element

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Hey Zachary,

Just a heads up, I looked through the County's 2025 draft Safety Element, and noticed that CodeRED was mentioned a couple of times (pages 10-6 and 10-21), but that system is no longer in use. I copied your Emergency Services Director on the email, who might have guidance on what to replace it with, but you might be able to just delete the "CodeRED" references entirely and still meet the intended language of the document.

Best,

-James

<image003.png>

James Blattler
Emergency Services Manager
Phone: 530-582-7912
Cell: 530-386-8494
www.townoftruckee.gov/ready

From: [Steve Kessmann](#)
To: [Jodeana Patterson](#)
Cc: [Zachary Ruybal](#); [Steve Geiger](#)
Subject: RE: 2025 Safety Element Draft Review
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025 11:45:23 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

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Jodeana,

Thanks for the opportunity to review the 2025 Draft Safety Element. Overall it seems reasonable.



Steve Kessmann
Fire Marshal
Truckee Fire Protection District
Office: 530-582-7855

From: Jodeana Patterson <Jodeana.Patterson@nevadacountyca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 8:49 AM
To: Steve Kessmann <stevekessmann@truckeefire.org>
Cc: Zachary Ruybal <Zachary.Ruybal@nevadacountyca.gov>; Steve Geiger <Steve.Geiger@nevadacountyca.gov>
Subject: 2025 Safety Element Draft Review

Good morning,

Please find attached the 2025 Safety Element Draft, for your review and comments.

The draft can also be viewed at:

<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/60634/2025-Safety-Element-first-draft-12325-PDE>.

For comments and questions, please contact Associate Planner Zachary Ruybal directly at (530) 470-2488 or zachary.ruybal@nevadacountyca.gov.

Thank you,

Jodeana Patterson

Administrative Assistant II

Clerk to the Planning Commission

Clerk to the Zoning Administrator



[Planning Department](#)

950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170

PO Box 599002, Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Main 530.265.1222, Direct 530.470.2526

Jodeana.Patterson@nevadacountyca.gov

Hours 8:30-5:00 Monday – Friday (12:00 – 12:30 lunch)

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