



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Heidi Hall**

District 1 Supervisor

**Hardy Bullock**

District 5 Supervisor

## **NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** January 26, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Heidi Hall, District I Supervisor  
Hardy Bullock, District V Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Climate Resilience Proposed Objective

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Include Climate Resilience as a 2023 Objective.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:** Nevada County is vulnerable to a range of climate-related hazards, including wildfire, drought, extreme heat, flooding, and other significant weather events. The County can prioritize strategies to mitigate the direct and indirect risks and impacts of climate change to health and safety and the economy, and access State and Federal resources to bolster the economy and address climate-related risks.

Extreme weather events are occurring and are expected to continue to occur with more severity and frequency. Fire season is expected to average 23 days longer by 2050 as compared to 2013. With wildfire comes smoke: fine particulate matter (PM2.5) due to fire emissions is predicted to increase 150-170% in the Western United States by 2050. Six of the seven largest fires in California history have occurred in the last two years, including two that exceeded one million acres in size and two that crossed from one side of the Sierra to the other – something that had never happened in recorded history. California's water supply from snowpack is projected to decline by two-thirds by 2100, and average annual maximum daily temperatures are expected to increase by 5.6-8.8 degrees (*California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment*). These disruptions threaten the health, safety, and economy of Nevada County.

There is an immediate opportunity to position Nevada County to access State and Federal funding:

- The proposed California budget includes an unprecedented \$48 billion dedicated to climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Federal investments are also focused to help local communities become resilient to the impacts of climate change. Notably, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) includes

\$369 billion aimed at Energy Security and Climate Change investments. Within that includes \$60 billion in environmental justice priorities to drive investments to disadvantaged communities and over \$27 billion for Farmers, Forest lands and Resilient Rural Communities.

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes roughly \$47 billion in funds for a variety of resilience and climate-related programs to address waste management, flood and wildfire mitigation, drought, ecosystem restoration, heat stress, and weatherization, among others. Nevada County may seek federal funding to identify, prioritize, and implement strategies to promote economic opportunity, such as workforce development and job creation in resilience industries.

### **Policy Framework and Current Strategies**

Current policy on climate resilience includes Nevada County's General Plan Safety Element (updated in 2020), Energy Action Plan (updated in 2019) and Local Hazards Mitigation Plan (updated in 2017). These policies provide high-level direction for climate adaptation and mitigation; however, these policies do not provide a comprehensive framework approach that encompass the increased complexity of the anticipated increase of extreme weather that the county and community face in mid to late century as identified in the Sierra Nevada Vulnerability Assessment released in September 2022. Additionally, the county's current policies do not include goals toward green house gas reduction efforts (GHG) as recommended by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) that is required for various competitive funding.

Multiple strategies have been implemented and are underway across several departments that address climate resilience priorities, such as the Nevada County Solar Project, Nevada County Energy Action Plan, Nevada County Transit/Transportation ZEV Efforts, SB 1383 Organic Waste Efforts, Office of Emergency Services Prevention & Preparedness, Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan, Legislative Partnerships, and the Sustainability Summit.

Existing policies and current efforts underscore that climate adaption work is underway to increase the county's resilience, while also highlighting the opportunity to further advance our strategic approach to bring resources to Nevada County, including businesses, nonprofits, residents, and the community.

### **County's Role Moving Forward**

Recognizing the immediate risks presented by extreme weather events and significant economic opportunity offered through State and Federal resources, as well as acknowledging the long-term resilience of the community, we recommend that the Board consider a Climate Resilience Objective to focus and organize county efforts.

Should the Board provide consensus on adopting a Climate Resilience Objective, staff proposes the CEO's Office and Clerk of the Board Office partner to coordinate and further Climate Resilience as a 2023 Board Priority across the organization. The Resilience Objective would maximize and further existing priorities, strategies, and opportunities countywide.

As opposed to being a new department, this objective will integrate, align with, and enhance existing plans and strategies (such as the Capital Facilities Plan, Active Transportation Plan,

Energy Action Plan), objectives (especially Recreation, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness), and other priorities. Staff will seek to align County policy and strategy with State and Federal funding opportunities and collaborate with external stakeholders to bring resources to Nevada County to promote health and safety and economic strength.

**Proposed Recreation Board Objective and Draft Proposed Initiatives:**

Safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity, and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions.

Along with this objective, we propose five initiatives for Board consideration:

1. Protect and harden critical infrastructure.
2. Enhance carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.
3. Enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals.
4. Pursue funding and advocacy opportunities.
5. Align strategies in a coordinated plan.

**Sincerely,**

Heidi Hall  
District I Supervisor

Hardy Bullock  
District V Supervisor