



Climate Vulnerability Assessment Public Workshop #2

Date: 09 May 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. PST

Meeting at: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Project: County of El Dorado General Plan Safety Element Update
Climate Vulnerability Assessment Public Workshop #2

Agenda Topics

1. Introductions

Ms. Juliana Prospero opened the meeting by introducing herself as the Project Manager from WSP, and Ms. Melissa Baum as an Environmental Planner from WSP. Ms. Thea Graybill introduced herself as the Senior Planner at El Dorado County (County) managing the project, and Ms. Anna Quan introduced herself as an Associate Planner at the County. Ms. Prospero explained that the purpose of the meeting was to share information about the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) and Safety Element Update process.

2. What is a Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

Ms. Prospero explained that the CVA examines what climate-related hazards could affect the County and explores how those hazards may impact people, property, buildings and infrastructure, natural resources, and the local economy. She explained that the El Dorado CVA is being completed to bring the General Plan Safety Element into compliance with recent climate adaptation legislation.

3. Overview of Planning Process

Ms. Prospero explained where the County is in the planning process based on the California Adaptation Planning Guide process. During Phase 1, the planning team organized advisory committees and stakeholder groups to inform the development of the Safety Element update. In Phase 2, the team focused on understanding the vulnerabilities in the County due to the intersection of climate-related hazards and important community assets like sensitive populations and physical critical infrastructure and lifelines. The team is now in Phase 3 and working with the advisory committee and stakeholders to develop adaptation goals and policies that will make up the County's climate adaptation framework strategy. The process will wrap up in Phase 4 with how the County and its stakeholder partners will implement, monitor and evaluate the actions in the adaptation strategy and ultimately the Safety Element over time.



4. Phase One: Explore, Define, Initiate

Ms. Prosperi explained the planning process for Phase One. During this phase, the County along with WSP established a core team of internal County staff to serve as advocates for the plan's development. Additionally, a Safety Element Advisory Committee (SEAC) was formed, consisting of subject matter experts from agencies outside the County who specialize in key climate stressors such as drought, forestry, flooding, and wildfire risk. As part of this step, an Outreach Strategy was created, which included various touchpoints such as a public survey, press releases, social media posts, email communications, and a dedicated webpage to inform and engage the public throughout the planning process.

Ms. Prosperi reviewed the results of the public survey, and how they will be incorporated into the Safety Element. Respondents of the survey expressed concern about climate change, with over half reporting that they've been evacuated from their homes due to wildfires in the past 10 years. The top three climate stressors and hazards identified were wildfires, drought and water supply challenges, and increased heat waves and extreme heat. The three most important adaptation projects identified by respondents were wildfire fuels treatments, defensible space projects, and forest health and watershed efforts. Ms. Prosperi further explained that the feedback received from the public survey has been critical in ensuring that the community's concerns and priorities are taken into account.

The County used Slido.com as an engagement tool during the workshop to gather feedback and input from the public participants. Ms. Prosperi initiated a Slido poll, "What impacts of climate change have you already experienced?"

75% of participants responded:

- Heat waves
- Wildfire
- Severe winter storms
- Changes in the environment

50% of participants responded:

- High wind

25% of participants responded:

- Drought
- Flooding
- Public health hazards
- Damage to property and infrastructure

5. Phase Two: Assess Vulnerability

Ms. Baum explained the CVA process and results. Phase 2 focuses on characterizing climate hazards and includes exposure, sensitivity and potential impacts, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability scoring steps. Primary climate stressors affecting the County include temperature increases, precipitation changes, reduced snowpack, and increased wildfire severity, which lead to secondary stressors such as drought, tree mortality, and landslide risks. Phase 2 includes confirming community populations and assets that are most sensitive to climate hazards. The



list of sensitive assets includes critical community assets and sensitive populations, which are organized into critical facilities, lifelines, the built environment, natural and cultural resources, and economic drivers. Vulnerable populations include those with limited accessibility, outdoor workers, and those living in single-access roads or having limited evacuation routes. The CVA findings help identify adaptation strategies to increase the County's resilience to climate change.

6. Phase Three: Define Adaptation Framework and Strategies

Ms. Prosperi summarized the Phase Three. After summarizing the vulnerability of County assets to each climate stressor, the next step is to develop goals and policy statements to guide the Safety Element update. The Adaptation Strategy will be included in the Safety Element update as a dedicated section with goals, policies, and adaptation strategies related to climate change, as well as other climate-related hazards.

Ms. Prosperi described the differences between a goal, an objective, and a strategy, saying that a goal may be to promote resilient infrastructure that meets the needs of the entire community during and after a winter storm. An objective would then focus on developing additional public infrastructure facilities that support essential services to reduce outages. An adaptation strategy could then involve encouraging utility or communication providers to install backup and redundant facilities focused on reducing outage events.

Ms. Prosperi then initiated another Slido poll, "Select five topics that you think are most important to include in the Safety Element Update."

100% of participants responded:	75% of participants responded:	50% of participants responded:	25% of participants responded:
– Wildfire	– Drought	– Extreme heat	– Tree mortality
	– Flooding	– Climate change	
	– Evacuation planning	– Air quality	

Ms. Prosperi continued by introducing the various forms of adaptive capacity in the County. Administrative and technical adaptive capacity are crucial for County personnel involved in public health and safety, disaster prevention, response and recovery, emergency preparedness, and long-range planning. The County can use various federal fiscal adaptive capacity tools, resources, and grants opportunities to help fund climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, and flood management activities, as well as state grant opportunities. Additionally, the County has numerous organizational and collaborative adaptive capacity resources that enhance education, outreach, and engagement related to climate change, wildfire safety, and



neighborhood planning. These include the Neighborhood Radio Watch Groups, Fire Safe Councils, Firewise USA® programs, the Sierra Business Council, and collaborations among the Fire Adapted Community network in the County.

Ms. Prosperi briefly discussed additional adaptation opportunities in the County. These opportunities include short-term strategies, such as evacuation planning and home hardening, and long-term strategies, such as public education and expansion of vegetation management programs. Ms. Prosperi then asked for feedback via Slido, asking participants, "What climate adaptation strategies do you think should have highest priority?"

100% of participants responded:

- Wildfire Fuels Treatment Projects

75% of participants responded:

- Wildfire Defensible Space
- Land Use Planning/Zoning
- Evacuation Route Development

50% of participants responded:

- Critical Facilities Protection
- Public Education on Hazards and Climate Change & Adaptation
- Electrical Power Grid Resiliency

25% of participants responded:

- Projects to Address Snow Removal during Severe Weather
- Transportation Infrastructure Improvement
- Generators for Critical Facilities
- Forest Health/Watershed Protection
- Flood Mitigation
- Improve Mapping of Hazards
- Access to Flood Insurance
- Slope Stabilization
- Hydroelectric Generating Capacity Maintenance and Improvement
- Energy Independence Initiatives/Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Prescribed Burn Projects

7. Schedule and Next Steps

Ms. Prosperi shared a schedule of upcoming events, and ways for participants to stay involved. The workshop adjourned at 7:25 pm.