



ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Technical Advisory Council

Item 8: Disaster Resilience and Recovery Planning

June 30, 2023

Introduction

Climate impacts, as well as their cascading and compounding effects, have already begun to impact California's communities, and according to the latest IPCC data, will intensify into the future. As a result, climate vulnerable communities may spend less time in a steady-state planning process and more time responding and recovering from climate impacts. This session will provide an opportunity to learn from impacted communities about the disaster recovery process in the context of wildfire events and discuss opportunities to help California communities recover from disasters and build long-term resilience. Plumas County will share their long-term recovery needs, focusing on gaps in data availability, and the Proposition 84 recipients will present on the plans they developed through the program.

Plumas County's Long-Term Recovery

The [2021 Dixie Fire](#) is largest single, non-complex fire and second largest wildfire in California's history, burning nearly one million acres, resulting in one fatality, destroying 1,311 structures, and damaging another 94. The fire decimated the entire communities of Greenville and Canyon Dam, forced the evacuation and displacement of tens of thousands of residents, and resulted in the closure of Lassen National Forest, an important regional economic driver, for nearly a year.

Plumas County sustained the most property damage and structural losses in the Dixie Fire. As the most impacted and distressed area, the county is receiving all of California's 2021 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocation. The \$24.4 million allocation, however, only meets 8.6% of Plumas County's \$286 million in unmet needs, limiting the reach of these housing recovery funds to only low-to-moderate income households.

CDBG-DR can only meet a slice of the County's unmet recovery needs, requiring creative and strategic planning to identify and leverage other funding opportunities. To support these related efforts, HCD has also awarded Plumas County a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) planning grant to support the development of a long-term recovery plan.

Proposition 84 Project Profiles

Los Angeles County Integrated Wildfire Safety Plan

Los Angeles County developed an Integrated Wildfire Safety Program (IWSP), a comprehensive approach to tackle the early phases of wildfire risk reduction by aligning land use policies that limit increased exposure and developing collaborative fuels management tools. The IWSP implements critical policies and programs from the recently updated General Plan Safety Element and consists of a Wildfire Risk Assessment (WRA), Unified Land Use Plan (ULMP), and Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP). The IWSP establishes a common wildfire planning framework for all unincorporated communities vulnerable to wildfire and facilitates the implementation of wildfire resilience and recovery strategies. The project is the first comprehensive wildfire prevention planning document for the entirety of the unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The IWSP's objectives are to: 1) help communities develop pre-disaster wildfire preparedness and recovery plans; 2) unify and focus efforts to mitigate risks for existing communities, and 3) inform policy and standards for development within the Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ).

As part of the IWSP, the ULMP identifies appropriate fuels reduction programs and green infrastructure approaches to reduce wildfire intensity, while protecting the region's unique biodiversity. In addition, the CCWPP supports a broad, consistent approach to wildfire resiliency planning for a large number of unique communities with severe wildfire risks. By providing a foundation for mitigation and resilience planning, the CCWPP increases the planning and implementation capacity of vulnerable communities countywide. As a whole, the IWSP benefits the broader community by ensuring that local wildfire mitigation projects are regionally complementary and help to reduce local fire risk as well as major regional conflagrations.

Make it Paradise: Planning for a More Resilient Community

The Town of Paradise looked for opportunities after the devastating 2018 Camp Fire, which destroyed over 90% of the Town's structures, to plan for and build back a more wildfire resilient community. This process started in April 2021 with the update of the Town's General Plan Housing Element which, for the first time, incorporated a section dedicated to wildfire resiliency. The project also included securing accessory dwelling unit (ADU) plans for use by the public, which are designed beyond the minimum requirements of the Wildland Urban Interface building materials and methods and can provide additional affordable housing opportunities to the economically disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the community. These plans will be available by Fall of 2022 and updated for the next 3-year building code cycle and will be accompanied by an ADU booklet to help owners understand the process.

Sonoma County Forest Resource Ordinance

The County endeavored to update its tree ordinances through a Comprehensive Tree Ordinance Update beginning in 2019 following Board of Supervisors direction to Permit Sonoma's workplan. Permit Sonoma's goal was to develop a Forest Resource Ordinance that would protect and steward the beneficial uses of forest and tree resources for Sonoma County. The project entailed a comprehensive analysis of existing regulations and policies and identification of areas for improvement and enhancement to bring forward in an ordinance update to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The project supports County goals of reducing GHG emissions and building resilience to climate change. The project is informing updates to the Sonoma County General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Local Coastal Plan and will be implemented through adoption into the zoning code.

City of Ventura Climate Action and Resilience Plan

The City of Ventura Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) is a document that guides day-to-day decision making and serves as a long-term vision for the City as the climate changes. It defines near-term goals for climate mitigation and adaptation and presents recommended strategies and actions to realize them based on technical analysis and input from the community. Upon full implementation of the strategies in the CARP, the City can achieve the State's SB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 40% reduction from 1990 levels and is on the pathway toward carbon neutrality by 2045.

The CARP development process was a partnership between City staff, community members, and Raimi + Associates. The CARP was developed concurrently with the City of Ventura General Plan, Active Transportation Plan, and Local Coastal Plan updates. Developing the CARP in concert with these plans provided opportunities for innovative and integrated planning and climate mitigation and adaptation. Together, these plans promote multiple benefits, including sustainable infrastructure, climate mitigation, and social equity.

Discussion Questions

- Based on your experience with disaster recovery, what data should hazard-vulnerable communities be collecting now to accelerate the recovery planning and implementation process?
- What aspects of recovery have been most challenging for the county and community?
- What federal and state planning support has been the most helpful, and what additional planning tools and resources can federal or state partners provide?
- In your planning efforts, did you encounter tension between meeting immediate recovery needs and being intentional about integrating equity and resilience into recovery? How are you balancing competing priorities in the recovery planning process?