



## Staff Report

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**TO:** Town of Loomis Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Merrill Buck, Town Engineer  
**DATE:** May 24, 2022  
**RE:** General Plan Amendment to the Public Health and Safety Element:  
Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update

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### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

1. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Public Health and Safety Element of the Loomis General Plan; and
2. Adopt a resolution recommending Town Council approval of the Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update and approval of an Amendment to the Public Health and Safety Element of the Loomis General Plan, incorporating by reference the Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update.

### **Issue Statement and Discussion**

Congress adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA-2000) on October 31, 2000, with the intent of creating an ongoing, community-wide public participation and planning process that would ultimately result in local governing boards formally adopting Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP).

A LHMP delineates hazards and assesses risks of a variety of natural hazards that could potentially impact an area. Additionally, a LHMP includes a review of each jurisdiction's existing hazard reduction capabilities and recommends actions to further reduce future vulnerability.

As specified by the DMA-2000, local governments are required to update their LHMP every five years to remain eligible for future federal disaster mitigation funding. For the 2021 LHMP update, Placer County Office of Emergency Services (PC OES) received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant; and hired Foster Morrison Consulting.

Following a similar process as required by FEMA for the 2005, 2010 and 2016 LHMP's, the process began with reconvening the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) working group, followed by conducting a publicly noticed kick-off meeting in 2020. Additional working meetings, all publicly noticed, were held in subsequent months to conduct the LHMP planning and updating process. The HMPC working group consisted of representatives from select

County Departments, Special Districts, the Cities of Colfax, Auburn, Lincoln, Rocklin, and the Town of Loomis.

Following final review by the HMPC and a public comment period, a final draft Placer County 2021 LHMP Update was submitted for review to both the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and FEMA at the end of June 2021. On September 3, 2021, FEMA transmitted an Approval Pending Adoption letter which stipulated that the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update met all the regulatory requirements and was eligible for adoption by the respective jurisdictions. Upon receipt of the Town of Loomis's adopted resolution for the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update, FEMA will issue a final approval letter to the Town.

Key highlights incorporated into the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update include:

- Enhancement of floodplain management programs in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- An updated hazard risk assessment for 18 hazards, which includes flood, wildfire, drought, earthquake, dam failures, severe storms, and agricultural hazards as priority hazards of concern to the County.
- An assessment of the impact of localized climate change, pandemic, and tree mortality on identified hazards of concern.
- Development of an updated mitigation strategy for the County and all participating jurisdictions including new plan goals and objectives and the identification of 209 mitigation actions to address identified hazards.

The Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update, including all chapters and Annex D for the Town of Loomis can be accessed through a link at the bottom of the following web page: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/1381/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>

Based upon an assessment of vulnerability to hazards and the associated risks, the following ten actions were identified and prioritized as mitigation measures for the Town of Loomis:

- Action 1. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into Safety Element of General Plan
- Action 2. Enhance Public Education and Awareness of Natural Hazards and Public Understanding of Disaster Preparedness
- Action 3. Renewal of Town's Routine Maintenance Agreement permit with Fish and Wildlife
- Action 4. Climate Change Mitigation
- Action 5. Drought and Water Shortage Mitigation
- Action 6. Earthquake Mitigation and Preparedness
- Action 7. Pandemic/Epidemic Mitigation
- Action 8. Severe Weather - Heavy Rains Mitigation
- Action 9. Tree Mortality Mitigation
- Action 10. Wildfire Mitigation

It should be noted that the actions listed above reflect priorities that fall within the Town's reasonably assumed capacity to address within the next 5-years covered by the plan. It's also worth noting that many of the actions contain projects that are collaborative efforts among multiple local, state, and federal agencies, and are not the sole responsibility of the Town.

There are no consequences for failing to implement the actions suggested in the LHMP. The plan is intended to serve as a guide to help better protect the people and property of Placer County from the effects of natural hazards and as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources.

### **General Plan Amendment/Evaluation**

As required by DMA-2000, the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update needs to be incorporated by reference into the Town's General Plan Public Health and Safety Element. Doing this will allow the Town to remain eligible for federal disaster mitigation funding should the Town wish to pursue such funding in the future.

### **CEQA Requirements**

The proposed approval of the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update and its incorporation into the Loomis General Plan is not subject to review under the CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), which exempts administrative items.

### **Financial and/or Policy Implications**

There is no current or expected future fiscal impact to the Town as a result of the recommended action. Approval positions the Town to apply for future grant opportunities and compete more effectively for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding.

### **Attachments:**

- A. Resolution
- B. Resolution Exhibit
  - a. Link to the Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update
  - b. Link to the Town of Loomis General Plan Public Health and Safety Element
  - c. Recommended Amendment to the Public Health and Safety Element of the Loomis General Plan
- C. Annex D (Town of Loomis) of the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LOOMIS  
RECOMMENDING TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE PLACER COUNTY LOCAL  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP) UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT  
TO THE LOOMIS GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT TO  
INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE THE PLACER COUNTY 2021 LHMP UPDATE**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Loomis recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

**WHEREAS**, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (“Disaster Mitigation Act”) emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available hazard mitigation grants to state and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis fully participated in the FEMA-prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare the LHMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Office of Emergency Services and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX officials have reviewed the Placer County LHMP and approve it contingent upon the official adoption by the participating governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Loomis desires to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act and to augment its emergency planning efforts by formally adopting the Placer County LHMP by reference into the Public Health and Safety Element of the General Plan in accordance with the requirements of AB 2140; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption by the governing body for the Town of Loomis demonstrates the jurisdiction’s commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in the LHMP; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption by the governing body for the Town of Loomis legitimizes the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Planning Commission of the Town of Loomis recommends the following:

1. That the Loomis Town Council adopt the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as an official plan; and
2. That the Loomis Town Council adopt the plan by reference into the Public Health and Safety element of the existing July 2001 General Plan in accordance with the requirements of AB 2140; and
3. That the Loomis Town Council submit a resolution to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA Region IX officials to enable the plan's final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to establish conformance with the requirement of AB 2140.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Obranovich, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Jennings, Planning Secretary

## RESOLUTION EXHIBIT

a. ***Link to the Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update***

The Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update can be accessed at the following web address:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/58056/Placer-County-LHMP-Update-Complete>

b. ***Link to the Town of Loomis General Plan Public Health and Safety Element (July 2001)***

The Placer County 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update can be accessed at the following web address:

<https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/element-viii-public-health-and-safety/>

c. ***Recommended Amendment to the Public Health and Safety Element of the Existing July 2001, Loomis General Plan***

The following is to be inserted under the section on “Safety”, at the top of page VIII-3:

“In 2006, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 2140 which added provisions specifying what is to be included in a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and requiring a linkage between a local jurisdiction’s LHMP and the Safety Element of their General Plan. AB 2140 requires a jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan in order to be fully eligible for disaster relief funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act. AB 2140 can be met by either including the LHMP language specific to AB 2140 as part of the Safety Element or to incorporate the LHMP by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan.

The Town of Loomis has a current LHMP which includes an assessment of the Town’s risk and vulnerability related to natural and other identified hazards and a comprehensive mitigation strategy which includes actions and projects designed to mitigate or reduce the impacts of those hazards and to increase community resiliency. The LHMP has been formally adopted and incorporated by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan via a Council resolution.

To further meet the requirements of AB 2140, the Town of Loomis adopts and incorporates by reference the most current LHMP as part of the Health and Safety Element to the General Plan, which should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of people within the Town of Loomis. The most recent plan can be found at the following link:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/1381/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan> ”

**ATTACHMENT C**

Annex D (Town of Loomis) of the Placer County 2021 LHMP Update