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MICHAEL WOODMAN, Executive Director


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael G. Woodman, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the January 2022 Meeting

DATE: January 26, 2022

READY NEVADA COUNTY EXTREME CLIMATE EVENT MOBILITY & ADAPTATION PLAN

As part of the regional transportation planning process, the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), in coordination with the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, local jurisdictions, and Caltrans District 3, contracted with the consulting firms GHD Inc. and Rincon Consultants Inc. to help prepare the READY Nevada County - Extreme Climate Event Mobility & Adaptation Plan. The purpose of this planning effort is to prepare a transportation related extreme climate event vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation strategies.

The study will identify the climate-related weaknesses of the transportation system in Nevada County and provide actionable strategies for integration into transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and emergency response plans for the region. The development and implementation of these strategies will help mitigate and reduce the duration and severity of climate-related impacts and improve safety. Another key objective includes enhanced communication channels and cross-education of best practices from local and regional first responders (e.g. local fire, police, and sheriff departments, CALFIRE, CHP, and others); and educating citizens and public officials.

To date the consultant team has completed the review of background climate data and projections (precipitation, temperature, wildfire risk, dam failure, etc.) and identification of potential vulnerabilities. The consultant has conducted an inventory and evaluation of vulnerable populations, communities, transportation infrastructure, and other key resources. The consultant has also conducted climate event debriefing interviews with public officials, first responders, and other key stakeholders from nearby communities impacted by recent extreme climate events to identify vulnerabilities, lessons learned, and gather possible strategies to address future events.

An online public workshop was held on May 5, 2021 to introduce the project to the public, present an overview of existing conditions data, and gather initial input. A second online public workshop was held November 3, 2021 to discuss the results of the analysis of potential impacts to the transportation

system from extreme climate events (extreme temperature, precipitation, snowpack, landslide, wildfire) and to review preliminary adaptation concepts and strategies for discussion.

The draft plan is anticipated to be completed in April. Following completion of the draft plan it will be made available for review by partner agencies and an online public workshop will be scheduled to provide an additional opportunity for input. The consultant will present an overview of the study findings and recommendations at the May 18, 2022 NCTC meeting.