# 13. GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

This jurisdictional annex to the Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides information to assist the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District with reducing losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance for what to do when a disaster occurs; the focus is actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to the people, property, environment, or economy of the District. The annex presents a general overview of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, describes who participated in the planning process, assesses local risk, vulnerability, and capabilities, and outlines a strategy for achieving a more resilient community.

## 13.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District identified primary and alternate HMP points of contact and developed this plan over the course of several months. The District participated in the Sonoma County HMP Planning Partnership and Hazard Mitigation Working Group, and supported the local planning process by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

The District officials who participated in the development of the annex are listed below and shown in Table 13-1. Additional documentation of the District's planning activities through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Volume I.

**Primary Point of Contact: Dave Bray, Deputy Chief**

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**Table 13-1. Additional Contributors**

| Name | Department | Position | HMP Contribution |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Darrin DeCarli** | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District | Deputy Chief | Reviewer and content supplier |

## 13.2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District is comprised of 180 members across 10 stations with a combination of full-time staff and volunteer personnel. The District serves a resident population of nearly 22,000 (2010 census) across a 226-square-mile area that includes the communities of Lakeville, Wilmar, San Antonio, Two Rock, Bloomfield, Valley Ford, Bodega, Freestone, Twin Hills, Hessel, Camp Meeker and Fort Ross (Gold Ridge Fire Protection District 2025).

## 13.3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Volume I of this HMP describes the outreach to the public that was undertaken on behalf of all participating jurisdictions to prepare this HMP update. In addition to that work, the District completed specific activities to collect input on hazards and vulnerability from the people the District serves. The public was invited to participate in the plan by responding to the public survey, attending a virtual Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting, attending an in-person meeting, and reviewing the draft plan.

The following targeted outreach was made to underserved communities and vulnerable populations:

Outreach to underserved communities, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness, was coordinated through established partnerships with the City of Sebastopol and the County of Sonoma, who lead communications and service delivery for this population.

To reach vulnerable populations, the district collaborated with the Sebastopol Area Senior Center to engage elderly residents and ensure their needs were represented in the planning process. Additionally, coordination with local school districts supported outreach to youth and families, helping to raise awareness and encourage participation.

During the update of the HMP, opportunities were provided for public input; however, no feedback was received. As a result, no additional information regarding specific hazards or vulnerabilities to the District was contributed through community engagement activities.

## 13.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Volume I of this HMP describes the outreach to stakeholders that was undertaken on behalf of all participating jurisdictions to prepare this HMP update. In addition to that work, Gold Ridge FPD invited stakeholders relevant to its planning process to participate by attending a Hazard Mitigation Working Group meeting, responding to the stakeholder survey, contributing information and expertise to the plan, and reviewing the draft plan. The following sections outline the organizations invited by the District to participate in the 2026 HMP update.

## 13.4.1 Local and Regional Agencies Involved in Hazard Mitigation Activities

The planning process involved close collaboration with local, regional, and state agencies responsible for hazard mitigation, emergency response, environmental protection, and infrastructure. Key contributors included CAL FIRE, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who provided expertise on wildfire risk and habitat resilience. Transportation input came from Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and Sonoma County Roads.

Emergency coordination was supported by the County Department of Emergency Management, Permit Sonoma, and city emergency offices. Law enforcement and public safety insights were offered by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and local police departments. Fire agencies, including the Sonoma County Fire District, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, and city fire departments, helped assess wildfire vulnerabilities and response capabilities.

Environmental partners such as Sonoma Water, Regional Parks, State Parks, Fire Safe Sonoma, and conservation groups contributed to strategies for watershed health, vegetation management, and land preservation. Their input ensured alignment with emergency plans, land use policies, and conservation goals.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CAL FIRE
- California Highway Patrol
- California State Parks
- Caltrans
- County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management
- County of Sonoma, Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
- Sonoma County Fire District
- County of Sonoma Roads Division
- Sonoma Water
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- Fire Safe Sonoma
- Sonoma Land Trust
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Petaluma Department of Emergency Management
- City of Petaluma Fire Department
- City of Petaluma Police Department
- City of Sebastopol Police Department (Emergency Management)

- Gold Ridge Fire Protection District
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Save The Redwoods League
- Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

## 13.4.2 Agencies that Have the Authority to Regulate Development

Agencies with regulatory authority over land use and development were engaged to ensure that mitigation strategies could be effectively integrated into local planning frameworks. Permit Sonoma participated in HMP planning efforts, ensuring that land use aligns with established planning, safety, and environmental standards

## 13.4.3 Neighboring Communities

Neighboring cities, fire districts, and public agencies joined the planning process to support regional coordination. Their input helped identify shared risks and infrastructure, leading to more unified mitigation strategies.

- City of Sebastopol
- City of Petaluma
- Monte Rio
- Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District
- Sonoma County Fire District
- Rancho Adobe Fire District
- Occidental Fire Department/Community Services District
- City of Rohnert Park
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CAL FIRE
- California Highway Patrol
- California State Parks
- Caltrans
- County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management
- County of Sonoma, Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
- Sonoma County Fire District
- County of Sonoma Roads Division
- Sonoma Water

- Sonoma County Regional Parks

## 13.4.4 Representatives of Business, Academia, and Other Private Organizations

The planning team engaged representatives from the business community, academic institutions, and private sector organizations. Local businesses and utility providers contributed perspectives on economic resilience and infrastructure continuity. Academic institutions provided technical expertise and helped assess long-term risks. This diverse input helped ensure that the plan addressed the needs of the broader community and supported public-private collaboration in mitigation efforts.

- Pacific Gas & Electric
- AT&T
- Xfinity/Comcast
- Gravenstein Union School District
- Twin Hills Union School District
- Sebastopol Union School District
- Harmony Union School District
- Two Rock Union School District
- Wilmar Union School District
- Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce
- Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership
- Sonoma County CERT
- Meet Your Neighbors West County (MYNWC)
- Safeway Grocery
- Pacific Market Grocery
- Fircrest Grocery
- Lucky Grocery
- Sebastopol Hardware
- Occidental Hardware

## 13.4.5 Nonprofit Organizations and Community-Based Organizations

Nonprofit and community-based organizations were included to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations were considered in the planning process. These organizations offered valuable insights into community outreach, emergency support services, and equity considerations. Their participation helped strengthen the plan’s focus on inclusive and accessible mitigation strategies.

- American Red Cross

- Sebastopol Area Senior Center
- Gravenstein Health Action Coalition
- Burbank Housing
- Catholic Charities of California
- Rotary Club of Sebastopol
- Rotary Club of Petaluma
- Kiwanis Club of Sebastopol
- Sebastopol Grange #306
- Ceres Community Project
- Volunteer Firefighter Foundation
- Sebastopol Community Church

## 13.5 CHANGES IN COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The District did not participate in the 2021 HMP update; therefore, the community's identified priorities remain unchanged.

## 13.6 JURISDICTIONAL CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND INTEGRATION

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Volume I describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. The jurisdictional assessment for this annex includes analyses of the following:

- Planning and regulatory capabilities
- Development and permitting capabilities
- Administrative and technical capabilities
- Fiscal capabilities
- Education and outreach capabilities
- Classification under various community mitigation programs
- Adaptive capacity to withstand hazard events

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into day-to-day local government operations. As part of the hazard mitigation analysis, planning and policy documents were reviewed and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of its progress toward plan integration. Development of an updated mitigation strategy provided an opportunity for Gold Ridge Fire Protection District to identify opportunities for integrating mitigation concepts into ongoing District procedures.

## 13.6.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

Planning and regulatory capabilities encompass the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards. As a special district, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District possesses capabilities that are different from those of local municipal governments. Construction and development within the District are subject to the building codes, planning and land use regulations, and development standards of the County or municipality where they occur. For a comprehensive list of state codes relevant to hazard mitigation in California, please refer to the capability assessment in Volume I.

### Codes, Ordinances, and Regulations

Table 13-2 summarizes the codes, ordinances, and regulations for the District.

**Table 13-2. GRFPD Codes, Ordinances, and Regulations**

| Capability Type | HMP Integration and Risk Reduction | Authority | Responsible Department or Agency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Building Codes** | Building codes are integrated into the HMP as a foundational tool for reducing risk by ensuring that structures are designed and constructed to withstand local hazard conditions. These codes help minimize damage from natural hazards, thereby enhancing community resilience and protecting life and property. | State<br>2022, amended State code | County of Sonoma |
| **Fire Code** | The California Fire Code supports the goals of the HMP by establishing fire prevention standards that reduce the risk of wildfire and structural fires. It includes requirements for defensible space, fire-resistant materials, and emergency access, all of which are critical for protecting people, property, and infrastructure in fire-prone areas. | State<br>CA Fire Code, 2022, amended State code | County of Sonoma |
| **Health and Safety Code** | Outlines the organizations, powers, and responsibilities of fire protection districts throughout the state. | State<br>California Code, Health and Safety Code - HSC § 13800 | County of Sonoma |

### Planning Documents

Table 13-3 summarizes the planning documents available to the District.

**Table 13-3. Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Plans**

| Capability Type | HMP Integration and Risk Reduction | Authority | Responsible Department or Agency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital Improvement Plan** | Integrating a Capital Improvement Plan with the HMP helps align infrastructure investments with risk reduction goals, ensuring projects support community resilience and long-term safety. | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District | Fire Chief |
| **Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan** | The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is incorporated into the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The CWPP identifies wildfire risks and mitigation measures across the County, and lists community-driven risk reduction priorities and specific project recommendations that agencies and community groups can use to develop projects to reduce wildfire risk. | County | Permit Sonoma and GRFPD Fire Chief |

### Response and Recovery Planning Documents

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District does not have any response and recovery planning documents. Due to the threat of earthquakes to infrastructure in Gold Ridge's jurisdiction, the District could expand its capabilities by developing a plan alongside volunteer organizations, such as CERT, MYNWC, and Sebastopol Neighborhood Communications Unit, to conduct initial damage assessments in communities. This planning will help coordinate the District's recovery efforts and help identify critical facilities to mitigate, preventing energy disruption, communications failure, and building instability.

## 13.6.2 Integration

To effectively reduce long-term risk, hazard mitigation should be considered in everyday operations. As part of this planning process, the district's Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed to identify opportunities to integrate mitigation strategies. This ensures future infrastructure investments support resilience goals. Examples include using hazard data to inform project priorities, updating the CIP based on mitigation actions, and aligning future improvements with risk reduction objectives. The Sonoma County Fire Protection Service Providers Municipal Service Review was last updated in 2005. When this plan is updated, risks to Fire District infrastructure and assets from natural hazards could be included.

## 13.6.3 Development and Permitting Capability

Table 13-4 summarizes the capabilities of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District to oversee and track development.

## 13.6.4 Administrative and Technical Capability

Table 13-5 summarizes the administrative bodies and programs available to support mitigation initiatives in the District.

Table 13-6 summarizes technical staff resources available to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District and their current responsibilities that contribute to hazard mitigation.

### Table 13-4. Development and Permitting Capability

| | Yes/No | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| **Do you issue development permits?**<br>• **If you issue development permits, what department is responsible?**<br>• **If you do not issue development permits, what is your process for tracking new development?** | No | N/A |
| **Are permits tracked by hazard area? (For example, floodplain development permits.)** | No | N/A |
| **Do you have a buildable land inventory?**<br>• **If you have a buildable land inventory, please describe** | Yes | Only through available open space in rural jurisdiction. |
| **Describe the level of buildout in your jurisdiction.** | Rural | Open Space |

### Table 13-5. Administrative Capabilities

| Resources | Available? | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| **Maintenance programs to reduce risk (stormwater maintenance, tree trimming, etc.)** | Yes | Vegetation management is coordinated with FireSafe Sonoma. |
| **Mutual aid agreements** | Yes | Several mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire agencies |
| **Human Resources Manual - Do any job descriptions specifically include identifying or implementing mitigation projects or other efforts to reduce natural hazard risk?** | No | This will be implemented through use of Measure H funds |

### Table 13-6. Technical Capabilities

| Resources | Available? | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| **Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices** | No | - |
| **Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices** | No | - |
| **Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards** | No | - |
| **Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis** | No | - |
| **Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments** | No | - |
| **Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazus applications** | No | - |
| **Staff that work with socially vulnerable populations or underserved communities** | No | - |
| **Environmental scientists familiar with natural hazards** | No | - |

| Resources | Available? | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| **Surveyors** | No | - |
| **Emergency manager** | No | - |
| **Grant writers** | Yes | Contract with local grant writers |
| **Resilience Officer** | No | - |
| **Other (this could include stormwater engineer, environmental specialist, etc.)** | N/A | - |

## 13.6.5 Fiscal Capability

Table 13-7 summarizes financial resources available to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

**Table 13-7. Fiscal Capabilities**

| Financial Resources | Accessible or Eligible to Use? |
|---|---|
| **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)** | No |
| **Capital improvement project funding** | Yes |
| **Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes** | Yes, parcel tax (ad valorem) |
| **User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service** | No |
| **Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes** | No |
| **Stormwater utility fee** | No |
| **Incur debt through general obligation bonds** | Yes |
| **Incur debt through special tax bonds** | Yes |
| **Incur debt through private activity bonds** | No |
| **Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas** | No |
| **Other federal or state funding programs** | No |
| **Open Space Acquisition funding programs** | No |
| **Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])** | No |

## 13.6.6 Education and Outreach Capability

Table 13-8 summarizes the education and outreach resources available to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

## 13.6.7 Community Classifications

Table 13-9 summarizes classifications for community programs available to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

**Table 13-8. Education and Outreach Capabilities**

| Outreach Resources | Available? | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| **Public information officer or communications office** | Yes | Public Information Officer |
| **Personnel skilled or trained in website development** | Yes | District contracts for website development, supported by paid staff for current content additions |
| **Hazard mitigation information available on your website** | Yes | Links to County of Sonoma |
| **Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach** | Yes | District has paid suppression personnel trained in providing these services |
| **Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation** | No | - |
| **Warning systems for hazard events** | No | - |
| **Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools** | No | - |
| **Organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations** | No | - |
| **Public outreach mechanisms / programs to inform the public on natural hazards, risk, and ways to protect themselves during such events** | Yes | District can utilize the local MYNWC program |

**Table 13-9. Community Classifications**

| Program | Participating? | Classification | Date Classified |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Community Rating System (CRS)** | No | N/A | N/A |
| **Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule** | No | N/A | N/A |
| **Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)** | Yes | Class 3 in hydrated areas; Class 5 in non-hydrated areas | 2023 |
| **National Weather Service StormReady Certification** | No | N/A | N/A |
| **Firewise Communities classification** | No | N/A | N/A |
| **Other: Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)** | - | - | - |

*N/A = Not applicable; — = Unavailable*

## 13.6.8 Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences” (IPCC 2022). Each jurisdiction has a unique combination of capabilities to adjust to, protect from, and withstand a future hazard event, future conditions, and changing risk. Table 13-10 summarizes the adaptive capacity for each identified hazard of concern and the District’s capability to address related actions using the following classifications:

- Strong adaptive capacity means the jurisdiction does have the capability to effectively respond, plans/policies exceed minimum requirements; deployable resources all of which decreases vulnerability.
- Moderate adaptive capacity means minimum requirements are in place; moderate capabilities; mitigation measures are identified but not implemented widespread; jurisdiction can recover but needs outside resources.
- Weak adaptive capacity means the jurisdiction does not have the capability to effectively respond, which leads to an increase in vulnerability. Examples include weak, outdated, or inconsistent plans, policies, codes, or ordinances in place; no redundancies; limited to no deployable resources; limited capabilities to respond; long recovery.

**Table 13-10. Adaptive Capacity**

| Hazard | Adaptive Capacity - Strong/Moderate/Weak |
|---|---|
| **Dam Failure** | Moderate |
| **Drought** | Moderate |
| **Earthquake** | Moderate |
| **Extreme Cold** | Moderate |
| **Extreme Heat** | Moderate |
| **Extreme Wind** | Moderate |
| **Flooding** | Moderate |
| **Landslide** | Moderate |
| **Sea Level Rise** | Moderate |
| **Tsunami** | Moderate |
| **Wildfire** | Moderate |

## 13.7 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

As a public utility district, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District is not eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The assessment of repetitive loss for NFIP-insured structures within the District's jurisdiction can be found in the annex for Sonoma County.

## 13.8 GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to appreciating a jurisdiction's overall risk to its hazards of concern. The District does not permit or regulate development. Development permits within the District's jurisdiction are issued through Sonoma County. Therefore, new and anticipated development located within the District's jurisdiction is included in the Sonoma County annex. Overall, development within the District has been minimal and GRFPD's hazard vulnerability has stayed the same.

# 13.9 JURISDICTIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The hazard profiles in Volume I provide detailed information regarding each planning partner's vulnerability to the identified hazards, including summaries of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's risk assessment results and data used to determine the hazard ranking. Key local risk assessment information is presented below.

## 13.9.1 Hazard Area

Maps of probable hazard areas within the District are shown in Figure 13-1 and Figure 13-2. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and are adequate for planning purposes. Maps are provided only for hazards that can be identified clearly using mapping techniques and technologies and for which the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District has significant exposure.

**Figure 13-1. Flood, Dam Inundation, Tsunami, and Sea Level Rise Hazard Area**

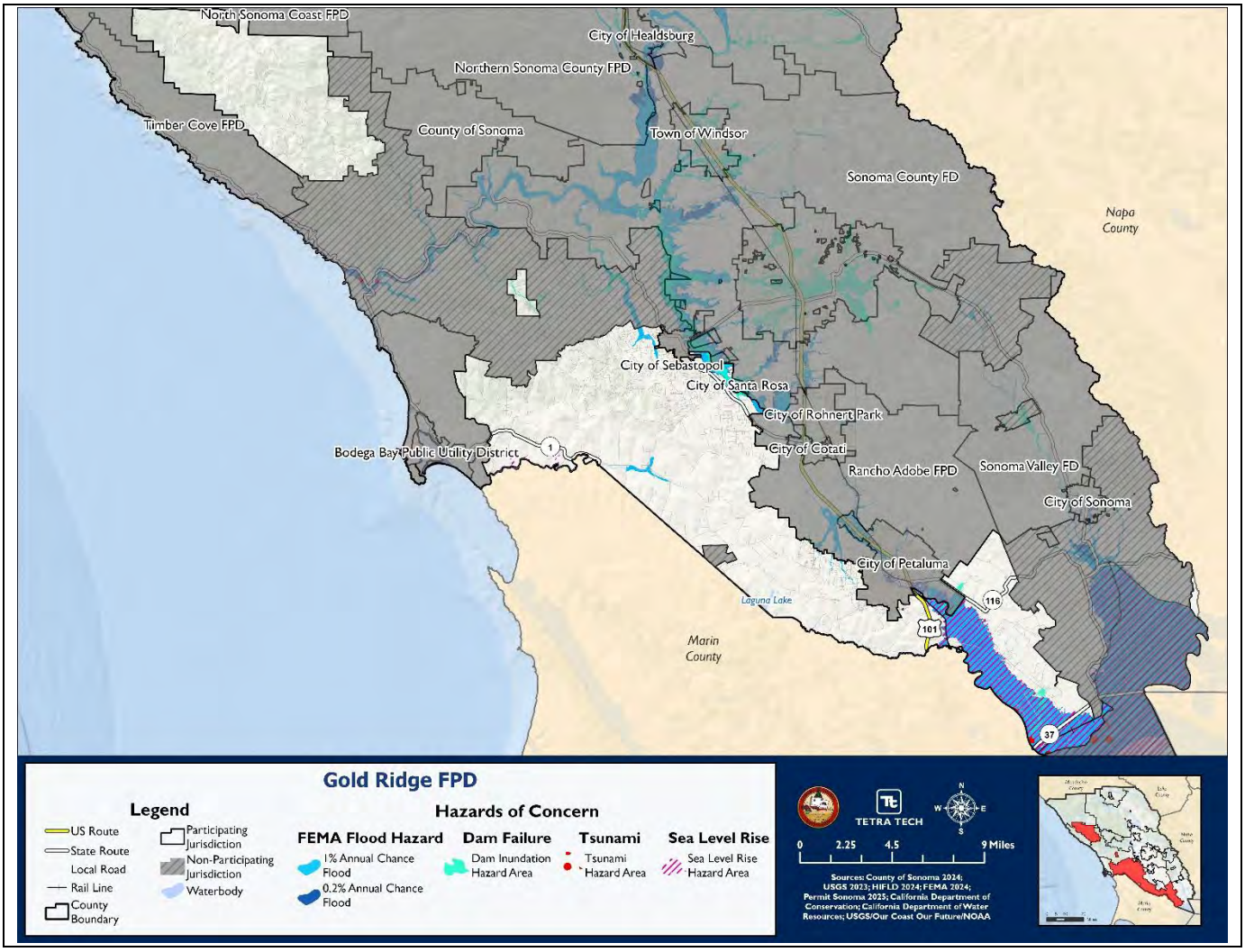
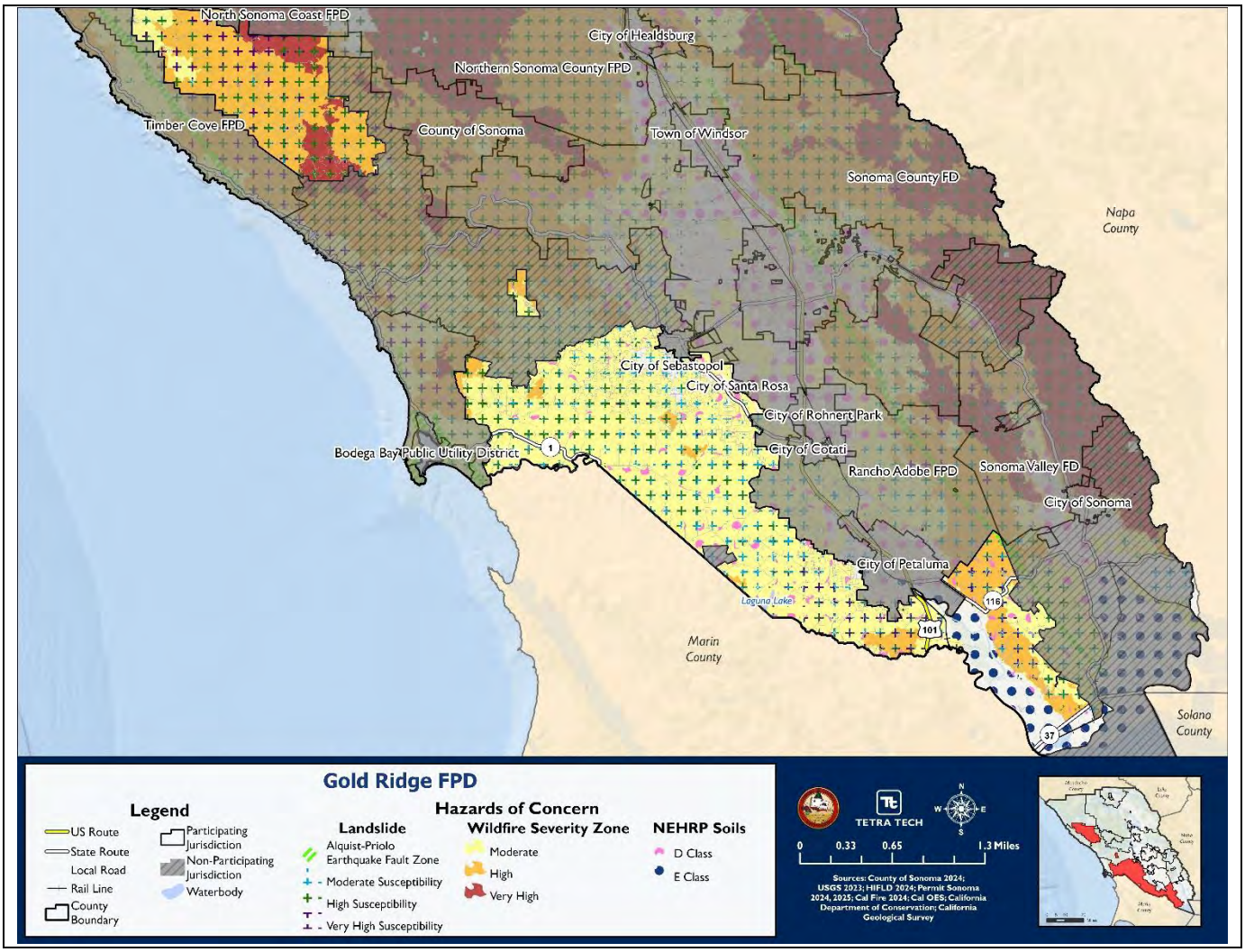


**Figure 13-2. Wildfire Severity Zone, NEHRP Soils, and Landslide Hazard Area**




## 13.9.2 Hazard Event History

The history of natural and non-natural hazard events in Gold Ridge Fire Protection District is detailed in Volume I, where each hazard profile includes a chronology of historical events that have affected the County and its municipalities. Table 13-11 provides details on loss and damage in the District during hazard events since the last hazard mitigation plan update.

**Table 13-11. Hazard Event History in Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, 2021-2025**

| Dates of Event | Event Type | Disaster Declaration | Summary of Event | Summary of Damage and Losses in GRFPD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **January 9, 2023** | Flood | DR-4683-CA<br>EM-3591-CA<br>CA23-1 | A strong atmospheric river led to widespread flooding across the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast. Roadway flooding was reported along Mark West Creek near the communities of Forestville and Trenton. | No impact indicated |

| Dates of Event | Event Type | Disaster Declaration | Summary of Event | Summary of Damage and Losses in GRFPD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **March 9, 2023** | Flood | DR-4699-CA<br>EM-3592-CA<br>CA23-3 | Sub-tropical moisture plume from over the Central Pacific moved into the California Coast. CHP reported a mud slide moving debris on California Highway 116. | No impact indicated |

*EM = Emergency Declaration (FEMA); DR = Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)*

## 13.9.3 Hazard Ranking and Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Volume I have detailed information regarding each planning partner's vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following presents key risk assessment results for Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

### Hazard Ranking

The participating jurisdictions have differing degrees of vulnerability to the hazards of concern, so each jurisdiction ranked its own degree of risk to each hazard. The community-specific hazard ranking is based on problems and impacts identified by the risk assessment presented in Volume I. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard; the potential impacts of the hazard on people, property, and the economy; community capabilities to address the hazard; and changing future climate conditions.

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District reviewed the County hazard ranking and individual results to assess the relative risk of the hazards of concern to the community. Table 13-12 shows Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's final hazard rankings for identified hazards of concern. Mitigation actions outlined below address all hazards of local concern, targeting high and medium hazards especially.

**Table 13-12. Hazard Ranking**

| Hazard | Rank |
|---|---|
| **Dam Failure** | Low |
| **Drought** | Medium |
| **Earthquake** | High |
| **Extreme Cold** | Medium |
| **Extreme Heat** | Medium |
| **Extreme Wind** | Medium |
| **Flooding** | High |
| **Landslide** | Medium |
| **Sea Level Rise** | Low |
| **Tsunami** | Low |
| **Wildfire** | Medium |

*Note: The scale is based on the hazard rankings established in Volume I, modified as appropriate based on review by the jurisdiction*

## Vulnerability to Hazards of Local Concern

Based on the above jurisdiction-specific information, this section describes vulnerability of community assets to the hazards of local concern to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Special purpose districts focus on maintaining critical facilities to provide specific services to customers. Therefore, the hazard vulnerability and impact is described in terms of qualitative assessments and specific identified issues related to these services, with a focus on district-owned assets.

For all hazards of local concern, the potential impacts were qualitatively evaluated. The qualitative assessments in the hazard profiles in Volume I are equally applicable to the District. Table 13-13 summarizes additional risks specific to GRFPD.

**Table 13-13. Qualitative Assessment of Impacts for Hazards of Local Concern**

| Hazard | Qualitative Local Impacts |
|---|---|
| **Dam Failure** | The nearest dam is approximately 40 miles away, significantly reducing the likelihood of dam failure impacts within the district.<br>Notable dams nearby include the Meadow Lane, Azalea, Lake Helen, Sleepy Hollow No. 2, and Brown's Lane dams, which are high hazard potential dams. A failure of these dams could lead to downstream flooding, which could impact travel along Highway 116.<br>The populations most vulnerable to these hazards are those downstream of the reservoirs, including residents and tourists in dam inundation areas, and GRFPD's first responders who may be involved in rescue and emergency assistance. |
| **Drought** | The district is susceptible to drought conditions that can significantly impact local water supply and agricultural activities. GRFPD's fire-fighting activities and infrastructure depend on a sufficient supply of water. Drought impacts available water supplies in the county's water tanks and retention basins (lakes and ponds), potentially limiting water supply for firefighting efforts. In addition, drought creates a more dangerous fire environment due to dry vegetation.<br>Populations most vulnerable to drought are people living in higher fire-risk areas, which includes most of the District, and people dependent on agricultural and forestry activities. In periods of extended drought, wineries in the District can be negatively impacted. |
| **Earthquake** | Gold Ridge is at risk of experiencing earthquakes that could cause disruption to services and structural damage specifically to older buildings constructed prior to current building standards. The southern portions of the district are especially vulnerable to earthquake, as they are near a fault and have a higher percentage of NEHRP Class D and E soils, although the entire district is prone to earthquakes. Bridges in the area may be vulnerable to shaking, which could lead to transportation disruptions. Ports on the San Pablo Bay may also be disrupted if an earthquake impacts the bay.<br>Especially vulnerable populations include children and older adults, who may be less able to respond quickly. If an earthquake leads to a dam failure, it could also impact residents and travelers downstream. |
| **Extreme Cold** | Extreme cold events are rare and typically have minimal impact on the district's population and infrastructure.<br>Elderly populations in GRFPD are more vulnerable to extreme cold than the general populace, as are those living in remote areas or experiencing homelessness.<br>Emergency shelters and fire stations in the District can be vulnerable to extreme cold, especially if the event coincides with a power outage. |

| Hazard | Qualitative Local Impacts |
|---|---|
| **Extreme Heat** | Periodic heat waves pose health risks, especially to vulnerable populations, and can strain energy and water resources.<br>Elderly populations in GRFPD are more vulnerable to extreme heat than the general populace, as are those living in remote areas or experiencing homelessness. Extreme heat can also exacerbate difficulties for GRFPD's fire fighters, increasing their vulnerability to heat and increasing the vulnerability of vegetation to ignition.<br>Emergency shelters and fire stations in the District can be vulnerable to extreme heat, especially if the event coincides with a power outage |
| **Extreme Wind** | The District may occasionally experience strong winds that can cause property damage, power outages, and hazardous conditions.<br>Transportation along Highway 1, 101, and 116 can be disrupted when high winds down trees over the road.<br>Especially vulnerable populations include those living in mobile homes and older houses. If extreme winds cause power outages and coincide with extreme temperatures or storms, elderly populations and children can also become vulnerable. |
| **Flood** | Flooding is a concern due to heavy rainfall events, potentially affecting homes, transportation routes and infrastructure.<br>People living in low-lying areas can be vulnerable to flooding. Tourists and travelers may be unaware of flooding risks as well, especially in areas that are within the SFHA, such as the near San Pablo Bay. This can also endanger GRFPD's first responders performing rescues.<br>Highway 37 runs along the San Pablo Bay, crossing a wide 0.2-percent annual chance flood hazard area that abuts the highway. Heavy winter rains can contribute to downed trees, power line hazards, and debris flows that can impact travel. |
| **Landslide** | Some areas, particularly those with steeper terrain, may be prone to landslides during heavy rain or seismic activity.<br>Though all areas of Gold Ridge can experience a landslide, the area at greatest risk is Camp Meeker. This hillside community has limited road access and dense residences. Stretches of Highway 101 and Highway 116 going through the southernmost portion of GRFPD are in areas rated as having high or very high landslide susceptibility. The northernmost portion of the district is also rated as high or very high landslide susceptibility.<br>Populations especially vulnerable to landslides include residents in the more rural, high-landslide susceptibility areas in the northern portion of the District, which also has moderate wildfire risk areas. People in areas with limited communication options, such as remote areas, can be vulnerable as well, since alerts and requests for help may not come through. |
| **Sea Level Rise** | The District is at risk from sea level rise along San Pablo Bay.<br>Large portions of the southernmost areas of the District are noted as being vulnerable to sea level rise, including much of the stretch of Highway 37 within the district. Homes, businesses, and infrastructure could be impacted, making residents and industries near the bay the most vulnerable. Sea level rise can also cause saltwater intrusion further upstream in freshwater bodies, potentially compromising wells and water intakes along the Petaluma River. |
| **Tsunami** | The District is at risk from tsunami along the San Pablo Bay.<br>People that are impacted most are likely to be disabled or elderly residents, such as at the Sebastopol Area Senior Center. People living in areas with limited escape routes are especially vulnerable. Tsunamis with enough height and force can erode shorelines, causing damage to homes and roads, such as Highway 37. |

| Hazard | Qualitative Local Impacts |
|---|---|
| **Wildfire** | The District faces significant wildfire risk, given the surrounding vegetation and climate, which can threaten homes, air quality, and safety.<br>People that are impacted most are likely to be low-income people living in remote, rural locations that can be difficult to access or provide sufficient warning to during a hazard event. The northern portion of the district has a high wildfire risk. People with health conditions, especially respiratory conditions, and children are vulnerable to smoke inhalation. Most of GRFPD has a moderate severity fire risk, but some areas with high wildfire risk are near Highways 101, 118, and 37, which are major evacuation routes for the area. Travelers and tourists are also vulnerable for this reason. |

## 13.9.4 Identified Issues

After review of hazard event history, hazard rankings, hazard location, and current capabilities, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District identified the following risk-related issues for the community:

- Drought impacts available water supplies in the county's retention basins (lakes and ponds), potentially limiting water supply for firefighting efforts. In addition, drought creates a more dangerous fire environment due to dry vegetation.
- A large earthquake poses a threat to infrastructure in Gold Ridge's jurisdiction. Energy disruption, communications failure, and building instability pose emergency response challenges.
- Additional funding to support the activation of warming centers is necessary to ensure vulnerable populations have a safe interior location during periods of extreme cold.
- Additional funding to support the activation of cooling centers is necessary to ensure vulnerable populations have a safe interior location during periods of extreme heat.
- Extreme wind events often result in downed power lines causing power outages. Another concern is fallen trees impacting structures.
- Certain areas of Sonoma County are known to be at risk of flooding. Low-lying areas impact roads and certain creeks and rivers. Gold Ridge is impacted mostly by frequent road closures due to flooding.
- Though all areas of Gold Ridge can experience a landslide, the sole area at greatest risk is Camp Meeker. This hillside community has limited road access and dense residences.
- Gold Ridge Fire Protection District will be minimally impacted by sea level rise, but there will be some issues. As sea levels rise, waterways rise, impacting creek and riverbanks. In most cases, the wetlands will absorb this with minimal effect.
- Wildfire poses a risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District has numerous homes and neighborhoods in the WUI.

# 13.10 MITIGATION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZATION

This section discusses the status of mitigation actions from the previous HMP, describes proposed hazard mitigation actions, and prioritizes actions to address over the next five years.

## 13.10.1 Past Mitigation Action Status

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District did not participate in the 2021 HMP Update and has no prior mitigation actions.

## 13.10.2 Additional Mitigation Efforts

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District completed the following mitigation efforts since the last HMP:

- Permit Sonoma (County of Sonoma) Chipper Program. This program has primarily been focused on the Bohemian Road corridor. The District coordinates with local groups of citizens to enhance wildfire preparedness and vegetation management.
- Defensible Space Inspections. Each year the District focuses on a specific area of the jurisdiction to complete defensible space inspections and vegetation management. In addition, these inspections allow for public education.
- Sebastopol Area Senior Center. Hosted informational sessions educating seniors on wildfire preparedness, home safety, evacuations, and fall prevention.
- Meet Your Neighbors West County. Coordinated monthly meetings and outreach with the organized group in the greater Sebastopol area (disaster preparedness).
- Sebastopol Neighborhood Communications Unit. Coordinated monthly meetings and outreach with the organized group in the greater Sebastopol area (disaster preparedness).
- General Disaster Preparedness. Hosted community groups in jurisdiction providing outreach and general preparedness.

Since the adoption of the County's first HMP, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District has made significant mitigation progress in the following areas:

- Co-chair of Active Shooter Hostile Event Response, developing county-wide active shooter policy, response, and training.
- Sonoma County Regional Park. District participates in vegetation management and prescribed burns at Tolay Lake Regional Park in conjunction with CAL FIRE and tribal affairs.
- Save the Redwoods prescribed burns in the Fort Ross area.

## 13.10.3 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions for the HMP Update

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District participated in the mitigation strategy workshop for this HMP to identify appropriate actions to include in a local hazard mitigation strategy. Its comprehensive consideration of all possible activities to address hazards of concern included review of the following FEMA documents:

- FEMA 551 "Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures" (March 2007)
- FEMA "Mitigation Ideas—A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards" (January 2013)
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (July 2024)

The action worksheets included at the end of this annex list the mitigation actions that Gold Ridge Fire Protection District would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. The actions are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in District priorities.

Table 13-14 indicates how the proposed mitigation actions fall within the four FEMA mitigation action categories and six CRS mitigation action categories (these categories are described in Appendix D).

**Table 13-14. Analysis of Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Category**

| Hazard | LPR | SIP | NSP | EAP | PR | PP | PI | NR | SP | ES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dam Failure** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Drought** | X | X | X | X | X | - | X | X | - | X |
| **Earthquake** | X | - | - | X | - | - | X | - | - | X |
| **Extreme Cold** | X | - | - | X | - | - | X | - | - | X |
| **Extreme Heat** | X | - | - | X | - | - | X | - | - | X |
| **Extreme Wind** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | - | - | X |
| **Flooding** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Landslide** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Sea Level Rise** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | - |
| **Tsunami** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | - |
| **Wildfire** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | - | X |

*Note: Mitigation category codes as follows (see Appendix D for descriptions ): LPR = Local Plans and Regulations; SIP = Structure and Infrastructure Project; NSP = Natural Systems Protection; EAP = Education and Awareness Programs; PR = Preventative Measures; PP = Property Protection; PI = Public Information; NR = Natural Resource Protection; SP = Structural Flood Control Projects; ES = Emergency Services*

Volume I identifies evaluation criteria for prioritizing the mitigation actions. To assist with rating each mitigation action as high, medium, or low priority, a numeric rank is assigned for each of the evaluation criteria. Table 13-15 provides a summary of the prioritization of all proposed mitigation actions for the HMP update.

### Table 13-15. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

| Project Name | Cost | Benefit | Objectives | Time Frame | Score | Priority |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Warming Centers** | Low | Medium | 6 | 1-5 years | 7.462 | High |
| **Cooling Centers** | Low | Medium | 6 | 1-5 years | 7.462 | High |
| **Initial Damage Assessment** | Low | Medium | 4 | 1-5 years | 7.308 | High |
| **Underground Powerlines** | Medium | Medium | 4 | 1-5 years | 6.308 | Medium |
| **Flood Mitigation** | High | High | 4 | 1-5 years | 6.308 | Medium |
| **Groundwater Runoff** | High | High | 2 | 1-5 years | 6.154 | Medium |
| **Drought – Water Supply** | High | Medium | 8 | 1-5 years | 5.616 | Medium |
| **Sea Level Rise Mitigation** | High | Medium | 5 | 1-5 years | 5.385 | Medium |
| **WUI Compliance** | High | Medium | 7 | 1-10 years | 4.539 | Low |

*Note: Volume I conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-5), Medium (5-7), High (7-9).*

## Action 2026-GRFPD-01. Drought-Water Supply

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | CAL FIRE |
| Hazards of Concern: | Drought |
| Description of the Problem: | Drought impacts available water supplies in the county's retention basins (lakes and ponds), potentially limiting water supply for firefighting efforts. In addition, drought creates a more dangerous fire environment due to dry vegetation. |
| Description of the Solution: | These actions are multi-faceted. The first step is working with regional partners, County of Sonoma and Sonoma Water, to promote water conservation measures. Public awareness and education will be important components. The second step is to address necessary infrastructure improvements such as repairing leaks, reusing wastewater, and capturing stormwater. The third step is to support environmental stewardship encouraging communities to reduce drought vulnerability and to incorporate vegetation management. Lastly, and most expensive, is to increase retention basin capacity and quantity to allow more options for firefighting water supply. |
| Estimated Cost: | High |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 Years |
| Objectives Met: | 1; 2; 4; 6; 8; 9; 11; 13 |
| Benefits: | Action will provide a long-term reduction of risk for life and property. |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | N/A |
| Impact on Future Development: | As master plans are developed to address new retention basins, competition for available land may increase. |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | Minimal due to water storage tanks and wells |
| Impact on Capabilities: | Minimal due to water storage tanks and wells |
| Climate Change Considerations: | High heat will increase water evaporation from reservoirs, potentially exacerbating drought issues. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Public Information, Natural Resource Protection, Emergency Services |
| Priority | Medium |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-02. Initial Damage Assessment in Communities

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | U.S. Geological Survey; County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Management (DEM) |
| Hazards of Concern: | Earthquake |
| Description of the Problem: | A large earthquake poses a threat to infrastructure in Gold Ridge's jurisdiction. Energy disruption, communications failure, and building instability pose emergency response challenges. |
| Description of the Solution: | The district will work alongside volunteer organizations, such as CERT, MYNWC, and Sebastopol Neighborhood Communications Unit, to conduct initial damage assessments in communities. In addition to REDCOM, emergency dispatch, the District will coordinate recovery efforts using the General Mobile Radio Service and HAM radios. |
| Estimated Cost: | Medium |
| Potential Funding Sources: | General fund and community donations |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 Years |
| Objectives Met: | 4; 5; 6; 10 |
| Benefits: | Greater public awareness and education |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Loss of energy, communications, and residences can greatly impact vulnerable populations. Utilization of volunteer organizations will enhance or response capabilities by prioritizing need. |
| Impact on Future Development: | N/A |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | The District maintains a robust response capability with redundancies in resources. All critical facilities have generator backups, REDCOM has backup communications, and response apparatus can be mobile. |
| Impact on Capabilities: | The greatest impact is to the timeline for relief. The District is self-sufficient for 72 hours plus. |
| Climate Change Considerations: | None |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Public Information, Emergency Services |
| Priority | High |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-03. Warming Centers

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | City of Sebastopol; City of Petaluma; County of Sonoma DEM |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Extreme Cold |
| Description of the Problem: | Additional funding to support the activation of warming centers is necessary to ensure vulnerable populations have a safe interior location. |
| Description of the Solution: | Warming centers have been identified and will be activated upon notification of extreme weather. At annual budget planning exercises, emphasis needs to be placed on maintaining funding to support these centers. |
| Estimated Cost: | Low |
| Potential Funding Sources: | General fund and County DEM funding |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 years |
| Objectives Met: | 2; 4; 5; 6; 11; 13 |
| Benefits: | Public health and safety |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Public health and safety |
| Impact on Future Development: | N/A |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | N/A |
| Impact on Capabilities: | N/A |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Climate change can increase the District’s reliance on these centers. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Public Information, Emergency Services |
| Priority | High |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-04. Cooling Centers

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | City of Sebastopol; City of Petaluma; County of Sonoma DEM |
| Hazards of Concern: | Extreme Heat |
| Description of the Problem: | Additional funding to support the activation of cooling centers is necessary to ensure vulnerable populations have a safe interior location. |
| Description of the Solution: | Cooling centers have been identified and will be activated upon notification of extreme weather. At annual budget planning exercises, emphasis needs to be placed on maintaining funding to support these centers. |
| Estimated Cost: | Low |
| Potential Funding Sources: | General fund and County DEM funding |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 years |
| Objectives Met: | 2; 4; 5; 6; 11; 13 |
| Benefits: | Public health and safety |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Public health and safety |
| Impact on Future Development: | N/A |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | N/A |
| Impact on Capabilities: | N/A |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Climate change can increase the District’s reliance on these centers. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Public Information, Emergency Services |
| Priority | High |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-05. Underground Powerlines

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | Pacific Gas & Electric |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Extreme Wind |
| Description of the Problem: | Extreme wind events often result in downed power lines, causing power outages. Another concern is fallen trees impacting structures. |
| Description of the Solution: | Support Pacific Gas & Electric and their mission to underground powerlines and encourage the trimming of trees near transmission lines. Public education should be focused on removing or trimming trees near homes. |
| Estimated Cost: | Medium |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 Years |
| Objectives Met: | 1; 5; 6; 11 |
| Benefits: | Less power disruptions |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Potentially significant as vulnerable populations can remain in their residences to power essential medical devices such as home oxygen and electric wheelchairs. |
| Impact on Future Development: | Potential increased cost for construction as trenches for power lines will need be created. |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | Potentially significant as there will be fewer downed power lines, increasing life safety. Removal of trees/limbs near homes will lessen the fallen tree risk. |
| Impact on Capabilities: | None |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Climate change could impact tree health. As trees die or get sick, their root structures can be impacted, weakening the overall tree and increasing fall risk. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Public Information, Emergency Services |
| Priority | Medium |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-06. Flood Mitigation

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | County of Sonoma DEM; neighboring fire agencies; Caltrans, County Roads; law enforcement agencies |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Flood, Dam Failure |
| Description of the Problem: | Certain areas of Sonoma County are known to be at risk of flooding. Low-lying areas impact roads and certain creeks and rivers. Gold Ridge is impacted mostly by frequent road closures due to flooding. |
| Description of the Solution: | Preventing flooding and closures will require significant capital improvement beyond the authority of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Options may include stormwater management plans, floodwalls, regrading terrain, elevating roadways, and stream corridor restoration.<br><br>An operational remedy could involve installing pipe gates at these flood-prone areas that can be closed when identified roadways flood. This inexpensive solution would reduce the ability of citizens to become stranded by driving into flood waters. |
| Estimated Cost: | High |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | Three to five years |
| Objectives Met: | 1; 3; 6; 10 |
| Benefits: | Greater public safety, as citizens have drowned in these waters. The added benefit is that emergency resources are available to respond to other emergencies. |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Life safety and financial. Life safety applies to all citizens because of the risk of drowning. Financial, as certain populations cannot afford to have their primary form of transportation disabled by floodwaters. |
| Impact on Future Development: | Minimal |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | Minimal, as these are known and frequent hazards. Emergency resources have been dealing with these issues for over 100 years |
| Impact on Capabilities: | Pole gates will improve the District’s capabilities by reducing the resources needed to respond to these incidents. |
| Climate Change Considerations: | None |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Public Information, Natural Resource Protection, Structural Flood Control Projects, Emergency Services |
| Priority | Medium |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-07. Groundwater Runoff – Camp Meeker

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | USGS, EPA, CHP, Caltrans, Sonoma County DEM/Roads, Permit Sonoma, law enforcement agencies, neighboring fire agencies |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Landslide |
| Description of the Problem: | Though all areas of Gold Ridge can experience a landslide, the area at greatest risk is Camp Meeker. This hillside community has limited road access and dense residences. |
| Description of the Solution: | A master plan to address capital improvement in the community with a focus on groundwater/water runoff. This should include parcel evaluations, construction of retaining walls, culverts, erosion control, and forest/vegetation management. |
| Estimated Cost: | High |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | 5 to 10 years |
| Objectives Met: | 3; 6 |
| Benefits: | Increased public safety, improved roads, and structural stability |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Significant due to the potential loss of life and residences |
| Impact on Future Development: | Increased cost due to updated code enforcement, rules, and regulations |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | A significant landslide could close the sole road, Bohemian Highway, that leads out of the community. |
| Impact on Capabilities: | Potentially moderate. Fire will respond and coordinate the response to a landslide, but these are difficult incidents to mitigate. Prevention is key |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Increased temperatures can lead to dead vegetation that weakens root structure.<br>Excessive rain increases water runoff and ground saturation, increasing landslide concerns. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Public Information, Natural Resource Protection, Structural Flood Control Projects, Emergency Services |
| Priority | Medium |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-08. Mitigation of Sea Level Rise

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | CA State Parks, Sonoma County DEM/Roads, Caltrans, neighboring fire agencies, and law enforcement |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Sea Level Rise, Tsunami |
| Description of the Problem: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District will be minimally impacted by sea level rise, but there will be some issues. As sea levels rise, waterways rise, impacting creek and riverbanks. In most cases, the wetlands will absorb this with minimal effect. |
| Description of the Solution: | Sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, wetland restoration and preservation, acquisition and elevation of structures in flood-prone areas, structural retrofits, and floodwalls. |
| Estimated Cost: | High |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-5 Years |
| Objectives Met: | 1; 2; 4; 6; 9 |
| Benefits: | Action will provide a long-term reduction of risk for life and property. |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Minimal |
| Impact on Future Development: | Potentially limiting available land for development |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | None |
| Impact on Capabilities: | None |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Loss of wetlands could impact the environment and the streambed's ability to absorb water rise. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Public Information, Natural Resource Protection, Structural Flood Control Projects |
| Priority | Medium |

## Action 2026-GRFPD-09. WUI Compliance

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead Agency: | Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors |
| Supporting Agencies: | CalFire; neighboring fire agencies, law enforcement agencies, Sonoma County DEM |
| Hazard(s) of Concern: | Wildfire |
| Description of the Problem: | Wildfire poses a risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District has numerous homes and neighborhoods in the WUI. |
| Description of the Solution: | Land use ordinances, subdivision regulations, building code and enforcement, utility undergrounding, structural retrofits, forest/vegetation management, Firewise Communities, and public education. |
| Estimated Cost: | High |
| Potential Funding Sources: | FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants |
| Implementation Timeline: | 1-10 Years |
| Objectives Met: | 1; 2; 3; 4; 6; 8; 13 |
| Benefits: | Community involvement, awareness, education, and vegetation fuel management |
| Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations: | Significant |
| Impact on Future Development: | Moderate to significant |
| Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines: | Moderate |
| Impact on Capabilities: | Moderate to significant |
| Climate Change Considerations: | Drying and death of vegetation will increase available fuels, increasing the danger and risk of wildfire in the WUI. |
| Mitigation Category | Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Project, Natural Systems Protection, Education and Awareness Programs |
| CRS Category | Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Public Information, Natural Resource Protection, Emergency Services |
| Priority | Low |