

Attachment C

LAND USE AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER ELEMENT EXCERPTS



**Table LU-3 SUMMARY OF GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND ACREAGES
COUNTYWIDE (AS OF 2007)**

Land Use Categories	Incorporated Area (Current)						Unincorp.		
	Davis	W. Sac	Winters	Woodland	Incorp. Subtotal	%	Area (1983)	Acreage Total	%
Open Space	299	2,185	104	754	3,342	10.3	2,722	6,064	1.0
Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	603,544	603,544	92.3
Recreation	402	322	45	252	1,021	3.2	1,121	2,142	0.3
Residential	3,940	4,316	770	4,169	13,195	40.8	3,237	16,432	2.5
Commercial	493	633	122	727	1,975	6.1	406	2,381	0.4
Industrial	433	2,656	75	2,281	5,445	16.8	1,195	6,640	1.0
Public	548	730	370	1,329	2,977	9.4	694	3,671	0.6
Mixed Use	11	889	50	0	950	2.9	145	1,095	0.2
Other	229	2,992	93	106	3,420	10.6	8,160	11,580	1.8
Subtotals	6,355	14,723	1,629	9,618	32,325	100%	621,224	653,549	100%

Notes: Units are in acres.

Source: City Planning Directors and 1983 Yolo County General Plan.

B. Regulatory Framework

1. State General Plan Requirements

State law (Section 65302a of the Government Code) mandates that the land use element contain the following key topics:

- Proposed general distribution, location and extent of land uses.
- Population density and building intensity by land use.
- Areas subject to flooding, including annual review of those areas.
- A designated land use category for timberland production.
- A consideration of the impact of new growth on land adjacent to military facilities and underlying military airspace.

State law (Section 65302.4 of the Government Code) also allows land use elements to address urban form and design including:

- Differentiating between neighborhoods, districts and corridors.
- Providing for a mixture of land uses and housing types within neighborhoods, districts and corridors.
- Providing specific measures for regulating relationships between buildings and between buildings and outdoor public areas including streets.



State law requires that General Plans address environmental justice, either as a stand-alone element or integrated into other elements. The environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives shall:

- Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities (a disadvantaged community is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation) by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
- Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.
- Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

State law provides that the County can address these items in any format and is required to address them only to the extent that they are relevant in the County. Section 65301a of the Government Code indicates that the General Plan may be adopted in any format deemed appropriate or convenient by the Board of Supervisors, including the combining of elements. Section 65301c goes on to clarify that the County is required to address each of these items only to the extent that the subject of the element exists in the planning area.

In light of this, Yolo County has addressed all of the above items within this element, with the following exceptions:

- Flooding: Areas subject to flooding from a major (100 or 200-year) event and the requirement for annual review are addressed in the Health and Safety Element. Localized flood issues and storm drainage are addressed in the Public Facilities and Services Element.
- Timber Harvesting: A land use category for timberland production is not provided as the County has no timberland production areas.
- Military Facilities: The impact of new growth on military readiness activities is not addressed as the only military facility in the County, the McClellan/Davis Telecommunication Site, has been declared surplus by the Army and is now closed. Discussion regarding this facility and plans to convert it to a County open space facility are addressed in the Conservation and Open Space Element
- Land Use Planning Boundaries: All lands within the Yolo County boundary are within the Yolo County General Plan Area. However, the County does not have jurisdiction over the following, even though they are within the County boundary: federal lands,



Many cities choose to designate land uses within their SOI areas on their General Plan Land Use Designation Map in order to express desired municipal land uses for those areas. The General Plans for West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland and Winters include land use designations for lands outside of their city limits, but inside their respective SOIs. Because these lands are legally under the County's jurisdiction, they are also included in the Yolo County General Plan and given land use designations in this General Plan. The designation in the County General Plan of lands within the SOI may differ from the designations shown in the City General Plan. Until SOI areas are annexed into a city's boundaries, the controlling land use designations for purposes of development are those of the County.

5. Growth Boundaries

This General Plan includes identified growth boundaries for all community and other outlying areas of the unincorporated County. These growth boundaries are shown in Figures LU-2A through LU-1H and defined as a boundary around the outer perimeter of each area of non-agriculturally designated land within the County. For the incorporated cities, the SOI boundaries are identified as the growth boundary for that City.

6. Relationship to the Yolo County Zoning Code

Title 8 (Land Development and Zoning) of the Yolo County Code contains the primary land development regulations of the County, including the Zoning Code. These regulations implement the General Plan and must be consistent. Inconsistencies between the two documents must be resolved in favor of the General Plan. The Zoning Code will be revised to bring it into conformance with this General Plan.

The Zoning Code, in particular, contains further refinements of the land use designations established in the General Plan, in the form of land use zones. Table LU-6 provides a matrix that correlates the land use zones of the existing Zoning Code with the land use designations of this General Plan update.

7. Land Use and Resources Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta

The Land Use and Resources Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (LURMP) was developed in response to the Delta Protection Act of 1992, by the State Delta Protection Commission. The plan was adopted by the State in 1995 for the purpose of providing direction to local jurisdictions in the Delta region on land use decisions. The Plan addresses the environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees and boater safety. The General Plans for all jurisdictions within the Delta primary zone, including portions of Yolo County, are required to be consistent with this plan. The LURMP was adopted by the County as a General Plan amendment on March 18, 1997 by Resolution No. 97-34. The State is currently engaged in a process to update this plan. Upon completion, the County will be required to review this General Plan for consistency and make amendments as necessary.

8. Environmental Justice

[Environmental justice is discussed in the Safety and Environmental Justice White Paper that was prepared in 2022 in support of a focused General Plan Amendment. The County](#)



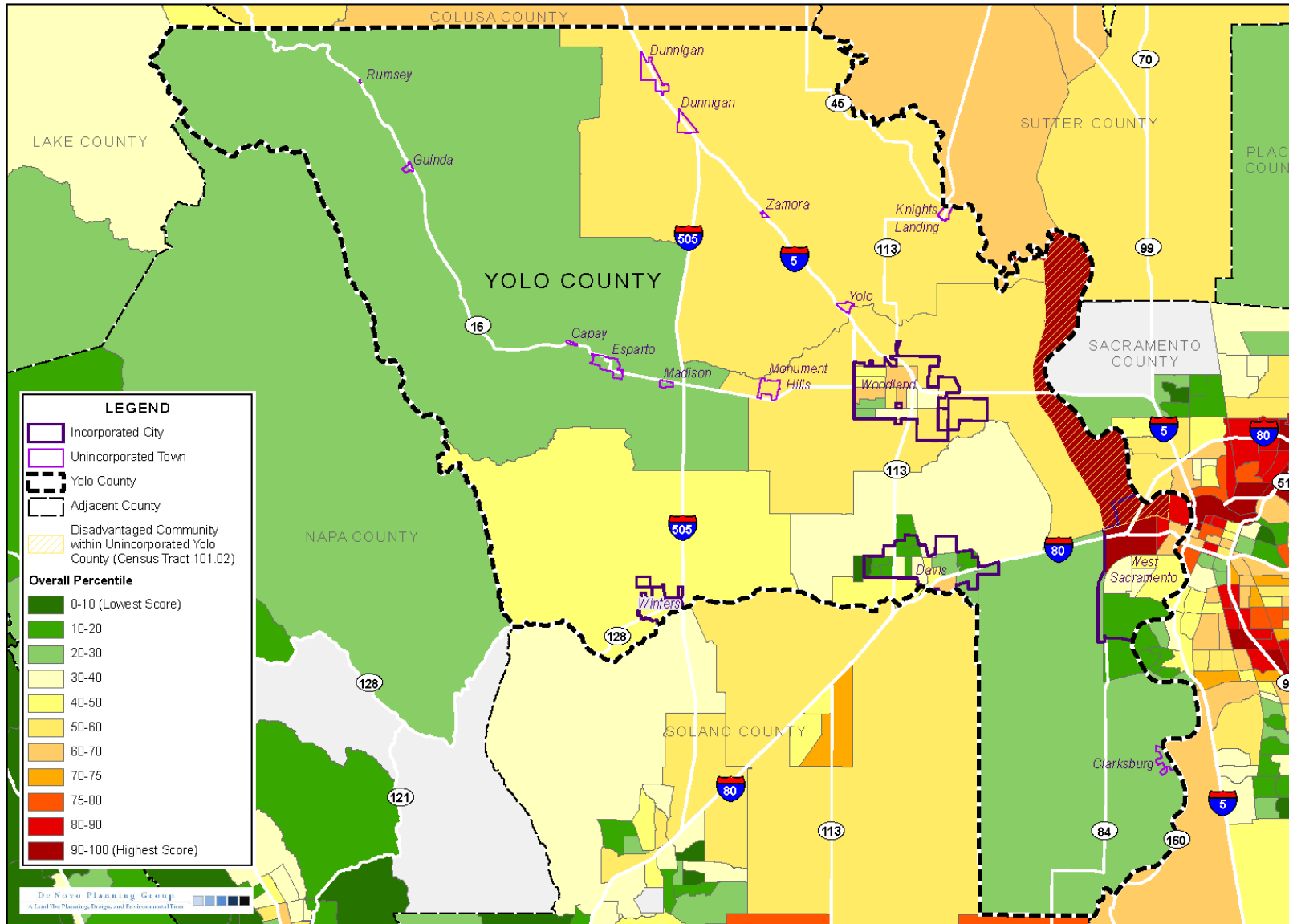
has a single census tract (6113010102) in the unincorporated area that is a disadvantaged community. Census tract 6113010102 is located primarily within the City of West Sacramento and includes a portion of the unincorporated County north of West Sacramento. As shown in Figure LU-1.2, the portion in the unincorporated County is largely undeveloped and sparsely populated with primarily agricultural uses.

In addition to addressing environmental justice in the Land Use Element, the 2030 General Plan also addresses topics related to environmental justice through:

- Circulation Element: Plans for a multimodal circulation system with equitable access to convenient, non-vehicle travel modes, including safe and well-connected pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes to services, schools, parks, and community destinations
- Health and Safety Element. Takes actions to reduce exposure to environmental hazards and excessive noise and to increase access to health care resources, including supporting basic health care and mental health services and access to healthy foods in each community.
- Housing Element. Ensures a range of safe, affordable housing types accessible to the community, particularly disadvantaged and special needs groups, increases access to affordable housing in areas with higher economic, educational, environmental, and affirmatively furthers fair housing.
- Public Facilities and Services. Increases opportunities for recreational, social, and community services and ensure that high-quality community facilities and services are available to all members of the community
- Conservation and Open Space Element. Ensures a sustainable approach to clean water, clean air, access to open space, and conservation of natural resources and energy.



FIGURE LU 1-2 DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY



Sources: OEHA CalEnviroScreen 4.0;
Yolo County GIS.
Map date: December 6, 2021.





GOAL LU-7 Regional Coordination. Ensure inclusion, fair treatment and equitable outcomes for the County and its residents in regional land use planning efforts.

- Policy LU-7.1 Seek recognition, reimbursement and reward for foregone revenues and opportunities associated with the active preservation of agriculture, open space and important natural resources.
- Policy LU-7.2 Support and participate in countywide, regional and other multi-agency planning efforts related to housing, tourism, air quality, open space, green infrastructure, recreation, agriculture, habitat conservation, energy, emergency preparedness and flood protection. 🌍
- Policy LU-7.3 Coordinate with other stakeholder agencies and entities to continue local and regional planning efforts to preserve agriculture, open space and natural resources while meeting housing needs, basic infrastructure and service levels, County economic development goals and County fiscal objectives.
- Policy LU-7.4 Work with SACOG and its other member jurisdictions to develop a mutually-acceptable plan for open space conservation, habitat protection and mitigation banking, to ensure that Yolo County is appropriately compensated when its land is used to achieve region-wide environmental benefits.
- Policy LU-7.5 Support efforts to adopt a regional tax measure that would fund agricultural and open space acquisition, protection and maintenance.
- Policy LU-7.6 Coordinate with Napa, Lake, Colusa, Sutter, Sacramento and Solano Counties to mitigate the impacts of development in these jurisdictions on Yolo County.
- Policy LU-7.7 Pursue full funding of in-lieu tax payments for all state-owned public lands.
- Policy LU-7.8 Work with federal, State, and local agencies, and other interests to as part of a public-private partnership to develop and pursue site facilities that benefit and expand training opportunities for forensic sciences.

GOAL LU-8. Environmental Justice. Ensure an equitable distribution of public facilities and services, a safe and healthy environment, including access to healthy foods, recreation and activity, and public services, with an emphasis on equity for disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, and provide fair treatment and opportunities for meaningful involvement for all people.



- Policy LU-8.1 Require future planning decisions, development, and infrastructure and public projects to consider the effects of planning decisions on the overall health and well-being of the community and its residents, with specific consideration that emphasizes ensuring equitable access to facilities and amenities and addresses health and quality of life impacts.
- Policy LU-8.2 Ensure that land use, development, infrastructure, and other County decisions are conducted through an open and engaging process inclusive of community residents.
- Policy LU-8.3 As part of land use decisions, ensure that environmental justice issues related to potential adverse health impacts associated with land use decisions, including methods to reduce exposure to hazardous materials, industrial activity, vehicle exhaust, other sources of pollution, and excessive noise on residents regardless of age, culture, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, are considered and addressed.
- Policy LU-8.4 Promote the rehabilitation or redevelopment of distressed properties, taking into consideration anti-gentrification strategies and addressing the potential for displacement of members of a disadvantaged community.



Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: 2010/2011

Action CC-A36 Pursue designation of the state of State Route 16 as a scenic highway. (Policy CC-1.14)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: 2012/2013

Action CC-A37 Review all development proposals, planning projects, and infrastructure projects to ensure that potential adverse impacts to disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, including exposure to hazards, pollutants, including toxic air contaminants, and unacceptable levels of noise and vibration are reduced to the extent feasible and that measures to improve quality of life, such as connections to bicycle and pedestrian paths, community services, schools, and recreation facilities, access to healthy foods, and improvement of air quality are emphasized. The review shall address both the construction and operation phases of the project. (Policy LU-8.1)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CC-A38 Build strong ties, especially with disadvantaged communities, to ensure local residents can make impactful contributions to planning decisions through:

- Use of culturally appropriate approaches,
- Consideration of timing, location, and virtual participation to make meetings more accessible to community members,
- Provision of translation services and translated materials when needed, and
- Partnering with local organizations and nonprofits who are active in the County. Policy LU-8.2)

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CC-A39 Coordinate with state, regional, and local agencies, community members, and community organizations to address environmental justice issues, including ensuring access to healthy foods, recreation opportunities, safe and affordable housing, health and social services, and community amenities, reducing exposure to environmental hazards, including air pollution, excessive noise, and hazardous materials, and ensuring access to a complete multi-modal transportation systems. (Policy LU 8.1, Policy LU-8.3)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

**CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE
ELEMENT EXCERPTS**

Action CO-A110 Establish additional air quality monitoring stations in consultation with the YSAQMD, where appropriate. (Policy CO-6.1, Policy CO-6.4)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A111 Prohibit wood-burning fireplaces in new residential developments. (Policy CO-6.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing

I. Energy Conservation

The following discussion includes goals, policies and actions relating to energy production, usage and conservation within Yolo County. Other policies relating to energy conservation, particularly associated with green building, are also located in the Land Use and Community Character Element of this General Plan.

1. Background Information

Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations sets forth the State energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings. Title 24 requirements address a wide range of design and energy performance features of development, including insulation; the use of energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment; solar reflective roofing materials; and energy-efficient indoor and outdoor lighting systems.

Energy conservation has numerous benefits besides economic and financial savings for individual consumers. The combustion of fossil fuels to produce heat or electricity, or to power internal combustion engines, has been linked to poor air quality in the Sacramento Valley, global warming and negative impacts on crops. In Yolo County, energy conservation can be achieved via a reduction in electricity usage and private automobile use, encouraging efficient siting and exposure for buildings, and implementing land use and transportation policies that encourage fewer and shorter vehicle trips.

2. Policy Framework


GOAL CO-7	<u>Energy Conservation.</u> Promote energy efficiency and conservation.
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Policy CO-7.1 Encourage conservation of natural gas, oil and electricity, and management of peak loads in existing land uses. 🌍


Policy CO-7.2 Support efforts to improve energy efficiency in existing irrigation systems. 🌍


- Policy CO-7.3 Require all projects to incorporate energy-conserving design, construction, and operation techniques and features into all aspects of the project including buildings, roofs, pavement, and landscaping. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.4 Require the use of Energy Star certified appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces and boiler units, where feasible. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.5 Require all new parking lots to significantly increase shading to relieve the potential for “heat islands.” 🌍
- Policy CO-7.6 Encourage the use of building materials and methods that increase energy efficiency a minimum of 15 percent beyond State Title-24 standards for residential buildings and 20 percent beyond State Title 24 standards for commercial buildings. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.7 Support farmers and landowners in their efforts to maximize the efficiency of agricultural end uses. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.8 Increase energy efficiency and alternative energy utilization in existing buildings where feasible. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.9 Require that new site and structure designs maximize energy efficiency. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.10 Encourage residents to retrofit existing residences to maximize energy efficiency. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.11 Strongly encourage LEED certification or equivalent for all public, private and existing buildings and strongly encourage LEED-Neighborhood Design (ND) certification or equivalent for other applicable projects, particularly within the Specific Plan areas. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.12 Consider lifecycle costs when identifying opportunities for the replacement and retrofit of energy efficient technologies when upgrading or maintaining County facilities. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.13 Support the production of alternative and renewable energy fueling stations in Yolo County. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.14 Consider incentive programs such as reduced fees, and permit expedition for projects that exceed mandatory energy requirements, incorporate alternative energy technologies, or support the County’s energy objectives. 🌍
- Policy CO-7.15 Promote incentives from local, state, and federal agencies for improving energy efficiency and expanding renewable energy installations. 🌍


3. Implementation Program

Action CO-A112 Amend the Zoning Code to streamline permitting for the production of biofuels, biomass, solar, wind and other energy alternatives to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. (Policy CO-7.1) 
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: 2010/2011

Action CO-A113 Require the use of Energy Star certified appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces and boiler units, in all new subdivisions. (Policy CO-7.1, Policy CO-7.4) 
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A114 Use development agreements to garner commitments from developers of new projects to increase the energy efficiency in existing development. . (Policy CO-7.1, Policy CO-7.8) 
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing


Action CO-A115 Amend the Zoning Code to include regulations for all new parking lots to include tree plantings that will result in 50 percent shading of parking lot surface areas within 10 years. (Policy CO-7.1, Policy CO-7.5) 
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: 2010/2011

Action CO-A116 Use Development Agreements and/or adopt an ordinance to require the use of building materials and methods that increase energy efficiency a minimum of 15 percent beyond State Title-24 standards for residential construction and 20 percent beyond Title 24 for commercial construction, where feasible. (Policy CO-7.6) 
Responsibility: Department of Community Services, County Counsel
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A117 Streamline the permit process to promote energy production from agricultural bio-waste. (Policy CO-7.7)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A118 Continue to support and participate in local Clean Energy Programs (such as the Valley Clean Energy (VCE)) whereby County-owned and maintained facilities will run on renewable energy sources like wind and solar, and educate and encourage residents and businesses to participate in Clean Energy programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support statewide alternative energy use. (Policy CO-7.15)
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office, Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

J. Climate Change

A summary of the issue of climate change is provided in this subsection, however climate change policies also occur in every element of this General Plan and are denoted by the symbol “”.

1. Background Information

A balance of naturally occurring greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the earth's atmosphere is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate. Emissions from human activities, such as electrical production, motor vehicle use, and some forms of agriculture are elevating the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and have led to increasing instability in the earth's climate. This is known as climate change. Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) are the primary GHGs. Other greenhouse gases of concern include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). When concentrations of these gases exceed natural concentrations in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect is enhanced and global warming occurs.

California's major initiatives for reducing climate change or GHG emissions are outlined in Assembly Bill 32 (signed into law 2006), 2005 Executive Order and a 2004 California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulation to reduce passenger car GHG emissions. Among other things, AB 32 establishes a statewide GHG emissions cap for 2020, based on 1990 emissions. The Executive Order and the CARB regulations also aim at reducing GHG emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Senate Bill (SB) 32 requires that statewide GHGs are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide GHG emissions limit (e.g., 1990 levels) by 2030. The CARB is tasked with implementation of these directives.

How California communities are designed and built has large consequences on the State's GHG emission levels, and as a result, has an impact on global climate change. The majority of the State's ~~greenhouse-gas~~ (GHG) emissions are the result of infrastructure and development decisions: how we build our buildings, where we put them, and the quality and types of infrastructure that are required to serve them. This General Plan addresses those issues for unincorporated Yolo County. Additional

information regarding GHG and climate change linkages, the State's regulatory framework, a summary of the County's climate adaptation planning efforts, and risks associated with climate change is provided in the Safety and Environmental Justice White Paper prepared to support a focused update to the General Plan in 2022.

This General Plan establishes the land use pattern that will accommodate the residents, businesses, and attendant infrastructure planned through 2030 in Yolo County. Decisions about the location of commercial, residential and civic buildings, roads and transit systems, water supply, building design, natural resources, open space, agriculture, and energy infrastructure determine the level of GHG emissions in the County. Thus, through the implementation of this General Plan it is possible to reduce in local GHG emissions. Local decisions regarding agricultural land preservation, transportation, air quality, water supply, economic development, environmental protection, and affordable housing need to be coordinated and balanced to achieve the County's multiple policy objectives and still minimize GHG emissions.

Motor vehicle use creates a significant proportion of GHG emissions. There are three interrelated components that can contribute to transportation sector emission reductions: 1) vehicle technology, 2) fuels, and 3) vehicle use. Local government has the ability to affect only one area – vehicle use. Vehicle use is affected by providing transportation alternatives and by managing the demand for transportation.

Transportation demand management (TDM) and alternative mobility options, including walking, biking, and transit, require coordinated land use decisions and measures that maximize the efficient use of existing transportation systems and provide for the increased availability and use of efficient transit, as well as walking and biking infrastructure to increase mobility, improve health, and provide other economic and environmental benefits. The effectiveness of efforts to provide transportation alternatives to the automobile and to implement TDM policies and strategies can be measured in terms of reductions in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or expected growth in VMT. VMT reductions (and speed stability) correlate directly with reductions in GHG emissions.

Land use patterns also have a direct relationship to GHG emissions. Studies have shown that the following land use characteristics lead to significantly higher average vehicle ownership, daily VMT per capita, annual traffic fatality rate, and maximum ozone level days.

- Population dispersed in low-density residential development.
- A lack of mixed uses (homes, shops, and workplaces).
- A lack of distinct, thriving activity centers, such as strong downtowns or town centers.
- A network of roads marked by very large block size and poor access from one place to another.

Research of the many factors that can be used to analyze the relationship between development and transportation implies that density may have the most significant relationship to travel and transportation outcomes. Controlling for other factors, the difference between the length and amount of trips, low density U.S. metropolitan areas have over 40 percent more daily VMT per capita than high density areas. In general, a doubling of neighborhood density can be expected to result in approximately a 5 percent reduction in both the number of vehicle trips and their length.

Overall VMT and vehicle trips per household decline as accessibility, density, and land-use mixing increase, which have historically been tenets of land use planning in Yolo County, as in this General Plan.

Yolo County has undertaken several actions to date to reduce greenhouse gases as related to County operations and programs:

- **Climate Change Working Group.** Yolo County has created a climate change team through the County Administrator's Office and has organized a climate change working group that includes the cities and various districts, to coordinate countywide climate change efforts.
- **Cool Counties.** The County has committed to the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from County operations by 80 percent by 2050.
- **California Climate Action Registry.** The County has prepared a baseline audit energy usage associated with County operations. This baseline will be used to measure energy usage over time. Through the registry the County will use a common GHG emission reporting system and will receive credit for reductions in emissions.
- **UC Davis Partnership.** The County has engaged civil and environmental engineering students to assist in studying its carbon generation from county operations, and develop policies and strategies to reduce emissions.
- **Increasing Energy Efficiency.** The County has taken steps to increase the energy efficiency of county operations including replacement of incandescent lights with compact fluorescent bulbs, retrofit of infrastructure in County buildings, installation of computerized climate control in all major county buildings, installation of cogeneration capacity at the Monroe Detention Facility, development of a building closure program to retire less energy-efficient buildings, and a countywide appliance replacement program for Energy Star appliances. The County has a goal of ten percent annual reduction in energy usage through 2013.
- **Full-Scale Landfill Bioreactor.** The County recovers methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas, from the Central Landfill to generate electricity.
- **LEED.** The County has adopted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new county buildings.

- **Recycling.** All County buildings recycle paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, fluorescent tubes, oil, computers, rigid plastics, agricultural plastics, PVC pipe, toner cartridges, cell phones, batteries, and electronic waste. The County has a goal of 50 percent recycling of all sorted material at the landfill. The County also has a Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance that requires diversion and recycling of construction and demolition debris.
- **Agricultural Marketing.** The Agriculture Commissioner has initiated an agricultural marketing program to reduce “food miles,” and therefore result in reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.
- **Transportation and Fleet Vehicles.** The County has installed charging stations for electric vehicles and uses electric vehicles for commuting between local facilities.
- **Personnel Training.** County staff attends classes on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and on climate change issues.
- **Tree Planting.** The County operates a small nursery that provides tree planting for County facilities.
- **Research.** The County is involved in a variety of research projects related to energy conservation and control of GHG emissions.

The County also requires energy efficient project design and landscaping design as a part of the development review process. Additionally, the Cache Creek Area Plan establishes monetary and regulatory incentives to encourage recycling of aggregate products.

2. Policy Framework

GOAL CO-8	<u>Climate Change.</u> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for adaptation to the future consequences of global climate change.
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|---------------|---|
| Policy CO-8.1 | Assess current greenhouse gas emission levels and adopt strategies based on scientific analysis to reduce global climate change impacts. 🌍 |
| Policy CO-8.2 | Use the development review process to achieve measurable reductions in greenhouse gas <u>emissions through requiring new development to be consistent with the energy objectives and targets identified by the adopted Climate Action Plan.</u> 🌍 |
| Policy CO-8.3 | Implement those strategies as described in the adopted Climate Action Plan to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts. 🌍 |

- Policy CO-8.4 Undertake an integrated and comprehensive approach to planning for climate change by collaborating with international, national, State, regional, and local organizations and entities. 🌐
- Policy CO-8.5 Integrate climate change planning and program implementation into County decision making. 🌐
- Policy CO-8.6 Increase public awareness about climate change and encourage county residents and businesses to become involved in activities and lifestyle changes that will aid in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 🌐
- Policy CO-8.7 Work with local, regional, State, and Federal jurisdictions, as well as private and non-profit organizations, to develop a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and emissions reduction plan. 🌐

3. Implementation Program

Action CO-A119 Update the Yolo County Climate Action Plan to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030, and 2050. Updates to the CAP should align the County's GHG reduction targets with the statewide GHG reduction targets of Assembly Bill 32, SB 375, and Executive Orders S-03-05 and B-30-15.
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office
Timeframe: 2024/2025

Action CO-A120 Pursuant to the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP), the County shall take all feasible measures to reduce its total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions within the unincorporated area (excluding those of other jurisdictions, e.g., UC-Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, DQ University, school districts, special districts, reclamation districts, etc.) as follows: from 648,252 metric tons (MT) of CO₂e in 2008 to 613,651 MT of CO₂e by 2020. In addition, the County shall strive to further reduce total CO₂e emissions within the unincorporated area to 447,965 MT by 2030.

- 27% below 1990 levels by 2030 (447,965 MT CO₂e/year)
- 53% below 1990 levels by 2040 (288,416 MT CO₂e/year)
- 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 (122,730 MT CO₂e/year)

Action CO-A121 These reductions shall be achieved through the measures and actions provided for in the adopted CAP, including those measures that address the need to adapt to climate change. (Policy CO-8.1) 🌐
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office
Timeframe: 2009/2011

**HEALTH AND SAFETY
ELEMENT EXCERPTS**



State’s exposure to liability by approving new development within the boundary of a state flood control project.

- AB 162 – Requires cities and counties to address flood-related matters in the land use, conservation, safety, and housing elements of their General Plans.
- AB 930 – Flood Management. Expands the powers of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to include the acquisition of land easements.
- SB 5 – Flood Management. Requires DWR and the CVFPB to prepare and adopt a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by 2012. Requires cities and counties in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Valley to amend their General Plan and Zoning Ordinances to be consistent with a newly adopted Flood Management Plan within 36 months of flood plan adoption. Establishes other flood protection requirements for local land-use decisions consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

Senate Bill 5 (2007) establishes higher standards of flood protection (generally 200 year protection) for urban and urbanizing areas (defined as areas of at least 10,000 residents, or which will grow to 10,000 or more within the next 10 years). Other areas remain subject to the pre-existing 100-year standard for protection. Yolo County’s unincorporated communities are all well under the 10,000 population threshold at this time and therefore are generally not affected by this new legislation. Future planned growth in Dunnigan will be required to meet the higher 200-year standard; however, it is not currently located within a floodplain.

b. Policy Framework

GOAL HS-2 Flood Hazards. Protect the public and reduce damage to property from flood hazards.

- Policy HS-2.1 Manage the development review process to protect people, structures, and personal property from unreasonable risk from flooding and flood hazards.
- Policy HS-2.2 Ensure and enhance the maintenance and integrity of flood control levees.
- Policy HS-2.3 Actively update and maintain policies and programs to ensure consistency with State and federal requirements.
- Policy HS-2.4 Clearly communicate the risks, requirements, and options available to those who own land and live within the floodplain.
- Policy HS-2.5 Within the Delta Primary Zone, ensure compatibility of permitted land use activities with applicable flood control and protection policies of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan of the Delta Protection Commission.



- Policy HS-2.6 Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding, including climate-related flood events.
- Policy HS-2.7 Manage the floodplain to improve the reliability and quality of water supplies.
- Policy HS-2.8 Consider and allow for the ecological benefits of flooding within historic watercourses while balancing public safety and the protection of property.

c. Implementation Program

- Action HS-A5 Require a minimum of 100-year flood protection for new construction, and strive to achieve 200-year flood protection for existing unincorporated communities. Require a minimum of 200-year flood protection for new construction in urbanizing areas. Where ~~such~~ 100-year flood levels of protection are not provided in nonurbanized areas, require new development to adhere to the requirements of FEMA, State law and the County Flood ~~Damage Prevention~~Protection Ordinance (Chapter 4 of Title 8 of the Yolo County Code). (Policy HS-2.1) 🌐
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action HS-A6 Continue to require habitable or any other structures in the 100-year floodplain to be designed and constructed so that they do not significantly contribute to cumulative flooding that could pose a hazard to surrounding landowners and/or the public. (Policy HS-2.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action HS-A7 Yolo County shall not approve any discretionary permit, or ministerial permit, that would result in the construction of a new residence, for a project located within a flood hazard zone, unless the County can make the findings identified in Section 65962a of the Government Code. (Policy HS-2.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action HS-A8 Locate new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities. Where such location is not feasible,



3. Wildland Fires

The Wildland Fires section of the Health and Safety Element establishes goals, policies, and actions to ensure safety from wildland fires in and around the County of Yolo.

a. Background Information

Wildland fire danger varies throughout Yolo County. The County is characterized by relatively level valley floor landscapes to the south and east; this lack of topography and complex fuels leads to very little severe fire behavior. In the increasingly hilly landscapes rising to the north and west, the rugged topography creates a landscape where fires can spread rapidly upslope and access for suppression equipment is limited.

The Safety and Environmental Justice White Paper prepared for a focused General Plan Amendment in 2022 addresses the regulatory framework related to wildfire and evacuation planning for General Plans, the County's local wildfire protection and response system, and fire hazard severity zones present in Yolo County.

To quantify the potential risk from wildland fires, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has developed a Fire Hazard Severity Scale that uses three criteria in order to evaluate and designate potential fire hazards in wildland areas. The criteria are fuel loading (vegetation), fire weather (winds, temperatures, humidity levels and fuel moisture contents) and topography (degree of slope). These criteria are used to determine Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) ratings. According to CalFire maps for Yolo County, the western portion of the county, west of Esparto and Winters, is designated as a Very High ~~Fire Severity Zone (VHFHSZ)~~, as shown in Figure HS-126. The Very High FHSZ in Yolo County is in a State Responsibility Area (SRA), meaning that fire suppression is under the control of CalFire.

Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189 require the State to identify and classify fire hazards and to designate ~~VHFSZ~~Very High FHSZs in Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs), or areas where local agencies are responsible for fire suppression rather than the State. Since the ~~VHFSZ~~Very High FHSZs in Yolo County are in a SRA rather than an LRA, they are not subject to the aforementioned Government Code.

Figure HS-12 identifies the areas in Yolo County that are in the Very High, High, and Moderate FHSZs.

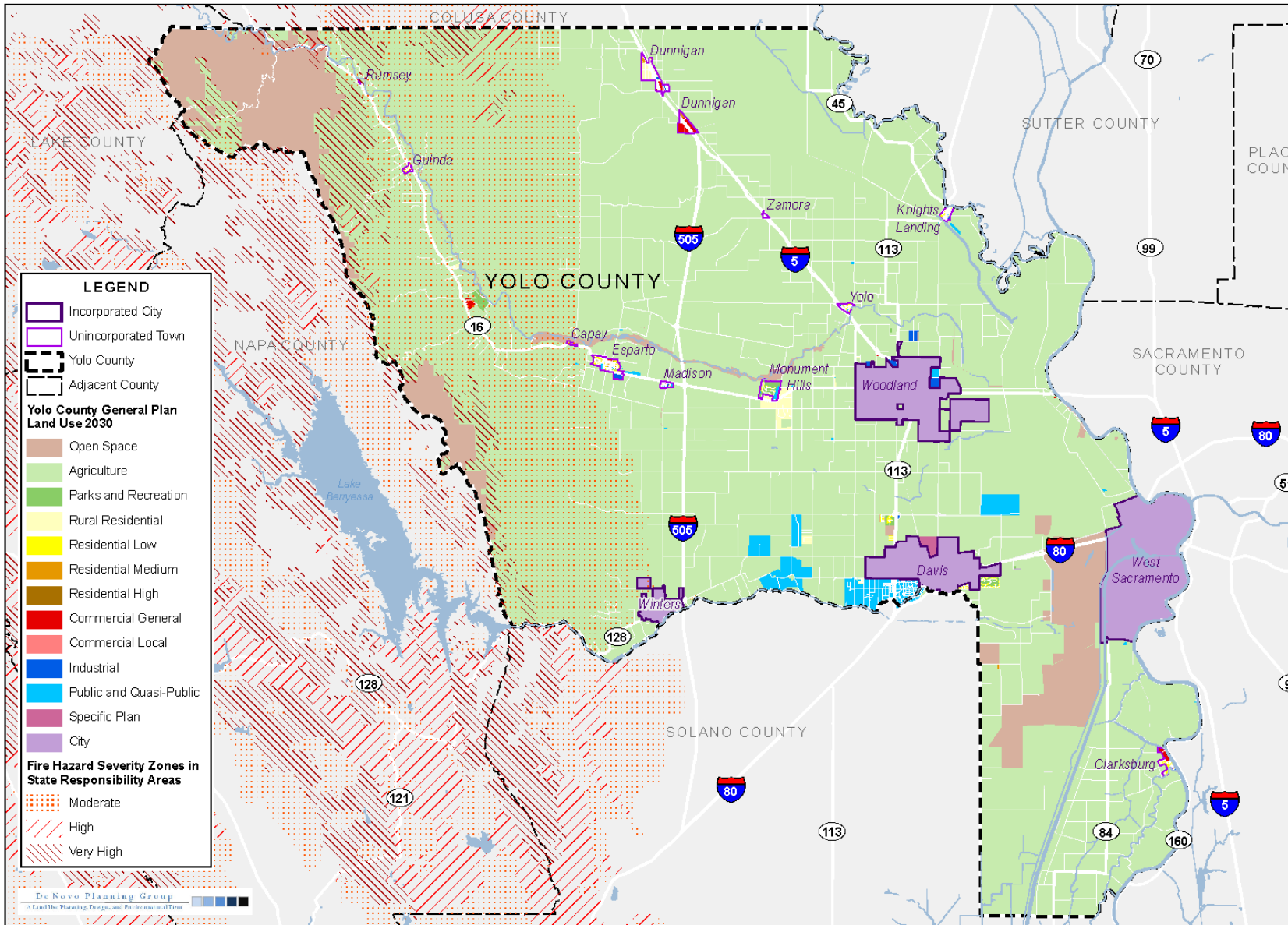
Fire districts in Yolo County are shown in Figure HS-13.

The County and its municipalities do fight a large number of vegetation fires, particularly during the summer. These fires tend to occur along major highways and railroads, and usually do not damage structures. However, fires can be exacerbated by hot north winds during periods of extremely low humidity. In addition, if they are fed by dry grass and vegetation they can easily grow out of control. Wildland fires can damage structures and facilities, and the County must be prepared for protection from dangerous wildland fires, especially where urban and non-urban landscapes meet.



Historical fire data is presented in Figure HS-14, which identifies historical fires greater than 2,000 acres since 2000, and Figure HS-15, which identifies historical fires by burn count.

FIGURE HS-12 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

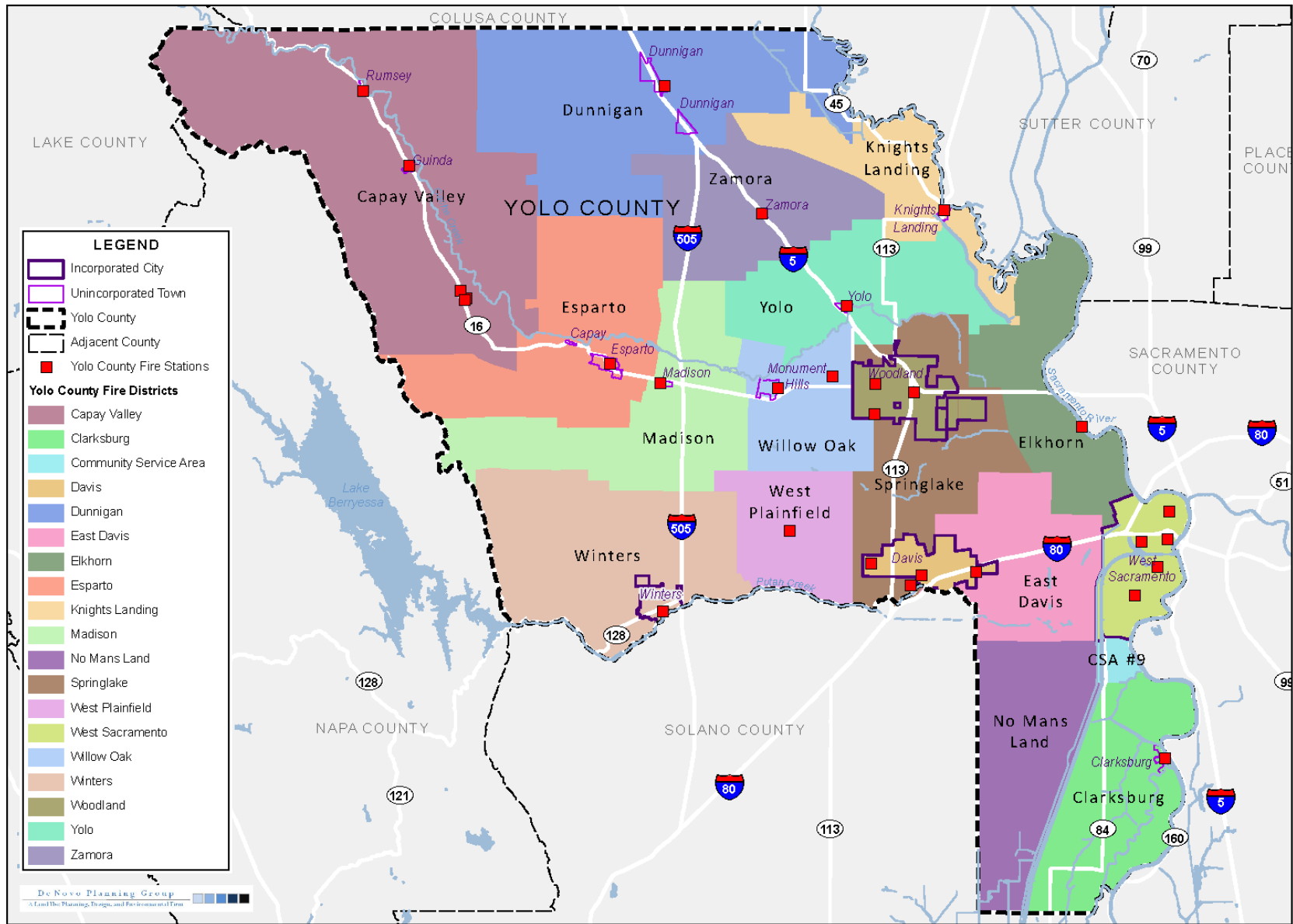


Sources: CalFire/Office of the State Fire Marshal; Yolo County GIS.
Map date: December 10, 2021.





FIGURE HS-13 FIRE DISTRICTS AND STATIONS



Sources: Yolo County GIS.
 Map date: December 10, 2021.

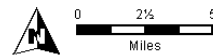
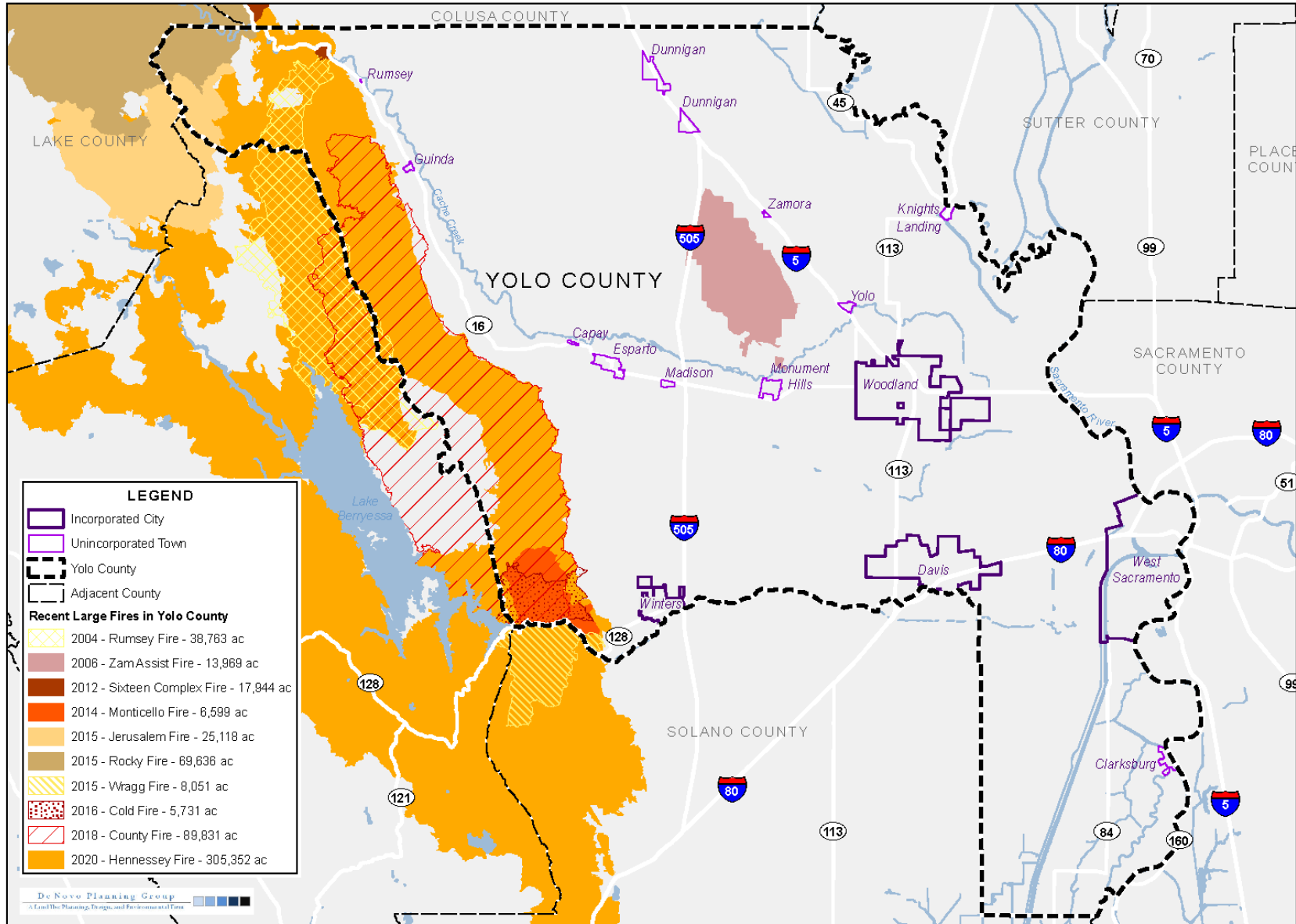




FIGURE HS-14 HISTORICAL FIRES GREATER THAN 2,000 ACRES SINCE 2000

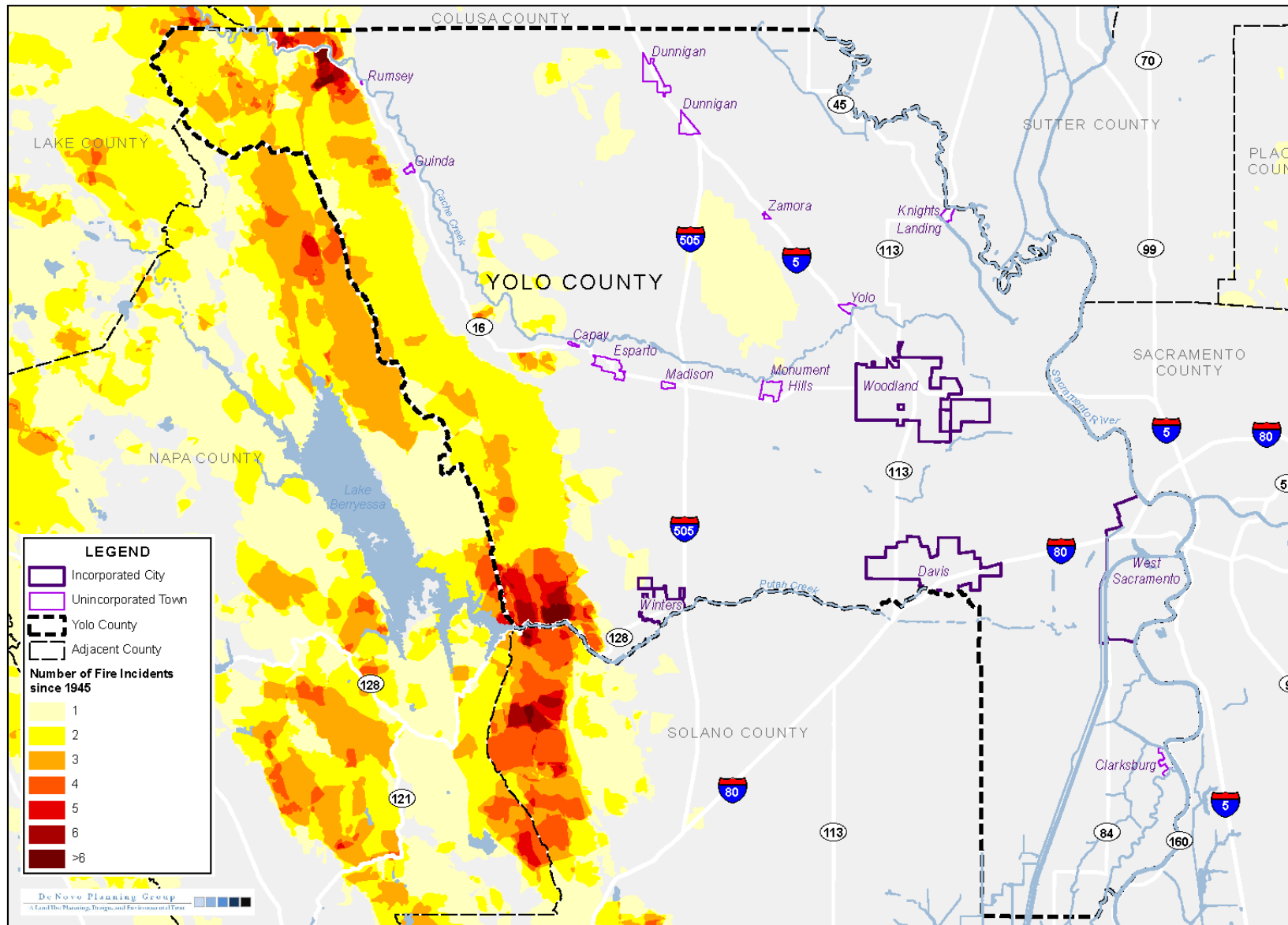


Sources: CalFire; Yolo County GIS.
 Map date: December 10, 2021.





FIGURE HS-15 HISTORICAL FIRES BY BURN COUNT



Sources: CalFire; Yolo County GIS.
Map date: December 10, 2021.





b. Policy Framework

GOAL HS-3 Wildland Fires. Protect the public and reduce damage to property from wildfire hazard.

- Policy HS-3.1 Manage the development review process to protect people, structures, and personal property from unreasonable risk from wildland fires.
- Policy HS-3.2 Encourage well-organized and efficient coordination between fire agencies and the County.
- Policy HS-3.3 Clearly communicate the risks, requirements, and options available to those who own land and live in wildfire hazard areas.
- Policy HS-3.4 Ensure that new essential public facilities are located in areas that minimize exposure to potential natural hazards including wildfire events. Essential public facilities should be planned to accommodate evacuees from hazard events requiring evacuations.

c. Implementation Program

- Action HS-A38 Require new and/or existing development to establish “defensible space” by providing for clearance around structures, using fire-resistant ground cover, building with fire-resistant roofing materials, fuel load reduction, and taking other appropriate measures. 🌐 (Policy HS-3.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action HS-A39 Require the design and construction of new roadways and driveways in fire hazard areas to be of sufficient width, radius and grade to facilitate access by fire-fighting apparatus. (Policy HS-3.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action HS-A40 Require land divisions and developments within the very high and high risk Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare and implement a wildland fire management and protection plan that demonstrates the following:
- analysis of wildland fire risks;
 - fire response capabilities;
 - wildfire education;
 - guaranteed availability of adequate water;
 - provision of more than one access point for firefighting equipment;



- permanent maintenance of defensible space around all buildings;
 - mitigation measures and design considerations for any non-conforming fuel modification; and
 - use of fire-resistant materials in construction. 🌐 (Policy HS-3.1)
- Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A41 Cluster residential units located in areas of high fire risk with adequate access to maintained emergency evacuation routes to ensure adequate access for firefighting equipment and escape routes for residents in rural areas. 🌐 (Policy HS-3.1)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A42 As part of the development review process, consult with the local fire department/district in order to ensure that the project provides adequate emergency access (ingress, egress) and evacuation routes. All development within VHFHSZs shall be evaluated at that time to see if they have at least two emergency evacuation routes.
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A43 Review existing developments within VHFHSZs and identify areas that have limited emergency access and do not contain two evacuation routes. These areas should be prioritized (as feasible) for improvements as part of improvement plans to enhance access in emergency situations.
Responsibility: Department of Community Services
Timeframe: 2023/2024

Action HS-A44 Assist dependent fire districts with development impact fees, legal counsel, grant applications, and fee waivers, where feasible. (Policy HS-3.2)
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office, County Counsel
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A45 Coordinate with the Clarksburg Fire District to ensure compatibility of permitted land use activities within the Delta Primary Zone with applicable fire safe policies of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan of the Delta Protection Commission. (Policy HS-3.2)
Responsibility: Department of Community Services Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A46 Implement State recommendations for fire prevention in Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Policy HS-3.1)



Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A59 Develop multiple stress scenarios on a regular basis where key evacuation routes are blocked and/or alternative communication methods are inoperable, and refine emergency response plans accordingly. (Policy HS-6.2)
Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A60 Create an inventory of significant urban, rural, and natural hazards and provide standards for avoidance and/or mitigation of such hazards in an emergency. (Policy HS-6.2)
Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services
Timeframe: 2010/2011

Action HS-A61 Study the implications of climate change for future emergencies, including the increased risk and severity of fires; increased frequency and intensity of drought; expanded and deeper areas of flooding; and associated changes in disease vectors. 🌍 (Policy HS-6.2)
Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A62 Ensure well-organized and efficient coordination between government, health, and community emergency response agencies. (Policy HS-6.2)
Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services
Timeframe: Ongoing

7. Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

a. Introduction

This section establishes goals, policies, and actions to address risks associated with climate change. The Safety and Environmental Justice White Paper prepared for the focused General Plan Amendment in 2022 to address climate adaptation provides background information related to climate change, including climate change risks and vulnerabilities anticipated for Yolo County. These climate change risks and vulnerabilities include increasing temperature and associated heat-related illness, reduced air quality, uncertain precipitation levels, an increase in extreme weather events, including flooding, reduced certainty regarding water supply, an increase in wildfires, and the potential for increased vector-borne diseases.

Methods to reducing the contribution of land use and development to greenhouse gas emissions discussed in the Conservation and Open Space Element.



b. Regulatory Framework

GOAL HS-7	<u>Climate Adaptation. Minimize risks to people, property, the economy, and the environment through climate adaptation strategies that enhance and promote community resilience.</u>
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Policy HS-7.1 Address climate change scenarios, anticipated risks, and adaptive responses in all long-term planning activities, including hazard mitigation planning and infrastructure planning, and in development decisions to protect people, structures, and personal property from unreasonable exposure to projected climate change risks.

Policy HS-7.2 Ensure that climate impacts and climate adaptation measures aimed at reducing climate risks do not lead to disproportionately adverse effects on vulnerable populations.

Policy HS-7.3 Participate in local and regional climate adaptation planning efforts.

Policy HS-7.4 Ensure access to essential public facilities and essential public infrastructure, including evacuation routes, during disasters associated with climate change.

Policy HS-7.5 Support and prioritize adaptation through green infrastructure and natural measures (e.g., wetland/marsh/habitat restoration, greenspaces, fire resistant landscaping etc.) that build capacity to adapt to increased flooding and wildfire hazards and provide for carbon sequestration, where feasible.

Policy HS-7.6 Collaborate with utility providers to ensure that infrastructure and resource management plans account for anticipated effects of climate change, such as increased heat days, changes to flood hazard areas/inundation depths, and changes to precipitation and water supply.

c. Implementation Program

Action HS-A63 When updating master plans for infrastructure, including water supply, flood control and drainage, and critical facilities, review relevant climate change scenarios and ensure that the plans consider the potential effects of climate change and include measures that provide for resilience to climate impacts. Climate change resiliency shall include consideration of ensuring new and existing essential public facilities and essential public infrastructure, including evacuation routes, are located outside of areas anticipated to be vulnerable to risks associated with climate change, to the extent feasible, or are designed to withstand risks associated with climate change.
Responsibility: Department of Community Services



Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A64 Upon the next revision to the Yolo Operational Area Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; identify and designate public buildings, specific private buildings, or institutions with air conditioning as public cooling shelters. Extend hours at air-conditioned sites during periods of extreme heat or power outage and ensure sites are also supported by backup battery storage or generators.

Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services

Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A65 Update emergency response plans and training programs to address climate-related risks and strategies identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure residents, infrastructure, and facilities are protected during emergencies and extreme weather events, and other climate related impacts.

Responsibility: Office of Emergency Services

Timeframe: Ongoing

Action HS-A66 Extend hours at air-conditioned spaces during periods of extreme heat or power outage and as feasible ensure sites are also supported by backup battery storage or generators.

Responsibility: County Administrator's Office

Timeframe: Ongoing

D. Noise

To control noise and to protect sensitive uses from excessive noise is a concern throughout Yolo County. Although the county's rural setting and predominantly agricultural character generally afford a quieter environment, there are a number of significant sources of environmental noise, including noise associated with various modes of transportation, and industrial and agricultural operations.

1. Background Information

This section describes some of the key concepts and terms utilized in noise analysis.

a. Understanding Noise

Noise can be defined as a sound or series of sounds that are intrusive, irritating, objectionable and/or disruptive to daily life. Noise varies widely in its scope, source, and volume. For instance, noise ranges from individual occurrences, such as a lawn mower, to the intermittent disturbances of train whistles, to the fairly constant noise generated by traffic on freeways. Noise is primarily a concern when generated in the vicinity of noise-sensitive uses such as residential subdivisions, schools and daycare centers, places of worship and hospitals.