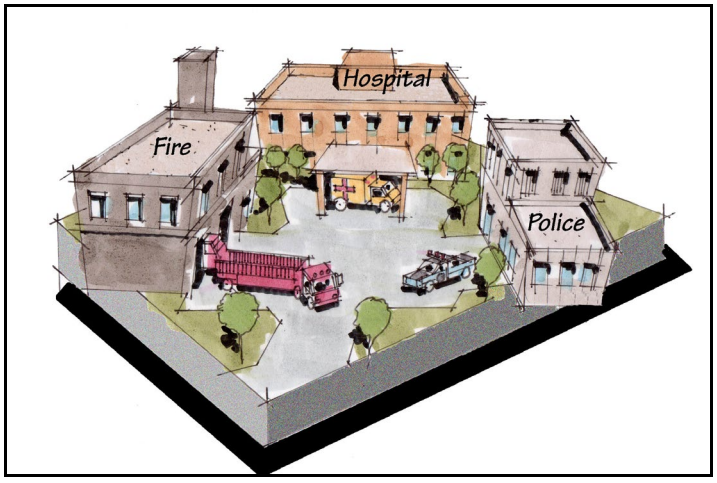
VISION

In 2030, the City of Chico is known and valued as a safe community, supported by appropriate development standards and a clear understanding of potential man-made and natural hazards. Public safety has been enhanced by improvements to local circulation systems including the roadways, well-lit bike and pedestrian trails, railroad crossings, and an expanded public transit program. Children are able to safely walk or bike to school, and residents, students, and visitors feel safe walking at night in neighborhoods and Downtown. The community and the Police Department have a strong partnership in law enforcement and deterring crime. Public safety and safe aviation operations are maintained at the Chico Municipal Airport and in the vicinity of local airports.

INTRODUCTION

The Safety Element focuses on maintaining Chico as a safe place for residents and businesses by minimizing risk and providing protective services.

Generally, the City of Chico is a safe and healthy City. However, like all cities in California, Chico is subject to a variety of potential safety hazards. Some are a result of the natural environment, such as floods or earthquakes, while others, such as hazardous materials spills or contamination, result from human activities. This Element briefly identifies known safety threats and hazards, along with the City's approach to managing these risks and hazards as outlined in the goals, policies and actions of this element. Topics covered include the potential risk from fires, floods, earthquakes, drought, increases in extreme heat events and hazardous materials, as well as airport safety, traffic and pedestrian safety at railroad crossings, and the provision of law enforcement and emergency services.



Safety Services

ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

This section of the element identifies and addresses primary safety issues raised during the outreach efforts for the General Plan Update. Policy guidance is found in the goals, policies, and actions section of this element. An explanation of specialized terms can be found in the General Plan Glossary (**Appendix A**).

FIRE HAZARDS

Chico has the potential for both urban structural fires and wildland fires. Upper Bidwell Park and the foothills on the eastern edge of the community are particularly prone to wildland fire, a risk magnified in the face of a changing climate. The Chico Fire Department is the primary emergency response agency for hazardous events such as wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, structure fires, rescues, etc. The Butte County Sheriff's Department and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provide additional resources as part of the agencies' mutual and automatic aid agreements. The Chico Fire Department currently operates five fire stations and a sixth station is planned in the Northwest Chico Specific Plan area. Balancing limited financial resources with the desire for a high level of service for public safety is a critical community concern that was raised during the public and stakeholder outreach effort undertaken as part of the General Plan Update. Additional information on public safety, such as a list of critical facilities and their location, can be found in the Parks, Public Facilities, and Services Element of the General Plan.



This element addresses fire hazards through its support for continued interagency cooperation and mutual aid agreements with Butte County and CAL FIRE, both of which are vital to providing high levels of protection. This element also addresses the issue of maintaining acceptable urban fire service through policies and targets for initial incident response times and a commitment to maintaining high quality fire response service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Maintaining a safe and secure environment is one of the highest priorities for Chico residents. While the police are the primary agency charged with crisis intervention, they cannot be solely responsible for controlling and limiting crime and interpersonal conflicts. Community-oriented policing and community partnerships are necessary to address law enforcement needs. Youth and neighborhood watch programs, as well as planning and design concepts, are complimentary programs and actions to support the Police Department's efforts. A critical issue for the future is finding a balance between the community's desire for a high level of public safety service and the City's limited fiscal resources available to provide a range of municipal services.

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The Safety Element addresses this issue through policies that promote continued partnerships with other local and regional law enforcement agencies and through policies that support strategic planning efforts to identify and prioritize safety needs. The element also works with the Community Design Element to address safety through design, and the Circulation Element to ensure accessible emergency response routes.

Railroad-Related Safety



The trains on the Union Pacific Railroad line through Chico present safety hazards, especially in areas with at-grade street crossings. Illegal pedestrian crossing of the tracks, particularly near the university, is an ongoing safety concern. Additionally, emergency vehicle access to areas west of the railroad tracks when trains are blocking the crossings remains a significant concern to the community. This element incorporates policies which direct that these concerns be investigated and addressed. This element works with the Circulation Element and Noise element to further address issues related to the railroad.

SAFETY CONTEXT

In addition to the key issues identified in the previous section, this section provides relevant background for other safety topics addressed in the subsequent goals, policies, and actions section. Also included in this section are maps showing flood hazards, dam inundation hazards, and other seismic or geologic hazards within the Planning Area.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan incorporated

In 2006, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 2140 which added provisions specifying what is to be included in a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and requiring a linkage between a local jurisdiction LHMP and the Safety Element of their General Plan. AB 2140 requires a jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan in order to be fully eligible for disaster relief funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for the City of Chico planning area was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

The most recent LHMP is available at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan

Emergency Management

The City of Chico and Butte County have both adopted Emergency Response Plans which include prearranged emergency response procedures and mutual aid agreements for emergency assistance within the Planning Area. Emergency routes for evacuation of Chico are Highway 99 and State Route 32.

The objectives of the emergency plans are to prepare for and coordinate effective responses to emergencies and to provide adequate assistance to other jurisdictions as needed. The plans specify actions to coordinate operations, manage resources, and direct governmental and non-governmental organization's responsibilities during emergency events. The Safety Element addresses the planning for emergency response through policies that commit the City to maintaining an emergency management plan and policies that reaffirm the City's commitment to working with other agencies and emergency response providers.



The function of emergency management is the responsibility of the Fire Department; however, several key resources and plans fall under different city departments or allied agencies (such as Butte County, CAL FIRE, etc.):

- Butte County Evacuation Zones
- City of Chico Vegetation Fuels Management Plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
    - City of Chico
    - Butte County
- Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Chico Annex
- CAL Fire Historical Fire Perimeters
- Butte County Emergency Evacuation Report
- City of Chico Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – internal document

These resources are available at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan

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FLOODING AND DAM INUNDATION

Flood control in the Chico area is provided by federal, state, and local agencies. The general purpose for these agencies is to identify potential flood hazard areas and devise preventive programs, policies, and structures to avoid or minimize flood damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) produces Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which identify areas of potential flood hazards, and designates 100-year floodplain zones. A 100-year floodplain is the area that has a one percent chance of being flooded in any one year. FEMA also manages the National Flood Insurance Program, which provides insurance to the public based on the predicted 100-year flood event.

Certain locations within the Chico Sphere of Influence are subject to periodic, localized flooding as a result of intense stormwater runoff. **Figure S-1** depicts the current FEMA floodplain mapping data for a 100-year flood event in the Chico area. Flood hazard and delineation information from the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has not been included on **Figure S-1** at this time due to the lack of adopted and verified data. Flood control projects on Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, and Lindo Channel have helped attenuate the amount of runoff that flows through the City, reducing potential flooding problems. However, portions of the City adjacent to Little Chico Creek are identified as being at risk to flooding during a 100-year event.

FEMA and DWR are in the process of evaluating whether various flood control infrastructure meet 100-year flood protection standards. These agencies have taken the position that various levees and flood control structures, for which adequate data is unavailable, cannot be certified or accredited as adequate to provide the required 100-year level of flood protection.

As part of the flood remapping effort for Butte County, FEMA has indicated that areas of the City previously mapped as protected from flooding such as Sycamore Creek and Mud Creek will be reclassified as subject to a one percent per year chance of flooding unless the levees are accredited. The reclassification of these areas would result in the imposition of flood insurance requirements on property owners and enhanced building permit requirements for areas in a mapped floodplain. The City, along with the County, has entered into a Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) agreement with FEMA in order to postpone a reclassification of flood hazard areas until the levees are accredited.

In 2006 and 2007, the State legislature produced several pieces of legislation governing various aspects of flood planning. The following is a list of legislation included as part of that package, which affect the City and the General Plan:

- SB 5 – Flood Management. Establishes higher standards of flood protection (generally 200-year protection) for urban and urbanizing areas exceeding 10,000 residents.

- AB 70 – Flood Liability. Requires a city or county to contribute its fair share cost of property damage caused by a flood event where the jurisdictions actions contributed to or increased the State's exposure to liability.

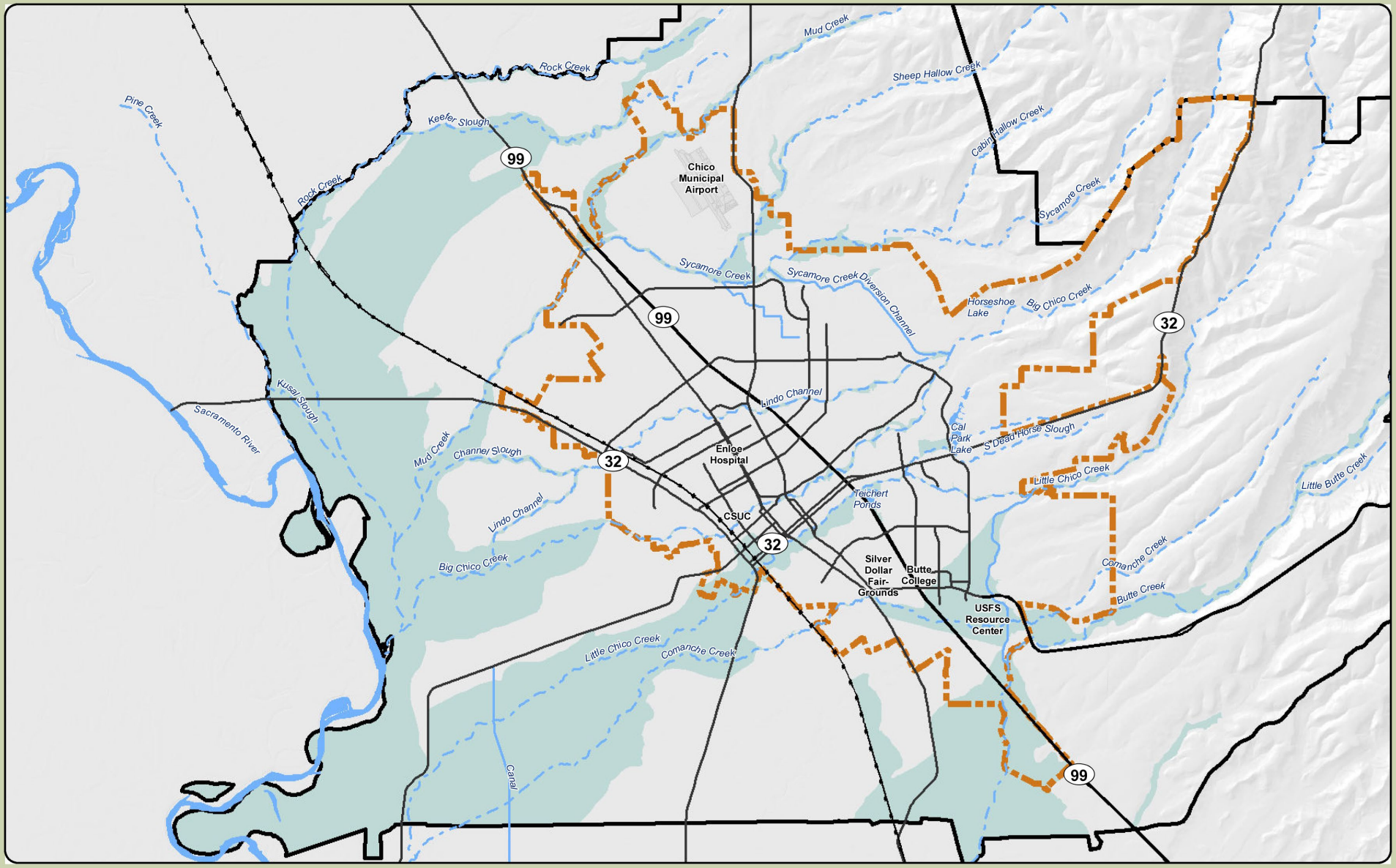
- AB 162 – Flood Planning in General Plans. Establishes enhanced requirements for cities and counties to address flood-related matters in their General Plans.

In addition, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1E approved by voters in 2006 and as part of the State's overall effort to reevaluate flood hazards in the Central Valley, the State is preparing the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) which will serve as comprehensive flood control documents and will help to define the reevaluated 100- and 200-year flood areas. The City of Chico and various flood control structures within the Planning Area are within the area covered by the SPFC and CVFCP documents.

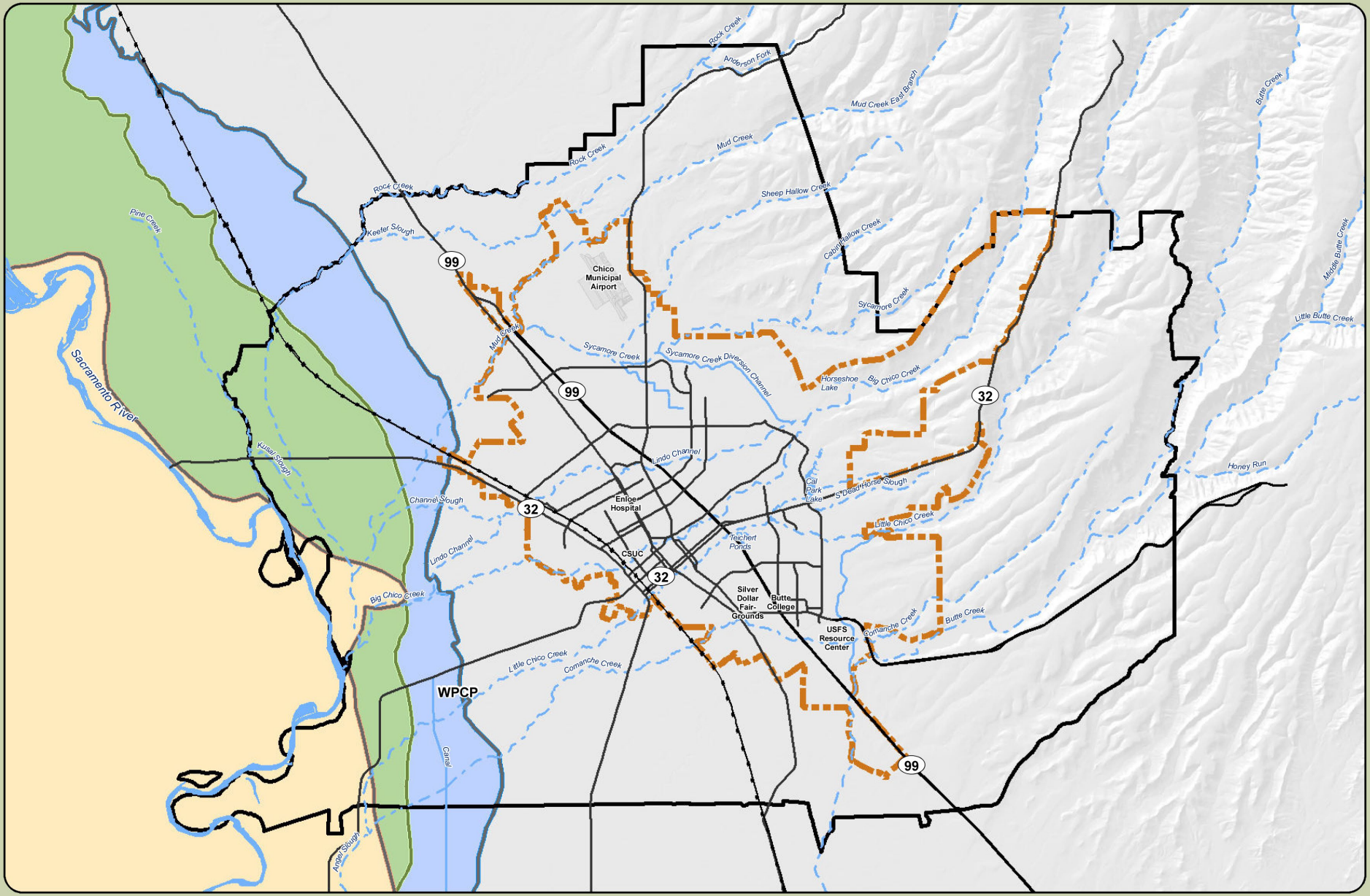
Finally, the California Government Code requires local governments to assess the potential impact that the unlikely event of a dam failure would have on their jurisdiction. Portions of the Planning Area lie within the inundation limits of Black Butte, Whiskeytown and Shasta dams. Flows from the failure of these dams could inundate non-urban portions of the Planning Area. **Figure S-2** shows the flood hazard areas associated with the potential dam failures.

The Safety Element addresses flood and dam inundation hazards through policies that require compliance with flood protection building standards and actions to work with federal, state, and local agencies to identify areas susceptible to flooding and accredit the flood control levees in the City.

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Mud Creek
Rock Creek
Sheep Hallow Creek
Pine Creek
Keefer Slough
Cabin Hallow Creek
99
Chico Municipal Airport
Rock Creek
Sycamore Creek
Sycamore Creek
Sycamore Creek Diversion Channel
Horseshoe Lake
Big Chico Creek
99
32
Kusal Slough
Lindo Channel
Sacramento River
Cal Park Lake
Dead Horse Slough
Mud Creek
Channel Slough
Enloe Hospital
32
Little Chico Creek
Little Butte Creek
Teichert Ponds
Lindo Channel
CSUC
32
Silver Dollar Fair-Grounds
Butte College
Comanche Creek
Big Chico Creek
Butte Creek
USFS Resource Center
Little Chico Creek
Comanche Creek
Canal
99
2009 FEMA FLOOD ZONES
100-Year Floodplain
City of Chico Sphere of Influence Boundary
Chico Planning Area
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
N
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2009
Figure S-1
FEMA Flood Zones
CHICO 2030
GENERAL PLAN

RPC 2 (a)(v)



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2009. Note: Inundation areas are approximate.

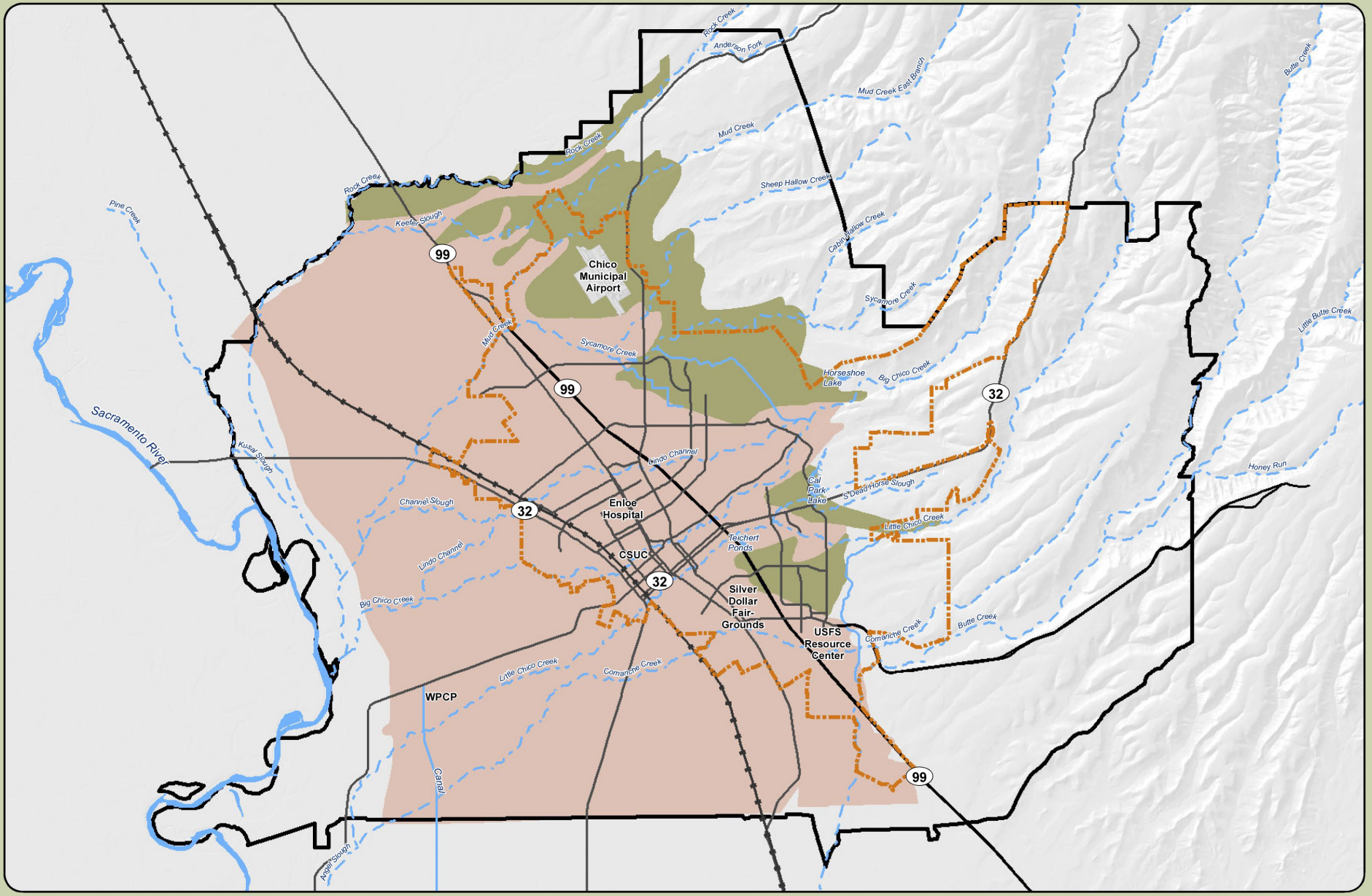
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Figure S-2
Dam Failure Inundation

CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN

SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Chico and the surrounding area are relatively free from significant seismic and geologic hazards. There are no known or inferred active faults, however, faults located outside of the City could result in strong ground shaking within the City. The City enforces the state building code which mandates construction techniques that minimize seismic hazards. In addition to seismically induced ground-shaking, ground movement can also be triggered by heavy rains or by grading. Landslide potential is influenced by a number of factors, including geology, water influences, and topography. There is potential for landslides in the foothill portions of the community. Also, some locations in the Chico area are known to have expansive soils that swell when they absorb water and shrink when drying (see **Figure S-3**). Expansive soils can cause structural damage to foundations and roads if the necessary construction techniques and materials are not used. The policies of this Element support the continued use of the state building code to address structural requirements related to safety from seismic and geologic hazards.



SOILS TYPE

- Highly Expansive Soils
- Moderate to Highly Expansive Soils
- City of Chico Sphere of Influence Boundary
- Chico Planning Area Boundary

0 0.5 1 Miles

N

Source: Brandman Associates, 1967

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Figure S-3
Expansive Soils

CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN



AIRPORT RELATED SAFETY

There are two airports located in the Planning Area, the Chico Municipal Airport, owned by the City and located within the City limits, and the Ranchaero Airport, a private airport located to the west of the City. The County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) has adopted an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for both airports. The City's efforts to keep development consistent with the ALUCP will help reduce safety concerns near airports. This element, as well as the Land Use Element, establishes policies and actions to ensure the continued operation of the airports and continued safety of nearby land uses by requiring the City to consider and analyze airport compatibility factors. This element works in conjunction with the Noise Element to address noise issues related to airport operations and the Circulation Element to address access issues.

MISCELLANEOUS HAZARDS

Three other hazards should be noted in the Planning Area. These include agricultural spraying, electric and magnetic fields, and wireless telecommunications facilities.

Agricultural Spraying

Several herbicides and insecticides which are classified by the State Department of Food and Agriculture as potentially harmful to humans are used in Butte County. Although injuries from agricultural chemicals are experienced predominantly in occupational situations, some hazards may occur on neighboring lands during application. For example, if crop-spraying adjacent to urban uses occurs on a windy day, drift could create a hazard. The hazards that farming operations present for urban uses can be minimized by using organic farming practices, switching to crops with natural pest resistance, or by maintaining buffer zones between urban and agricultural uses. Policy LU-2.6 in the Land Use Element specifies the agricultural buffering requirements at the community's edge.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

The sets of high voltage transmission lines that traverse the eastern Planning Area are the largest electric transmission facilities in Chico. There is some continued debate over the health effects associated with electric and magnetic fields created by high voltage power lines. Both electric and magnetic field strengths fall off dramatically with distance. Although few agency standards address setbacks from electrical transmission lines, the State Department of Education has established restrictions for locating school sites near high voltage power transmission lines.

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Wireless Communication Facilities

Numerous sites supporting wireless telecommunications (such as cell towers) exist throughout the Planning Area. There is some continued debate over the health effects of radio frequency energy associated with wireless telecommunications facilities. As with electric and magnetic fields created by high voltage power lines, radio frequency energy from wireless telecommunications sites drops off dramatically with distance. City regulation of the radio frequency energy created by wireless telecommunications is prohibited by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which grants this sole authority to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Consistent with the Municipal Code, the City requires applicants to submit a radio frequency study for each new wireless telecommunications facility which verifies compliance with FCC exposure standards, including the cumulative radio frequency energy of all nearby facilities, both existing and proposed.

Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

In 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown approved Senate Bill (SB) 379, requiring cities to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the Safety Element of their General Plan. To help comply with the mandate, SB 379 also allows cities to incorporate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and climate resiliency and adaptation strategies into the General Plan.

To support incorporation of these strategies into the General Plan, the City prepared a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment --- a standalone document that identifies climate hazards facing Chico, catalogs existing adaptation strategies, and identifies potential planning objectives and projects to help ensure a safe and resilient Chico in the face of a changing climate. The Vulnerability Assessment utilizes localized climate projections created by the State of California in collaboration with leading climate scientists in assessing the projected impacts of climate change on Chico and the surrounding environment. Adaptation strategies identified in the Vulnerability Assessment came from "best practices" developed by similar jurisdictions and a collaborative planning process with City departments.

The City of Chico Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment is available at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan

Climate Change Considerations

With a changing climate, variations in environmental conditions will have an impact on the City of Chico. Over the long term, these changes create the potential for a wide variety of potential consequences, including impacts on human health, new and heightened safety risks, economic disruptions, diminished water supply, shifts in ecosystem function and habitat qualities, and challenges with the provision of public services.

Projections of future conditions in Chico show direct impacts of an increasing average temperature and changes in annual precipitation. These direct impacts are likely to lead to a

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host of secondary impacts including increased periods of prolonged and extreme heat, increased flooding, increases in wildfire and its effects, and a loss of Sierra snowpack and increased stress on water supplies.

Increased Temperature & Extreme Heat Events

Increasing temperatures associated with climate change are themselves a hazard and exacerbate community health. Temperature increases also reflect an anticipated increase in the number of extreme heat days, prolonged and more heat waves, and increased incidences and duration of droughts. Daytime high temperatures increase the exposure of all community members to health impacts such as heat stroke and extreme dehydration. Increases in average low temperatures also stand to impact health by elevating stress on the human body, contributing to prolonged periods of high blood pressure and elevated heart rates.

Furthermore, anticipated increases in temperature can create challenges for infrastructure function and structures in Chico. Infrastructure elements likely to be impacted by increases in temperature and extreme events include increased wear on roadways, increased reliance on air conditioning or other cooling infrastructure, and heat-related power outages including Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

Flooding

Climate change projections for Chico suggest that annual mean precipitation levels may increase, and the patterns in which precipitation occurs will also change. These shifts could include increased flooding and flood events, as well as periods of prolonged and intensified drought.

Increased rainfall could increase the amount of flooding within the community and introduce flooding into areas that have not previously experienced flooding. Increased flooding stands to introduce new or heightened risks to public infrastructure including roads and service facilities. Further, flooding-related impacts could disproportionately affect populations considered vulnerable. Vulnerability is defined using a composite of proxy indicators, including age, race, health, income, and quality of the built environment. Low-income status is considered the most significant contributor to social vulnerability; therefore, households with insufficient financial reserves are likely to be disproportionately affected by a disaster such as flooding.

Wildfire

Increased precipitation can accelerate vegetation growth and change vegetation density, which can create increases in local wildfire considerations, particularly in areas considered to be Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (as defined by the State's Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps). While on the other hand, projected increases in annual temperature for longer periods can result in reduced moisture content in vegetation fuels resulting in a potential increase of wildfire intensity.

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An increased rate and intensity of wildfire in coniferous forests in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere can adversely impact Chico's population, functions, and structures. A well-known impact is an increase in days with poor air quality. Additionally, the Chico Fire Department assists fighting wildfires throughout the State under the master mutual aid program; this commitment must be considered when assessing the Fire Department's capacity to serve the community.

The State Fire Marshal designates fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs) and classifies lands within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) into FHSZs, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 4201-4205. Government Code Section 51178 also requires the State Fire Marshal to classify lands within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) into Moderate, High or Very High FHSZs. FHSZs are mapped based on statewide criteria and the severity of fire hazard that is expected in those areas. These classifications are based on statewide criteria that evaluate the likelihood and expected behavior of fire in an area over a 30–50 year period, considering factors such as vegetation and other fuels, topography, and weather. Importantly, FHSZs represent "hazard" rather than "risk". Hazard refers to the physical conditions that influence fire behavior, while risk considers potential damage under existing conditions, including the presence of mitigation measures such as home hardening, defensible space, and fuel reduction.

In 2025, consistent with Government Code Section 51179, the City adopted by ordinance the updated version of the State Fire Marshal's LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone map for Chico. The City's public interactive City Web Map includes layers showing the LRAs and the current FHSZ designations, as well as critical facilities and existing and planned land uses. This resource is available at the following link: https://chicoca.gov/Departments/Community-Development/Geographic-Information-Systems/. Links to CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps in PDF format and to CAL FIRE's Historical Fire Perimeters webpage are available here: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan

FHSZ classifications inform building construction and property development requirements. In particular, development within designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRAs must comply with more stringent State standards for vegetation management, defensible space, fuel modification, road and driveway access for emergency vehicles, public evacuation, water supply, and street/building identification. Applicable regulations include:

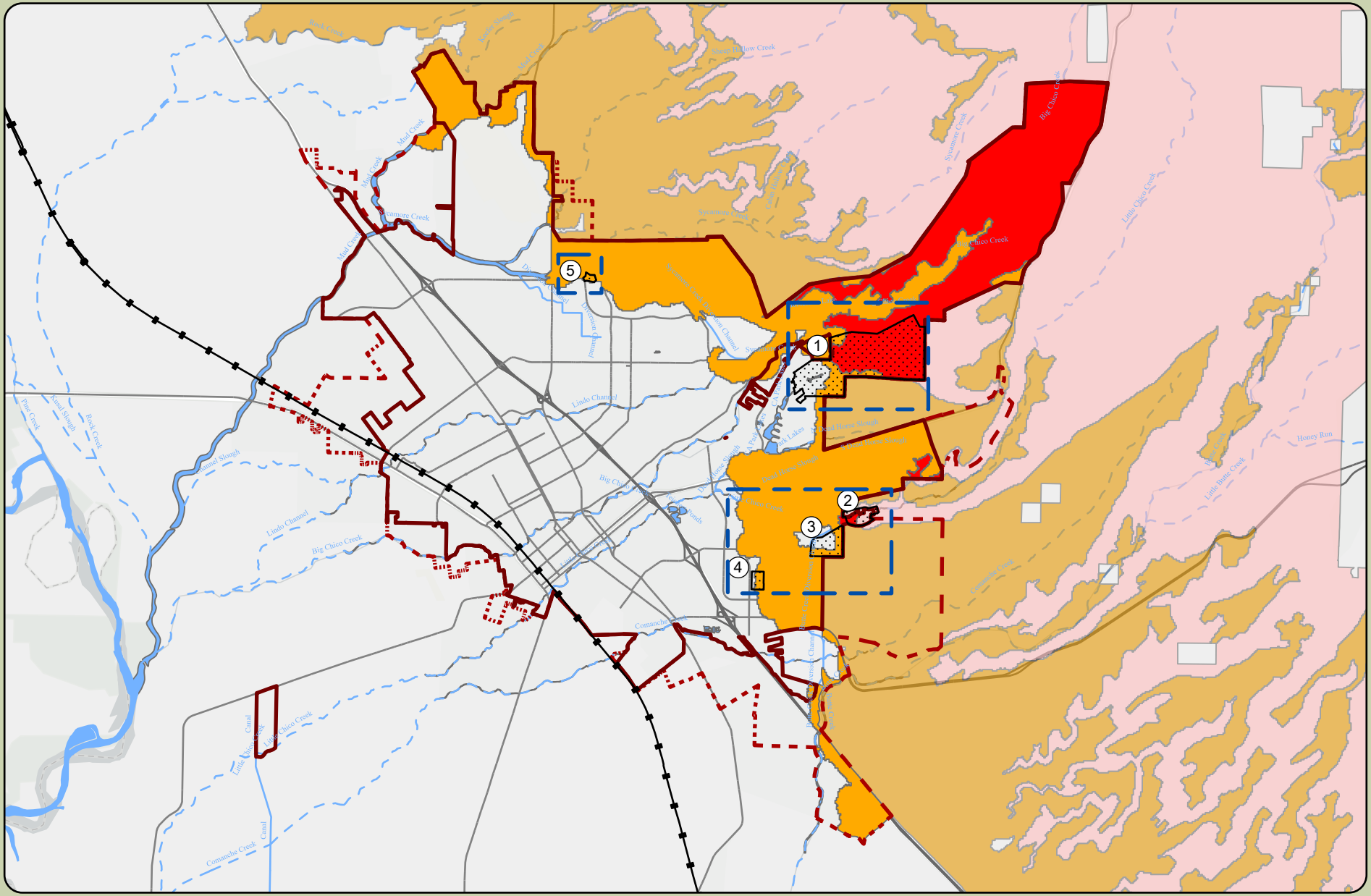
- **State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations** (Public Resources Code Section 4290; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2)
- **Defensible Space Regulations for Parcels with a Building or Structure in VHFHSZs in LRAs** (Government Code Section 51182)
- **Tentative Map and Parcel Map Requirements for Parcels in the SRA and VHFHSZs in LRAs** (Government Code Section 66474.02)

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The City completed a Residential Egress Assessment in alignment with Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), provided in figure S-4.1 and S-4.2 This assessment identifies residential developments in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that lack at least two emergency evacuation routes, specifically residential developments of 30 or more parcels with only a single access route. There are currently no critical facilities located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The City of Chico and Butte County have both adopted Emergency Response Plans which include prearranged emergency response procedures and mutual aid agreements for emergency assistance within the Planning Area. Emergency routes for evacuation of Chico are Highway 99 and State Route 32. In response to AB 747 Government Code (GC) section 65302, both of the identified evacuation routes have been evaluated for their capacity, safety and viability A link to The Butte County Emergency Evacuation Plan can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan.

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Residential Areas with Single Access Routes

Fire Hazard Severity Zones By

Local Responsibility Areas	State Responsibility Areas
High	High
Very High	Very High

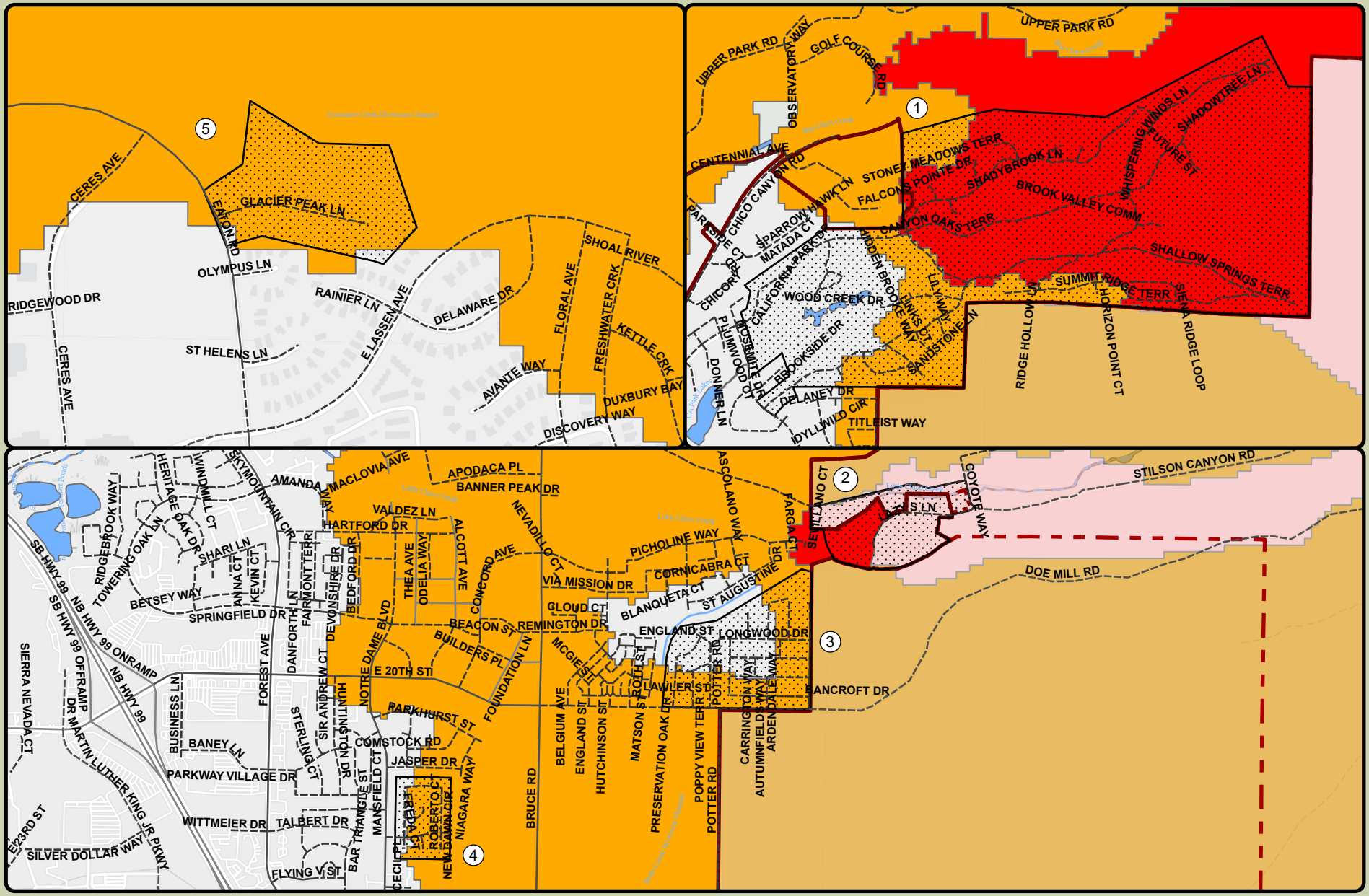
0 0.5 1 Miles

N

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Figure S-4.1
Single Access Route Areas

CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN



Residential Areas with Single Access Routes

RPC 2 (a)(v)

Fire Hazard Severity Zones By

Local Responsibility Areas	State Responsibility Areas
High	High
Very High	Very High

0 0.5 1 Miles

N

Figure S-4.2 Single Access Route Areas

CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN

In 2022, the City of Chico adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP was developed with community input and assesses wildfire risk, community preparedness, defensibility, and the potential hazard mitigation measures for the City and surrounding area. The document:

- Describes and assesses wildfire risk in the greater Chico area;
- Simulates potential wildfire disaster in the urban area using predictive computer models;
- Identifies areas of critical risk, where wildfire could potentially spread into residential areas, as well as damage property, critical infrastructure, and natural resources;
- Recommends fuel treatment projects and policy enforcement specifications to directly reduce the risk of wildfire in critical areas;
- Delineates high-risk neighborhoods for targeted wildfire outreach; and
- Recommends potential policy improvements and public outreach initiatives to effectively increase wildfire preparedness and elevate community awareness of wildfire risk.

The City of Chico Community Wildfire Protection can be found at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ChicoGeneralPlan

Drought

It is projected that climate change will also result in increased periods of drought. Reduced precipitation results in a decrease in surface water and therefore an increase in dependence on groundwater supplies. Furthermore, projected decreases in snowpack in the Sierra Nevada can lead to reduced groundwater recharge, as well as a decreased reliability of spring melt flows for downstream use. Increases in the number of and duration of drought can have myriad impacts on Chico residents, including increased cost for water, water use constraints, and, in extreme cases, potential cessation of service.

Many of California's groundwater basins are showing signs of overdraft conditions, with groundwater use exceeding the rate of groundwater recharge. Continued groundwater overdraft can lead to land subsidence --- a settling or sinking of the earth's surface. Subsidence can impact structures and infrastructure, cause water well casing failures, and more.

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GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Goal S-1: **Minimize the loss of life and property resulting from natural and human-caused hazards.**

Goal S-2: **Minimize the threat to life and property from flooding and inundation.**

Goal S-3: **Protect lives and property from seismic and geologic hazards.**

Goal S-4: **Continue to provide effective and efficient fire protection and prevention services to Chico area residents.**

Goal S-5: **Provide a safe, secure environment with responsive police services for the community.**

Goal S-6: **Support safe airport operations and maximize public safety in the vicinity of airports.**

Goal S-7: **Enhance the safety of railroad crossings.**

Goal S-8: **Reduce the potential for public exposure to hazardous materials or the accidental releases of toxic or hazardous substances.**

Goal S-9: **Protect the community from risks posed by climate change.**

Goal S-10: **Minimize the threat to life and health from extreme heat events.**

- **Goal S-1: Minimize the loss of life and property resulting from natural and human-caused hazards.**

  - **Policy S-1.1 (Emergency Preparedness) – Promote public safety from hazards that may cause death, injury, or property damage through emergency preparedness and awareness.**

    - **Action S-1.1.1 (Emergency Plan Maintenance) –** Maintain, and update as needed, the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to guide emergency management in the City.

    - **Action S-1.1.2 (Emergency Response Awareness) -** Promote community preparedness for hazards and awareness of emergency notification methods.

    - **Action S-1.1.3 (Incident Training) –** Continue to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Incident Management System program, which provides a standardized approach to emergency incidents.

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- **Action S-1.1.4 (Adequate Provisioning) –** Ensure emergency response agencies are allocated sufficient resources for the development and testing of response plans in collaboration with other local and regional efforts related to emergency response.

- **Policy S-1.2 (Adaptation to Climate Change) – Support public education, adaptation, and emergency response services in response to the potential long-term impacts of climate change.**

Goal S-2: Minimize the threat to life and property from flooding and inundation.

Cross reference PPFS-6.5.4 and LU-

- **Policy S-2.1 (Potential Flood Hazards) - When considering areas for development, analyze and consider potential impacts of flooding.**

  - **Action S-2.1.1 (Flood Hazard Analysis) -** As part of project review, analyze potential impacts from flooding and require compliance with appropriate building standards and codes for structures subject to 200-year flood hazards. Give specific consideration to potential hazards resulting from climate change and ensure new or substantially improved structures which are sited in a flood hazard zone are not be isolated from emergency services in a flood event.

Cross reference PPFS-6.5.1

  - **Action S-2.1.2 (Flood Hazard Management) -** Continue efforts to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local agencies to evaluate the potential for flooding, identify areas susceptible to flooding, accredit the flood control levees in the City, and require appropriate measures to mitigate flood related hazards.

  - **Action S-2.1.3 (200-Year Flood Protection)** – Cooperate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to seek funding for the provision of 200-year flood protection.

  - **Action S-2.1.4 (Floodplain Hazard Materials)** – Provide materials to the community regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Department of Water Resources flood mapping.

  - **Action S-2.1.6 (Public Services) –** When possible, prevent the siting of new essential public services in County Flood Hazard Zones. When essential public services already exist or alternative sites are not feasible, ensure that all buildings will uphold their structural and operational integrity in a flood event**.**

- **Action S-2.1.7 (Dam Inundation) –** Assess risk to the City from dam failures and collaborate dam failure evacuation plans with Butte County and other key agencies.

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- **Policy S-2.2 (Stormwater Infrastructure) – Ensure the function of City stormwater infrastructure.**
  - **Action S-2.2.1 (Stormwater Master Plan) –** Upon the adoption of the Stormwater Master Plan, facilitate implementation to the maximum extent possible.
  - **Action S-2.2.2 (Accreditation) –** Continue to proactively collaborate with the relevant agencies to ensure function and accreditation of flood and stormwater infrastructure.

■ **Goal S-3 - Protect lives and property from seismic and geologic hazards.**

- **Policy S-3.1 (Potential Structural Damage) – Prevent damage to new structures caused by seismic, geologic, or soil conditions.**
  - **Action S-3.1.1 (California Building Code) –** Require all new buildings in the City to be built under the seismic requirements of the California Building Code.
  - **Action S-3.1.2 (Potential Soil Hazards) –** In areas with highly expansive soils, require appropriate studies and structural precautions through project review.

■ **Goal S-4 - Continue to provide effective and efficient fire protection and prevention services to Chico area residents.**

- **Policy S-4.1 (Fire Safety Staffing) - Maintain adequate fire suppression and prevention staffing levels.**
  - **Action S-4.1.1 (Fire Response Time) –** Strive to obtain an initial response time of five and a half minutes or less for 90 percent of fire emergency response calls in urbanized areas. Engage in an ongoing evaluation process of departmental response readiness to ensure an excellent standard of service for all areas of Chico.
  - **Action S-4.1.3 (Recovery Efforts)** – Plan for the demands of recovery efforts related to wildfire within the Local Responsibility Area, including developing funding reserves for large fires which do not meet state criteria for relief funding.
- **Policy S-4.2 (Interagency Coordination) - Continue to maintain interagency relationships to maximize fire protection services and support programs that reduce fire hazards.**

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- **Action S-4.2.1 (Interagency Programs) -** Continue to work with CAL FIRE and the Butte County Fire Department on programs that will enhance fire protection and firefighting capabilities in the Planning Area, including maintaining aid agreements.

- **Action S-4.2.2 (Local and Community Plans) –** Regularly update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and cooperate with CAL FIRE, Butte County Emergency Management and the Butte County Fire Safe Council in implementing the plans.

- **Action S-4.2.3 (Community Outreach) –** Partner with local Fire Safe councils and FireWise Communities, CAL FIRE, and other community groups to provide educational opportunities for residents and property owners on the best available science for defensible space, home hardening, and vegetation management. Continue to promote emergency preparedness, including "Know Your Zone" evacuation awareness efforts, pre-emergency planning and supplies for family safety, and executing evacuation drills. Target at-risk populations such as older adults, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking residents, and individuals with chronic health conditions.

- **Policy S-4.3 (Fire Safety Standards and Programs) – Implement standards and programs to avoid or minimize fire hazards in mapped Fire Hazard Severity Zones, especially in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.**

  - **Action S-4.3.1 (Standards to Protect Structures) -** Maintain, and update as needed, the standards manual for protecting structures in wildland fire areas.

  - **Action S-4.3.2 (Structural Standards) -** Incorporate heightened building construction standards for new land uses in High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones consistent with the 2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 14, Part 7.

  - **Action S-4.3.3 (Project Design) -** As part of the project review process in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, require development projects to provide at least two approved emergency evacuation routes and defensible buffer areas which meet or exceed State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §§ 1270-1276.05) and State Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations (Title 14, CCR §§ 1299-1299.05), and any other City-adopted Fire Codes, as applicable.

  - **Action S-4.3.4 (Development Standards) –** Encourage the County to require development in unincorporated areas within the City's Sphere of Influence to conform to the City's development standards.

Cross reference LU-1.1.1

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- **Action S-4.3.5 (Critical Facilities)** – Site critical and essential facilities outside of fire-prone areas whenever possible, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities; or identify feasible construction methods, fire-safe design elements and fire-smart landscape designs to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a very high fire hazard severity zone.

- **Policy S-4.4 (Open Space Management) – Proactively manage open space areas within the City to mitigate the risk of wildfire in very high fire hazard severity zones.**

  - **Action S-4.4.1 (Vegetation Management)** – Implement fuel management strategies identified in the City's Vegetative Fuels Management Plan.

  - **Action S-4.4.2 (Community Wildfire Protection Plan)** – Maintain a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and update the Plan every 5 years in collaboration with CAL FIRE and the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

  - **Action S-4.4.3 (Fuel Breaks and Fuels Reduction) –** Establish and maintain community fuel breaks and fuel modification or reduction zones, including public and private road clearance in areas at risk to wildfire.

- **Policy S-4.5 (Fire Smart Development) – Review development and building applications for compliance with relevant fire codes.**

  - **Action S-4.5.1 (Fire Safe Standards) –** Ensure that development in high and very high fire hazard severity zones conform to the 2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 14, Part 7 specifically as it relates to exterior wildfire exposure. Development within very high fire hazard severity zones shall also meet State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §§ 1270-1276.05), State Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations (Title 14 CCR, §§ 1299-1299.05), and City-adopted Fire Codes as applicable.

  - **Action S-4.5.2 (Fire Protection Plan) –** Require new development in very high fire hazard severity zones to prepare a fire protection plan based on a wildfire hazard assessment. Seek concurrence from the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding adequate emergency water flow, emergency vehicle access, visible addressing and street signage, evacuation routes, home hardening, fuel breaks and greenbelt standards, defensible space, fire safe design elements, and wildfire education and preparedness. The plan should meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7,

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subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations)

- **Action S-4.5.3 (Non-Conforming Development)** – Identify existing development located in very high fire hazard severity zones that do not conform to current State minimum fire safe regulations and identify actions that can be implemented to meet current regulations for ingress/egress, water supply, fire flow, signing and building numbering, building siting/setbacks, and vegetative fuel modification. Where feasible, support the development of additional points of ingress and egress in single-access neighborhoods identified, in subdivisions identified in Figure S-4.1 and S-4.2, and CAL FIRE's Subdivision Review Program pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4290.5.

- **Action S-4.5.4 (Redevelopment) –** Ensure that redevelopment of property within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones complies with the Office of the State Fire Marshal and California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection requirements, including adequate provisions for emergency access, vegetative fuel management, emergency water supply, and firefighting, in compliance with current fire codes.

Goal S-5: Provide a safe, secure environment with responsive police services for the community.

- **Policy S-5.1 (Police Services) – Continue to provide fundamental police services based upon rapid response to emergencies and response, control and intervention in conduct that threatens life and property.**

  - **Action S-5.1.1 (Strategic Plan) –** Using community input, develop a Police Department Strategic Plan to help guide priorities and staffing levels for the Department.

  - **Action S-5.1.2 (Police Staffing) –** Maintain adequate staffing to meet the needs of the community's service population.

  - **Action S-5.1.3 (Response Time) –** Analyze and monitor factors affecting police response times, and make operational adjustments as necessary in order to provide the most expeditious responses.

  - **Action S-5.1.4 (Specialized Resources) -** Train, equip, and maintain specialized response teams for extraordinary emergency incidents.

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- **Policy S-5.2 (Public Confidence in Police) – Maintain and increase public confidence in the ability of the Police Department to provide quality police services.**

  - **Action S-5.2.1 (Community Needs Assessments) -** Assess community needs, expectations, and satisfaction with the police on an ongoing basis.

  - **Action S-5.2.2 (City Council Reports) –** Report periodically to the City Council on citizen commendations and citizen complaints received.

- **Policy S-5.3 (Community Policing) - Reduce crime by strengthening police/community partnerships and providing community-oriented policing services that are responsive to citizens' needs.**

  - **Action S-5.3.1 (Neighborhood-Based Programs) –** Enhance neighborhood-based crime prevention activities, such as Neighborhood Watch, Town and Gown activities, and community education programs.

- **Policy S-5.4 (Collaboration and Coordination) – Maintain strong relationships with local and state law enforcement agencies, and participate in joint disaster preparedness planning.**

  - **Action S-5.4.1 (University Police) –** Maintain a memorandum of understanding with CSU, Chico University Police to coordinate law enforcement duties and services in the neighborhoods near the campus, such as the South Campus District.

  - **Action S-5.4.2 (Butte County Sheriff's Department) –** Strive to maintain the mutual aid agreement, and continue cooperative policing in the greater Chico area with the Butte County Sheriff's Department.

  - **Action S-5.4.3 (Disaster Planning) -** Through the Butte County Office of Emergency Services, participate with area public safety and health agencies to plan and train for disaster preparedness.

- **Policy S-5.5 (Design to Deter Crime) – Support the deterrence of crime through site planning and community design.**

  - **Action S-5.5.1 (Crime Deterring Design) –** Consider the incorporation of design features such as strategic window placement, lighting techniques, and landscaping into development projects to discourage criminal activity.

Cross reference CD-3.4 and DT-3.4

Cross reference CD-3.4.1

- **Goal S-6: Support safe airport operations and maximize public safety in the vicinity of airports.**

  - **Policy S-6.1 (Airport Operations) – Promote safe air operations by limiting the height of structures and regulating uses that would have adverse impacts on airport safety.**

  - **Policy S-6.2 (Safety in Airport Vicinity) – Continue to consider relevant public safety factors prior to approving development projects in the vicinity of airports.**

Cross reference LU-7.1

Cross reference LU-7.1, LU-6.2.5 and CIRC-6.1.1

- **Goal S-7: Enhance the safety of railroad crossings.**

  - **Policy S-7.1 (Railroad Crossings) – Enhance the safety of railroad crossings in the City.**

    - **Action S-7.1.1 (Coordinate with UPRR) –** Request Union Pacific Railroad to verify that relevant safety measures for at-grade crossings are implemented and maintained, and assess the feasibility of improving safety features, including enhanced crossing gate practices and warning devices.

    - **Action S-7.1.2 (Education on Railroad Crossings) –** Continue working with CSU Chico, UPRR, and student housing providers to develop and disseminate educational materials on the hazards of unauthorized railroad crossings, and regularly monitor and enforce crossing laws.

Cross reference CIRC-71.3

    - **Action S-7.1.3 (Grade-Separated Crossings) -** For improved emergency response and traffic circulation, support interagency studies to identify the best possible locations and feasibility for funding and developing grade-separated (vehicle and pedestrian/bicycle) railroad crossings within the City.

Cross reference CIRC-7.1.2 and N-2.2.1

- **Goal S-8: Reduce the potential for public exposure to hazardous materials or the accidental releases of toxic or hazardous substances.**

  - **Policy S-8.1 (Hazardous Materials Safety Coordination) - Support efforts to reduce the potential for accidental releases of toxic and hazardous substances.**

    - **Action S-8.1.1 (Planning for Hazardous Materials Safety) -** Consult with the State Office of Emergency Services, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Highway Patrol, Butte County, and other relevant agencies regarding hazardous materials routing and incident response programs.

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Cross Reference S-3.1.1

- **Policy S-8.2 (Reduce Toxic Materials Use) – Reduce the use of hazardous and toxic materials in City operations.**

Goal S-9: Protect the community from risks posed by climate change.

- **Policy S-9.1 (Infrastructure Reliability) – Ensure public and private infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change.**
  - **Action S-9.1.1 (Traffic Safety) –** Increase public messaging regarding navigating roadways when traffic signals are not functioning due to power outages.
  - **Action S-9.1.2 (Safe Roadways) –** As part of new capital project design, include elements that contribute to safe operation during power outages, particularly when designing intersections and other locations where electrified traffic management is utilized.
  - **Action S-9.1.3 (Capital Improvement Program) –** Consider Climate Change Vulnerability in Capital Improvements Program. Based upon best climate vulnerability assessment data available, ensure that the capital improvements program and infrastructure plan address infrastructure vulnerable to climate change hazards. The plans should incorporate funding and projects for hardening, relocation or retrofitting to provide for resilient infrastructure and plan for infrastructure projects and costs related to climate change hazards.
- **Policy S-9.2 (Drought Adaptation) – Work with CalWater, California Department of Water Resources, and others to maintain water service for Chico residents and businesses in response to shifting precipitation patterns.**
  - **Action S-9.2.1 (Vina Groundwater Subbasin Plan) –** Participate in and implement the Vina Groundwater Subbasin Plan.
  - **Action S-9.2.2 (Education and Awareness) –** Work with CalWater to provide education and increase awareness around water conservation and protection.

Goal S-10: Minimize the threat to life and health from extreme heat events.

- **Policy S-10.1 (Resilient Infrastructure) – Design infrastructure to be resilient to extreme heat.**

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- **Action S-10.1.1 (Urban Forest Master Plan) –** Implement the Urban Forest Master Plan to help mitigate the impacts of extreme heat including increased shading and air quality improvements.

- **Action S-10.1.2 (Climate Action Plan) –** Regularly update and implement the Climate Action Plan, which includes actions to enhance the resiliency of infrastructure.

- **Policy S-10.2 (Community Health) – Protect community health during incidences of extreme heat**.

  - **Action S-10.2.1 (Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan)** – Prepare and implement an Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan.

  - **Action S-10.2.2 (Outreach and Education) –** Coordinate with the Butte County Department of Public Health to provide educational materials and increase awareness regarding the risks of excessive heat.

  - **Action S-10.2.3 (Community Partnerships)** – Seek opportunities to collaborate with community-based organizations such as service organizations and places of worship to provide education, trainings, and resources to the community before and during extreme weather and disaster events.

RPC 2 (a)(v)