EXTREME HEAT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (EHCRP)

Subject: Community Engagement Meeting #1 – Climate Resilience & Cooling Hub Project (EHCRP)

1. RECOMMENDATION

Conduct the first community engagement meeting to initiate planning for a Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub project and gather public input required for the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP) grant application.

2. BACKGROUND

The Newberry Community Services District is pursuing funding through the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation – Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP) to address increasing risks associated with extreme heat and climate-related emergencies.

The EHCRP program provides funding for planning and implementation projects that mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, particularly in vulnerable and under-resourced communities. Eligible activities include development of cooling infrastructure, passive cooling strategies, shade improvements, and community-based resilience planning.

This effort is aligned with statewide priorities to reduce heat-related illness, improve community resilience, and expand access to safe cooling spaces.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Introduce the Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub concept
- Identify community vulnerabilities to extreme heat
- Assess barriers to accessing cooling resources
- Gather input on desired cooling features, services, and programming
- Initiate the required community engagement process for grant eligibility

4. DISCUSSION

Staff will facilitate a structured engagement process focused on understanding how extreme heat impacts the community and identifying solutions that improve resilience.

Key Activities Include:

- Overview of extreme heat risks and local climate challenges

- Community survey on heat exposure and access to cooling
- Small-group discussions focused on:
    - Lack of access to air conditioning
    - Utility cost burdens
    - Transportation barriers to cooling centers
    - Health impacts on vulnerable populations (seniors, children, outdoor workers)
- Interactive mapping of heat “hot spots” and underserved areas
- Identification of priority cooling strategies

This approach aligns with best practices for community-based climate planning and ensures that project design is directly informed by those most impacted.

5. PROJECT SCOPE (PRELIMINARY)

Based on initial planning, the proposed project will focus on development of a:

Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub

Potential elements include:

- Indoor cooling center (multi-use community space/gymnasium)
- Energy-efficient HVAC systems
- Solar and battery storage for backup power during outages
- Shade structures and tree canopy expansion
- Hydration stations and public access areas
- Passive cooling design features (reflective materials, ventilation)
- Community outreach and heat emergency response programs

Strategic Positioning:
The facility will serve as a primary cooling center during extreme heat events, with expanded functionality as a resilience hub supporting community health and safety.

6. COMMUNITY NEED & EQUITY FOCUS

The project is being developed with a focus on:

- Disadvantaged and heat-vulnerable populations

- Limited access to cooling infrastructure
- Language and mobility barriers
- Disproportionate health impacts from extreme heat

The engagement process will ensure that these populations are prioritized in project design and implementation.

7. PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

EHCRP requires partnership with a Community-Based Organization (CBO) or public academic institution.

Staff is actively identifying and engaging partners to support:

- Community outreach and engagement
- Program delivery during heat events
- Long-term operations and programming

8. NEXT STEPS

- Conduct Meeting #1 (Heat Vulnerability & Needs Assessment)
- Compile community input and identify priority interventions
- Develop partnership agreements
- Advance to Meeting #2 (Cooling Strategies & Program Development)
- Prepare planning or implementation grant application

9. FISCAL IMPACT

No immediate fiscal impact is associated with the community meeting. Grant funding will be pursued to support project planning and implementation.

10. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- EHCRP Program Overview
- Program Overview (Project-Specific)
- Community Engagement Plan

RESOLUTION NO. [XXXX]

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE EXTREME HEAT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (EHCRP) AND AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation administer the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP) to fund projects that mitigate the impacts of extreme heat and enhance community resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District recognizes the increasing risks associated with extreme heat, including impacts to public health, infrastructure, and vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District seeks to develop a Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub Project to provide accessible cooling resources, reduce heat-related risks, and improve community preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the EHCRP program requires meaningful community engagement and partnership with a Community-Based Organization or academic institution as part of the application process; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District desires to conduct a structured community engagement process to inform project development and ensure alignment with community needs and State program objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [Governing Board] of the Newberry Community Services District hereby:

1. Approves participation in the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP) and the development of a Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub Project.
2. Authorizes staff and consultants to conduct community engagement meetings, outreach, and data collection activities necessary to support the grant application.
3. Directs staff to identify and formalize partnerships with eligible Community-Based Organizations or academic institutions as required by the program.
4. Authorizes the [Title – e.g., General Manager/Fire Chief/Executive Director] to execute and submit all necessary documents, agreements, and applications related to the EHCRP grant on behalf of the Agency.

5. Authorizes staff to pursue additional complementary funding sources, including but not limited to urban greening and climate resilience grants, to support the project.
6. Directs staff to return to the Board with updates, including project scope, partnerships, and funding recommendations prior to final grant submission if required.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

_____
Chair/President

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk/Secretary

Program Overview

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Program Purpose

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP) is a State of California initiative designed to reduce the impacts of extreme heat and strengthen community resilience to climate-related hazards, particularly in vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

The program supports both planning and implementation projects that address rising temperatures, urban heat island effects, and associated public health risks. The overarching goal is to build long-term, community-based solutions that protect residents from extreme heat while improving environmental and health outcomes.

Funding Availability

- **Total Program Funding:** Approximately $22 million (Proposition 4)
- **Early Transformative Infrastructure:** $600,000 – $1 million
- **Advanced Transformative Infrastructure:** $2.5 million – $4 million
- **Match Requirement:** None

Eligible Applicants

Eligible entities include:

- Cities, counties, and special districts
- Tribal governments
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Nonprofits and coalitions

Partnership Requirement:
Applicants must partner with a:

- Community-Based Organization (CBO), or
- Public academic institution

Eligible Project Types

Planning Projects

EHCRP supports development of:

- Extreme heat action plans
- Climate resilience strategies
- Vulnerability assessments
- Partnership and capacity-building efforts

Implementation Projects

Funding may be used for:

- Cooling centers and resilience hubs
- Shade infrastructure (trees, canopies, structures)
- Passive cooling strategies (reflective surfaces, ventilation)
- Energy-efficient building upgrades (HVAC improvements)
- Urban greening and heat mitigation projects
- Community outreach and heat emergency programs

Program Objectives

EHCRP is designed to:

- Mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat
- Reduce exposure to urban heat island effects
- Increase access to safe, reliable cooling options
- Strengthen community preparedness and response capacity
- Advance equitable investment in underserved communities

Key Program Priorities

Equity-Focused Investment

The program prioritizes projects that benefit:

- Disadvantaged and under-resourced communities
- Populations most vulnerable to heat (seniors, low-income households, outdoor workers)

Community-Driven Planning

Projects must demonstrate:

- Meaningful community engagement
- Incorporation of local input into project design

Climate and Public Health Integration

Projects should:

- Address extreme heat as a public health issue
- Provide measurable reductions in heat exposure and related risks

Scalable and Replicable Solutions

The program favors projects that:

- Can be expanded or replicated
- Provide long-term resilience benefits

Strategic Positioning for Projects

Competitive EHCRP projects are framed as:

"Community-based resilience solutions that provide immediate cooling benefits while addressing long-term climate adaptation and public health outcomes."

Strong applications typically include:

- Cooling infrastructure (indoor and outdoor)
- Energy resilience (solar + battery backup)
- Community programming and outreach
- Integration with broader resilience or infrastructure projects

Conclusion

The EHCRP represents a significant opportunity to fund high-impact climate resilience projects that directly address extreme heat risks. With no match requirement and a strong emphasis on equity and community engagement, the program is well suited for projects that combine infrastructure, public health, and community-based solutions.

Bottom Line (Strategic Insight)

This program is not about general infrastructure, it is about:

- Heat mitigation
- Human health
- Access to cooling

If your project clearly answers:

- Who is overheating?
- Where do they go to cool down?
- What happens when the power goes out?

Program Overview (Project-Specific)

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP)

Cooling Center / Climate Resilience Hub – Newberry, California

Project Context and Need

The community of Newberry, located in a high desert region of California, experiences extreme and prolonged heat conditions, with summer temperatures regularly reaching and exceeding 120°F. These conditions present a severe and ongoing public health risk, particularly for vulnerable populations lacking access to reliable cooling.

Residents face multiple compounding challenges, including:

- Limited access to air-conditioned public spaces
- High energy costs that restrict residential cooling use
- Geographic isolation and transportation barriers
- Increased risk of heat-related illness, especially among seniors, children, and low-income households

Extreme heat events in the region are not episodic, they are systemic and intensifying, requiring permanent, infrastructure-based solutions.

Program Alignment

The proposed project directly aligns with the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP), which is designed to fund projects that:

- Mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat
- Expand access to safe and reliable cooling resources
- Strengthen community resilience to climate-related hazards
- Prioritize underserved and climate-vulnerable populations

The Newberry project is uniquely positioned to meet these objectives due to the severity of local heat conditions and lack of existing cooling infrastructure.

Proposed Project: Cooling Center and Climate Resilience Hub

The Newberry Community Services District proposes the development of a dedicated Cooling Center and Climate Resilience Hub, designed to provide both immediate heat relief and long-term resilience capacity.

Core Functions

- **Primary Function:**
  Public cooling center during extreme heat events
- **Secondary Functions:**
  - Community resilience hub for outreach and services
  - Emergency support space during power outages or disasters
  - Resource distribution and public safety coordination

Key Project Components

Cooling Infrastructure

- High-capacity, energy-efficient HVAC systems
- Large, accessible indoor cooling space (e.g., gymnasium or multi-purpose facility)
- Hydration stations and seating areas

Energy Resilience

- Solar photovoltaic system with battery storage
- Backup power to ensure continuous operation during grid outages

Heat Mitigation Features

- Shade structures and potential tree canopy
- Reflective materials and passive cooling design
- Outdoor shaded gathering areas

Community Access and Services

- ADA-accessible design
- Multilingual communication and outreach
- Space for community programming and education

Public Health and Climate Impact

This project is designed as a frontline public health intervention, addressing the direct and measurable impacts of extreme heat by:

- Reducing heat-related illness and emergency incidents
- Providing a safe refuge during peak heat conditions
- Increasing access to cooling for vulnerable populations
- Enhancing community preparedness for climate-related emergencies

Given the intensity of local temperatures, the project is expected to deliver high-impact, life-safety benefits.

Equity and Priority Populations

The project prioritizes residents who are disproportionately impacted by extreme heat, including:

- Low-income households without reliable cooling
- Seniors and medically vulnerable individuals
- Outdoor workers and families with limited mobility
- Residents in isolated or underserved areas

The facility will serve as a critical access point for equitable cooling and support services.

Strategic Positioning

This project is not simply a facility, it is a:

“Climate Resilience and Cooling Hub designed to provide life-saving cooling services in one of California’s most extreme heat environments, while ensuring continuous operation during power outages and emergency conditions.”

Conclusion

The proposed Cooling Center and Climate Resilience Hub represent a high-priority, high-impact investment that directly addresses the urgent and growing threat of extreme heat in Newberry. By aligning with EHCRP program objectives and focusing on measurable public health outcomes, the project is well-positioned to compete for funding and deliver long-term community resilience.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCRP)

Cooling Center & Climate Resilience Hub – Newberry, California

1. Purpose and Engagement Strategy

The Newberry Community Services District will implement a targeted, equity-driven Community Engagement Plan to inform the design and development of a Cooling Center and Climate Resilience Hub in Newberry, California.

Given the region's extreme desert climate, with temperatures reaching up to 120°F, this engagement process is designed to:

- Identify heat-related risks and vulnerabilities
- Understand barriers to accessing cooling resources
- Co-design a facility that provides life-saving cooling services
- Ensure the project reflects the needs of those most impacted by extreme heat

This plan prioritizes direct engagement with heat-vulnerable populations, ensuring the project is grounded in real community conditions rather than assumptions.

2. Guiding Principles

Public Health-Centered Engagement

Engagement will focus on understanding heat exposure, health impacts, and survival strategies, positioning the project as a public health intervention.

Equity and Targeted Outreach

Outreach will prioritize:

- Households without reliable air conditioning
- Seniors and medically vulnerable residents
- Low-income households facing high utility costs
- Outdoor workers and families exposed to extreme heat

Action-Oriented Participation

Each engagement activity will produce specific, actionable data that directly informs:

- Cooling center design
- Operating hours and services
- Emergency activation strategies

3. Engagement Framework (Five-Meeting Series – Heat-Focused)

Meeting 1: Heat Vulnerability & Community Risk Assessment

Objective: Identify how extreme heat impacts residents and where gaps exist

Key Focus:

- "Where do you go when it's 110–120°F?"
- "What happens if your power goes out?"
- "Who in your household is most at risk?"

Activities:

- Heat vulnerability survey (paper + QR)
- Small-group discussions on heat exposure and coping strategies
- Mapping of high-risk areas and underserved populations

Outputs:

- Community Heat Vulnerability Assessment
- Identification of priority populations and geographic gaps

Meeting 2: Cooling Needs & Service Design

Objective: Define what the cooling center must provide to be effective

Key Focus:

- Hours of operation (daytime, overnight during extreme events)
- Transportation needs
- Safety, comfort, and accessibility

Activities:

- Scenario-based discussions ("What do you need during a 120°F Day?")
- Prioritization of services:

    - Cooling space
    - Hydration
    - Medical support
    - Seating/rest areas

Outputs:

- Community-defined Cooling Center Service Model
- Priority list of essential services

Meeting 3: Site Access & Cooling Center Design

Objective: Ensure the facility is accessible and usable during extreme heat

Key Focus:

- Proximity to vulnerable populations
- Transportation and walkability
- Indoor vs. outdoor shaded areas

Activities:

- Site evaluation and mapping
- Identification of barriers (distance, lack of transportation, safety concerns)

Outputs:

- Community-validated site and access strategy
- Design priorities for indoor and outdoor cooling spaces

Meeting 4: Operations & Emergency Functionality

Objective: Define how the cooling center will operate during heat events and outages

Key Focus:

- Activation triggers (temperature thresholds, outages)
- Hours and staffing
- Coordination with emergency services

Activities:

- Operational scenario planning:
    - Extreme heat wave
    - Power outage during 120°F conditions
- Partner discussions (CBOs, health providers)

Outputs:

- Draft Cooling Center Operations Plan
- Defined partner roles and responsibilities

Meeting 5: Final Plan Validation & Community Support

Objective: Confirm final design and secure community endorsement

Key Focus:

- Final cooling center concept
- Services and operations
- Community benefits

Activities:

- Presentation of "You Said → We Did" summary
- Public feedback and refinement
- Collection of support letters and testimonials

Outputs:

- Final Community-Validated Cooling Center Plan
- Documented community support for grant submission

4. Outreach and Participation Strategy

Target Populations

Engagement will prioritize individuals most impacted by extreme heat, including:

- Seniors and medically vulnerable residents
- Low-income households without reliable cooling
- Outdoor workers and families exposed to heat

- Residents in isolated or underserved areas

Outreach Methods

- Flyers distributed through schools and community hubs
- Direct outreach through community-based organizations
- Social media and digital announcements
- Word-of-mouth outreach through trusted local partners
- Hybrid participation options (in-person + virtual)

Special emphasis will be placed on reaching hard-to-engage populations through trusted intermediaries.

5. Equity-Focused Engagement Strategies

To reduce barriers to participation, the project will:

- Provide multilingual materials and interpretation services
- Offer meetings during evenings and weekends
- Ensure ADA-accessible locations and virtual options
- Partner with local organizations to reach vulnerable residents

These strategies ensure that engagement is inclusive and representative of those most affected by extreme heat.

6. Data Collection and Documentation

Documentation Methods

- Sign-in sheets and participation tracking
- Heat vulnerability surveys (paper and digital)
- Meeting notes and summaries
- Photographic documentation
- Recorded feedback from discussions

All data will be compiled and analyzed to identify:

- Heat exposure patterns
- Service gaps

- Priority interventions

7. Integration into Project Design

Community input will directly inform:

- Cooling center size, layout, and amenities
- Hours of operation and activation protocols
- Transportation and accessibility strategies
- Outreach and communication plans

Each meeting will include a feedback loop, demonstrating how input is incorporated into project development.

8. Compliance with EHCRP Requirements

This engagement plan aligns with EHCRP priorities by:

- Demonstrating community-informed planning
- Addressing extreme heat as a public health issue
- Prioritizing equity and vulnerable populations
- Supporting development of implementable, community-based solutions

9. Deliverables

The engagement process will produce:

- Heat Vulnerability Assessment
- Cooling Center Service Model
- Operations and Activation Plan
- Community Engagement Summary Report
- Letters of Support and Community Testimonials

10. Conclusion

This Community Engagement Plan establishes a targeted, data-driven, and equity-focused process that ensures the proposed Cooling Center is both responsive to extreme heat conditions and grounded in community need. By directly engaging those most impacted, the Newberry

Community Services District will deliver a project that provides measurable public health and resilience benefits.

Bottom Line (Why This Wins)

This works because it:

- Focuses entirely on extreme heat (not generic engagement)
- Treats the project as a life-safety intervention
- Produces hard data (vulnerability + access gaps)
- Directly ties engagement → design → operations