

**Subject: Community Engagement Meeting #1 – Community Resilience Center (CRC) /  
Emergency Operations Center Project**

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

Conduct the first community engagement meeting to initiate planning for a Community Resilience Center (CRC) project and gather public input required for the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) grant application.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Newberry Community Services District is pursuing funding through the California Strategic Growth Council – Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program to develop a multi-functional facility that enhances emergency preparedness, response, and long-term community resilience.

The CRC Program funds the planning, construction, and retrofit of facilities that support communities in responding to and recovering from emergencies, while also addressing climate-related impacts such as extreme heat.

The proposed project includes development of a co-located Community Resilience Center and Emergency Operations Center (EOC), with integration of Fire Department operations to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

**3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Introduce the Community Resilience Center and EOC concept
- Identify community emergency preparedness gaps
- Assess local risks (fire, heat, power outages, disasters)
- Gather input on desired services and facility functions
- Initiate the required community engagement process

**4. DISCUSSION**

This meeting will focus on understanding how the community experiences emergencies and identifying opportunities to improve response and recovery systems.

**Key Activities Include:**

- Overview of CRC Program and project concept

- Presentation on local emergency risks and response challenges
- Community discussion on:
  - Emergency response delays
  - Evacuation challenges
  - Communication gaps during disasters
  - Access to emergency shelter and resources
- Identification of priority services for the facility
- Interactive mapping of risk areas and vulnerable populations

As discussed in project planning, this engagement will utilize roundtable discussions, visual tools, and documentation through photos and surveys to support grant requirements.

## **5. PROJECT SCOPE (PRELIMINARY)**

The proposed project includes development of a:

Community Resilience Center with Integrated Emergency Operations

Potential components include:

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Co-located Fire Department facility
- Emergency shelter and resource distribution space
- Cooling center functionality during extreme heat events
- Backup power (solar + battery storage)
- Communications and coordination infrastructure
- Community training and preparedness space

### **Strategic Positioning:**

The facility will operate as a day-to-day community resource and emergency response hub, activating during disasters to provide coordinated services and support.

## **6. PROGRAM ALIGNMENT**

The project directly supports CRC Program objectives by:

- Enhancing local emergency response capacity

- Supporting climate resilience and extreme heat mitigation
- Promoting community-based partnerships and shared governance
- Serving under-resourced populations

## **7. PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

CRC funding requires:

- At least one partner for planning
- At least two partners for implementation

Staff is coordinating with:

- Fire Department
- Community-Based Organizations
- Emergency service providers
- Public health and nonprofit partners

These partnerships will be formalized through MOUs and letters of commitment.

## **8. GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS (PRELIMINARY)**

The project will incorporate a shared governance model:

- Fire Department: Emergency response leadership
- Agency/CSD: Facility ownership and oversight
- Community partners: Program delivery and support services

Detailed governance and operational protocols will be developed through the engagement process.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

- Conduct Meeting #1 (Emergency Needs Assessment)
- Identify priority services and facility functions
- Develop partnership framework
- Advance to Meeting #2 (Facility Design & Operations)
- Prepare CRC grant application

## **10. FISCAL IMPACT**

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

## **11. ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution
- CRC Program Overview
- Community Engagement Plan

**RESOLUTION NO. [XXXX]**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE Newberry Community Services District APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTERS (CRC) PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER / EMERGENCY OPERATIONS FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the California Strategic Growth Council administers the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program to support the planning and development of facilities that enhance community resilience to emergencies and climate-related impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District seeks to improve local emergency preparedness, response capacity, and long-term resilience through development of a Community Resilience Center incorporating Emergency Operations and Fire Department functions; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Program emphasizes cross-sector collaboration, community engagement, and shared governance in project design and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will provide critical infrastructure to support emergency response, resource distribution, and community services during disasters, including extreme heat events; and

WHEREAS, the Newberry Community Services District recognizes the importance of community input and stakeholder collaboration in developing a project that reflects local needs and priorities;

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

1. Approves participation in the California Strategic Growth Council Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program.
2. Supports the development of a Community Resilience Center project, including co-location of emergency operations and fire response services.
3. Authorizes staff and consultants to conduct community engagement activities, stakeholder outreach, and planning efforts necessary to support the grant application.
4. Directs staff to establish partnerships with required entities, including emergency service providers, community-based organizations, and other eligible partners, in compliance with program requirements.
5. Authorizes the [Title – e.g., General Manager/Fire Chief/Executive Director] to prepare, execute, and submit all documents necessary for the CRC grant application.

6. Authorizes staff to develop governance, operations, and partnership frameworks for the proposed facility.
7. Directs staff to return to the Board with final project recommendations, partnership agreements, and funding strategies prior to implementation.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

Chair/President

ATTEST:

---

Clerk/Secretary

## **California Strategic Growth Council – Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program**

### **Program Overview**

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program is a competitive funding initiative designed to support the planning, construction, and retrofit of community-serving facilities that enhance resilience to climate change and emergency events.

The program prioritizes projects that strengthen a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, while also delivering long-term social, environmental, and public health benefits.

### **Funding Availability**

- Planning Grants: \$100,000 to \$500,000
- Implementation Grants: \$1 million to \$10 million
- Match Requirement: None

### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include:

- Cities, counties, and special districts
- Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) and Councils of Governments (COGs)
- Nonprofits and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Tribal governments
- Emergency management and service providers

### **Partnership Requirement:**

- Minimum of one partner for planning
- Minimum of two partners for implementation

### **Eligible Project Types**

CRC funding supports the development of multi-functional resilience facilities, including:

- Community resilience centers and hubs
- Emergency operations and coordination facilities
- Cooling centers and climate refuge spaces

- Facilities with backup power (solar + battery storage)
- Resource distribution and emergency shelter spaces
- Community-serving spaces for training, outreach, and services

Projects must demonstrate both:

- Daily community benefit, and
- Emergency activation capability

### **Program Objectives**

CRC projects are evaluated based on their ability to:

- Strengthen local capacity to respond to and recover from emergencies
- Advance climate resilience, including extreme heat mitigation
- Foster cross-sector collaboration and community partnerships
- Promote shared governance and community-based decision-making
- Prioritize benefits to under-resourced, rural, and disadvantaged communities

### **Core Requirements for Competitiveness**

#### **1. Community Engagement**

- Demonstrate meaningful, ongoing engagement
- Document input through meetings, surveys, and outreach
- Show how community feedback shapes the project

#### **2. Partnerships & Collaboration**

- Formalize partnerships through MOUs/LOIs
- Clearly define partner roles in operations and service delivery

#### **3. Governance & Operations**

- Identify who operates the facility
- Define emergency activation protocols
- Establish long-term management and sustainability plans

#### **4. Climate & Equity Integration**

- Address climate risks (heat, wildfire, outages)
- Prioritize vulnerable populations
- Ensure accessibility and inclusive design

### **Strategic Project Positioning (Example)**

A competitive CRC project is not just a building, it is a:

“Community Resilience Hub designed to provide essential services during daily operations and serve as a fully activated emergency coordination and response center during disasters.”

For your project, this translates to:

### **Community Resilience Center with Integrated Emergency Operations**

- Co-located Fire Department and Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Cooling center functionality during extreme heat events
- Backup power to ensure operation during outages
- Space for emergency shelter, coordination, and resource distribution
- Year-round community use (training, outreach, services)

### **Strategic Advantages (If Positioned Correctly)**

Projects are highly competitive when they:

- Demonstrate real operational capability (not conceptual use)
- Show 24/7 readiness or rapid activation capacity
- Integrate public safety + community services
- Include energy resilience (solar + storage)
- Provide co-benefits (health, equity, climate adaptation)

### **Common Pitfalls (Avoid These)**

- Treating the project as a standard facility build
- Weak or symbolic partnerships
- Lack of defined operations or governance
- Overemphasis on infrastructure without community benefit

- Insufficient documentation of engagement

**Conclusion**

The CRC Program represents a significant opportunity to fund high-impact, multi-functional infrastructure that strengthens both emergency response systems and long-term community resilience. With no match requirement and a strong emphasis on partnerships and equity, the program is well aligned for projects that integrate public safety, climate resilience, and community services into a unified facility model.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Community Resilience Center (CRC) / Emergency Operations Hub Project**

#### **1. Purpose and Engagement Strategy**

The Newberry Community Services District will implement a structured, equity-driven Community Engagement Plan to guide the planning and development of the proposed Community Resilience Center (CRC) and Emergency Operations Hub.

This engagement process is designed to:

- Ensure the project reflects community-identified emergency and resilience needs
- Build cross-sector partnerships and shared governance structures
- Prioritize under-resourced and vulnerable populations
- Meet SGC requirements for meaningful, ongoing engagement

The approach moves beyond traditional outreach by establishing a co-design model, where community members actively shape facility functions, services, and operations.

#### **2. Guiding Principles**

##### **Meaningful Engagement (Not Informational Only)**

Community members will participate in decision-making activities, not just provide feedback. Each meeting is structured to produce actionable outcomes that influence project design.

##### **Equity and Inclusion**

Engagement will prioritize populations most vulnerable to climate and emergency impacts, including:

- Low-income households
- Seniors and medically vulnerable individuals
- Individuals with limited mobility or transportation access
- Non-English-speaking populations

##### **Shared Governance**

The engagement process will directly inform:

- Facility operations
- Partnership roles
- Long-term governance structures

### **3. Five-Meeting Engagement Framework (CRC-Specific)**

#### **Meeting 1: Emergency Needs & Risk Assessment**

**Objective:** Identify community vulnerabilities and gaps in emergency response

**Focus Areas:**

- Emergency response delays and service gaps
- Evacuation challenges and communication barriers
- Impacts of extreme heat, outages, and disasters
- Access to emergency shelter and resources

**Activities:**

- Community survey and facilitated roundtables
- Mapping of high-risk areas and vulnerable populations

**Outputs:**

- Community-validated Emergency Needs Assessment
- Priority risk profile for the project area

#### **Meeting 2: Facility Functions & Service Design**

**Objective:** Define what the CRC must deliver during daily operations and emergencies

**Focus Areas:**

- Cooling center and climate refuge services
- Emergency shelter and resource distribution
- Public safety coordination and communication

**Activities:**

- Service prioritization exercises
- Scenario-based discussions (“What happens during a heatwave/outage?”)

**Outputs:**

- Defined list of core CRC services
- Community-prioritized operational functions

**Meeting 3: Site Selection, Access & Operational Feasibility**

**Objective:** Validate location and ensure the site supports both emergency response and community access

**Focus Areas:**

- Accessibility (ADA, transit, walkability)
- Emergency response logistics (fire/EMS access, staging)
- Proximity to vulnerable populations

**Activities:**

- Site mapping and evaluation exercises
- Identification of barriers to access

**Outputs:**

- Community-supported site criteria and validation
- Equity and access framework

**Meeting 4: Partnerships, Governance & Operations**

**Objective:** Establish how the CRC will be operated and governed

**Focus Areas:**

- Roles of Fire Department, Agency, and community partners
- Emergency activation protocols
- Service delivery responsibilities

**Activities:**

- Partner roundtable discussions
- Governance model development (shared vs. centralized)

**Outputs:**

- Draft governance and operations framework
- Defined partner roles and responsibilities
- Foundation for MOUs and Letters of Commitment

### **Meeting 5: Final Concept & Community Validation**

**Objective:** Confirm final project design and secure community support

#### **Focus Areas:**

- Facility design and services
- Operational model and partnerships
- Community benefits and trade-offs

#### **Activities:**

- Presentation of final concept (“You Said → We Did”)
- Public feedback and endorsement
- Collection of support letters

#### **Outputs:**

- Final Community-Validated Project Concept
- Documented community support and engagement report

## **4. Outreach and Participation Strategy**

### **Target Stakeholders**

- Residents in high-risk and underserved areas
- Seniors, youth, and families
- Emergency service providers (Fire, EMS)
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Public health and social service providers

### **Outreach Methods**

- Flyers distributed through schools and community centers
- Direct outreach through trusted community partners

- Social media and digital communications
- Hybrid meeting options (in-person + virtual)

This approach ensures broad participation and reduces barriers to engagement.

## **5. Equity-Focused Engagement Strategies**

To ensure meaningful participation from vulnerable populations, the project will:

- Provide multilingual materials and interpretation services
- Offer ADA-accessible venues and virtual participation options
- Schedule meetings during evenings/weekends
- Partner with local organizations to reach hard-to-engage populations

These strategies ensure that engagement is representative, inclusive, and aligned with CRC equity priorities.

## **6. Data Collection and Documentation**

All engagement activities will be fully documented to support grant requirements and ensure accountability.

### **Documentation Includes:**

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

As emphasized during project planning, roundtable discussions, surveys, and photographic documentation will be used to support the grant application and demonstrate community involvement.

## **7. Integration into Project Design and Governance**

Community input will directly inform:

- Facility design and service delivery
- Emergency response and activation protocols

- Partnership roles and responsibilities
- Governance structure and long-term operations

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

## **8. Compliance with CRC Requirements**

This engagement plan is designed to meet CRC program expectations by:

- Demonstrating meaningful, ongoing community engagement
- Supporting cross-sector collaboration and partnerships
- Advancing shared governance and community decision-making
- Prioritizing under-resourced communities and vulnerable populations

## **9. Deliverables**

The engagement process will produce:

- Community Engagement Summary Report
- Emergency Needs Assessment
- Governance and Partnership Framework
- Letters of Support and Partner Commitments
- Final CRC Project Concept

## **10. Conclusion**

This Community Engagement Plan establishes a structured, inclusive, and outcome-driven process that ensures the proposed Community Resilience Center is both community-informed and operationally viable. By integrating engagement into all phases of planning and governance, the Newberry Community Services District will deliver a project that meets CRC program objectives and provides lasting resilience benefits.