

Cobb MOUNTAIN

Regeneration After Catastrophic Wildfire

A Community Resilience & Development Strategy

2022



Prepared for
Cobb Area Council



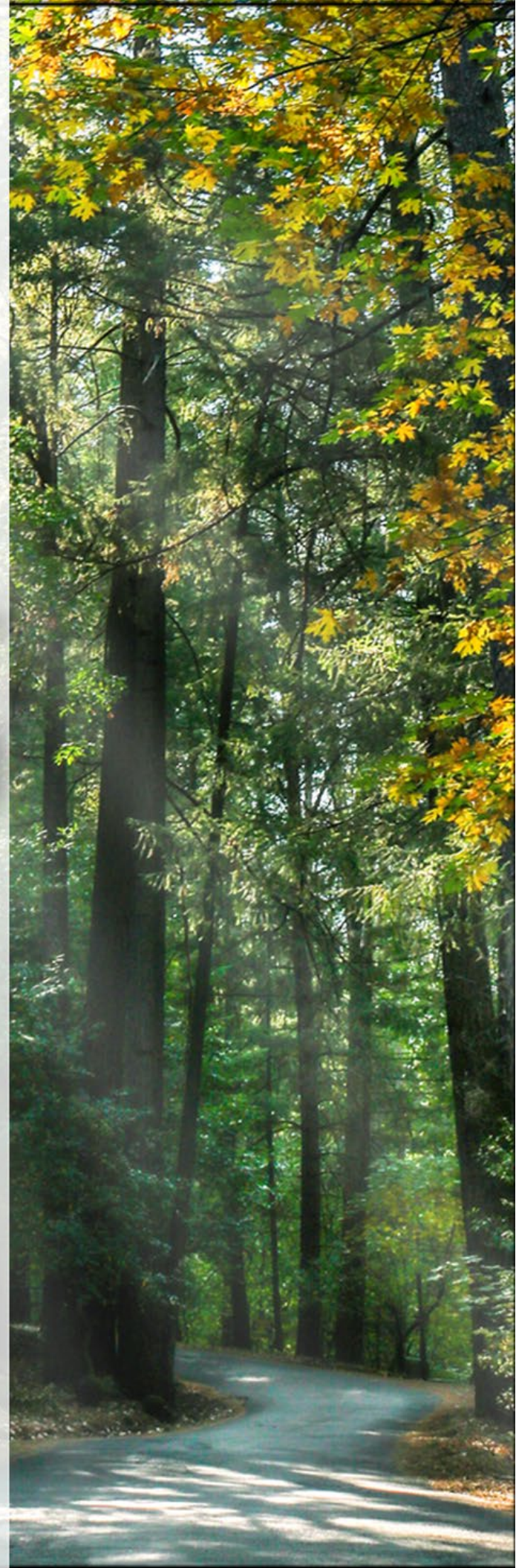
by
Seigler Springs Community
Redevelopment Association

FHLBank
San Francisco

with funding from the
Federal Home Loan
Bank of San Francisco



Community First Credit Union



Cobb Mountain Area Community Resilience and Development Strategy

Version March 2022



Prepared by
Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association, Seigler Springs CA -
Eliot Hurwitz, principal author

With assistance from
Community Development Services, Kelseyville CA

Cobb Area Council

Cathy McCarthy – Chair
Cindy Leonard - Vice Chair
Christopher Nettles - Secretary
Frank Lincoln - Treasurer
Jake Strickler – Member at large
Joe Schneider – Alternate

Economic Development Committee

Cathy McCarthy - Chair
Christopher Nettles - Council Member

Jessica Pyska - Lake County Supervisor, District 5

We acknowledge that the lands described in this document are the ancestral territories of the Pomo, Lake Miwok and Wappo peoples, who lived sustainably in the area for over 10,000 years, who were largely displaced by settlers and settlement policies beginning in the mid 19th century, and who are currently prominent participants in local community affairs.

Special thanks for participating in interviews for this project:

Dottie Bates, Christina Bougas, Richie Bucher, Jack Buell, John Carlisi, Renee Chastain, Greg Clouse, Michael Dabney, David Epstein, Raoul Goff & Chris Brodeur, Ron Haskett, Peter Hess, Deborah Hellenen, Tim Holmes, Glenneth Lambert, David Leonard, Maya Leonard, Danielle Matthews Seperas, Ben Murphy, Dean Nicolliades, Kyle Noble, Scott Parady, Gary Prather, Joel Pyska, Joe Schneider, Keith Smithson, Eric Sklar, Robert Stark, Jake Strickler, Debbie St. Cyr, Timothy Toye, Mike Wink

Funding for this document has been provided by the
**Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco AHEAD-DR Program and
Community First Credit Union**

Report Design - Bogie's Writing and Design, Cobb, CA

“ I’m very impressed with how your [Cobb Mountain] community is coming together and working together on all aspects of community engagement, activities, infrastructure, and fire mitigation. It’s great to see so much activity going on. We don’t always see that in the communities we visit across the country. So big applause to all of you for your efforts. ”

- Member of Federal Community Mitigation Assistance Team

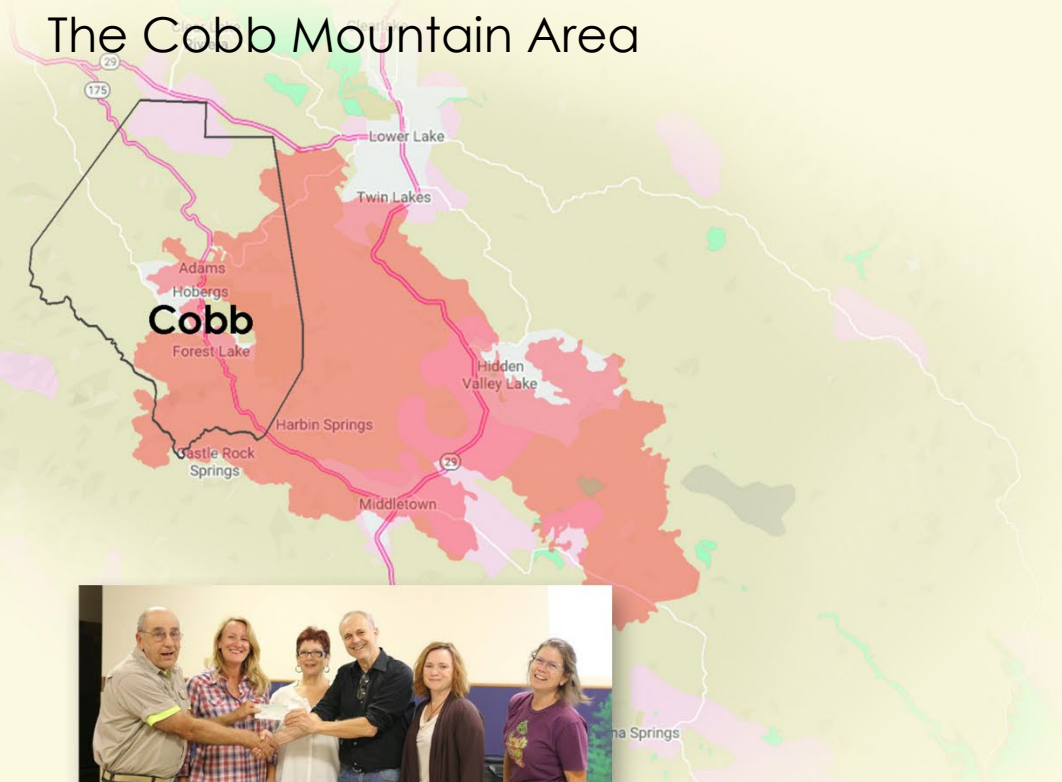
Contents

Executive Summary	i
Introduction	1
Natural Capital	9
Built Capital	14
Social Capital	22
Financial Capital	27
Cultural Capital	35
Political Capital	39
Human Capital	42
Implementation	48
Glossary	52
Endnotes	53



Executive Summary

Fire Recovery, Economic Development and Community Resilience - A Strategy for The Cobb Mountain Area



The Valley Fire tore through the small Cobb Mountain community in southern Lake County California on September 12, 2015. It was the third most damaging wildfire¹ in California history at the time, and sadly the harbinger of even more horrific disasters to come.² Recovery

from such a major disaster is as challenging as recovery from major surgery or a crippling injury - it takes time, and adaptation to a new pattern of life.^{4} With the right help and enough time, much of pre-disaster quality of life can be restored but it will not look the same.*



*note – footnotes in the Executive Summary follow the numbering established in the main text body



This Strategy seeks to chart a course of renewal and regeneration over the coming decade and beyond, especially in the face of intensifying climate disruption. It does this by taking a fresh look at the enduring assets of the community and focuses on building local capacity on the basis of those assets. The Strategy recognizes the critical role that County, State and Federal policies and programs will play in its future, but also claims a major role for home-grown intelligence, energy and innovation. It is hoped that this Strategy can be both a call to action, a high-level roadmap to implementation and a guide to ongoing evaluation of how we are progressing.

Finally, the Strategy looks at the community as a complex, evolving system, in which all of the elements of the community can support each other and looks to nurture positively reinforcing relationships throughout the area.⁶

THE SEVEN COMMUNITY CAPITALS: A FRAMEWORK FOR RESILIENCE

This Strategy uses a “Community Capitals Framework” that was developed in the early 2000's⁷ and is grounded in literature from multiple disciplines⁸ as a tool to help communities approach development from a systems perspective. Broadly, community capitals are assets or resources that can be utilized to produce additional resources.

The Seven Community Capitals⁹:

- Natural Capital:** *Natural and environmental resources*
- Built Capital:** *Physical structures and facilities, including housing and infrastructure*
- Social Capital:** *Groups and networks that help make things happen*
- Financial Capital:** *The “economy”; resources available for development*
- Cultural Capital:** *Values, norms, beliefs and traditions*
- Political Capital:** *Capacity to influence rules and standards; access to institutional resources*
- Human Capital:** *Attributes that give people the ability to thrive and contribute*

The seven community capitals represent all aspects of community life and can be invested and saved, or wasted and depleted. The objective of the present Strategy is to use the Community Capitals Framework to present an understandable economic development program, a fire recovery strategy and an overall approach to long term community resilience.

The Seven forms of Community Capital can also build a bridge to the seven legally required elements in the California General Planning model¹⁰. Thus, this Strategy can also help set the stage for the update to the Cobb Mountain community's formal Area Plan¹¹, a County planning document that must be consistent with its General Plan¹².



For each of the seven Community Capitals this document presents:

- a description of the importance of each form of Capital in the Cobb Mountain community,
- local data that describes the current condition of that form of capital,
- additional local data that we would like to have,
- an analysis of the current situation,
- recommended long term goals, and
- recommended strategies to meet those goals

Lastly, the document recommends a prioritized list of strategies for the first year, including the suggested responsibilities and necessary resources. The top six priorities for year one are:

Priority	Strategy	Responsibility	Actions, Personnel, Tools and Resources needed
1	Establish Forest Stewardship working Group Natural Capital	Cobb Area Council (CAC) - new standing committee	Recruit Committee Chair, identify potential funding for specific projects via CalFire, RRA, FSC's, SSCRA*
2	Increase Broadband service - Pilot Project Built Capital	Community Development Services to manage contract with LCBS*	Full project scope of work and budget to be approved by CAC General Assembly, \$16,000 (already identified and appropriated)
3	Blackberry Cobbler Festival Cultural Capital	CAC ad hoc cobbler committee	Project coordinator and strong volunteer participation; local sponsors
4	Partner with KBA & MAMA* to promote Cobb businesses Financial Capital	CAC Economic Development Committee	Participation from Cobb businesses and KBA/MAMA management
5	Continue "Explore Cobb CA" Initiative Financial Capital	CAC Economic Development Committee	Keep website current, enroll more local business participants
6	CAC participation marketing campaign Political Capital	CAC Membership committee	Social media outreach, new CAC website, pamphlet, support for Cobb Resource Hub

*see glossary on Pg XX for list of acronyms