



1–2 Year Operational Plan

Planning Period: 2026–2028

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to serve our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers in need.”
— Andrew K. Bourret

Purpose

This document outlines operational priorities for the next one to two years. The purpose of this plan is to stabilize critical infrastructure, improve emergency response capability, and establish a foundation for the Placerville Fire Protection District’s forthcoming Capital Development Plan.

The district operates from a single station serving approximately 30 square miles with an estimated population of 400 residents. The response area consists primarily of rural terrain and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas with limited infrastructure and no municipal water system.

Because of these conditions, the department relies heavily on tanker shuttle operations and rural water supply methods for fire suppression. The projects outlined in this plan are intended to address immediate operational limitations while strengthening the district’s ability to provide effective fire protection, medical response, and rescue services to the community.

Operational Priorities

1. Development of a Year-Round Water Supply

Background

The district currently lacks a pressurized water system and has limited reliable drafting locations. Fire suppression operations rely primarily on tanker shuttle operations and seasonal water sources. During winter months, freezing conditions can further restrict available water access.

These limitations significantly affect fire suppression capability, particularly during structure fires and extended incidents.

Phase 1 – Mud Flats Pump Station (Year 1)

The district is currently developing a pump station located near the intersection of Harris Creek Road and Centerville Road, behind the Star Ranch mailboxes. This location was selected due to its central placement within the district and its accessibility to primary response routes.

The installation will provide the district's first year-round pressurized water source.

The system will utilize an electric pump capable of producing approximately 400–500 gallons per minute, allowing engines and tenders to refill quickly and reliably.

Objectives

- Complete installation of the pump station and associated infrastructure
- Ensure year-round apparatus access to the site
- Integrate the location into operational response planning
- Train personnel on use of the system

Expected Outcome

- Establishment of the district's first reliable year-round water supply
- Increased fire suppression capability during structure incidents
- Reduced reliance on long-distance tanker shuttle operations

The new water source will also reduce refill travel time during winter months. Currently, engines must travel to Centerville Fire Station to refill when local water sources freeze. The new pump station is expected to reduce refill travel times by approximately 30 minutes during colder conditions.

Phase 2 – Water Infrastructure Expansion (Year 2)

Following completion of the central pump station, the district will evaluate development of a second pump station to expand water availability across the response area. Two potential areas have been identified as priorities:

- Placerville City Subdistrict
- South end of the district near the Trail Creek development

Final location will be determined based on operational need, feasibility, and available resources.

Expected Outcome

- Expanded year-round water access across the district
- Improved response capability in underserved areas
- Increased flexibility for fire suppression operations

2. Apparatus Replacement Strategy

Background

The district currently operates several aging apparatus. Maintaining a larger number of older vehicles increases maintenance burden and reduces operational reliability.

The district intends to implement a phased replacement strategy that improves reliability while reducing the total number of vehicles in the fleet.

Phase 1 – Structure Engine Replacement

Equipment to be Sold

- Rescue 1
- Engine 444
- UTV skid unit

Funds generated from these sales will be pooled to support replacement of Engine 401, which currently serves as the district's primary structure engine.

Project

Acquire a 4x4 structure engine capable of operating effectively within the district's rural terrain and limited-access areas.

Expected Outcome

- Improved reliability of the district's primary structure response apparatus
- Increased operational capability in remote and difficult terrain

Phase 2 – Type 6 Engine Modernization

Another high priority is acquiring a Type 6 wildland engine to replace or support our current Type 6, Engine 445.

Engine 445 is a high mileage vehicle with constantly rising maintenance costs, having a newer Type 6 to replace or supplement its position in the department would lead to much lower costs over time.

Expected Outcome

- Improved reliability of the district's wildland response apparatus
- Reduced maintenance requirements compared to 445

Phase 3 – Rescue / Medical Response Vehicle

Another high priority for the district is a vehicle to replace Engine 444, our current Quick Response/Command vehicle, full sized truck or SUV for better suitability to our environment and

needs. It should also serve as our primary rescue vehicle, replacing Rescue 1 to carry advanced medical equipment and rescue tools.

Expected Outcome

- A more appropriate vehicle for medical calls and light rescue incidents
- Reduced wear on larger apparatus used for routine responses

Year 2 Operational Goal – Tactical Water Tender

During the second year of this plan, the district will pursue acquisition of a tactical water tender to support water shuttle operations.

Due to the district's lack of hydrant infrastructure, water shuttle operations remain a critical component of fire suppression.

Expected Outcome

- Improved water transport capability during fire incidents
- Increased efficiency during water shuttle operations
- Reduced reliance on mutual aid for water supply support

3. Apparatus Housing Improvements

Background

Some district apparatus are currently stored outdoors without adequate weather protection. Continued exposure to the elements accelerates wear on vehicles, pumps, and equipment.

Project

Construct a lean-to apparatus cover adjacent to the station to provide covered storage for engines currently housed outside.

Objectives

- Protect apparatus from weather exposure
- Extend the service life of vehicles and equipment
- Reduce long-term maintenance costs

4. Station 2 Site Development

Background

The district has been offered an approximately 8-acre land donation located on Can Creek Road. This property presents an opportunity to establish a future Station 2, which would improve response coverage to areas of the district that are currently farther from the primary station.

Year 1 Priority

During the first year of this plan, the district will work to finalize acceptance of the land donation and complete the legal documentation required to transfer ownership of the property to the Placerville Fire Protection District.

Objectives

- Finalize legal acceptance of the donated property
- Complete any required surveys or documentation associated with the transfer
- Establish the property as the future site of Station 2 within district planning documents

Expected Outcome

- Secure approximately 8 acres for future station development
- Improve long-term response coverage within the district
- Provide a foundation for future facility planning within the Capital Development Plan

Fiscal Responsibility

The projects outlined in this plan are designed not only to improve operational capability, but also to reduce long-term maintenance and operating costs for the district.

A key component of this effort is the modernization and consolidation of the apparatus fleet. By replacing multiple aging vehicles with fewer, more reliable units, the district expects to reduce the frequency and cost of repairs associated with maintaining older equipment.

Additionally, construction of a covered apparatus storage area will help protect vehicles and equipment from weather exposure. Providing covered storage will help extend the service life of these vehicles and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Implementation Timeline

Year 1

- Complete installation of the Harris Creek / Centerville pump station
- Finalize acceptance of the Can Creek Road land donation for Station 2
- Sell surplus apparatus and equipment
- Acquire replacement 4x4 structure engine
- Begin planning and construction of apparatus lean-to

Year 2

- Evaluate and begin development of a second pump station
- Re-chassis Engine 445
- Construct apparatus lean-to
- Pursue acquisition of a tactical water tender
- Acquire rescue/medical pickup as funding from apparatus sales allows

Conclusion

The projects outlined in this plan are intended to address immediate operational needs while establishing a foundation for the district's upcoming Capital Development Plan.

Completion of these initiatives will result in a smaller, more capable, and more reliable apparatus fleet suited to the district's rural and Wildland Urban Interface response environment. The addition of a dedicated rescue and medical response vehicle will improve the district's ability to respond efficiently to medical and rescue incidents.

The development of the Mud Flats pump station will establish the district's first year-round pressurized water source, significantly improving fire suppression capability and reducing water shuttle turnaround times during winter months.

Together, these improvements will strengthen the district's ability to respond effectively to structure fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, and rescue incidents throughout the response area while preparing the district for its future Capital Development Plan.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Placerville Fire Protection District this ____ day of _____, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

William Longden, Chairperson

Tom Andreason, Commissioner

Rick Barber, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Barker, District Secretary