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To: planning@colfax-ca.gov
Cc: OLRA@DOC; OPR State Clearinghouse; Gomez, DarylAnne@DOC
Subject: City of Colfax General Plan 2040 Update DEIR - SCH No. 2023070105
Date: Friday, October 27, 2023 11:11:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Dear Emmanuel Ursu,

The California Geological Survey (CGS) has received the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the City of Colfax 2040 General Plan Update. This email conveys the following recommendations from CGS concerning geologic issues related to the project area:

1. Liquefaction Hazards

In the section titled "Geologic Hazards" in Section 4.7.1, the DEIR reports that the city is not located in a liquefaction hazard zone. CGS has not yet evaluated the area in and around the city for liquefaction or earthquake-induced landslide hazard zoning, so the lack of a zone does not indicate a determination that there is no liquefaction hazard. The final EIR and supporting documents should be revised to clarify this fact and should independently address this hazard as it relates to the General Plan proposals.

2. Surface Fault Rupture and Ground Shaking Hazards

The DEIR reports correctly that the City of Colfax does not include any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones mapped by CGS. It reports that the Foothills Fault System is the "major regional geologic feature" in the City of Colfax Planning Area, but states that the CGS Fault Activity Map (Jennings and Bryant, 2010) does not identify Late Quaternary faults "within or in proximity to the city." CGS notes that the Foothills faults system includes several mapped Late Quaternary (<700,000 years old) faults, including the Spenceville, Wolf Creek (aka Highway 49), Deadman, Dewitt, and Giant Gap faults, within 7 to 15 miles on either side of the city (Jennings and Bryant, 2010). Although these faults are not mapped as Holocene-active, and thus are not zoned according to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act as posing a *surface rupture hazard*, they may pose a ground shaking hazard to the city. The 2023 National Seismic Hazard Maps include the Spenceville-Swain Ravine fault zone as a seismic source for ground motion hazard. Additional information is available at the links below:
<https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a6038b3a1684561a9b0aadf88412fcf>.

If you have any additional comments or questions, please feel free to call or email.

Thank you,
Judy Zachariasen

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