



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF REPORT

November 3, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Ben Berto, Director of Planning and Building Services
Richard James, Project Lead, EMC Planning Group

SUBJECT: Report on Planning Commission Housing Element subcommittee discussion of Safety Element

The Planning Commission Housing Element subcommittee met on October 28 to discuss the draft Safety Element that your Council is reviewing tonight. PC subcommittee members are Commissioners Mimi Newton, Norma Fragoso, and Cindy Swift.

Items discussed included the following:

1. A table of the status of current Safety Element programs should be provided, with completion status of those programs.
2. Emergency preparedness is critical in preventing disasters and in mitigation the effects of those that occur.
3. Safety Element Implementing Programs should focus on those with discrete actions with reasonable chances for implementation, rather than many programs that are uncertain / unlikely to be implemented (“wishlists”). Programs should be prioritized.
4. Programs should be differentiated between cyclical (e.g., vegetation management) and those with discrete end points (e.g., provide 100-year flood protection).
5. Fire safety is a priority.
6. Community preparedness is the most critical component of fire safety, particularly given limited emergency responder resources and the Town’s hilly, heavily vegetated nature.
7. Capturing emerging information about fire behavior, best preparedness practices, and development features (e.g., ember-driven fire spread, home hardening, firescaping) is important.
8. Thematic maps should be current, accurate, user friendly, and integrate into an online environment.
9. Emergency preparedness needs to be coordinated with emergency responders and other subject matter experts.
10. The several Fairfax and Marin groups dedicated to safety preparation should be consulted in the process and in the future.