

REPORT TO GENERAL PLAN 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE

Subject: Draft Environmental Hazards Element Policies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The General Plan Team has prepared a preliminary set of updated Environmental Hazards policies based on the Steering Committee's written and verbal feedback on the existing policies, community and staff feedback, recently adopted plans and programs, and best practices in general plans. This is a working draft and does not yet fully integrate policies related to climate adaptation, wildfire prevention (e.g., the Wildfire Action Plan), air quality, and hazard mitigation. We will be using digital polling devices to get a sense of the Committee's position on the draft policy language.

REPORT

The Environmental Hazards Element will replace what was previously the "Safety Element" of the 2020 General Plan. "Environmental Hazards" more accurately communicates the focus of the Element, which is protection of life and property from environmental hazards such as wildfire, flooding, and earthquakes. The Element does not deal with topics such as crime, law enforcement, or traffic collisions, which are commonly regarded as "safety" issues.

The General Plan Steering Committee discussed environmental hazards policies at its December 2018 meeting. The City's Emergency Services Coordinator delivered a presentation and discussed the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which was adopted in November 2017. State law requires that the General Plan integrate the LHMP; this is typically done by adopting the LHMP by reference and summarizing its key policy recommendations in the Environmental Hazards Element.

At the December 2018 meeting, the Steering Committee also reviewed an "audit" of the 2020 Safety Element, including staff's evaluation of each policy and program. An editable version of the audit was provided and Steering Committee members were asked to provide their own comments in the weeks following the meeting. Written comments were received from six Committee members.

While many of the policies in the existing 2020 Plan have received only minor edits, almost all have been renumbered/ reordered to align with the new goals outlined in this chapter. At Wednesday's meeting, we will check in with the Committee to determine if the format we've used for comparing existing to proposed policies is acceptable, or if other formats such as redlined (tracked changes) are needed.

As appropriate, the attached matrix includes “editor’s notes.” These notes are intended to provide additional context for a proposed policy, or information on follow up steps needed before the new Environmental Hazards Element is drafted. It should be noted that the Draft policies will be reviewed by the Fire Department and Emergency Services staff at the same time they are being reviewed by the Steering Committee. Thus, the next Draft of this document (September 2019), will incorporate edits from City (and potentially County) staff as well as edits from the Steering Committee. It is also possible that policies and actions may be added to this element to mitigate impacts identified in the General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

Our objectives for the April 10 meeting are:

- To highlight a few key policy issues that may require Committee discussion before the next version of this document is created; and
- To respond to any initial feedback, questions, or suggested changes from Committee members on the draft policies and actions.

As we have in the past, we will use the electronic polling devices to solicit Committee input.

To reiterate what was rolled out at the March meeting, the timeline/ process for Committee review and comment on this particular Element is as follows:

- December 2018: “Editable” Policy Audit provided to Steering Committee, showing staff’s assessment of existing Safety Element policies and actions, and inviting Committee members to comment
- April 2019: First Draft policies and actions provided for Committee review, incorporating recommended staff changes and Committee comments
- May 15, 2019: Committee comments on first Draft policies due (Comments from other City departments also will be solicited)
- September 2019: Second Draft of policies and actions to be provided for Committee review; discussion at September Steering Committee meeting
- October 15, 2019: Committee comments on second draft due
- January 2020: Admin Draft Environmental Hazards Element produced (along with other Elements of the full General Plan), including policies and actions incorporating Committee comments

[ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS POLICIES ARE CONTAINED IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT, LABELED “ATTACHMENT 4-A”, TO BE POSTED ON MONDAY APRIL 8]