



Planning Commission Staff Report

Date: July 27, 2005
Item 6.b.

SUBJECT: General Plan Update – Draft Public Safety Element

PURPOSE: Review and consider the Draft Public Safety Element;
provide direction to staff for any amendments prior to City
Council review

I. BACKGROUND

General Plans are required to include a Safety Element that addresses the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with seismic activity, ground shaking, landslides, tsunami, dam failure, and other similar risks. The 1996 General Plan Safety Element includes background information and goals, policies and programs related to geologic hazards, fire hazards, flooding, hazardous materials, aviation hazards, police services and emergency operations. The proposed revisions to the General Plan Safety Element (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2) are the result of review of the 1996 element by Fire, Police, Public Works, Building, and Planning Department staff.

Following preliminary review of the Safety Element background material and Goals, Policies and Programs by the Planning Commission and City Council the Draft will be supplemented by tables, maps, and diagrams.

II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 1996 SAFETY ELEMENT

The Draft Safety Element (Attachment 1) uses strikeout and underline to show changes to the 1996 text. In summary, the proposed changes to the background text include:

- General editing, updating and reorganization of background material from the 1996 General Plan.
- Additions to the Seismic/Earthquake Setting section that discuss earthquake probabilities, which is a more current method of estimating earthquake risk.
- More detailed information on landslides and liquefaction.
- A description of Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts which are new since the 1996 General Plan.

- Updates to the section on Fire Hazards related to data now available through the Association of Bay Area Governments; updates related to the consolidation of the Livermore and Pleasanton Fire Departments in 1996; and updates related to a change in the description of response time for Fire personnel.
- Changes to the Flood section to reflect recent improvements to the area's flood channel improvements, and Zone 7's Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP) currently underway. A section on Dam Failure Inundation related to Lake Del Valle has also been added.
- The Hazardous Materials background section has been rewritten to include information about the risks associated with hazardous materials transported by railroads and surrounding freeways. The section also now includes additional detail regarding the regulation of hazardous materials and the Alameda County Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
- The Aviation Hazards background section has been rewritten to include information about Livermore's recent draft Airport Master Plan update, and recent legislation relating to the "airport influence area". The reference to a heliport in Hacienda Business Park was deleted because the heliport site has now been developed.
- The Emergency Operations section was updated to reflect current requirements and the City's Emergency Management Plan.

The following changes were made to the Goals, Policies and Programs in the Draft Public Safety Element:

- Program 6.6 was added, addressing the City's current policy for the use of Geological Hazard Abatement Districts (GHADs). This replaces the existing Program 7.4.
- Policy 9 addressing the annexation of unincorporated pockets was eliminated, because there appears to be little interest from the residents for incorporation.
- Policy 10 was amended to reflect the current Fire response standard. Program 10.3 was amended to address the changing needs for Fire services and facilities, rather than new Fire Station needs.
- Policy 13 and associated programs related to new development beyond the five-minute travel time and in the wildland-urban interface area were rewritten to reflect current standards.
- New Program 15.5 addresses the City's Community Rating System classification.
- New policies and programs in the Hazardous Materials section addressing the transportation of hazardous materials, the review of projects involving hazardous materials, and the generation and disposal of hazardous materials.
- New policies and programs related to the City's current approach to disaster planning.

Revisions to the Police Services section of the Public Safety Element are currently being reviewed by the Police Department. Additional information will be provided to the Planning Commission at the meeting on July 27, 2005.

New maps and diagrams are being prepared by the City's Geographic Information System Department. These maps and diagrams will incorporate the latest data available from the Association of Bay Area Governments, the U.S. Geological Survey, the California Department of Forestry, and other agencies. Following this preliminary review by the Planning Commission and the City Council and the incorporation of maps and diagrams, the Draft Public Safety Element will be circulated to the Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology and Office of Emergency Services for review and consultation, as required by State law.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Review and consider the Draft Public Safety Element (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2); provide direction to staff for any amendments prior to City Council review.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Public Safety Element (underline and strikeout)
2. Draft Public Safety Element (clean copy)

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