

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

## Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



June 2020

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## Purpose and Background

Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3).)

The safety element is required to include:

- Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
- Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
- The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.
- The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(A).)

Based on that information, the safety element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B).) To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the safety element, which include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
- Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in the SRA or VHFHSZ.
- Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(C).)

The safety element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the city or county that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(D).) This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

There are several reference documents developed by state agencies to assist local jurisdictions in updating their safety elements to include wildfire safety. The Fire Hazard Planning, General Plan Technical Advice Series from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), referenced in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and available at

1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 322-2318

The Technical Advice Series is also available from the OPR website ([Technical Advice Series link](#)).<sup>\*</sup> The Technical Advice Series provides policy guidance, information resources, and fire hazard planning examples from around California that shall be considered by local jurisdictions when reviewing the safety element of its general plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) utilizes this Safety Element Assessment in the Board's review of safety elements under Government Code section 65302.5. At least 90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of their safety element, counties that contain SRAs and cities or counties that contain VHFHSZs shall submit their safety element to the Board. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b).) The Board shall review the safety element and respond to the city or county with its findings regarding the uses of land and policies in SRAs or VHFHSZs that will protect life, property, and natural resources from

unreasonable risks associated with wildfires, and the methods and strategies for wildfire risk reduction and prevention within SRAs or VHFHSZs. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3).)

The CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team provides expert fire protection assistance to local jurisdictions statewide. Fire captains are available to work with cities and counties to revise their safety elements and enhance their strategic fire protection planning.

## **Methodology for Review and Recommendations**

Utilizing staff from the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team, the Board has established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes

- 1) reviewing the safety element for the requirements in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3)(A),
- 2) examining the safety element for goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk in the planning area (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B) & (C)), and
- 3) making recommendations for methods and strategies that would reduce the risk of wildfires (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3)(B)).

The safety element will be evaluated against the attached Assessment, which contains questions to determine if a safety element meets the fire safety planning requirements outlined in Government Code, section 65302. The reviewer will answer whether or not a submitted safety element addresses the required information, and will recommend changes to the safety element that will reduce the wildfire risk in the planning area. These recommended changes may come from the list of sample goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that is included in this document after the Assessment, or may be based on the reviewer's knowledge of the jurisdiction in question and their specific wildfire risk. By answering the questions in the Assessment, the reviewer will determine if the jurisdiction's safety element has adequately addressed and mitigated their wildfire risk. If it hasn't, any specific recommendations from the reviewer will assist the jurisdiction in revising the safety element so that it does.

Once completed, the Assessment should provide clear guidance to a city or county regarding any areas of deficiency in the safety element as well as specific goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures the Board recommends adopting in order to mitigate or reduce the wildfire threat in the planning area.

## General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Jurisdiction: La Canada Flintridge	Notes: Formal	CAL FIRE Unit: BDU	Date Received:
County: La County	LUPP Reviewer: Redden	UNIT CONTACT: Ron Janssen	Date Reviewed: 08/24/2021

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUMMARY

The safety element must contain specific background information about fire hazards in each jurisdiction.

*Instructions for this table: Indicate whether the safety element includes the specified information. If YES, indicate in the comments where that information can be found; if NO, provide recommendations to the jurisdiction regarding how best to include that information in their revised safety element.*

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified? <i>CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps</i>	Yes	Figure SE-6-Neighborhoods with a Single Point of Access City of La Cañada Flintridge also encompasses the VHFHSZs for the city of La Canada Flintridge.
Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included?	Yes	Section 5.3.3-Wildfire (Pg. 5-9) speaks to the historical wildfires and their total acres burned.
Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified?	Yes	Figure SE-6 shows that the entire City is in the VHFHSZ, and Figures SE-6 and SE-7 shows the location of the roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	Section 5.3.6.2, (Pg. 5-15) Local and Regional Level states that the La Canada Flintridge is part of a Disaster Management Area through a Joint Powers Agreement with Los Angeles County. It is part of Disaster Management Area C that includes 10 cities: La Cañada Flintridge, Monterey Park, Alhambra, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, and the County of Los Angeles. The goal of this program is to coordinate in planning for preparedness, mitigation, and recovery from emergencies or disasters.

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element?	Yes	City of La Cañada Flintridge Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies natural and human-made hazards to the community; determines likely impacts from those hazards; assesses risk and vulnerability; sets mitigation goals; and provides action items, including ideas for implementation, identification of the coordinating organization, and a proposed timeline.
Are residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	5.3.3-Wildfire (Pg. 5-10) identifies the neighborhood with a single point of access and egress. Figure SE-6-Neighborhoods with a Single Point of Access City of La Cañada Flintridge. Figure SE-6
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	Yes	SE Policy 3.1.4: Evaluate the City's roadways regarding access, alignments, two routes for egress, etc., to facilitate fire, police, and ambulance access and resident egress in case of an emergency. Identify streets and key intersections that, due to pavement width, hairpin turns, and tight curves, if not cleared of vehicles, may interfere with emergency vehicle access and/or resident evacuation during a fire. (Pg. 5-29) SE Policy 3.1.5: When red flag alerts are issued, warning that weather conditions support extreme fire danger, prohibit parking on one or both sides of a street identified as having the potential to interfere with emergency vehicle access and/or resident evacuation during a fire. (Pg. 5-29)

Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs?
City of La Cañada Flintridge Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

## GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND FEASIBLE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

The safety element must contain a set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the above information to protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire and implementation measures to accomplish those stated goals, policies, and objectives.

*Instructions for this table: Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction's unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction's fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.*

Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land		
Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) ( <b>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</b> ) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) ( <b>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</b> ) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.10: Ensure that all new development and redevelopment will comply with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations, and the most current version of the Building Codes and California Fire Code. (Pg. 5-27)
Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.10: Ensure that all new development and redevelopment will comply with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations, and the most current version of the Building Codes and California Fire Code. (Pg. 5-27) SE Policy 1.4.17: Prohibit the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) and prohibit the conversion of existing spaces to ADUs and JADUs in the twelve neighborhoods identified in Figure SE-6. (Pg. 5-27)
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.10: Ensure that all new development and redevelopment will comply with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations, and the most current version of the Building Codes and California Fire Code. (Pg. 5-27)

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	No	This is not feasible because the entire city is in the VHFHSZ.
Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.1: Ensure that the City's building permit process requires LACoFD approval for any new construction and requires all new development, including new structures, to prepare fire protection plans, mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire standards, and provides an adequate level of fire protection to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community for present and future needs. "New structure" shall generally be defined as a structure built where no analogous structure exists or the cumulative expansion, alteration or removal of more than fifty percent (50%) of the floor area of a structure located within a residential zone over the course of 5 years. (Pg. 5-26)
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.11: Coordinate with the LACoFD to condition all new development and redevelopment to incorporate fire safe design, including sufficient ingress/egress, evacuation routes, emergency vehicle access, defensible space, visible home addressing and signage, and fuel modification zones. (Pg. 5-27)
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.11: Coordinate with the LACoFD to condition all new development and redevelopment to incorporate fire safe design, including sufficient ingress/egress, evacuation routes, emergency vehicle access, defensible space, visible home addressing and signage, and fuel modification zones. (Pg. 5-27)
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.1: Ensure that the City's building permit process requires LACoFD approval for any new construction and requires all new development, including new structures, to prepare fire protection plans, mitigate existing non-conforming



Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		development to contemporary fire standards, and provides an adequate level of fire protection to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community for present and future needs. "New structure" shall generally be defined as a structure built where no analogous structure exists or the cumulative expansion, alteration, or removal of more than fifty percent (50%) of the floor area of a structure located within a residential zone over the course of 5 years. (Pg. 5-26)
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.22 Work with Federal, State and local authorities to create 100' wide fuel modification zones/fire breaks with appropriate plantings to slow the spread of wildfire, reduce its strength, deflect heat and help protect homes from direct flames, (Pg. 5-28) SE Policy 1.4.6 Continue to enforce the brush clearance/weed abatement program and include both private and public roads. (Pg. 5-27)
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	No	The City is built-out. New development will happen mostly with redevelopment of existing properties. We have already proposed to prohibit ADUs, JADUs, and the expansion of existing space for ADUs or JADUs in identified areas without adequate access and identified them on a map. See SE Policies 1.4.17; and 1.4.18.
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	Yes	Revised SE Policy 1.4.14: Develop a city-wide evacuation plan, with special emphasis placed on the twelve areas of the City with inadequate access and egress identified on Figure SE-6, including an Evacuation Traffic Management Plan, and recommended improvements to ensure adequate evacuation capabilities. Evacuation plans should be evaluated and revised upon each update of the Safety Element to address changes in at-risk areas and populations to ensure effectiveness. (Pg. 5-27)

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
<p>If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>SE Policy 1.4.18: To facilitate evacuation and fire responder access, evaluate the potential for street widening and improvement during regular Capital Improvement project maintenance, e.g., utility undergrounding, resurfacing, and ADA compliance. (Pg.5-27)</p> <p>5.3.3-Wildfire (Pg. 5-10) identifies the neighborhood with a single point of access and egress.</p> <p>Figure SE-6-Neighborhoods with a Single Point of Access City of La Cañada Flintridge.</p>
<p>Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>SE Policy 1.4.12: Provide training opportunities for residents for fuel modification methods, practices, and materials.</p> <p>Vulnerable populations are identified in Table SE-2. The LHMP covers training opportunities and activities and is described and incorporated by reference up front in the Safety Element in Section 5.1.</p> <p>The LHMP contains a Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Strategy, WFH-STA 2: Educate the public on wildfire, providing brochures, public service announcements, with information on the hazard. Note: STA stands for Short-term Action (1-3 years)</p> <p>SE Policy 3.1.10: Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural and human-made hazards, and to assist the public in being prepared for emergencies or disasters. Include information specifically related to wildfire, including defensible space and the City's Evacuation Traffic Management Plan. Involve all sectors of the community, including the real estate and insurance industries, schools, public and private sector organizations, the business community,</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		residents and especially the at-risk groups in the City. (Page 5-30)
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.20: Work with Foothill Water District (water wholesaler) and the four water agencies (water retailers) operating in the City, including La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities, Valley Water Company and Crescenta Valley Water District to identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods. Water supply infrastructure is the responsibility of the four water agencies, as no municipal-type water supply is available. Water systems shall equal or exceed the standards of the latest edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire-Fighting." (Pg. 5-27)
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.1: Ensure that the City's building permit process requires LACoFD approval for any new construction and requires all new development, including new structures, to prepare fire protection plans, mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire standards, and provides an adequate level of fire protection to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community for present and future needs. "New structure" shall generally be defined as a structure built where no analogous structure exists or the cumulative expansion, alteration, or removal of more than fifty percent (50%) of the floor area of a structure located within a residential zone over the course of 5 years. (Pg. 5-26)

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations

**Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.**

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Water supply and fire flow?		SE Policy 1.4.20: Work with Foothill Water District (water wholesaler) and the four water agencies (water retailers) operating in the City, including La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities, Valley Water Company and Crescenta Valley Water District to identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods. Water supply infrastructure is the responsibility of the four water agencies, as no municipal-type water supply is available. Water systems shall equal or exceed the standards of the latest edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire-Fighting." (Pg. 5-27)
Location of anticipated water supply?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.20: Work with Foothill Water District (water wholesaler) and the four water agencies (water retailers) operating in the City, including La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities, Valley Water Company and Crescenta Valley Water District to identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods. Water supply infrastructure is the

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		responsibility of the four water agencies, as no municipal-type water supply is available. Water systems shall equal or exceed the standards of the latest edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire-Fighting." (Pg. 5-27)
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.20: Work with Foothill Water District (water wholesaler) and the four water agencies (water retailers) operating in the City, including La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities, Valley Water Company and Crescenta Valley Water District to identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods. Water supply infrastructure is the responsibility of the four water agencies, as no municipal-type water supply is available. Water systems shall equal or exceed the standards of the latest edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire-Fighting." (Pg. 5-27)
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.11: Coordinate with the LACoFD to condition all new development and redevelopment to incorporate fire safe design, including sufficient ingress/egress, evacuation routes, emergency vehicle access, defensible space, visible home addressing and signage, and fuel modification zones. (Pg. 5-27)
Fuel modification and defensible space?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.11: Coordinate with the LACoFD to condition all new development and redevelopment to incorporate fire safe design, including sufficient ingress/egress, evacuation routes, emergency

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>vehicle access, defensible space, visible home addressing and signage, and fuel modification zones. (Pg. 5-27)</p> <p>SE Policy 1.4.18: To facilitate evacuation and fire responder access, evaluate the potential for street widening and improvement during regular Capital Improvement project maintenance, e.g., utility undergrounding, resurfacing, and ADA compliance. (Pg. 5-27)</p> <p>SE Policy 1.4.22: Work with Federal, State and local authorities to create 100' wide fuel modification zones/fire breaks with appropriate plantings to slow the spread of wildfire, reduce its strength, deflect heat and help protect homes from direct flames. (Pg. 5-28)</p>
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.6: Continue to enforce the brush clearance/weed abatement program and include both private and public roads. (Pg. 5-26)
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.11: Coordinate with the LACoFD to condition all new development and redevelopment to incorporate fire safe design, including sufficient ingress/egress, evacuation routes, emergency vehicle access, defensible space, visible home addressing and signage, and fuel modification zones. (Pg. 5-27)
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.22: Work with Federal, State and local authorities to create 100' wide fuel modification zones/fire breaks with appropriate plantings to slow the spread of wildfire, reduce its strength, deflect heat and help protect homes from direct flames. (Pg. 5-28)

**Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.**

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Yes	Figure SE-7 shows the location of existing emergency service facilities. There are no areas lacking service.
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	Yes	SE Policy 1.4.1: Ensure that the City's building permit process requires LACoFD approval for any new construction and requires all new development, including new structures, to prepare fire protection plans, mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire standards, and provides an adequate level of fire protection to provide reasonable security of persons and property throughout the community for present and future needs. "New structure" shall generally be defined as a structure built where no analogous structure exists or the cumulative expansion, alteration, or removal of more than fifty percent (50%) of the floor area of a structure located within a residential zone over the course of 5 years. (Pg. 5-26)
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	Yes	SE Policies 3.1.8 Continue to participate in Disaster Management Area C through a Joint Powers Agreement with Los Angeles County. (Pg. 5-30) SE Policy 3.1.9 Maintain compliance with the federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the State Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). (Pg. 5-30)
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	Yes	SE Policy 3.1.16: Maintain participation in local, regional, state, and national mutual aid systems to ensure that appropriate resources are available for response and recovery during and following a disaster. (Pg. 5-30)

## Sample Safety Element Recommendations

These are examples of specific policies, objectives, or implementation measures that may be used to meet the intent of Government Code sections 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and 65302.5, subdivision (b). Safety element reviewers may make recommendations that are not included here.

### A. MAPS, PLANS AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Include or reference CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps or locally adopted wildfire hazard zones.
2. Include or reference the location of historical information on wildfires in the planning area.
3. Include a map or description of the location of existing and planned land uses in SRAs and VHFHSZs, particularly habitable structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
4. Identify or reference a fire plan that is relevant to the geographic scope of the general plan, including the Unit/Contract County Fire Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
5. Align the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for fire hazard mitigation in the safety element with those in existing fire plans, or make plans to update fire plans to match the safety element.
6. Create a fire plan for the planning area.

### B. LAND USE

1. Develop fire safe development codes to use as standards for fire protection for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs that meet or exceed the statewide minimums in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
2. Adopt and have certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection local ordinances which meet or exceed the minimum statewide standards in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
3. Identify existing development that do not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances.
4. Develop mitigation measures for existing development that does not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances or identify a policy to do so.

### C. FUEL MODIFICATION

1. Develop a policy to communicate vegetation clearance requirements to seasonal, absent, or vacation rental owners.
2. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation clearance on public and private roads.
3. Include fuel breaks in the layout/siting of subdivisions.
4. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of existing or proposed fuel breaks.
5. Identify and/or map existing development that does not conform to current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
6. Identify plans and actions for existing non-conforming development to be improved or mitigated to meet current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance.



## D. ACCESS

1. Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps in SRAs or VHFHSZs is conditional based on meeting the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access. (See Gov. Code, § 66474.02.)
2. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with an adequate road network and associated infrastructure.
3. Identify multi-family housing, group homes, or other community housing in SRAs or VHFHSZs and develop a policy to create evacuation or shelter in place plans.
4. Include a policy to develop pre-plans for fire risk areas that address civilian evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans.
5. Identify road networks in SRAs or VHFHSZs that do not meet title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00) or certified local ordinance and develop a policy to examine possible mitigations.

## E. FIRE PROTECTION

1. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with adequate water supply infrastructure.
2. Plan for the ongoing maintenance and long-term integrity of planned and existing water supply infrastructure.
3. Map existing emergency service facilities and note any areas lacking service, especially in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
4. Project future emergency service needs for the planned land uses.
5. Include information about emergency service trainings or standards and plans to meet or maintain them.
6. Include information about inter-agency preparedness coordination or mutual aid agreements.

## **Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan**

When updating the General Plan, here are some ways to incorporate fire hazard planning into other elements. Wildfire safety is best accomplished by holistic, strategic fire planning that takes advantage of opportunities to align priorities and implementation measures within and across plans.

### **LAND USE ELEMENT**

Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development or limit development in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Disclose wildland urban-interface hazards, including fire hazard severity zones, and/or other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or local fire agency.

Design and locate new development to provide adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allow citizen egress during emergencies.

Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other fire safe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organization.

### **HOUSING ELEMENT**

Incorporation of current fire safe building codes.

Identify and mitigate substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Consider diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection (group housing, seasonal populations, transit-dependent, etc).

### **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS**

Identify critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Include resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.

Integrate open space into fire safety planning and effectiveness.

Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.

### **CIRCULATION ELEMENT**

Provide adequate access to very high fire hazard severity zones.

Develop standards for evacuation of residential areas in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel reduction maintenance program along roadways.