General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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La Habra 2023

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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](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf)).\*

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 stafffrom 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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: City of La Habra | Notes: FINAL REVIEW | CAL FIRE Unit: ORC | Date Received: 06/28//2023 |
| County: Orange | LUPP Reviewer: J Kennedy | UNIT CONTACT: | Date Reviewed: 07/20/2023 |

## 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?  *CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps* | YES | **SE Figure 7-4, p. 7-12**. *Fire Hazard Severity Zones, La Habra, CA* |
| 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 | **SE pg. 7-8, *Fire Hazards***. “Table 3.11 in the HMP, “Southern California Historical Fires (2001–2016),”  **Orange County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** pg. 33 figure 8. ***Historic Wildfires in Orange County*** |
| 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 | **SE Figure 7-1, p. 7-2. *Critical and Community Facilities***  **SE Figure 7-4, p. 7-12**. ***Fire Hazard Severity Zones, La Habra, CA***  **SE Figure 7-5, p. 7-13**. ***Land Use in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*** |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | YES | **SE pg. 7-8, *Fire Hazards***. The primary firefighting agency for La Habra is the Los Angeles County Fire Department; other agencies responsible for fire protection and emergency response in La Habra are listed in the HMP Table H-3a, Planning and Regulatory Capabilities Summary. |
| 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 | **SE pg. 7-1 *Community Safety*.** To address the requirements of the Govt. Code, the City has prepared its own content and incorporated content from other agencies’ documents addressing community safety. These documents include the 2020 California Adaptation Planning Guide (APG), the City of La Habra Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), the 2021 Orange County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021 OCLHMP), and the 2019 Orange County Water and Wastewater Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019 MJHMP). The current City of La Habra Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by FEMA, is hereby incorporated into this Community Safety Element by reference. The current HMP can be found on the City’s website: <https://lahabraca.gov/1370/General-Plan-Documents>. |
| Are residential developments in fire hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified? | YES | **SE Figure 7-8, pg. 7-28. *Evacuation-Constrained Residential Parcels*** |
| Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified? | YES | **SE Figure 7-9, p. 7-29. *Potential Evacuation Routes*** |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
| --- |
| “N/A” If there is additional relevant info in the SE not captured in the assessment - “Yes” AND cite what it is and where to find it (Policy/program/figure/section title, p.#) |

## 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) (**SRA Fire Safe Regulations**) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (**Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations**) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.10, pg.7-10.** *P****reemptive Review.*** Anticipate risks to redevelopments in the city’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and other fire-prone areas. Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and to enforce the California Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction and Buildings and Structures Regulations, as applicable.”  **SE Policy NH 2.12, pg. 7-10. *Fire Hazards Response Support***. Support measures that help firefighting crews and emergency response teams respond to fire hazards or work under low-visibility conditions, such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).”  **SE Policy NH 2.13, pg. 7-10.** ***Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment.*** Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).” |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.15, pg. 7-11.** ***Development in Fire-Prone Areas.*** Minimize residential development in areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, as shown in Figure 7-4, *Fire Hazard Severity Zones: La Habra, CA.*” |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.1, pg. 7-9.*****Urban-Wildland Interface*.** Locate, design, and construct development within or adjacent to areas subject to high wildland fire risks, such as La Habra’s hillsides, to standards that reduce exposure and potential impacts. Consider alternative development sites outside of the wildland-urban interface, as appropriate.”  **SE Policy NH 2.3, pg. 7-9.** ***Fuel Modification and Vegetation Management Review.*** Continue to support the City’s fire service provider’s review of new development to ensure development complies with fuel modification requirements, creation of defensible space, and habitat restoration by replacing invasive and fire-susceptible plants with indigenous species, thus reducing baseline fire risk in the city’s very high fire hazard severity zone, wildland-urban interface, and elsewhere as applicable.”  **SE Policy NH 2.8, pg. 7-10.*****Fire Protection Plans*.** Support efforts by the Los Angeles County Fire Department to protect development, including significant redevelopments of existing structures, in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in La Habra through adoption of project-specific fire protection plans or other appropriate strategies. Such efforts may include standards for adequate roadways and accessibility, firefighting infrastructure, signage, vegetation management, construction materials, emergency evacuation route standards with sufficient ingress/egress access, fire-adapted and indigenous plantings, and other necessary elements to comply with state requirements.”  **SE Policy NH 2.10, pg.7-10.** ***Preemptive Review*.** Anticipate risks to redevelopments in the city’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and other fire-prone areas. Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and to enforce the California Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction and Buildings and Structures Regulations, as applicable.” |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | YES | **SE Policy EP 1.7, pg.7-31**.***Essential Public Facilities/Post Disaster Response and Recovery*.** Require that essential public facilities such as hospitals, fire and police stations, and emergency command centers be located outside of potential hazard areas, including fire and flood hazard zones, and plan for the continued function of these facilities to facilitate post disaster response and recovery.” |
| 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 NH 2.16, pg.7-11**. ***Existing Non-Conforming Development.*** Coordinate with the City’s fire service provider to evaluate development that does not meet fire safe road and vegetation standards and ensure that road standards and vegetation management is created and maintained.” |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.11, pg.7-10.*****Post-disaster Review*.** Following major wildfire events, reevaluate development standards for wildfire risk areas and apply stricter standards as needed to maintain high levels of wildfire protection.” |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.3, pg. 7-9.** ***Fuel Modification and Vegetation Management Review*.** Continue to support the City’s fire service provider’s review of new development to ensure development complies with fuel modification requirements, creation of defensible space, and habitat restoration by replacing invasive and fire-susceptible plants with indigenous species, thus reducing baseline fire risk in the city’s very high fire hazard severity zone, wildland-urban interface, and elsewhere as applicable.” |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.8, pg. 7-10**. ***Fire Protection Plans*.** Support efforts by the Los Angeles County Fire Department to protect development, including significant redevelopments of existing structures, in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in La Habra through adoption of project-specific fire protection plans or other appropriate strategies. Such efforts may include standards for adequate roadways and accessibility, firefighting infrastructure, signage, vegetation management, construction materials, emergency evacuation route standards with sufficient ingress/egress access, fire-adapted and indigenous plantings, and other necessary elements to comply with state requirements.” |
| 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 NH 2.7, pg. 7-9.** ***Long-Term Maintenance.*** Provide for the long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects and activities, such as fuel clearing and vegetation management, with the City administering these activities on public lands and working with fire protection agencies and landowners to ensure maintenance of privately held parcels.” |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.13 pg. 7-10.** ***Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment.***Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).”  **SE Policy EP 1.5 pg. 7-31.** ***Emergency Site Access*.** Require that roads, driveways, and other clearances around structures are located and designed to ensure emergency access.”  **SE Policy EP 1.14 pg. 7-32**. ***Adequate Egress*.** All new residential developments of at least 10 units shall have a minimum of two points of emergency ingress and egress.”  **SE Policy EP 1.15 pg. 7-32**. ***Adequate Access.*** Ensure that emergency vehicles and personnel can access all developed areas in the city in a timely manner.” |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | YES | **SE Policy EP 1.5 pg. 7-31.** ***Emergency Site Access.*** Require that roads, driveways, and other clearances around structures are located and designed to ensure emergency access.”  **SE Policy EP 1.12 pg. 7-31**.***Evacuation Route Planning.*** Coordinate with City and regional transit providers to identify alternative routes and stops if normal infrastructure is damaged or closed as a result of extreme events, avoiding areas with existing evacuation constraints.”  **SE Policy EP 1.14 pg. 7-32.** ***Adequate Egress*.** All new residential developments of at least 10 units shall have a minimum of two points of emergency ingress and egress.”  **SE Policy EP 1.15 pg. 7-32**. ***Adequate Access.*** Ensure that emergency vehicles and personnel can access all developed areas in the city in a timely manner.” |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | YES | **SE Figure 7-8, pg. 7-28. *Evacuation-Constrained Residential Parcels***  **SE Policy EP 1.3 pg. 7-30.** ***Comprehensive Evacuation Plan*.** Participate in regional planning efforts to develop a comprehensive evacuation plan that identifies evacuation strategies, evacuation routes, and evacuation locations and their safety, capacity, and viability under multiple hazards scenarios; identify the resources needed to maintain them and for the safe and orderly evacuation of affected areas of the city; provide emergency shelters for the population, including access and functional needs residents, pets, and other animals.”  **SE Policy EP 1.19 pg. 7-32**. ***Evacuation-Constrained Parcels.***Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure 7-6, *Evacuation-Constrained Residential Parcels*, for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.” |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.5 pg. 7-9. *Wildland Fire Education.*** Educate the public on wildland fire prevention techniques such as site design, landscaping, and defensible space vegetation management practices to minimize potential wildland fire hazards.”  **SE Policy EP 1.9 pg. 7-31.** ***Public Education and Awareness*.** Support emergency response and disaster preparedness public education and awareness to empower residents and businesses to prepare for an emergency or disaster. Provide education and preparedness materials in multiple formats and languages consistent with the demographics of City residents.” |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.9 pg. 7-10.** ***Water Supply Planning*.** Coordinate with local water utility providers to ensure an adequate supply of water for fire suppression efforts in the city and undertake planning efforts to acquire and maintain a sufficient water supply if supply for current and/or future needs does not exist.”  **SE Policy NH 2.14 pg. 7-10. *Long-Term Water Supply*.** Coordinate with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.” |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.4 pg. 7-9.** ***Wildland Fire Coordination.*** Work with the City’s fire service provider and surrounding jurisdictions that are subject to wildfires that may impact La Habra to coordinate vegetation management strategies and wildfire hazard protection and prevention services.”  **SE Policy NH 2.8 pg. 7-10.** ***Fire Protection Plans.*** Support efforts by the Los Angeles County Fire Department to protect development, including significant redevelopments of existing structures, in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in La Habra through adoption of project-specific fire protection plans or other appropriate strategies. Such efforts may include standards for adequate roadways and accessibility, firefighting infrastructure, signage, vegetation management, construction materials, emergency evacuation route standards with sufficient ingress/egress access, fire-adapted and indigenous plantings, and other necessary elements to comply with state requirements.”  **SE Policy NH 2.10 pg. 7-10.** ***Preemptive Review.***Anticipate risks to redevelopments in the city’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and other fire-prone areas. Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and to enforce the California Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction and Buildings and Structures Regulations, as applicable.”  **SE Policy EP 1.4 pg. 7-30**.***Adequate Emergency Services*.** Coordinate with fire and police service, emergency medical aid providers, water utilities, and other support services that include first response to disasters and emergencies, including hazardous materials spills, to plan for existing and projected future emergency and first-responder needs based on changing demographics, development patterns, and other factors that may affect future service demands.” |

### 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? | YES | **SE pg. 7-8**, “The HMP includes mapping that shows wildfire risks in the city, including: Figure 1, “Fire Hazard and City of La Habra Potable Water Infrastructure,” and Figure 2, “Fire Hazard and City of La Habra Wastewater Infrastructure.””  **SE Policy NH 2.9 pg. 7-10.** ***Water Supply Planning*.** Coordinate with local water utility providers to ensure an adequate supply of water for fire suppression efforts in the city and undertake planning efforts to acquire and maintain a sufficient water supply if supply for current and/or future needs does not exist.”  **SE Policy NH 2.14 pg. 7-10*. Long-Term Water Supply*.** Coordinate with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.”  **SE pg. 7-19, *Drought Hazards.*** Virtually all of La Habra’s water comes from local groundwater supplies or other groundwater basins in Los Angeles or Orange Counties, although approximately 1 percent of water is imported from distant sources. The high reliance on groundwater supplies makes La Habra more resilient to drought than communities that depend on surface water, although long-term and persistent decreases in local precipitation will eventually affect local groundwater as well.” |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.9 pg. 7-10.** ***Water Supply Planning*.** Coordinate with local water utility providers to ensure an adequate supply of water for fire suppression efforts in the city and undertake planning efforts to acquire and maintain a sufficient water supply if supply for current and/or future needs does not exist.”  **SE Policy NH 2.10 pg. 7-10**. ***Preemptive Review*.** Anticipate risks to redevelopments in the city’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and other fire-prone areas. Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and to enforce the California Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction and Buildings and Structures Regulations, as applicable.”  **SE Policy NH 2.14 pg. 7-10.** ***Long-Term Water Supply.***Coordinate with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.”  **SE pg. 7-19, *Drought Hazards.*** Virtually all of La Habra’s water comes from local groundwater supplies or other groundwater basins in Los Angeles or Orange Counties, although approximately 1 percent of water is imported from distant sources. The high reliance on groundwater supplies makes La Habra more resilient to drought than communities that depend on surface water, although long-term and persistent decreases in local precipitation will eventually affect local groundwater as well.” |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.14 pg. 7-10. *Long-Term Water Supply.*** Coordinate with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.”  **SE Policy NH 4.1 pg. 7-19.** ***Long-Term Planning.*** Use the latest climate change data to understand the changing situation of localized and statewide drought on La Habra.”  **SE Policy NH 4.2 pg. 7-19.*****Improved Water Resilience*.** Transition to less water-intensive operations and practices at the City government as well as private properties within the city.” |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.8 pg. 7-10.** ***Fire Protection Plans.*** Support efforts by the Los Angeles County Fire Department to protect development, including significant redevelopments of existing structures, in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in La Habra through adoption of project-specific fire protection plans or other appropriate strategies. Such efforts may include standards for adequate roadways and accessibility, firefighting infrastructure, signage, vegetation management, construction materials, emergency evacuation route standards with sufficient ingress/egress access, fire-adapted and indigenous plantings, and other necessary elements to comply with state requirements.”  **SE Policy NH 2.13 pg. 7-10.** ***Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment.***Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).”  **SE Policy EP 1.3 pg. 7-30. *Comprehensive Evacuation Plan*.** Participate in regional planning efforts to develop a comprehensive evacuation plan that identifies evacuation strategies, evacuation routes, and evacuation locations and their safety, capacity, and viability under multiple hazards scenarios; identify the resources needed to maintain them and for the safe and orderly evacuation of affected areas of the city; provide emergency shelters for the population, including access and functional needs residents, pets, and other animals.”  **SE Policy EP 1.5 pg. 7-31.** ***Emergency Site Access*.** Require that roads, driveways, and other clearances around structures are located and designed to ensure emergency access.”  **SE Policy EP 1.14 pg. 7-32**. ***Adequate Egress.*** All new residential developments of at least 10 units shall have a minimum of two points of emergency ingress and egress.”  **SE Policy EP 1.15 pg. 7-32**.***Adequate Access*.** Ensure that emergency vehicles and personnel can access all developed areas in the city in a timely manner.”  **SE Policy EP 1.19 pg. 7-32**. ***Evacuation-Constrained Parcels.*** Explore secondary means of ingress and egress in areas with evacuation constraints, as shown in Figure 7-6, *Evacuation-Constrained Residential Parcels*, for existing subdivisions or developments of 10 units or more.” |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.3, pg. 7-9*.******Fuel Modification and Vegetation Management Review.*** Continue to support the City’s fire service provider’s review of new development to ensure development complies with fuel modification requirements, creation of defensible space, and habitat restoration by replacing invasive and fire-susceptible plants with indigenous species, thus reducing baseline fire risk in the city’s very high fire hazard severity zone, wildland-urban interface, and elsewhere as applicable.”  **SE Policy NH 2.4, pg. 7-9. *Wildland Fire Coordination*.** Work with the City’s fire service provider and surrounding jurisdictions that are subject to wildfires that may impact La Habra to coordinate vegetation management strategies and wildfire hazard protection and prevention services.”  **SE Policy NH 2.7, pg. 7-9*.******Long-Term Maintenance.*** Provide for the long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects and activities, such as fuel clearing and vegetation management, with the City administering these activities on public lands and working with fire protection agencies and landowners to ensure maintenance of privately held parcels.”  **SE Policy NH 2.10, pg. 7-10.*****Preemptive Review.*** Anticipate risks to redevelopments in the city’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and other fire-prone areas. Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and to enforce the California Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction and Buildings and Structures Regulations, as applicable.” |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.7, pg. 7-9.** ***Long-Term Maintenance*.** Provide for the long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects and activities, such as fuel clearing and vegetation management, with the City administering these activities on public lands and working with fire protection agencies and landowners to ensure maintenance of privately held parcels.”  **SE Policy EP 1.5, pg. 7-31**. ***Emergency Site Access.*** Require that roads, driveways, and other clearances around structures are located and designed to ensure emergency access.” |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.12, pg. 7-10.** ***Fire Hazards Response Support***. Support measures that help firefighting crews and emergency response teams respond to fire hazards or work under low-visibility conditions, such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).” |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.7, pg. 7-9*.******Long-Term Maintenance.*** Provide for the long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects and activities, such as fuel clearing and vegetation management, with the City administering these activities on public lands and working with fire protection agencies and landowners to ensure maintenance of privately held parcels.” |

### Section 3Working 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 | **SE Figure 7-1, p. 7-2. *Critical and Community Facilities***  **SE pg. 7-8, *Fire Hazards*.** “Figure 7-4 shows the locations in La Habra that are at risk from fire hazards—the city’s southern section between Westridge Golf Club and the city limits as well as some areas outside the city in Brea, La Habra Heights, and unincorporated Orange County. As shown on Figure 7-5, primary land uses in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in La Habra include low density residential, parks and flood channels, and public facilities. The Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone stops at the northern border of the City primarily due to vegetation and topography. The area within the City is more urban or suburban and has less vegetation and wildlands. The 2020 HMP includes mapping that shows wildfire risks in the city, including Figure 1, “Fire Hazard and City of La Habra Potable Water Infrastructure,” and Figure 2, “Fire Hazard and City of La Habra Wastewater Infrastructure.””  **SE Figure 7-4, p. 7-12. *Fire Hazard Severity Zones, La Habra, CA***  **SE Figure 7-5, p. 7-13, *Land Uses in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*** |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.4, pg. 7-9. *Wildland Fire Coordination*.** Work with the City’s fire service provider and surrounding jurisdictions that are subject to wildfires that may impact La Habra to coordinate vegetation management strategies and wildfire hazard protection and prevention services.”  **SE Policy EP 1.4, pg. 7-30**. ***Adequate Emergency Services.*** Coordinate with fire and police service, emergency medical aid providers, water utilities, and other support services that include first response to disasters and emergencies, including hazardous materials spills, to plan for existing and projected future emergency and first-responder needs based on changing demographics, development patterns, and other factors that may affect future service demands.”  **SE Policy EP 1.11, pg. 7-31.** ***Emergency Resources Planning*.** Assess current and projected future emergency resources needs to account for changes in population and development patterns.” |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | YES | **SE Policy EP 1.8, pg. 7-31.** ***Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Exercises*.** Conduct periodic emergency and disaster preparedness exercises with Orange County, surrounding jurisdictions, and applicable agencies to test and improve response to emergencies.”  **SE Policy EP 1.9, pg. 7-31.** ***Public Education and Awareness*.** Support emergency response and disaster preparedness public education and awareness to empower residents and businesses to prepare for an emergency or disaster. Provide education and preparedness materials in multiple formats and languages consistent with the demographics of City residents.” |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | YES | **SE Policy NH 2.4, pg. 7-9.** ***Wildland Fire Coordination*.** Work with the City’s fire service provider and surrounding jurisdictions that are subject to wildfires that may impact La Habra to coordinate vegetation management strategies and wildfire hazard protection and prevention services.”  **SE Policy NH 2.9, pg. 7-10.*****Water Supply Planning.***Coordinate with local water utility providers to ensure an adequate supply of water for fire suppression efforts in the city and undertake planning efforts to acquire and maintain a sufficient water supply if supply for current and/or future needs does not exist.”  **SE Policy NH 2.14, pg. 7-10.** ***Long-Term Water Supply*.** Coordinate with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.”  **SE Policy EP 1.2, pg. 7-30.** ***Emergency Management Systems*.** Maintain and implement compliance standards and protocol provisions for emergency response organization, communication, and incident management to retain eligibility for federal and state grant and recovery funds, including the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and California’s Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).”  **SE Policy EP 1.4, pg. 7-30.** ***Adequate Emergency Services.*** Coordinate with fire and police service, emergency medical aid providers, water utilities, and other support services that include first response to disasters and emergencies, including hazardous materials spills, to plan for existing and projected future emergency and first-responder needs based on changing demographics, development patterns, and other factors that may affect future service demands.”  **SE Policy EP 1.6, pg. 7-31**.***Automatic and Mutual Aid*.** Continue to participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements between nearby local cities and county agencies to ensure adequate resources, facilities, and other support services during and after disasters and emergencies.” |

# 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.