

Safety Element Update

Scope of Work

Scope

The list below identifies the areas that need to be reviewed and revised. And, the steps that need to be taken to strengthen and further bolstered the County's Safety Element and ensure that it is in compliance with both the Stipulated Settlement Agreement and Government Code:

1. Areas vulnerable to wildfires will be more explicitly defined.

- **Areas vulnerable to wildfires will be more explicitly defined New Figure 10-6.**

(1) Prepare a standalone Figure 10-6 (Areas vulnerable to wildfires) by mapping the overlap between Figures 10-1 (Flood Hazards and Faults) 10-2 (Fire Threat) (or any updated versions of these Figures. Additionally, the County should determine whether there are any other relevant factors for this analysis, such as slope stability (Figure 10-4 ["Landslide Susceptibility Classes"])

(2) Provide any historical information (if any) regarding areas incurring flooding problems after a wildfire.

(3) General location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, i.e. (Facilities housing or serving many people, that are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities"). Include detailed subset maps, Figures 10-6 A-Z of Three Rivers UDB, Springville UDB, Mountain Service Centers, Great Western Divide North Half, and Kennedy Meadows. Assessor's data base could identify existing land uses or use aerial map.

2. Areas for groundwater recharge will be more explicitly defined.

- **New Figure 10-7 Groundwater Recharge Areas.**

(1) This may include identification of any existing or proposed stormwater retention and detention basins.

(2) Identify "Major Recharge Areas," rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge, and stormwater management and retention feasibility areas.

(3) Integrate data into the Existing Conditions section of the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10), by providing a brief overview of the Major River and their tributaries (Kings, Kaweah, Tule, White, and smaller creeks as appropriate. Include a discussion existing and proposed storm drain detention and retention basins, and references to the General Plan Figures displaying the County's rivers and minor streams.

3. New FEMA maps will be incorporated into the General Plan flood figures.

- **Figure 10-1 (Flood Hazards and Faults) and Figure 10-3 (Designated Floodways).**

(1) Incorporate new FEMA Maps from December 18, 2012 into the General Plan flood figures, Figure 10-1 (Flood Hazards and Faults) and Figure 10-3 (Designated Floodways), and incorporate weblinks to this flooding information on the County's Resource Management Agency website (including indexing this information as "Flood hazard information" to the existing website that has been previously prepared:

<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/public-works/flood-hazard-information/>

4. The Flood Control Master plan will be reviewed for consistency with any proposed changes to the Safety Element policies.

- **Language in amendment indicating consistency.**

(1) Policies are not contained in the FCMP. There are several sections in the FCMP that could be evaluated from a programmatic perspective:

A) Section III Flood Control Concepts, Flood Plain Management and Waterway Capacity Protection (Pg. 48).

B) Section V Developing Specific Programs (Pgs. 53-57)

5. Policy HS-6.5 will be cross-referenced to codes or regulations that will provide minimum road widths and standards.

- **Language in amendment.**

(1) Bolster Policy HS-1.4 by providing a cross reference to relevant portions of the Fire Code, County Code, or other applicable regulations. Include Fire Code, County Code, or other applicable regulations that provide minimum road widths and standards. The Fire Code contains building regulations related to road width and fire safety (See California Fire Code, Chapter 5 ("Fire Service Features" ["The requirements of this chapter apply to all buildings and occupancies and pertain to access roads..."]); see also Fire Code Appendix D ("Fire Apparatus Access Roads")). Incorporate or cross reference existing regulations/implementation measures for providing safe access for emergency response vehicles, HS-1.9 Emergency Access, etc.

6. The following new informational requirements will be added related to Fire Safety:

- **Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Integrate Figure 10-2 (Fire Threat) (map).**

(1) Integrate Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection into Figure 10-2 (Fire Threat) or determine if a new map is required.

- **Historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found (data from Charlie Norman).**

(1) Integrate data from Tulare County Fire, Cal Fire, OES, etc. Determine whether Narrative and/or mapping is the best avenue to present the data. Integrate data into Figure 10-2 (Fire Threat) or determine if a new map is required.

- **Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey (narrative, table or maps).**

(1) Integrate data from United States Geological Survey (narrative, table or maps). Determine whether Narrative and/or mapping is the best avenue to present the data. Integrate data into Figure 10-2 (Fire Threat) or determine if a new map is required.

- **General location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities (maps).**

(1) Integrate data into Figure 10-2 (Fire Threat) or determine if a new map is required.

- **Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services (narrative, or table).**

(1) Integrate data into the Existing Conditions section of the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10). Determine whether a (narrative, or table) is the best avenue to present the data.

- **Adopt an implementation measure for the creation of "visible street signs" in state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zones, or cross-reference an existing regulation that fulfills this requirement.**

(1) Consider modifying Health and Safety Element Policy HS-1.12 (Addressing) and update Health and Safety Implementation Measure #7 of the Health and Safety Element Part I(Chapter 10) to add visibility standards for street signs in state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone, or cross-reference an existing regulation that fulfills this requirement.

7. Additional Government Code Considerations:

- **Liquefaction (California Government Code 65302 (g) (1))**

(1) Add discussion from the General Plan Background Report. “No specific countywide assessments to identify liquefaction hazards have been performed in Tulare County. Areas where groundwater is less than 30 feet below the surface occur primarily in the San Joaquin Valley portion of the County. However, soil types in the area are not conducive to liquefaction because they are either too coarse or too high in clay content. Areas subject to 0.3g acceleration or greater are located in a small section of the Sierra Nevada Mountains along the Tulare-Inyo County boundary. However, the depth to groundwater in such areas is greater than in the valley, which would minimize liquefaction potential as well. Detailed geotechnical engineering investigations would be necessary to more accurately evaluate liquefaction potential in specific areas and to identify and map the areal extent of locations subject to liquefaction.”

- **Incorporate by Reference the County Multi-Hazard local hazard mitigation plan (California Government Code 65302 (g) (4))**

(1) Add language or a policy in the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10), indicating that the County has developed and adopted a Multi-jurisdiction

Hazard Mitigation Plan (Adopted in 2012) in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Include that the plan provides guidance and insight into the hazards that exist in Tulare County and suggests possible mitigation projects, and that the plan should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general safety of Tulare County Residents. Include in the adopting resolution that the Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan is adopted into the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10) to make the County eligible for hazard mitigation grants under AB 2140.

○ **Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (California Government Code 65302 (g) (4))**

Upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan, adopted in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), on or after January 1, 2017, or, if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. This review shall consider advice provided in the Office of Planning and Research's General Plan Guidelines. This analysis may be included in the County's update to the Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan scheduled for adoption in late 2012 or early 2013. If the County adopts the Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Health and Safety Element by reference, the California Government Code 65302 (g) (4) requirement may be satisfied. A meeting should be scheduled ASAP to determine if this is a feasible approach.

○ **Incorporate New Information (California Government Code 65302 (g) (4) (D) (5))**

After the initial revision of the safety element pursuant to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) upon each revision of the housing element, the planning agency shall review and, if necessary, revise the safety element to identify new information that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element. The following agencies should be contacted regarding any new information that has been made available since the adoption of the GPU in 2012, OPR, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, California Geological Survey, Department of Conservation, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the Office of Emergency Services. New information from CARB, SJVAPCD, the Cal-Adapt tool, and California Adaptation Planning Guide should be reviewed for current information regarding Climate Change.

8. Additional Considerations:

○ **Incorporate by Reference the Recharge Basin Consultation Process.**

(1) Add language or a policy in the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10), indicating that the County has developed and adopted a process for use in the review of development projects requiring County of Tulare discretionary land use entitlements to identify any impacts on potential groundwater recharge areas.

- **Incorporate by Reference the Policy Regarding Development in Flood Prone Areas.**

(1) Add language or a policy in the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10), indicating that the County has established a policy for use in the review of development projects to be located in particular flood prone areas and requiring County of Tulare discretionary land use entitlements.

- **Policy to Allow Increased Public Participation in Selecting Flood Control Projects**

(1) Add language or a policy in the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 10), indicating that the County has recommended to the Tulare County Flood Control Commission regarding adoption of a public notice policy to allow increased public participation in its process to select proposed flood control projects for referral to the Board of Supervisors.

- **Work Plan/Implementation Measures**

(1) Review and revise as appropriate the Work Plan/Implementation Measures in the Health and Safety Element Part I (Chapter 1) to implement the goals and policies.

8. Supplemental EIR:

Preparing a Supplemental EIR (SEIR) requires all the features and process that preparing a full “regular” EIR requires. However, the benefit of the SEIR is that it addresses potential impacts specific to the project (in this case, an update to the Safety Element) to ensure that the comprehensive Final EIR certified by the Board in August 2012 for the update to the Tulare County General Plan remains adequate and valid.

Likely resources that may be impacted by update to Safety Element:

- Agriculture
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Air Quality
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Biology
- Noise
- Cultural
- Public Services
- Geology and Soils
- Transportation/Traffic
- Greenhouse Gases
- Utilities and Service Systems

We do not anticipate or envision the need for preparation of supporting technical studies as the Safety Element is generally a plan update. We will be relying on existing information to the extent it is available (e.g., high risk fire hazard area information compiled by CalFire for SRAs).

As future projects are identified to implement the Safety Element, separate and individual environmental analysis will be undertaken as appropriate. Also, as some future projects may require permits from other Agencies, those permits will be acquired via the respective Agencies' processes.

Schedule

- July 5, 2016 - Scope and Schedule to Sierra Club, and on website
- July 6, 2016 – Submit GPI Agenda Item
- July 7, 2016 – Scope and schedule to Sierra Club , and on Website
- July 11, 2016 – Notice of Preparation
- July 19, 2016 – Board of Supervisors approval of Scope of Work and GPI
- July 21, 2016 – Scoping Meeting
- August 15, 2016 – Draft SEIR (45-day review)
- October 12, 2016 – Notice Sierra Club
- October 26, 2016 – Planning Commission approval of GPA
- November 1, 2016 – Notify Sierra Club
- November 15, 2016 – Board of Supervisors adoption of GPA

Additional Notes:

Source Documents:

- Settlement Agreement
- California Government Code
- Tulare County General Plan
- Tulare County General Plan EIR
- IRWM Studies

Consulting Agencies (Federal, State & Regional):

- Forest Service (Federal and State)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. National Parks Service (NPS)
- Tulare County Parks
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Flood Control Commission
- Tree Mortality Task Force
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- California Department of Water resources (DWR)
- Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)
- Office of Emergency Services (OES)