

Attachment D

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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| IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING THAT THE |) | RESOLUTION NO. 10-_____ |
| BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDER AND |) | |
| PROVIDE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE |) | Case No: 10GPA-00000-00001 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF |) | |
| FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION REGARDING |) | |
| THE COUNTY'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO |) | |
| IT'S SEISMIC SAFETY AND SAFETY ELEMENT |) | |

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. On December 20, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-566, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the County of Santa Barbara, including the Seismic Safety and Safety Element.
- B. In January 2010, specified draft amendments were prepared for the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the County's Comprehensive General Plan and were circulated to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and other local fire protection agencies for a period of 60 days as required by California Government Code Section 65302.
- C. On March 3, 2010, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection provided a set of recommendations regarding the County's proposed amendments to the Seismic Safety and Safety Element.
- D. In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 65302, the Board of Supervisors has considered the recommendations of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as stated in its correspondence dated March 3, 2010 and provides a written response to said recommendations as included in Exhibit A of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

- 1. The above recitations are true and correct.
- 2. The Chair, the Clerk of the Board and Planning and Development Department staff are hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to reflect the above described action by the Board.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS A. MARSHALL
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

ATTEST:

Michael F. Brown
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Exhibit A Santa Barbara County's Written Response to BOF Recommendations

Exhibit A - County Response to Board of Forestry and Fire Comments

| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | | County Implementation |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1.0 Wildfire Protection Planning | | |
| 1.1 General Plan References and Incorporates County or Unit Fire Plan | | |
| Recommendation 1.1a: Identify, reference, or create a fire plan for the geographic scope of the General Plan. General Plan should incorporate the general concepts and standards from any county fire plan, fire protection agency (federal or state) fire plan, and local hazard mitigation plan. | Fully Implemented. The <i>Fire Hazard and Fire Services</i> section of the County's Safety Element has been updated to include current historical fire statistics and summarizations of the County's efforts to reduce fire hazards. Additionally, as part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt the local Hazard Mitigation Plan as an addendum to the Safety Element. | |
| Recommendation 1.1b: Ensure fire plans incorporated by reference into the GP contain evaluations of fire hazards, assessment of assets at risk, prioritization of hazard mitigation actions, and implementations and monitoring components. | Fully Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as an addendum to the Safety Element. The HMP includes an evaluation of fire hazards, assessment of assets at risk, and a prioritization of hazard mitigation actions. | |
| 2.0 Land Use Planning | | |
| 2.1 Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development. | | |
| Recommendation 2.1a: Establish goals and policies for specific ordinances addressing evacuation and emergency vehicle access; water supplies and fire flow; fuel modification for defensible space; and home addressing and signing. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes the establishment of Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes the proposed <i>Fire Implementation Measures 5, 8, and 15</i> . These implementation measures ensure the continued application of the County's existing ordinances which assist in the mitigation of wildfire hazards. Specifically, the County has adopted development standards which address emergency water supplies, emergency vehicle access, and defensible space within <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i> . | |
| Recommendation 2.1b: Develop fire safe development codes used as standards for fire protection for new development in State Responsibility Area (SRA) within the entity's jurisdiction that meet or exceed statewide standards in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes the establishment of Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes the proposed <i>Fire Implementation Measure 5</i> , which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas. | |
| Recommendation 2.1c: Adopt, and have certified by the BOF, local fire safe ordinances which meet or exceed standards in 14 CCR 1270 for State Responsibility Area. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes the establishment of Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes the proposed <i>Fire Implementation Measure 5</i> , which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas. | |
| 2.2 Disclosure of wildland urban interface hazards including Fire Hazard Severity Zones and designations and Communities at Risk designations. | | |
| Recommendation 2.2a: Specify whether the entity has a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) designation pursuant to Government Code Section 51175 and include a map of the zones that clearly indicates any area designated VHFHSZ. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes a discussion of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones which are located within the County. The proposed update to the Safety Element update does not directly incorporate a map of these areas within the Element. Instead, new narrative directs the reader to the appropriate County offices where copies of these maps may be referenced. This action is intended to ensure that interested parties can always access the most up-to-date VHFHSZ maps available. Placing such maps in the County's Safety Element could potentially result in the public or interested parties accessing out-of-date maps, as the State updates the VHFHSZ maps independent of the County's General Plan maintenance process. | |

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| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | County Implementation |
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| Recommendation 2.2b: Adopt CAL FIRE recommended Fire Hazard Severity Zones including model ordinances developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for establishing VHFHSZ areas. | Previously Implemented. The County participated in CAL FIRE's most recent update of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the region. The County locally adopted these Fire Hazard Severity Zones as part of <i>County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations</i> . Therefore no further action in the context of the Safety Element update is necessary. |
| Recommendation 2.2c: Identify and disclose information on communities listed as "Communities at Risk". | Partially Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update, the County will adopt its local Hazard Mitigation Plan as an addendum to the Safety Element. The County's HMP includes the identification of assets, including specific communities/structures, which have an elevated level of exposure to wildland fires. However, the County has chosen not to identify officially recognized "Communities at Risk" within its Safety Element. Instead, community specific wildland fire hazards will be continue to be addressed through the community planning process. For instance, the Mission Canyon Community Plan update includes the discussion and analysis of fire hazards which are unique to that community. |

3.0 Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods

3.1 Incorporation of fire safe building codes.
Recommendation 3.1a: Adopt building codes for new development in State Responsibility Areas or incorporated areas with VHFHSZ that are established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Title 19 and Title 24 CCR, referred to as the "Wildland Urban Interface Building Codes".
Previously Implemented. The County has already adopted a set of fire resistive building requirements apply to development which is located within High Fire Hazard Areas. The proposed Safety Element update includes *Fire Prevention Implementation Measure 5*, which ensures the continued application of these aforementioned building requirements. No further action is warranted at this time.

3.2 Identification and actions for substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard area.

Recommendation 3.2a: Identify and map existing housing structures that do not conform to contemporary fire standards in terms of building materials, perimeter access, and vegetative hazards in VHFHSZ or SRA by fire hazard zone designation.
Not Implemented. The County has considered this recommendation but cannot implement this action as part of the proposed project. Due to the County's large geographic area and substantial building stock, the County lacks the staff and resources to comprehensively survey all existing structures for conformance with contemporary fire standards. Instead, the County will continue to assess the condition of the building stock and its corresponding vulnerability to fire hazards on a community specific basis as part of the community planning process. Additionally, the County's Building and Safety division will continue to require the improvement of existing structures with fire resistive materials as applications for the renovation of such structures are received.

Recommendation 3.2b: Identify plans and actions to improve substandard housing structures and neighborhoods. Plans and actions should include structural rehabilitation, occupancy reduction, demolition, reconstruction, neighborhood –wide fuels hazard reduction projects, community education, and other community based solutions.
Previously Implemented. The County, in accordance with its own administrative practice and pursuant to State housing law, provides plans and actions for the improvement of substandard housing stock via the Housing Element update process. The County is currently updating its Housing Element for the 2009-14 planning period. This new Housing Element will contain programs which address the need for improving the County's existing housing stock.

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| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | County Implementation |
|---|---|
| <p>Recommendation 3.2c: Identify plans and actions for existing residential structures and neighborhoods, and particularly substandard residential structures and neighborhoods, to be improved to meet current fire safe ordinances pertaining to access, water flow, signing, and vegetation clearing.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. The County, in accordance with its own administrative practice and pursuant to State Housing law, provides plans and actions for the improvement of substandard housing stock via the Housing Element update process. The County is currently updating its Housing Element for the 2009-14 planning period. This new Housing Element will contain programs which address the need for improving the County's existing housing stock.</p> |
| <p>3.3 Consideration of occupancy category effects on wildfire protection.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.3a: Ensure risks to uniquely occupied structures, such as seasonally occupied homes, multiple dwelling structures, or other structures with unique occupancy characteristics, are considered for appropriate and unique wildfire protection needs.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. The County already reviews proposed development applications for site specific fire hazards as part of the Building Permit Plancheck process and Subdivision Review Committee. No further action as part of the proposed Safety Element update is warranted.</p> |
| <p>3.4 Fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.4a: Ensure new development proposals contain specific fire protection plans, actions, and codes for fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ. Examples include codes requiring automatic sprinklers in VHFHSZ.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. The County already reviews proposed development applications for site specific fire hazards as part of the Building Permit Plancheck process and Subdivision Review Committee. During this development review process, the County Fire Department applies fire hazard development standards which include but are not limited to the provision of automatic sprinkler systems.</p> |
| <p>4.0 Conservation and Open Space</p> | |
| <p>4.1 Identification of critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard areas.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.1a: Identify critical natural resources and other "open space" values within the geographic scope of the GP. Determine maximum acceptable wildfire size, fire prevention plans, emergency response plans and initial attack suppression success rates for protection of these areas and values.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. The County has identified critical natural resources and dedicated open space within its Conservation and Land Use Elements. Detailed information regarding fire prevention and emergency response plans are provided as part of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p> |
| <p>4.2 Inclusion of resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.2a: Develop plans and action for vegetation management that provides fire damage mitigation and protection of open space values. Plans should address protection of natural resource financial values, establishment of fire resilient natural resources, protection of watershed qualities, and protection of endangered species habitats. Actions should consider prescribed burning, fuel breaks, vegetation thinning and removal.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. While the proposed Safety Element update does include additional narrative regarding the importance of vegetation management as a common fire prevention technique, the County's Fire Department develops and implements these management plans as an ongoing administrative practice. Each plan is developed with unique considerations regarding recent weather and precipitation patterns, available County resources, and partnerships with other agencies and private property owners. The County will continue to apply vegetation management practices via departmental operations rather than subordinate such a process within the Safety Element.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 4.2b: Establish goals and policies for reducing the wildland fire hazards within the entity's boundaries and on adjacent private wildlands, federal lands, vacant residential lots, and greenbelts with fire hazards that threaten the entity's jurisdiction.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update process the County has established a comprehensive set of Fire Protection and Prevention Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. Specifically, the proposed Element includes ten <i>Fire Prevention Policies</i> and fifteen <i>Fire Prevention Implementation Measures</i> which assist County and other regional agencies in their attempts to mitigate existing wildland fire hazards.</p> |

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| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | County Implementation |
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| <p>4.3 Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.3a: Establish goals and policies that address unique pest, disease, exotic species, and other forest health issues in open space areas for purposes of reducing fire hazard and supporting ecological integrity.</p> | <p>Previously Implemented. At this time, the County has not experienced the development of increased fire hazards due to exotic species and pests or plant diseases. If the County experiences the development of such hazards, new policies and procedures would be developed at that time. The issues of forest health and related fire hazards within the Los Padres National Forest fall within the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. In response to pest issues within the unincorporated open space areas, the County Agriculture Commissioner's office implements a Pest Detection and Exclusion Program which monitors the movement of produce and other organic material which may introduce invasive pests into the region.</p> |
| <p>4.4 Integration of open space into fire safety effectiveness.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.4a: Establish goals and policies for incorporating systematic fire protection improvements for open space. Specifics policies should address facilitation of safe fire suppression tactics, standards for adequate access for firefighting, fire mitigation planning with agencies/private landowners managing open space adjacent to the GP area, water sources for fire suppression, and other fire prevention and suppression needs.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update process the County has established a comprehensive set of Fire Protection and Prevention Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. Specifically, the proposed Element includes ten <i>Fire Prevention Policies</i> and fifteen <i>Fire Prevention Implementation Measures</i> which assist County and other regional agencies in their attempts to mitigate existing wildland fire hazards.</p> |
| <p>4.5 Urban forestry plans relative to fire protection.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.5a: Ensure residential areas have appropriate fire resistant landscapes and discontinuous vegetation adjacent to open space or wildland areas.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes Fire Prevention Policies 5 and 9, which require the County to protect development from wildland fires through the application of the development review process and the County's existing defensible space requirements which are located in <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i>.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 4.5b: Evaluate and resolve existing laws and local ordinances which conflict with fire protection requirements. Examples include conflicts with vegetation hazard reduction ordinances and listed species habitat protection requirements.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. The County has proposed the current Safety Element update to establish compliance with Assembly Bill 162 and Government Code Sections 65302. Upon successful adoption of this update the County's Safety Element will be compliant with applicable State laws and local ordinances.</p> |
| 5.0 Circulation and Access | |
| <p>5.1 Adequacy of existing and future transportation system to incorporate fire infrastructure elements.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.1a: Establish goals and policies for proposed and existing transportation systems to facilitate fire infrastructure elements such as turnouts, helispots, and safety zones.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes <i>Fire Prevention Policies 1 and 9</i>, which require the County to ensure the provision of adequate emergency access through the application of the development review process and the County's existing emergency access requirements which are located in <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i>.</p> |
| <p>5.2 Adequate access to high hazard wildland/open space areas.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.2a: Establish goals and policies for high or very high fire hazard zones adequate access that meets or exceeds standards in 14 CCR 1270 for lands with no structures, and maintain conditions of access in a suitable fashion for suppression access or public evacuation.</p> | <p>Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes <i>Fire Prevention Policy 3</i>, which requires the County to ensure the provision of adequate emergency access for high fire hazard zones through the application of the development review process and the County's existing emergency access requirements which are located in <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i>.</p> |

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| <p>5.3 Standards for evacuation of residential areas in high hazard areas.</p> <p>Recommendation 5.3a: Goals and policies should be established to delineate residential evacuation routes and evacuation plans in high or very high fire hazard residential areas.</p> | <p><i>Previously Implemented.</i> The proposed Safety Element includes additional narrative regarding the importance and implementation of emergency evacuation routes. However, the County will continue to establish evacuation routes in accordance with the conditions of each unique emergency. Furthermore, in the rare cases when evacuation routes can be established prior to an emergency occurring such routes are established as part of the community planning process. For instance, the Mission Canyon Community Plan update includes discussion and analysis of possible emergency evacuation routes to be used during wildfires.</p> |
| <p>6.0 Defensible Space</p> | |
| <p>6.1 Geographic specific fire risk reduction mitigation measures using fuel modification.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.1a: Include policies and recommendations that incorporate fire safe buffers and greenbelts as part of the development planning. Ensure that land uses designated near high or very fire hazard severity zones are compatible with wildland fire protection strategies/capabilities.</p> | <p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> The proposed Safety Element update includes <i>Fire Prevention Policies 5 and 9</i>, which require the County to protect development from wildland fires through the application of the development review process and the County's existing defensible space requirements which are located in <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i>.</p> |
| <p>6.2 Fuel Modification around homes.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.2a: Establish ordinances in SRA or VHFHSZ for vegetation fire hazard reduction around structures that meet or exceed the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Defensible Space Guidelines for SRA.</p> | <p><i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has already adopted an ordinance, specifically <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i>, which establishes defensible space requirements for development within high fire hazard areas.</p> |
| <p>6.3 Fire suppression defense zones.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.3a: Establish goals and policies that create wildfire defense zones for emergency services including fuel breaks, back fire areas, or other staging areas that support safe fire suppression activities.</p> | <p><i>Partially Implemented.</i> The County Fire Department is currently developing Wildland Preplans that will produce maps identifying potential staging areas and potential safety zones throughout the County. The unpredictable nature of wildfires precludes the County from creating permanent wildfire defense zones. Instead, the County will utilize the Wildland Preplans, in addition to current wildfire procedures, in a manner which is reactive to individual emergencies.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 6.3b: Establish goals and policies that identify structures (or other critical/valuable assets) that have adequate fuel modification or other fire safe features that provide adequate fire fighter safety when tactics call for protection of a specific asset (i.e. which houses are safe to protect).</p> | <p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> As part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as an addendum to the Safety Element. The County's existing HMP includes and evaluation of existing County assets and their potential exposure to wildland fire hazards. Additionally, the HMP includes a set of Goals, Objectives, and Actions which can be taken to reduce the hazards to which these critical assets are exposed.</p> |

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| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | 7.0 Emergency Services | County Implementation |
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| 7.1 Map/description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking services. | Recommendation 7.1a: Include descriptions of emergency services including available equipment, personnel, and maps of facilities. | Previously Implemented. The Safety Element does not currently and, pursuant to the proposed update, will not provide significant detail regarding available emergency equipment, personnel, and location of facilities. The County has chosen not to include such information within the Safety Element as the availability and location of such resources is highly variable based on budget and operational considerations. Instead, the County's emergency service departments (i.e. Fire, Sheriff, etc.) will continue to provide such information via their individual departmental websites or upon request via their public information officers. These websites can be more readily updated with current information than the County's General Plan. By providing information about the availability of emergency personnel and equipment within a medium that can be readily updated on day to day basis, such as department websites and County press releases, the County would reduce the risk of the public receiving out-dated resource information. |
| Recommendation 7.1b: Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment. | | Previously Implemented. The Safety Element does not currently and, pursuant to the proposed update, will not include studies and/or analyses of appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs for emergency response activities. The establishment of appropriate staffing and equipment needs shall continue to be developed by individual departments and presented to the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis as a part of the County's budget process. Individual department directors shall continue to notify the Board of potential service deficiencies if their budget needs cannot be satisfied. |
| 7.2 Assessment and projection of future emergency service needs. | Recommendation 7.2a: Ensure new development includes appropriate facilities, equipment, personnel and capacity to assist and support wildfire suppression emergency service needs. Future emergency service needs should be: 1) Established consistent with state or national standards. 2) Developed based on criteria for determining suppression resource allocation that includes elements such as identified values and assets at risk, ignition density, vegetation type and condition, as well as local weather and topography. 3) Local Agency Formation municipal services reviews for evaluating level of service, response times, equipments condition levels and other relevant emergency service information. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes <i>Fire Prevention Policies 1, 4, and 9</i> , which require the County to ensure the provision of adequate emergency services and facilities through the application of the development review process and the County's existing fire prevention requirements which are located in <i>County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention</i> . Additionally, the adoption of the County's local Hazard Mitigation Plan as an addendum to the Safety Element will provide evaluation of assets at risk and related information. |
| 7.3 Adequacy of training. | Recommendation 7.3a: Establish goals and policies for emergency service training that meets or exceeds state or national standards. | Previously Implemented. The County has considered this recommendation and has chosen not to implement this action as part of the proposed Safety Element update. Instead, the County will continue to establish appropriate levels of emergency service training on a department operational level. These emergency service trainings shall meet or exceed state or national standards as required by applicable law. |

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| Recommendation from State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | County Implementation |
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| 7.4 Inter-fire service coordination preparedness/mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional fire service agreements. | |
| Recommendation 7.4a: Adopt the Standardized Emergency Management Systems for responding to large scale disasters requiring a multi-agency response. Ensure and review mutual aid/automatic aid and other cooperative agreements with adjoining emergency service providers. | <i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has already adopted the use of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). SEMS has already been utilized within the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to recent emergencies, including wildland fires. |
| 8.1 Reevaluate hazard conditions and provide for future fire safe conditions | |
| Recommendation 8.1a: Incorporate goals and policies that provide for reassessment of fire hazards following wildfire events. Adjust fire prevention and suppression needs commensurate for both short and long term fire protection needs. | <i>Fully Implemented.</i> As part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt Fire Prevention Policies 6 and 10 which require the County to participate in the revision of Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps and continue to utilize the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The update process of FHSZ maps will involve the reassessment of fire hazards, and the County typically updates its HMP every five years to reflect changing hazards. |
| 8.2 Burn Area Recovery Plans | |
| Recommendation 8.2a: Develop burn area recovery plans that incorporate strategic fire safe measures developed during the fire suppression, such as access roads, fire lines, safety zones, and fuelbreaks, and helispots. | <i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. |
| 8.3 Restore sustainable landscapes and restore functioning ecosystems. | |
| Recommendation 8.3a: Develop burn area recovery plans, evaluation processes, and implementation actions that encourage tree and biomass salvage, reforestation activities, create resilient and sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems. | <i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. The need for specific measures to address biological recovery will continue to be implemented through the application of the County's existing Conservation Element policies and Environmental Thresholds via the CEQA review process, where appropriate. |
| 8.4 Incorporate wildlife habitat/endangered species considerations | |
| Recommendation 8.4a: Establish goals and policies for consideration of wildlife habitat/endangered species into long term fire area recovery and protection plans, including environmental protection agreements such as natural community conservation plans. | <i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. The need for specific measures to address biological recovery will continue to be implemented through the application of the County's existing Conservation Element policies and Environmental Thresholds via the CEQA review process, where appropriate. |

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| 8.5 Native species reintroduction. Recommendation 8.5a: Incorporate native species habitat needs as part of long term fire protection and fire restoration plans. | Previously Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. The need for specific measures to address biological recovery will continue to be implemented through the application of the County's existing Conservation Element policies and Environmental Thresholds via the CEQA review process, where appropriate. |
| 8.6 Evaluation of redevelopment. Recommendation 8.6a: In High and Very hazardous areas, ensure redevelopment utilizes state of the art fire resistant building and development standards to improve past 'substandard' fire safe conditions. | Fully Implemented. The proposed Safety Element update includes the establishment of Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes the proposed <i>Fire Implementation Measure 5</i> , which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas which are contained within <i>County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations</i> . |
| 8.7 Long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction mitigation projects Recommendation 8.7a: Provide polices and goals for maintenance of the post-fire-recovery projects, activities, or infrastructure. | Partially Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. |
| 8.8 Post fire life and safety assessments Recommendation 8.8a: Develop frameworks for rapid post-fire assessment and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire. Recommendation 8.8b: Identify flood and landslide vulnerability areas related to post wildfire conditions. Recommendation 8.8c: Establish goals and policies that address the intersection of flood /landslide/post fire burn areas into long term public safety protection plans. These should include treatment assessment of fire related flood risk to life, methods to control storm runoff in burn areas, revegetation of burn areas, and drainage crossing debris maintenance. | Previously Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. Previously Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. Partially Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. |

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|--|---|
| Recommendation 8.8d: Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire. | Previously Implemented. The County has routinely developed post-fire recovery plans in response to local disasters. For instance, the recent Gap, Tea, and Jesuita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities. |
| 9.0 Terrorist and Homeland Security Impacts on Wildfire Protection | |
| 9.1 Communication channels during incidences. | |
| Recommendation 9.1a: Establish goals and policies consistent with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission of 2005 for communications and interoperability. Example goals and policies should address fire personnel capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands and update and expansion of current handheld and mobile radios used on major mutual aid incidents. | Partially Implemented. The County has made substantial efforts to increase interoperability of emergency communication equipment and procedures. For instance, the County already implements the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). One of the primary component of SEMS is to ensure the interoperability of communication equipment and procedures for the various emergency response departments. This process will continue to be implemented by the County's Office of Emergency Services, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. |
| 9.2 Emergency response barriers. | |
| Recommendation 9.2a: Identify goals and policies that address vital access routes that if removed would prevent fire fighter access (bridges, dams, etc.) Develop an alternative emergency access plan for these areas. | Partially Implemented. The proposed Safety Element includes additional narrative regarding the importance and implementation of emergency evacuation routes. However, the County will continue to establish evacuation routes in accordance with the conditions of each unique emergency. Furthermore, in the rare cases when evacuation routes can be established prior to an emergency occurring such routes are established as part of the community planning process. For instance, the Mission Canyon Community Plan update includes discussion and analysis of possible emergency evacuation routes to be used during wildfires. This process will continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis which reactive to the unique wildland fire event, rather than be subordinated to a set of countywide policies contained within the Safety Element. |
| 9.3 Prioritizing asset protection from fire with lack of suppression forces. | |
| Recommendation 9.3a: Identify and prioritize protection needs for assets at risk in the absence of response forces. | Fully Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as an addendum to the Safety Element. The County's existing HMP includes and evaluation of existing County assets and their potential exposure to wildland fire hazards. Additionally, the HMP includes a set of Goals, Objectives, and Actions which can be taken to reduce the hazards to which these critical assets are exposed. |
| Recommendation 9.3b: Establish fire defense strategies (such as fire ignition resistant areas) that provide adequate fire protection without dependency on air attack and could serve as survivor safety zones for the public or emergency support personnel. | Fully Implemented. As part of the proposed Safety Element update the County will adopt the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as an addendum to the Safety Element. The County's existing HMP includes and evaluation of existing County assets and their potential exposure to wildland fire hazards. Additionally, the HMP includes a set of Goals, Objectives, and Actions which can be taken to reduce the hazards to which these critical assets are exposed. |