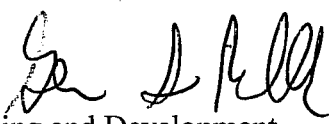




**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF LONG RANGE PLANNING  
MEMORANDUM**

Date: July 29, 2010

To: Board of Supervisors 

From: Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development

Subject: Seismic Safety and Safety Element, Land Use Element, and Conservation Element Update

This memo is in response to the Board's request on July 27, 2010, to provide a summary of the changes being proposed for the Seismic Safety and Safety, Land Use, and Conservation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Attached to this memo is a table that gives a brief summary of the various revisions being proposed, the purpose of the revisions, and the page numbers within each Element where the text can be found.

It is important to note that only small portions of each Element have been changed. The majority of the proposed changes are found in the Seismic Safety and Safety Element where a total of 71 pages of outdated material will be removed, and 56 pages of new information will be added. Modifications to the Land Use and Conservation Elements totaled a few paragraphs. On recommendation of the California Geological Survey, staff is proposing to attach the County's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), adopted by the Board in 2005, as an addendum to the Safety Element. While this addition roughly doubles the size of the document, it greatly enhances the usability and applicability of the Safety Element by placing much of the County's hazard and mitigation planning in a central location.

The Elements were submitted to the Board in a format that underlines the new text and place a strikeout line through deleted text. In this way the reader can compare the new sections to those they replace, however, it also adds to the overall length of the document, since deleted text is still included. The adopted version will include only final text.

The Planning Commission staff report, which was included as Attachment F to the July 27, 2010 Board Letter, includes more detail on the proposed changes.

If you have any further questions regarding this project, please contact Nathan Eady, Senior Planner, at 568-2019 or me at 568-2085.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Safety Element Update Summary Table

**CC:** Vicki Parker, Deputy Director of Long Range Planning  
Ed Yates, County Counsel  
Peter Imhof, Supervising Planner

**Seismic Safety and Safety Element**

<b>Revision Type</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Content Added	Added a new Conclusions and Recommendations section, as well as new Goals, Policies, and Implementation measures, to the Geologic and Seismic hazards chapter.	To establish compliance with State law, which requires all Safety Elements to have a cohesive set of hazard goals, policies, and actions. "On the ground" County programs will not be affected.	223-234
Content Deleted	Deleted outdated Conclusions and Recommendations Section with irrelevant maps and statistics	Section uses computer modeling techniques from the 1970s to establish severity categories and recommendations. Data is now outdated.	235-256
Content Added and Deleted	Added reference to newest Tsunami Inundation Maps, available from California Geological Survey. Deleted the embedded, outdated map.	To provide up-to-date information on tsunami inundation risk areas.	133-136
Content Added	Updated Fire Hazard section with new narrative and statistics. Added new section on Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures for fire protection.	Fire Hazard section was 30 years old and contained inaccurate and out-of-date information. New goals section was added to comply with requirements of State law.	257-278

Revision Type	Revision Summary	Purpose	Page Number
Content Deleted	Outdated fire statistics and hazard narrative were deleted.	Major portions of the Safety Element have not been updated since its original adoption in 1979. Therefore the Element contains outdated wildland fire statistical information and hazard analysis information which has been superseded by modern fire science principles. Thus, outdated information has been recommended for deletion.	279-294
Content Added	Updated Flood Control section with references to new FEMA Flood Insurance Maps. Added section on Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures for flood protection.	State law required this new information to be added. This law, AB 162, was the catalyst for the update.	295-318
Content Deleted	Outdated flood hazard maps and narrative were deleted.	As mentioned above, large portions of the Safety Element are out of date. This is true for the flood hazard section, and thus this information has been removed	319-351

**Land Use Element**

<b>Revision Type</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Content Added	Added information to the Flood Hazard Area Policies section relating to FEMA flood maps and County policies to protect development from flood hazards.	This information was added to the Land Use Element so it would maintain internal consistency with the Safety Element.	78-79

**Conservation Element**

<b>Revision Type</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Content Added	Added a County map that details areas which may accommodate groundwater recharge and stormwater management	This map was added because of a change in State law specifically requiring such a map be added to the Conservation Element	24-25
Content Revised	Revised a portion of the Conclusions and Recommendations section regarding mineral resource extraction.	This section was revised because the previous language limited County discretion to review and make decisions on mining projects on the basis of individual projects. This was only a recommendation that was never implemented, but nonetheless did not comport with CEQA law.	169