

ATTACHMENT D: 14GPA-00000-00017 RESOLUTION

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

IN THE MATTER OF PROVIDING A) **RESOLUTION NO. 14-_____**
WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE)
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE) **CASE NO. 14GPA-00000-00017**
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE)
PROTECTION REGARDING THE COUNTY'S)
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ITS SEISMIC)
SAFETY AND SAFETY ELEMENT)

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1979, by Resolution No. 79-43A, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Seismic Safety & Safety Element of the General Plan for the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1241, passed in 2012, requires counties to review and update the safety element with information regarding fire hazards and associated fire hazard severity zones inside their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, specified draft amendments were prepared for the Seismic and Safety Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan and were circulated to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and other local fire protection agencies as required by California Government Code §65302; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2014, 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; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of California Government Code §65302, the Board of Supervisors has considered the recommendations of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as stated in its correspondence dated November 7, 2014, and will provide a written response to said recommendations as included in Exhibit 1 of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit 1 of this resolution identifies State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recommendations implemented as part of proposed Seismic Safety and Safety Element amendments (14GPA-00000-00017); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of addressing fire safety and wildland-urban interface policy issues, and to address the additional State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recommendations in Exhibit 1, not included in 14GPA-00000-00017, be given the highest priority project in the Planning and Development Annual Work Program, and to be developed in a timely manner in collaboration with County Fire Department and CAL Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors approves sending the following letter included as Exhibit 1 to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in accordance with Government Code §65302.5 and authorizes the Chair, the Clerk of the Board, and Planning and Development Department staff to sign and certify all documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to reflect the above described action by the Board.
3. Pursuant to provisions of Government Code §65357(a), the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to send a copy of the documents amending the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan, including the diagrams and text, to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.
4. The Board of Supervisors finds that sending the proposed letter is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

JANET WOLF, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL

EXHIBITS:

1. County of Santa Barbara's Response Letter to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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EXHIBIT 1

February 3, 2015

Keith Gilles, Chair
State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: County of Santa Barbara Seismic Safety and Safety Element Update (Senate Bill 1241)

Mr. Gilles,

The County of Santa Barbara is in the process of updating its Seismic Safety and Safety Element (Safety Element) to comply with Senate Bill 1241. As part of this update process, the County sought review and comment from the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), pursuant to Government Code §65302.5. The County provided its proposed Safety Element amendments to the BOF for review as contained in correspondence dated September 11th, 2014. On November 7th, 2014, the BOF responded with a list of recommendations, ranging from clarifying inconsistent and outdated references, to implementing policies to better reduce wildfire risk.

Updates to the Safety Element are currently tied to the County's update of the Housing Element, which is due to the State Department of Housing and Community Development by February 15th, 2015. Due to time and resource constraints, the County does not have the ability to incorporate all the recommendations provided by the BOF. However, the County is committed to and has incorporated all feasible changes, such as updating outdated references, fixing inconsistencies with the Santa Barbara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, and incorporating supporting maps for the planning areas.

The BOF's broader policy recommendations will be carried forward as a project and incorporated into a future Planning and Development Department Work Plan and be addressed prior to the next Housing Element update cycle. These policies will address ways in which development in Santa Barbara County will recognize and respond to the wildfire risk in a given project area, as well as opportunities to reduce risk to existing nonconforming structures and developments or vulnerable populations. The Planning and Development Department will work in tandem with the County Fire Department, as well as CAL FIRE, to ensure that the Safety Element meets the requirements and intent of Senate Bill 1241.

During adoption hearings, the County Board of Supervisors is required by Government Code §65302.5 to consider the aforementioned BOF recommendations and respond in writing to the BOF. On February 3, 2015, the County Board of Supervisors approved the update to the Safety Element and passed Resolution 15-XX, authorizing a written response detailing the County's consideration and action regarding each of the Board of Forestry recommendations. Please consider Attachment B to this letter the County's written response. If you have any questions,

please feel free to contact Matt Schneider, Deputy Director of Long Range Planning, at (805) 568-2072.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara

cc: Chief Pete Muñoa, pete.munoa@fire.ca.gov
Edith Hannigan, edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov
Captain Rob Hazard, rob.hazard@sbcfire.com
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Matt Schneider, mschneider@countyofsb.org

Attachment A. Resolution No. 14-____, February 3, 2015

Attachment B. County of Santa Barbara Response to Board of Forestry Recommendations

Attachment B – County of Santa Barbara Response to Board of Forestry Recommendations

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 (if necessary) 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. Identify or reference the local Unit Fire Plan and, if applicable, the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Santa Barbara County Fire Department recently released the County’s Unit Fire Strategic Plan. The Safety Element update includes updated references to this document, as well as to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Management Plan.
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 implementation and monitoring components.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Safety Element update includes updated references to the Santa Barbara County’s Unit Fire Strategic Plan, published in 2014. The Safety Element also includes a reference to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Management Plan, which is adopted via reference.
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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes Fire Implementation Measures 5, 8, and 12. 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 County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention.
Recommendation 2.1b: Specify the local ordinances, code sections, or regulations addressing the above standards, particularly any ordinances that address right-of-way, easement, and other reasonable offsite and onsite improvements for a division of land which qualifies for a Parcel Map rather than a Tentative/Final Map under the Subdivision Map Act.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes references to local ordinances and County Code regarding evacuation and emergency vehicle access, right-of-way, and easement. Specifically, the County has adopted development standards which address emergency water supplies, emergency vehicle access, and defensible space within County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention.
Recommendation 2.1c: Develop fire safe development codes used as standards for fire protection for new development in State	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes Fire

Responsibility Area (SRA) within the entity's jurisdiction that meet or exceed statewide standards in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq.	Implementation Measure 5, which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas.
Recommendation 2.1d: Adopt, and have certified by the BOF, local fire safe ordinances which meet or exceed standards in 14 CCR 1270 for State Responsibility Area.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes Fire Implementation Measure 5, which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas.
Recommendation 2.1e: Consider mitigation of previously developed areas that do not meet Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq. or equivalent local ordinance.	<i>Not Implemented.</i> This recommendation will be considered in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
2.2 Disclose wildland urban interface hazards, including Fire Hazard Severity Zone designations and other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or fire prevention organizations. Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other firesafe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organizations.	
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.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> A map displaying the VHFHSZ has been included in the Safety Element update.
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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County participates 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 County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations. Therefore, no further action in the context of the Safety Element update is necessary.
Recommendation 2.2c: Discuss and/or include local fire hazard maps.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> A map displaying the local fire hazards has been included in the Safety Element update.
2.3 The design and location of new development provides for adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allows civilian egress during an emergency.	
Recommendation 2.3a: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps is conditional based on meeting regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> In conjunction with the Subdivision Map Act (Government Code §66410-66413.5), the County has already adopted these findings within Chapter 21; any action the County takes to approve a tentative map (including a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required) must comply with the requirements of the Government Code.
Recommendation 2.3b: Develop pre-plans for fire prone areas that	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> In conjunction with the Subdivision Map Act

address civilian evacuations to temporary safety locations.	(Government Code §66410-66413.5), the County has already adopted these findings within Chapter 21; any action the County takes to approve a tentative map (including a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required) must comply with the requirements of the Government Code.
2.4 When approving parcel maps and use permits, consideration is given to providing adequate water supply infrastructure that meets zoning and fire protection needs	
Recommendation 2.4a: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps is conditional based on meeting zoning requirements and fire safe development codes.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> In conjunction with the Subdivision Map Act (Government Code §66410-66413.5), the County has already adopted these findings within Chapter 21; any action the County takes to approve a tentative map (including a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required) must comply with the requirements of the Government Code.
3.0 Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods	
3.1 Incorporation of current 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”.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has already adopted a set of fire resistive building requirements as part of its County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations. These elevated building requirements apply to development which is located within High Fire Hazard Areas. The Safety Element includes Fire Prevention Implementation Measure 5, which ensures the continued application of these aforementioned building requirements. No further action is required 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.	<i>Not Implemented.</i> The County has considered this recommendation and has chosen not to 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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> 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 recently updated its Housing Element for the 2015-23 planning period. This new Housing Element contains programs which address the need for improving the County's existing housing stock.
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.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> 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 recently updated its Housing Element for the 2015-23 planning period. This new Housing Element contains programs which address the need for improving the County's existing housing stock.
3.3 Consideration of occupancy category effects on wildfire protection	
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.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The County already reviews proposed development applications for site specific fire hazards as part of the Building Permit Plancheck process and Subdivision Review Committee. However, risks to uniquely occupied structures will be addressed in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
3.4 Fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ	
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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> 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.
4.0 Conservation and Open Space	
4.1 Identification of critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard areas	
Recommendation 4.1a: Identify critical natural resources and other “open space” values within the geographic scope of the GP.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> 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.
4.2 Inclusion of resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values	
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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> While the 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.
Recommendation 4.2b: Establish goals and policies for reducing the wildland fire hazards within the entity's boundaries, especially on vacant residential lots and greenbelts and, with the relevant partners, on adjacent private wildlands or federal lands with fire hazards that threaten the entity's jurisdiction.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes ten Fire Prevention Policies and twelve Fire Prevention Implementation Measures which assist County and other regional agencies in their attempts to mitigate existing wildland fire hazards. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
4.3 Integration of open space into fire safety effectiveness	
Recommendation 4.3a: 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.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes ten Fire Prevention Policies and twelve Fire Prevention Implementation Measures which assist County and other regional agencies in their attempts to mitigate existing wildland fire hazards. These goals and policies will be strengthened in a future Safety Element update. These goals and policies will be strengthened in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
4.4 Urban forestry plans relative to fire protection	
Recommendation 4.4a: Ensure residential areas have appropriate fire resistant landscapes and discontinuous vegetation adjacent to open space or wildland areas.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element 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 County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.

<p>Recommendation 4.4b: 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><i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element is compliant with Assembly Bill 162 and Government Code Sections 65302. A future Safety Element Update will consider additional existing laws and local ordinances, especially those dealing with vegetation hazard reduction ordinances per Fire Action 1.1.</p>
<p>4.5 Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4.5a: 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><i>Not Implemented.</i> At this time, the County has not experienced the development of increased fire hazards due to exotic species and pests or plant diseases but will continue to monitor these issues. If the County experiences the development such hazards, new policies and procedures would be developed at that time.</p>
<p>5.0 Circulation and Access</p>	
<p>5.1 Adequate access to high hazard wildland/open space areas</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5.1a: 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><i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes Fire Prevention Policy 3, 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 County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.</p>
<p>5.2 Standards for evacuation of residential areas in high hazard areas</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5.2a: 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 Safety Element includes 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>5.3 Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel maintenance program along roadways in the agency having jurisdiction</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5.3a: Develop an adaptive vegetation management</p>	<p><i>Not Implemented.</i> An adaptive vegetation management plan will be</p>

plan that considers fuels, topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and fire history.	considered in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
5.4 Adequacy of existing and future transportation system to incorporate fire infrastructure elements	
Recommendation 5.4a: Establish goals and policies for proposed and existing transportation systems to facilitate fire infrastructure elements such as turnouts, helispots, and safety zones.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The proposed Safety Element update includes Fire Prevention Policies 1 and 9, 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 County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention. These policies will be strengthened in a future Safety Element Update per Fire Action 1.1.
6.0 Defensible Space	
6.1 Develop geographic specific fire risk reduction measures using fuel modification	
Recommendation 6.1a: Include policies and recommendations that incorporate fuel safe buffers and greenbelts as part of development planning. Ensure that land uses designated near very high fire hazard severity zones are compatible with wildland fire protection strategies/capabilities.	<i>Not Implemented.</i> A future Safety Element update will consider the policy need for fuel safe buffers as part of development planning.
6.2 Fuel modification around homes	
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.	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has already adopted an ordinance, specifically County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention, which establishes defensible space requirements for development within high fire hazard areas.
Recommendation 6.2b: Reduce fuel around communities and subdivisions, considering fuels topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and fire history.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element Update includes a map of fuel models throughout Santa Barbara County. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
6.3 Fire suppression defense zones	
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.	<i>Not Implemented.</i> The County has considered this recommendation and has chosen not to implement this action as part of the proposed project. The unpredictable nature of wildfires precludes the County from creating permanent wildfire defense zones. Instead, the County will continue to establish fuel breaks, back fires, and staging areas in a manner which is reactive to individual emergencies.
7.0 Emergency Services	

7.1 Map/describe existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking services, specifically noting any areas in SRA or VHFHSZs	
Recommendation 7.1a: Include descriptions of emergency services including available equipment, personnel, and maps of facilities.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element update includes information regarding the number of fire stations throughout the County, as well as some of the equipment available. The Safety Element update also includes a map of all the fire stations throughout the County. However, 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. These websites can be more readily updated with current information than the County's General Plan.
Recommendation 7.1b: Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment.	<i>Not Implemented.</i> 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 director's 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.	<i>Partially Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes Fire Prevention Policies 1, 4, and 9, 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 County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention. Additionally, the the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Management Plan provides evaluation of assets at risk and related information. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
7.3 Adequacy of training	
Recommendation 7.3a: Establish goals and policies for emergency	<i>Not Implemented.</i> The County has considered this recommendation

<p>service training that meets or exceeds state or national standards.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>7.4 Inter-fire service coordination preparedness/mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional fire service agreements</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>8.0 Post Fire Safety, Recovery, and Maintenance</p>	
<p>8.1 Evaluation of redevelopment</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8.1a: 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.</p>	<p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Safety Element includes the establishment of Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures. This includes Fire Implementation Measure 5, which ensures the continued application of the County's fire resistive construction standards for high fire hazard areas which are contained within County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations.</p>
<p>8.2 Long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction mitigation projects</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8.2a: Provide polices and goals for maintenance of the post-fire-recovery projects, activities, or infrastructure.</p>	<p><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 Jesusita 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.</p>
<p>8.3 Reevaluate hazardous conditions and provide for future fire safe conditions</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8.3a: 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.</p>	<p><i>Partially Implemented.</i> As part of the Safety Element, Fire Prevention Policies 6 and 10 require the County to participate in the revision of Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps and continue to utilize the local Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). The update process of FHSZ maps will involve the reassessment of fire hazards,</p>

	and the County typically updates its MJHMP every five years to reflect changing hazards. The Board will consider strengthening these goals and policies in a future Safety Element update per Fire Action 1.1.
Recommendation 8.3b: 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 Jesusita 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.
8.4 Post fire life and safety assessments	
Recommendation 8.4a: 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.	<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 Jesusita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities.
Recommendation 8.4b: 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.	<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 Jesusita 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.
Recommendation 8.4c: 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.	<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 Jesusita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire recovery plans which included soil stabilization activities, installation of debris dams, and other recovery activities.
8.5 Restore sustainable landscapes and restore functioning ecosystems	
Recommendation 8.5a: Develop burn area recovery plans, evaluation processes, and implementation actions that encourage tree and biomass salvage, reforestation activities, create resilient and	<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 Jesusita wildland fires were all the subject of post fire

<p>sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>8.6 Incorporate wildlife habitat/endangered species considerations</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8.6a: 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.</p>	<p><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 Jesusita 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.</p>
<p>8.7 Native species reintroduction</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8.5a: Incorporate native species habitat needs as part of long term fire protection and fire restoration plans.</p>	<p><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 Jesusita 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</p>

	CEQA review process, where appropriate.
9.0 Terrorist and Homeland Security Impacts on Wildfire Protection	
9.1 Emergency response barriers	
Recommendation 9.1a: 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.	<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. 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.
9.2 Prioritizing asset protection from fire when faced with a lack of suppression forces	
Recommendation 9.2a: Identify and prioritize protection needs for assets at risk in the absence of response forces.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Management Plan (MJHMP) is adopted via reference into the Safety Element. The County's existing MJHMP includes and evaluation of existing County assets and their potential exposure to wildland fire hazards. Additionally, the MJHMP 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.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Management Plan (MJHMP) is adopted via reference into the Safety Element. The County's existing MJHMP includes and evaluation of existing County assets and their potential exposure to wildland fire hazards. Additionally, the MJHMP includes a set of Goals, Objectives, and Actions which can be taken to reduce the hazards to which these critical assets are exposed.
9.3 Communication channels during incidents	
Recommendation 9.3a: Establish goals and policies consistent with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission of 2005 for communications	<i>Previously Implemented.</i> The County has made substantial efforts to increase interoperability of emergency communication equipment and

<p>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.</p>	<p>procedures. For instance, the County already implements the Standardized Emergency Managements 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.</p>
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