

DISCUSSION

The draft Safety Element was first circulated for public review on June 1, 2022, and staff has continued to accept public comments and conduct public outreach. (See Attachment 2 for public comments and below for a description of recent public outreach.) A common theme continues to be that the Safety Element provides evidence that Marin County is unable to support more housing as required by the Housing Element. The Safety Element identifies measures for preventing impacts from hazards and measures to make development more resilient to hazards. The attached draft of the Safety Element has been revised to address public comments and concerns.

Another common theme is concern about the level of coordination between County departments working on issues related to safety. The draft Safety Element has been reviewed by staff from County Fire, Office of Emergency Services, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, Department of Public Works, Health and Human Services, and County Parks. Staff met with most of the commentors and made edits prior to the public draft release on June 1st and a few edits were made subsequently.

At the October 11th workshop, staff committed to addressing new state legislation in the latest draft of the Safety Element. Senate Bill 852 creates the Climate Resilience Districts Act, which authorizes local agencies to create climate resilience districts to address climate change effects and impacts. The districts would be formed for the purpose of raising and allocating funding for and the operating expenses of projects designed and implemented to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience. Staff added program EHS-6.1.k, which reads as follows:

Coordinate Approaches to Climate Resilience. Explore the feasibility of developing a coordinated government approach that has the capacity to raise and allocate funding for planning, construction and operating expenses of projects designed and implemented to benefit the public by addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Identify potential organizational structures and funding mechanisms, such as levying a benefit assessment, special tax, property-related fee, or other service charge or fee consistent with State law. The state allows for locally-led climate governance including a Climate Resilience District or community-led formation of special districts, such as Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts for planning, financing, constructing and maintaining local climate protection and adaptation projects.

Staff recommends the new program to set the County on a path consistent with the Climate Resilience Districts Act while still allowing the County and its communities to explore and pursue other avenues toward climate resilience.

As the County moves closer to completing the Safety Element update, staff re-reviewed the program implementation tables in the Safety Element and made some minor changes to ensure that priority programs are completed in the time frame specified.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

During the October 11th workshop, staff received direction from the Board and your Commission to conduct additional public outreach on the draft Safety Element and related Development Code amendments. The County had recently received comments from the State Department of Housing and Community Development on the draft Housing Element. Staff had also drafted Housing Element-related Development Code amendments and Countywide Plan amendments. Staff

conducted a series of meetings to present this new information on the draft Housing and Safety Elements updates.

Staff presented updates to the Housing and Safety Elements to the County's three Design Review Boards on the following dates:

10/26/22 Kentfield DRB
11/2/22 Tam DRB
11/7/22 Strawberry DRB

Staff also conducted four community meetings, where the most up-to-date information on the Housing and Safety elements was presented. At each meeting, staff responded to questions during the meeting and followed up with responses to written questions received during each meeting. These evening meetings were conducted virtually on the dates below.

11/1/22 Community Meeting West Marin
11/3/22 Community Meeting North Marin
11/8/22 Community Meeting Central Marin
11/10/22 Community Meeting South Marin

RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on the draft Safety Element and provide staff with direction regarding revisions to bring forward at the following hearing on January 5, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Safety Element
2. Public Comment Letters and Table of Comments