Safety Element

Unincorporated Marin County

Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Workshop

April 19, 2022
Welcome & Introductions
Presenters and Facilitators

County Staff
Jack Liebster, Planning Manager
Leslie Lacko, Senior Project Manager

Consultant Team
**MIG:** Scott Davidson, Principal
Barbara Beard, Safety Element Lead
**WRM:** Carol Rice, Senior Wildland Fire Manager
Agenda

• Provide an overview of the Safety Element update process
• Discuss new climate change and resiliency planning goals and policies
• Present key issues and policies for discussion
• Solicit input
Safety Element Update
Existing Safety Element

- Incorporated in the Natural Systems and Agricultural Element
- Existing policies cover
  - Geologic Hazards
  - Flooding and Sea Level Rise
  - Wildfire
Updating the Safety Element

- Updated every 8 years (with the Housing Element)
- Focus on new requirements for Safety Elements
- Plan should emphasize equity & needs of vulnerable communities
Public Outreach

- 6 Focus Groups
- 3 Public Workshops
- Consider It! Online discussion forum
- February Joint BOS/PC Meeting
### Sample Goals, Policies, and Programs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EHS-1 Hazard Awareness</strong>&lt;br&gt;Raise public awareness and response about potential environmental hazards.</td>
<td><strong>EHS-1.1 Enhance Public Awareness</strong>&lt;br&gt;Advise the public regarding the availability of countywide and local area environmental hazard studies, sources of hazard information and public services.</td>
<td><strong>EHS-1.1b Distribute Maps</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prepare and make available to the public maps depicting evacuation routes and areas prone to environmental hazards.</td>
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Building on Existing Goals

- Hazard Awareness
- Geology and Seismicity
- Flooding
- Wildfire
New Policy Areas

- Equity
- Wildfire
- Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery
- Resiliency Planning
  - Sea Level Rise
  - Severe Weather, Extreme Heat and Drought
Equity
What Have We Heard?

- Unhoused populations and visitors don’t receive notifications.
- Lower income residents have financial difficulties preparing for hazards.
- Isolated populations, those with mobility constraints, and low-income face greater challenges evacuating.
- Planning should address language barriers and communication needs.
Key Considerations

- Vulnerability assessment outcomes
- State guidance on planning with equity lens
- Marin planning efforts for equity
Potential Programs

Create equitable processes for achieving climate resilience.

- Vulnerable populations
- Community specific engagement
- Community-led safety programs
Wildfire
What Have We Heard?

- Roads need to function in an evacuation
- Better mapping of fire hazards
- Unhealthy air quality during fire season
- Need for more vegetation management
Key Considerations

- Existing Adopted Fire Policy
- Building Code Requirements
- Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations (draft)
- Plan for Development in Fire Hazard Areas
Existing Plans and Policies
## Potential Programs

Protect people and property from hazards associated with wildland and structure fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAL FIRE -Limit development in VHFHSZ.</td>
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<td>Improve existing emergency evacuation routes</td>
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<td>Vegetation management &amp; habitat protection</td>
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<td>Require post-fire construction to meet current building standards</td>
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Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery
What Have We Heard?

- Reaching all of Marin
- Increase partnerships and coordination
- Gaps in emergency communications
- Financial assistance needed
- Concerns of road adequacy
Key Considerations

- Evacuation routes
- Post disaster recovery plans & ordinances
- Preparedness requires coordination
Potential Programs

Ensure readiness in and after emergency situations and create an effective evacuation route network.

- Proactive preparedness & recovery
- Emergency vehicle access
- Critical services capacity
- Affordable Housing recovery
Resiliency Planning
What Falls Under Resiliency Planning?

- Sea Level Rise
- Severe Weather
- Extreme Heat
- Drought
Potential Programs

Manage the threat of climate risks to the current and future Marin community.

- Adaptation integration and requirements
- Resilience Hubs
- Strengthen partnerships
- Disclosure of current and future hazards
Sea Level Rise
What Have We Heard?

- Plan for sea level rise
- Limit development in risk areas
- Concern over groundwater intrusion & septic concerns
- Concern over displacement of residents
Key Considerations

- Changing state guidance
- State agency permits & SLR projections
- Efforts need to span across jurisdictions
- Financing of mitigation projects
Sea Level Rise

- Near-term (2040-2050) - 50 cm (1.6 ft)
- Medium-term (2050-2070) - 100 cm (3.3 ft)
Potential Programs

Safeguard Marin from rising sea levels.

- Consistent projections for planning
- Construction design & siting requirements
- Amend Bayfront Conservation District
- Investigate & leverage funding mechanisms
Severe Weather, Extreme Heat & Drought
What Have We Heard?

- Support community and neighborhood preparedness efforts
- Protect utilities/infrastructure from severe weather
- Provide assistance for home protection
- Where will water come from to serve new development
Key Considerations

- Effective ways to engage communities
- Strategies to reduce service interruptions
- Plan for frequency and intensity of events
Potential Programs

Adapt to increases in average temperatures, extreme heat days, and severe weather events.

Prepare for long-term water restrictions.

- Cooling centers
- Minimize communication interruptions
- Coordination with water suppliers
Comments & Questions
Next Steps
Next Steps

• Continue to analyze Safety Element policies and programs

• Proceed with analysis of Housing Element sites, policies, and programs

• Public release of Housing & Safety Elements and EIR in summer 2022
# Meetings, Workshops and Surveys to Receive Input

**Fall 2021**

- Draft Housing & Safety Elements and Zoning Amendments

**Spring/Summer 2022**

- Public Review, CALFIRE Review and State HCD Review

**Summer 2022**

- Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor Consideration

**Winter 2022**

- Environmental Analysis (Housing & Safety Elements)

**Winter ‘21/ Spring ‘22**

- Public Input

**Timeline**

- Meetings, Workshops and Surveys to Receive Input
- Identify Potential Housing Sites / Land Use Changes and Identify Hazard Risk Areas / Solutions
- Environmental Analysis (Housing & Safety Elements)
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