

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection & SB 1241

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

November 7, 2013

Chico, CA

The General Plan

- The long-term blueprint for development in a jurisdiction, the General Plan includes 7 mandatory elements: Housing, Land Use, Circulation, Noise, Open Space, Conservation, and Safety
- 6 of those 7 elements are directly related to CAL FIRE and the Board's mission to protect California and the public
- More specifically, each county or jurisdiction containing SRA or VHFHSZ LRA must submit their Safety Element to the Board of Forestry for review and comment

Safety Element Review Process

Prior to 2013

- Standard Checklist
- Limited capacity to conduct detailed review
- Plans occasionally sent to local unit – short turnaround times meant little response

Current Process

- Standard Checklist augmented by additional comments from Unit staff
- Since April 2013, 6 plans have been or are being reviewed, all with substantial comments from Unit staff

SB 1241 (2012) & Safety Element Review

- More Safety Elements to review more often
 - SB 1241 changes trigger point for Safety Element update
- More information in the Safety Element
 - FHSZ maps, historical data on wildfires, general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in SRA or VHFHSZ LRA, agencies responsible for fire protection
 - Goals, policies, and objectives based on the information above for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire
 - Feasible implementation measures to carry out the above

SB 1241 & Subdivision Map Review

- SB 1241 also requires, before a tentative map or parcel map is approved, that a legislative body shall make the following three findings, supported by substantial evidence in the record:
 - ✓ The design and location of each lot in the subdivision, and the subdivision as a whole, are consistent with any applicable regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Sections 4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code.

SB 1241 & Subdivision Map Review (con't)

- ✓ Structural fire protection and suppression services will be available for the subdivision through any of the following entities:
 - A county, city, special district, political subdivision of the state, or another entity organized solely to provide fire protection services that is monitored and funded by a county or other public entity.
 - The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by contract entered into pursuant to Section 4133, 4142, or 4144 of the Public Resources Code.

- ✓ To the extent practicable, ingress and egress for the subdivision meets the regulations regarding road standards for fire equipment access adopted pursuant to Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code and any applicable local ordinance.

Responding to SB 1241 Requirements

- **Fire Severity Treatment Education Prevention and Planning Program BCP**
 - 65.1 positions starting FY 13/14
 - 12 positions specifically for implementing SB 1241 provisions relating to fire severity and planning (specifics subject to change)
 - Forester II at Board of Forestry
 - 2 Battalion Chiefs and 8 Captains spread amongst North and South Regions
 - Deputy Chief at the State Fire Marshal
 - Research Program Specialist and Research Analyst at the State Fire Marshal
 - \$500,000 to update the basic mapping layer

Implementing SB 1241

- Board of Forestry website: documents accessible by CAL FIRE staff and local planners
 - Fire Planning and the General Plan Guide, Safety Element Review Checklist
 - 4290 and 4291 resources: 4290 Handbook, etc
 - Links to OPR Planning Guide and Fire Hazard Technical Guide
- Integrated local planning
 - Inyo County, City of Calistoga
 - Coordinated Unit Plan, CWPP's, LHMP's, etc
- Developing reporting requirements

Meeting Goals of Strategic Plans

- *2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California*
 - **Goal 2:** Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
 - **Goal 3:** Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
 - **Goal 4:** Increase awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildfires, such as defensible space and other fuel reduction activities, fire prevention, and fire safe building standards.
 - **Goal 5:** Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state, and federal responsibility areas.
- *2012 CAL FIRE Strategic Plan*
 - Cultivate and strengthen relationships with stakeholders, governing bodies, cooperators, and the public