

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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To: Resource Protection Committee
Chair Bruce Saito
Member Keith Gillless
Member Sue Husari

Date: October 27, 2014

Telephone: (916) 653-8007

Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov

From: Edith Hannigan, Board Consultant

Subject: General Plan Safety Element Reviews: **County of Santa Barbara**

Dear Chair Saito, Member Gillless, and Member Husari,

On September 11, 2014, the County of Santa Barbara submitted the Safety Element component of their General Plan for review by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. After review by Board staff and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, it was determined that major changes needed to be made to the document to make it compliant with SB 1241 and the updated Government Code.

Attached is a draft response to Santa Barbara County for your review and discussion at the Resource Protection Committee meeting on November 4. The entire submission packet from Santa Barbara County is also included, as well as the text of SB 1241 and the Board's *General Plan Safety Element Assessment Template Version 1*, for context and comparison.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Enclosures: Draft response to Santa Barbara County
Cover letter submitted to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection from Santa Barbara and its attachments:
 "Fire Hazards and Fire Services" excerpt from Santa Barbara Draft Safety Element (full element available online at <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org>)
 Santa Barbara Draft Ordinance Amendment
 Santa Barbara Safety Element Update Comments
 SB 1241 Text (see "(3)" on page 5 and "(3)" on page 7, and "66474.02," also page 7)
 General Plan Safety Element Assessment Template Version 1

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David Lackie
Interim Deputy Director
Long Range Planning Division
County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

October 27, 2014

Dear Mr. Lackie:

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is required to review and provide recommendations to the safety element of county and local government general plans when such plans are being amended. This review is in accordance with Government Code (GC) §65302.5, which requires the Board to review the fire safety elements when the general plans contains State Responsibility Areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

In order to more effectively evaluate County Safety Elements in the context of other local planning efforts, the fire hazards in the planning area, and ongoing fire protection projects, the Board enlists the assistance of staff from the local CAL FIRE Unit or contract county in reviewing the submitted Safety Element. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department has communicated to the Board significant issues with the submitted Draft Safety Element including:

- References to programs and plans that are outdated or defunct
- No supporting maps for the planning area, especially CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps
- Inconsistencies with the Santa Barbara Unit Strategic Fire Plan and incompatible programs
- Implementation measures 9-11 missing

In addition, the Board believes the submitted Draft Safety Element does not meet the requirements and intent of SB 1241. The policies and implementation measures stated in the Draft Safety Element hinge on an over-reliance on enforcing state and local fire protection ordinances and codes. Rather, those policies and implementation measures should 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. They should be consistent with implementation measures in other plans such as the Santa Barbara Unit Strategic Fire Plan and the Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection highly recommends the Planning and Development Department revisit the Santa Barbara Safety Element with assistance from Captain Martin Johnson, SBC Fire, and Chief Pete Muñoa's staff in the CAL FIRE Land Use program. Attached is the Assessment that is used by the Board and local Units to evaluate submitted Safety Elements from counties, which can be used as a guide to revise the Draft Safety Element. Captain Johnson and Chief Muñoa's contact information is below, as is information for Board staff, Edith Hannigan, who can assist with any questions.

Government Code §65302.5 requires Santa Barbara County to consider and accept the recommendations made by the Board and communicate in writing to the Board its reasons for not accepting any recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your planning process and we look forward to working with you on these recommendations. We hope this input leads to greater protection and reduced cost and losses from wildfires to Santa Barbara County and adjacent wildlands.

Sincerely,



Keith Gilliss
Chair, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

CC: Captain Martin Johnson, martin.johnson@sbcfire.com, (805) 794-0615
Chief Pete Muñoa, pete.munoa@fire.ca.gov, (916) 324-0014
Edith Hannigan, edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov, (916) 653-2928

Enclosure: General Plan Safety Element Assessment Template Version 1



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director
Dianne Black, Assistant Director

September 11th, 2014

Edith Hannigan, Board Staff
California 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 Review

Ms. Hannigan,

In accordance with the requirements of State law (Government Code §65302), the County of Santa Barbara has recently completed a draft update of the Seismic Safety and Safety Element (Safety Element) of its Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Senate Bill 1241. The Safety Element has been updated to include required information or references to fire hazard severity zones, historical data on wildfires, wildfire hazard areas, and other information necessary to comply with State law. The County has also completed a draft ordinance amendment to update the County Code to include required findings for subdivision maps within fire hazard severity zones.

As mandated by Government Code §65302, the County is hereby submitting its updated Safety Element to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for the compulsory 60-day review and comment period (Attachment A). The County is also submitting a copy of a draft Ordinance Amendment (Attachment B) to incorporate the required findings mandated by Senate Bill 1241. Lastly, the County is submitting comments relating to the Safety Element update (Attachment C). This document is a step-by-step approach to the update; as the County's Safety Element is updated frequently, many of the items required by Government Code §65302 already exist within the Fire Hazard section of the Safety Element.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Hentrich at (805) 884-6836 or via email at khentrich@countyofsb.org. The County looks forward to your continued participation in this valuable planning effort.

Sincerely,

David Lackie
Interim Deputy Director, Long Range Planning Division

Attachments:

- A. County of Santa Barbara Draft Safety Element
- B. County of Santa Barbara Draft Ordinance Amendment
- C. County of Santa Barbara Safety Element Update Comments



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SEISMIC SAFETY & SAFETY ELEMENT

ADOPTED 1979

REPUBLISHED MAY 2009

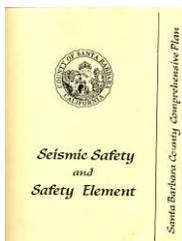
AMENDED AUGUST 2010



County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Development
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

The electronic version of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan can be found at: <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org>

DRAFT



Former Seismic Safety and Safety Element Cover – Replaced March 2009

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I. ABSTRACT

The Seismic Safety and Safety Element is intended to guide land use planning by providing pertinent data regarding geologic, soil, seismic, fire and flood hazards. Although development in Santa Barbara County dates back to the establishment of the Santa Barbara Mission in 1786, and there has been substantial growth in more recent years, much of the County remains rural and undeveloped. It is therefore appropriate to consider these hazards now in planning for future development.

Santa Barbara County encompasses a wide diversity of terrain and geologic formations and features. It includes mountain ranges such as the Santa Ynez and San Rafael; major rivers such as the Cuyama, Santa Ynez and Santa Maria; extensive lowlands in the Santa Maria, Lompoc, Carpinteria and Goleta areas; and four Channel Islands.

The County is underlain by up to 35,000 feet of marine sedimentary rocks of late Mesozoic and Cenozoic ages. The sedimentary rocks are diverse, but are dominated by great thicknesses of sandstone and shale with lesser amounts of conglomerate, alluvial fan deposits, dune sand, and diatomite. Outcrops of igneous rocks are limited, except on the Channel Islands. The Rincon and Monterey Formations are two of the weakest and most troublesome formations in the County. They are located primarily in the Santa Ynez Mountains. The geologic units are shown on the geologic maps for the four study areas.

Faults are numerous in the County, several of which are considered major. The main faults have been named, and are shown on the Geologic and Seismic-Tectonic Maps. In the coastal zone, the main faults generally trend east-west; in the northern part of the County, they are predominantly northwest-southeast.

Most of the hills and mountains are folded to some degree. The topography sometimes reflects this structure and sometimes has been substantially modified by erosion.

Earthquakes are not strangers to the County, with strong shaking and major damage resulting from earthquakes occurring in 1769, 1812, 1852, 1857, 1872, 1893, 1902, 1917, 1925, 1926, and 1952. This means that a damaging quake has occurred on the average of every fifteen to twenty years.

Earthquakes are caused by movement along faults, which are surfaces between blocks of the earth's crust. In California, experience has shown that movement during historic times has nearly always taken place along pre-existing faults. Only a very few existing faults are considered to be active or potentially active. The more recently a fault has moved, the more likely it is that it may move again; so active faults have been defined as those which have moved during geologically recent time (approximately the last 11,000 years).

This study considers nine faults to be active: Big Pine, Graveyard - Turkey Trap, Mesa, More Ranch, Nacimiento, Pacifico, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, and Santa

Ynez. In addition, the San Andreas fault zone - by far the major fault in California - lies a short distance northeast of the County.

Because of its great length and historic activity, it poses a substantial seismic threat to Santa Barbara County even though it is outside the County.

Potentially active faults are of much less concern, but should also be considered. The following eight faults fall into this category: Arroyo Parida, Bradley Canyon, Carpinteria, Goleta, Mission Ridge, Red Mountain, Rincon Creek, and San Jose.

Ground rupture along a fault tract can destroy any structure astride or immediately adjacent to the fault. Therefore, it has been recommended that buildings not be constructed on faults considered to have a significant chance of movement in the next one hundred years. However, much more damage is caused by the resulting earthquake shockwaves. In addition to the major directly damaging effect on buildings, seismic shock can induce or aggravate - many other potentially disastrous problems such as tsunamis (seismic sea waves, frequently erroneously referred to as "tidal waves"), landslides, settlement, and liquefaction. The intensity of shock waves in bedrock at any given point is largely a function of the magnitude of an earthquake and the distance to its focus. On this basis, the County was divided into zones of relative seismic hazard, as shown on the Seismic Tectonic Map. Detailed data on local conditions would permit refinement of these "seismic zones," but examination of local conditions was beyond the scope of this study.

Although seismic hazards were the main focus of the study, other soil and geologic problems exist which should be considered - to varying degrees - in land use planning, and, subsequently, in reviewing the design of specific projects. These problems include landslides, expansive soils, soil creep, compressible and collapsible soils, high groundwater, erosion, and subsidence. Based on available data, areas were classified as having low, moderate, or high susceptibility to each problem, except that fault displacement was considered separately, and erosion and subsidence were not rated. The degree of uncertainty in these designations was also indicated.

In order to avoid having to consider each problem independently in land use planning, a composite number called a Geologic Problem Index (GPI) was devised. The GPI was obtained by multiplying each problem rating number for a given area by a weighting factor and summing the results. Different weighting factors were used for each problem, depending on their relative importance.

The Grading and Building Codes of Santa Barbara County are considered generally satisfactory with respect to geologic hazards, but some amendments are recommended. An adequate investigation of each specific site to be developed is imperative where the possibility of soil or geologic problems exist.

Residents of Santa Barbara County are well aware of the fire hazard problem and the destruction that uncontrolled wildfires can cause. However, sensitive land use planning and effective development regulations can go a long way toward reducing fire hazard.

One critical issue that the County faces is how much development to permit in areas of extreme fire hazard. Short of a case-by-case analysis of local conditions in relation to present and proposed fire prevention and control practices, no definitive rules on overall density in fire hazard areas can be set. Instead, all development activities within areas of high or extreme fire hazard should be closely regulated. In the Subdivision Ordinance, the County already requires that special procedures be followed in fire hazard areas. A requirement that all development proposals be accompanied by a plan to show what the developer intends to do to minimize fire hazard would provide the County with the information necessary for evaluation. In some areas, it may be necessary to prohibit development, but, in others, development could be permitted if adequate control measures were implemented. The cumulative impacts of development in fire hazard areas should be examined, as well as the individual impacts.

A secondary issue is what kinds of controls should be instituted to reduce fire hazard. Research foresters in the U.S. Forest Service have put forth the concept of controlled burns as an improved technique for fire management in chaparral areas. The objective of this type of program is to achieve an acceptable and realistic level of fire occurrence and fire size based on ecological, social, and economic considerations. If this system were to be implemented in Santa Barbara County, the long term trend toward fewer, larger fires might be reversed. County residents would have to tolerate more fires burning over 100 acres, but far fewer fires burning over 5,000 acres. The chaparral ecosystem would be maintained, and watershed and flood damage possibly could be reduced. A study should be undertaken by the County jointly with responsible federal and State agencies to determine whether this procedure would be viable and should be implemented locally.

One of the most important flood control issues facing the County concerns regulation of development in areas prone to flooding. For current flood control programs to be effective, it is important that the flood-carrying capacity of streams and floodway areas not be impaired. Of related importance, obviously, are the fire hazard issues previously discussed. Because of their interrelationship, decisions on flood control improvements should not be made independently of decisions on fire prevention and control programs, and on land use in areas of high and extreme fire hazard.

Another policy issue related to flood control involves the multiple use of buffer zones alongside flood channels. Setbacks from these channels can provide public access for maintenance of the channels as well as reducing the threat to structures from bank erosion. Preservation of streamside natural communities is another advantage. Setbacks also can be used for recreational trails. However, the privacy and security of neighboring property owners may be threatened.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in cooperation with the County Flood Control and Water conservation District, is mapping flood hazard areas in the County. When finalized (scheduled for December 1978) these maps will form the basis for flood plain management required under the National Flood Insurance Program, and will be used to establish flood insurance rates. The Federal Flood Plain Management Regulations provide that "flood insurance shall not be sold or renewed under the program within a community, unless the community has adopted adequate flood plain management regulations consistent with federal criteria." The Seismic Safety and Safety Element recommends implementation of flood plain zoning or other similar measures.

The element raised a number of questions deserving further investigation. More geologic data are needed, particularly with regard to seismic - tectonic mapping. Problems along the coast, such as shoreline regression, liquefaction potential and tsunami risk, need additional study. As new information becomes available, it will be incorporated as addenda to this element. An update of the Seismic Safety and Safety Element should include a study of emergency services planning in the County.

A bibliography of the general geology and seismicity of Santa Barbara County was compiled and a list of references cited in the text was prepared. A glossary of selected geological and seismological terms commonly used in practice and in the text also is included.

II. INTRODUCTION^{1 2}

STUDY PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

Objectives

The purpose of this study was to obtain data concerning geology, soils, seismicity, and fire and flood hazards of Santa Barbara County, and to provide recommendations and criteria to aid in land use planning in order to ensure that future development will be compatible with the environment.

The California Government Code, Sections 65302 (f) and (i), requires a Seismic Safety Element and Safety Element as part of all city and county general plans. The State General Plan Guidelines suggest consolidation of similar elements where possible, in order to avoid "excessive duplication and cross references to the similar or identical subjects contained in the separate elements."³ With regard to the Seismic Safety and Safety Elements, the Guidelines state:

The seismic safety element contributes information on the comparative safety of using lands for various purposes, types of structures, and occupancies. It provides primary policy inputs to the land use, housing, open space, circulation and safety elements.

Because of the close relationship (of the seismic safety element) with the safety element the local planning agency may wish to prepare these two elements simultaneously or combine the two elements into a single document.⁴

Participating Consultants

The investigation was a team effort headed by Livingston and Associates and Moore and Taber. The team consisted of the firms and individuals listed below. The portions of the study for which each participant was primarily responsible are noted.

Although not a part of the team organized by, and responsible to Moore and Taber, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) played a vital role by handling all of the computer work involved in the Geologic Problems and Geologic Problems Index.

Organization

Portion of Study

Moore and Taber
Woodland Hills

General coordination and review of geologic/seismic portions of study. Preparation of all sections of report not specifically listed for other team members.

California Earth Science Corp.
Santa Monica

Preparation of section on faults and seismic hazards and bibliography

Lindvall-Richter and Associates
Los Angeles

Preparation of seismic history, tsunamis, and review of seismic hazard evaluation.

Robert M. Norris, Ph.D.
and Robert W. Webb, Ph.D.
University of Calif.
Santa Barbara

Preparation of geography and geology description, coastline erosion, and geologic interest areas.

Livingston and Associates
San Francisco

Preparation of Fire Hazard chapter.

Bookman-Edmonston Engineering, Inc.
assisted by County Flood Control
Engineer

Preparation of Flood Control chapter.

Acknowledgments

We wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our consultants, particularly California Earth Science Corporation whose efforts were extensive and beyond the originally anticipated scope.

We are also grateful to Wendell Nichols and Ray Coudray, engineering geologists in the County Public Works Department and the staff of the County Planning Department for their assistance including making their files and aerial photographs available. Dr. Jack Estes of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Mason Hill were most helpful to California Earth Science Corporation.

THE STUDY

Scope

The study consisted primarily of a thorough review of the general geology of Santa Barbara County and its compilation onto base maps, and an investigation of the main geologic and soil problems, with emphasis on those associated with faults and earthquakes. Specific geologic and soil problems that were considered, together with their effect on land use planning, were ground rupture, ground shaking, tsunamis and seiches, soil liquefaction, landslides and slope stability, expansive soils, soil creep, compressible and collapsible soils, high groundwater, erosion and shoreline regression, and subsidence.

Although not considered a soil or geological problem, areas with unique geological features of interest were listed and described so that they could be considered for preservation. Mineral deposits and soil characteristics as applied to agricultural uses are investigated in the Conservation Element.

For purposes of the study, the County was divided into four study areas mainly on the basis of population and future potential development. The study areas consist of the following:

South Coast: Elongated area along the coast divided into west, central, and east sections, extending from Gaviota Pass to the Ventura County line and from the coast to the approximate crest of the Santa Ynez mountains.

Santa Ynez Valley: Approximately square area in the Santa Ynez River Valley, extending from the vicinity of Buellton on the west to San Lucas Ranch on the east, north to Los Alamos, and south to and including the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains south of the Santa Ynez River.

Lompoc: Roughly rectangular area along the Santa Ynez River, extending from the Pacific Ocean on the west to Santa Rita Valley on the east, north to the approximate crest of the Purisima Hills (but not including Vandenberg Air Force Base), and south to and including the hills south of the Lompoc urban area.

Santa Maria: Includes the area bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Casmalia and Solomon Hills on the south, Fulger Point – Bradley Canyon on the east, and the Santa Maria River on the north.

Topographic base maps for the county (1" = 8000') and each study area (1" = 2000') were supplied for transfer of geologic and soil data. The geologic and soil problems were studied in a general way on a Countywide basis and in more detail for the four study areas.

The study included a thorough review of published technical reports and geologic maps, a review of most pertinent unpublished reports, and discussions with many public officials and personnel with special technical or geologic expertise.

A comprehensive up-to-date bibliography of all available published data, including masters and Ph.D. theses of the geology and seismicity of Santa Barbara County was compiled. A list of all references cited in the text of the report, in addition to the bibliography, also was prepared.

An extensive study of stereographic aerial photographs was made, primarily to detect ancient landslides. While most of the work involved collecting and evaluating existing data, this portion of the study added a substantial amount of new information.

Inspection trips were made to familiarize consultant staff with some of the areas of the County and to check specific points in question.

Limitations

Every attempt was made to provide a thorough study within the limitations of time and funding, and it is believed that this goal has been achieved. Nevertheless, the inherent limitations of such a study must be recognized. Although specific limitations are described elsewhere in this report - particularly with respect to the present limited state of knowledge of seismic hazards this subject must be emphasized. The large area covered by the study, the scale at which the work was done, and the limited data available in many areas means that the results are not infallible, particularly with respect to small areas.

The study is an appropriate early step in planning and should be very useful in this regard, but care must be exercised that it is not taken as the final answer regarding decisions on any specific site. New data developed in specific site investigations – or new techniques - may supersede the generalized conclusions presented in the report.

Also, factors other than geologic conditions may be more critical. Except for ground rupture along a fault, and sometimes massive landslides, the geologic and soil problems normally encountered can usually be solved by appropriate engineering design of structures and grading.

DRAFT

VI. FIRE HAZARD AND FIRE SERVICES^{11, 12}

INTRODUCTION

Santa Barbara County, like much of southern and central California, experiences annual cycles of elevated fire danger. Due to its low annual precipitation rate (approximately 15 inches a year), highly flammable vegetation, and high velocity “sundowner” and “Santa Ana” winds, the County has routinely experienced major wildfires which threaten residents’ safety and property. According to statistics recorded by Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCoFD), ~~28–33~~ major fires have occurred in the County between 1922 and ~~2009~~2013, burning close to one million acres. Such a significant threat to the health and welfare of County residents should be examined and minimized where feasible by the policies contained within this element. To understand Santa Barbara’s problem, first the causes of wildland fires and the County’s fire history are reviewed. Then the fire hazard severity classification system developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) is explained, and its application to the County is described. Finally, the topics of fire prevention and control are analyzed in relation to land use planning.

For classification and discussion purposes, fires are classified into three broad categories: urban; wildland; and wildland-urban interface. This document primarily focuses on issues related to wildland fires. However, some general discussion of fire hazards in wildland-urban interface areas is also provided. For further information regarding fire hazards within the County’s unincorporated urban and wildland-urban interface areas, refer to the County’s Community and Area Plans (components of the Comprehensive General Plan Land Use Element and Coastal Land Use Plan). The remainder of this section discusses various fire issues including:

- Causes and History of Wildfire
- Responsible Fire Protection Agencies
- Establishing Fire Hazard Severity Areas
- Fire Hazard Reduction Measures
- Land Use Planning and It’s Relation to Fire Hazards
- Fire Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures

CAUSES AND HISTORY OF WILDFIRE

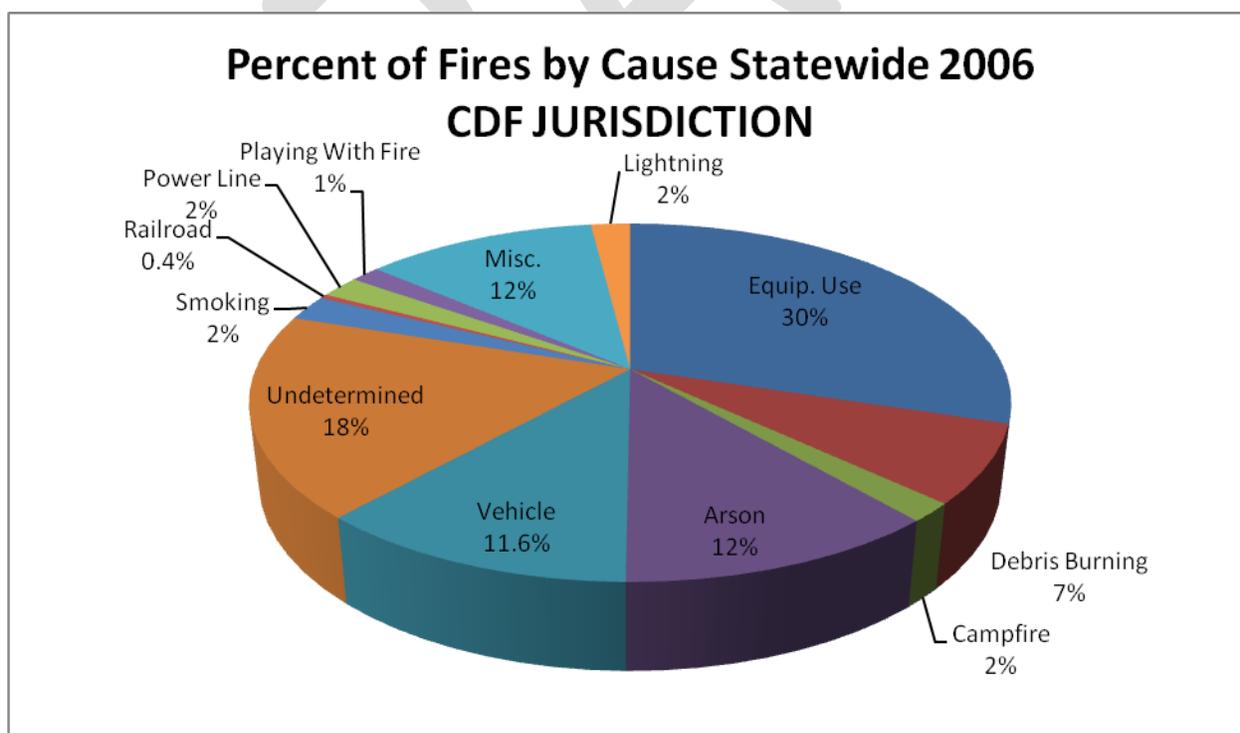
Understanding the root causes of wildland fires as well as the County’s local fire history is a critical first step in developing the necessary policies and actions which can mitigate this threat. The causes of wildland fires are linked to two elements: 1) the ignition

Fire Fact: The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels is called the wildland-urban interface or wildland-urban intermix.

source which starts the fire, and 2) the fuel which the fire feeds on in order to further propagate itself.

IGNITION SOURCES

Approximately 80 percent of wildland fires result from manmade causes. The only significant natural source of fire ignition is lightning; however, lightning strikes only account for approximately ~~2%~~two percent of wildfires. The greatest number of fires is the result of human carelessness and insensitivity to wildland fire danger, especially during the critical days of the year when the fire problem is most acute. The major causes of wildfires in the State of California, including equipment use, debris burning, and vehicle ignition, are shown in the table below. As indicated in the aforementioned table, equipment usage is the leading cause of wildfire ignition. Such equipment usage often includes powered tools which can occasionally produce sparks or friction temperatures hot enough to ignite dry vegetation. Vehicle usage in high fire hazard areas is the second leading accidental cause, followed by relatively lesser occurrences such as debris burning, out of control camp fires, improperly discarded smoking material, and persons (many being children) playing with various flammable materials.



Source: California Department of Fire (CDF): http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_statevents

Not all human-caused fires are accidental. Arson is another noteworthy cause of wildfires, accounting for approximately 12 percent of all fires recorded state-wide. According to data provided by Cal Fire, there were almost three thousand arson related fires set between 2000 and 2008. These arson fires resulted in over 130,000 acres of burned property and approximately 56 million dollars in fiscal damages. Despite these substantial impacts, the number of arson related fires have steadily decreased over the past forty years, falling from an annual high of 1,990 fires in 1979 to a low of 220 fires in 2008.¹³

FUEL BEDS

The primary source of fuel for the County's wildland fires consists of large swaths of natural vegetation. Areas of flammable vegetation are commonly referred to as "fuel beds" and are often large in size due to steep topography and lack of roads or natural barriers. The average slope in the County's wildland areas is 40 percent.¹⁴ These conditions limit fire vehicle access and increase the challenges of wildland fire fighting in the County. Modern firefighting techniques generally allow wildland fires in remote and unpopulated areas to burn off excessive fuel loads as long as the fire poses no danger to structural development or public safety.

Chaparral provides the most widespread wildland fuel threat in Santa Barbara County. It can be found on the slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains, throughout the Sierra Madre and San Rafael mountain ranges, in the Casmalia, [Soloman Solomon](#), Purisima, and Santa Rosa Hills, and in the Lompoc and Tranquillion Peak areas of Vandenberg Air Force Base. These chaparral communities are characterized by woody shrubs of chamise, ceanothus and manzanita, which dominate dry rocky slopes and provide erosion control and watershed protection. A unique chaparral community, the Burton Mesa Chaparral, occurs on the sandy terraces north of Lompoc in the Santa Ynez River watershed. This chaparral community includes plants of special concern such as manzanita, ceanothus, a rare form of coastal live oak, and other species of botanic value. Additionally, numerous grasslands and fields are located in the County and present the potential for fast moving wildland fires that can transition into heavier fuel beds and tree canopies.¹⁵

HISTORY OF WILDLAND FIRES

The SBCoFD maintains records of all wildland fires in Santa Barbara County. This section provides a statistical profile of wildland fires in the County from 1970 through [20092013](#). The table below provides a summary of the total number of fires and total acres burned.

Recorded Fire Size Distribution 1970-~~2008~~2013

YEAR*	Total Acres	300-1000 Acres Burned	1,000-5,000 Acres Burned	Over 5,000 Acres Burned	Total Fires
1970	697	1	0	0	1
1971	17,529	2	1	1	4
1972	17,326	0	0	1	1
1975	3,398	1	2	0	3
1976	1,650	2	0	0	2
1977	20,685	1	1	2	4
1978	804	1	0	0	1
1979	15,587	4	5	0	9
1980	6,829	2	0	1	3
1981	37,366	4	4	3	11
1982	1,342	2	0	0	2
1983	6,593	3	1	0	4
1984	177,200	2	4	2	8
1987	1,117	3	0	0	3
1989	3,565	2	2	0	4
1990	6,997	4	1	0	5
1991	2,849	0	1	0	1
1992	2,929	2	1	0	3
1993	48,179	4	1	1	6
1994	58,982	1	3	1	5
1996	119,539	1	5	1	7
1997	63,780	11	4	1	16
1998	7,394	0	2	0	2
1999	59,989	2	3	1	6
2000	15,198	1	2	0	3
2002	7,503	0	0	1	1
2004	8,645	1	1	1	3
2006	19,244	0	1	1	2
2007	242,393	4	0	1	5
2008	11,373	0	1	1	2
2009**	8,733,101,267	39	0	24	54
2010	1,610	1	1	0	2
2011	698	1	0	0	1
2013	1,984	0	1	0	1
Total	2,918,012,014,838	157	122	802	357,365

*Excludes years with no fires over 300 acres
~~2009~~2013

Source: Santa Barbara County Fire Department,

**Data as of July 2009

Major fires (over 500 acres) in the County are frequently referred to by their designated fire name. The table of provided below includes a summary of major fires from 1922 through ~~2009~~2013. The SBCoFD maintains information on major fires for use in

developing fire prevention and protection programs. This information is also used by the County Planning & Development and Public Works departments for use in the development review process.

Major Fires in Santa Barbara County

Year	Fire Name	Acres Burned
1922	Kelley Ranch	59,600
1923	Oso Canyon	70,000
1928	Aliso Canyon	42,880
1933	Indian Canyon	30,800
1950	San Marcos	9,500
1953	Big Dalton	73,450
1955	Refugio	84,770
1964	Coyote	67,000
1966	Wellman	93,600
1971	Romero	14,538
1977	Sycamore Canyon	805
1977	Hondo Canyon	8,087
1979	Spanish Ranch	1,190
1979	Eagle Canyon	3,765
1990	Paint	4,424
1993	Marre	43,864
1994	Oak Hill	2,130
1997	Santa Rosa	3,074
1999	Spanish	22,296
1999	Camuesa	180
2000	Harris	8,684
2002	Sudden	7,500
2004	Gaviota	7,197
2006	Perkins	14,923
2007	Zaca	240,207
2008	Gap	9,443
2008	Tea	1,940
2009	Jesusita	8,733
<u>2009</u>	<u>Highway</u>	<u>562</u>
<u>2009</u>	<u>La Brea</u>	<u>91,622</u>
<u>2010</u>	<u>Bear Creek</u>	<u>1,253</u>
<u>2011</u>	<u>Figueroa</u>	<u>698</u>
<u>2013</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>1,984</u>

Source: U. S. Forest Service, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, ~~2009~~2013

As illustrated in the preceding table, although the County has a consistent history of frequent wildfires, the three year period from 2007 through 2009 proved to be particularly devastating. This brief time period included the County's largest acreage wildfire in recorded history, the Zaca Fire, followed by three fires, the Gap, Tea, and Jesusita Fires, which in acreage were much smaller but resulted in the highest level of structural damage in almost 20 years. The Tea and Jesusita fires combined destroyed more than 350 structures.^{16 17} These events illustrate the need for policies and actions which can help mitigate the threats of future wildland fires.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND HAZARD SEVERITY

Wildland fires frequently cover large areas and cross jurisdictional boundaries. Accordingly, most fires are fought by a combination of agencies. Wildland fire protection in California is the responsibility of either the local, State, or Federal government and virtually all fire-fighting agencies are signatories to mutual aid agreements. These documents represent legal arrangements between agencies and jurisdictions, where each entity agrees to cooperate with others when needed during fire or other hazardous events. Mutual aid agreements ensure that most, if not all, agencies within striking distance of a wildland fire can be involved in its suppression. A wildland fire event frequently resembles a “domino-effect,” as the stations closest to a fire will deploy to the scene, and units from farther away will re-staff empty fire stations. As the fire grows, this re-deployment spreads further away from the center of activity. In some cases, equipment and staff will come from hundreds of miles away to support local firefighters. Use of mutual aid agreements frequently results in wildland fires being fought by agencies from every level of government.

FIRE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

Despite the use of mutual aid agreements and other various mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of fire suppression resources, local, State, and Federal agencies do have legally defined areas of responsibility. According to the guidelines established by the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (November 1950), fire response agencies are required to be part of the first alarm to respond to fires in their designated responsibility area. Local Responsibility Area (LRA) fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by Cal Fire if it is under contract to local government. For unincorporated areas of the County, as well as smaller cities with cooperative agreements with the County, fires in LRAs are generally the responsibility of the SBCoFD. However, Montecito and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection Districts provide fire suppression within their respective communities.

Fire protection on State owned lands or State Responsibility Areas (SRA) is under the jurisdiction of Cal Fire. Privately owned land not covered by an established local fire department in SRAs is also the responsibility of Cal Fire. The County maintains a contract with the State of California to provide wildland fire protection in SRAs within the County. As such, the SBCoFD functionally operates as a unit of Cal Fire and is responsible for all California Fire Plan activities within the County.

Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) fire protection on federal land is addressed by a number of federal agencies, depending on which agency is designated as responsible for the land. In the County, the U.S. Forest Service is responsible for national forest land (which includes the Los Padres National Forest), while the United States Air Force is responsible for fire and emergency incidents that occur on Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). VAFB encompasses 154 square miles in the northwestern portion of the County. As a federal military installation, the County is not required by State or Federal

law to provide emergency response associated with potential fire hazards within VAFB¹⁸. However, emergency response agencies within the County maintain close contact with similar units posted to VAFB, and both the County and VAFB are subject to mutual aid agreements for fire prevention, rescue, and hazardous materials response.

According to Cal Fire, Santa Barbara County has 686,688,792,876 acres of SRA, the bulk of which is covered with fire prone vegetation. Additionally, there are 877,728,818,129 acres of FRA and 491,744,145,771 acres of LRA.

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

To assist each fire agency in addressing its responsibility area, Cal Fire utilizes a severity classification system to identify areas or zones of severity for fire hazards within the State. Cal Fire is required to map these zones for SRAs and identify Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) for LRAs¹⁹. In ~~January~~ 2008, Cal Fire updated these Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps to reflect revised VHFHSZ for LRAs throughout the State. The County of Santa Barbara participated in this update to ensure the accuracy of mapped areas within the County's LRA. These updated maps can be found on Cal Fire's website.²⁰ The County of Santa Barbara will continue to participate in any similar map updates for LRAs prompted by Cal Fire.

FHSZ maps identify moderate, high, and very high hazard severity zones using a science-based and field-tested computer model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior.²¹ Factors considered include fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for the area. The maps are used to:

- Implement wildland-urban interface building standards;
- Create property development standards such as road widths, water supply, and signage for use in city or county general plans.
- Establish defensible space clearance requirements around buildings; and
- Provide natural hazard real estate disclosure at time of sale.

The Santa Barbara County FHSZ map is adopted through *County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations* and used by several County departments for hazard planning, mitigation and response, land use planning, and in the development review process. Copies of the Santa Barbara County FHSZ map are available at the County's Planning & Development Department and the office or website of the State Fire Marshal.^{22 23}

HAZARD REDUCTION MEASURES

Control measures designed to reduce fire hazards within the County must be comprehensive rather than single purpose. Efforts should be aimed at minimizing the occurrence of fires and containing fires once they start, but equally important is reducing fuel loadings and exposure of vulnerable land uses and buildings to wildfires. The

County's current efforts to reduce the hazards of wildland fires include the following major activities:

- Defensible Space Enforcement 365 Days a Year
- Development of Fuel/Fire Breaks
- Continual Use of Controlled Burning
- Implementation of Local Fire Hazard Reduction Projects
- Ongoing Fire Prevention Measures
- Monitoring Available Emergency Fire Services
- Establishment and Maintenance of Fire Management Plans
- Use of Evacuation Planning

The use of these measures assists the County in minimizing the threat wildland fires pose to its residents' lives and property. The development and use of each measure is further described below. These measures are broken into two broad categories: Planning and Implementation.

PLANNING

Fire Emergency Services

The SBCoFD maintains a protocol for evaluating the adequacy of fire level of service to population ratios, response times, equipment condition levels, emergency service training and other relevant emergency service information consistent with State standards. The SBCoFD is also a partner in the Santa Barbara Operational Area-All Risk Mutual Aid Plan which is an extension of, and supportive document to, the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan. Additionally, the County has adopted the Standardized Emergency Management System for responding to large scale disasters requiring a multi-agency response. The County has also established fire defense zones for critical public safety and emergency service assets at risk in the absence of responding fire forces. Finally, the SBCoFD maintains a protocol for wildfire defense zones for emergency services which include fuel breaks, back fire areas, and staging areas that support safe fire suppression activities.

Fire Management Plans

The SBCoFD is responsible for maintaining and updating the Santa Barbara County Communities Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP fulfills the State requirements of a Unit Fire Management Plan for entities such as Santa Barbara County that act as an agent to Cal Fire. The CWPP also fulfills regulatory compliance of the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act which requires the development of community wildfire protection plans for local jurisdictions. The Plan describes the SBCoFD planning process; administrative activities required for wildfire protection; identification of wildfire hazards; completion of a wildfire risk assessment; and

identification of at-risk communities and target planning blocks. Copies of the County's current CWPP are available upon request from SBCoFD offices. ²⁴

Evacuation Plans

The SBCoFD does not prescribe fixed emergency evacuation routes for fire events due to the variability and transformative nature of fires. However, SBCoFD does maintain Standard Operating Procedures which outline the protocols for fire-induced evacuations based on individual emergency scenarios. During fire emergencies in LRAs, the SBCoFD is responsible for assessing hazard areas to identify evacuation requirements. For areas that are imminently affected by fire an order to evacuate may be issued. For areas where a fire is expected to affect residents, but the threat is not imminent, a warning to evacuate may be issued. In SRAs, County agencies and departments cooperate with Cal Fire to assure that residents are evacuated when necessary.

At a Countywide level, law enforcement agencies including the Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, and local police departments are responsible for implementing emergency evacuations. In addition, public safety agencies comply with a Unified Command protocol to determine appropriate evacuation routes based upon conditions of the emergency event, established Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperative Agreements, and Standard Operating Procedures in place for the respective responding agencies. County public safety agencies maintain emergency response protocols that include criteria and guidelines for the declaration, communication, and implementation of evacuation orders or warnings. The County also maintains protocols designed to assure that during an evacuation: routes remain clear, traffic moves smoothly, routes/areas are isolated as appropriate, and the risk of accidents on roadways is minimized.

The County employs a reverse 9-1-1 system to notify the public of the need to evacuate a specific area. Additionally, a Memorandum of Agreement is in place between the County, VAFB, and the City of Lompoc for use of a dedicated base telephone and radio communication system in the event of fire or other emergency in this region of the County.

In the event of a large scale fire, the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (SBC OES) may implement the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) which outlines protocols for emergency planning, management, and response for the County operational area. Additionally, OES may activate the SBC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate multi-agency emergency response efforts for a fire event in compliance with the State Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) protocols. The use of these plans and protocols are critical in administering numerous aspects of emergency response, including evacuations.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Fuel Breaks

Due primarily to environmental concerns the fire department no longer maintains a system of permanent fire breaks in wilderness areas. Instead the fire department maintains fire access roads which can serve as fire breaks in addition to providing emergency ingress and egress. However, the SBCoFD, CalFire, and the US Forest Service will create new fire breaks as part of the emergency response to large wildland fires. Ultimately, these fire breaks are allowed to be re-colonized by native vegetation.

Controlled Burning

Another fire prevention measure that has been used successfully in many areas of the state is controlled burning. Within the County, private organizations such as the Range Improvement Association (an organization of ranchers in the central and northern portion of the County and in the Cuyama Valley) submits plans to the SBCoFD for controlled burns aimed mainly at restoring lands for grazing. Fuelbreaks are established as part of the controlled burns. The SBCoFD assists by reviewing the burn proposals, inspecting the fuel breaks, and making personnel available to assist the Association during the burns. Additionally, the SBCoFD, US Forest Service, and fire protection officials on Vandenberg Air Force Base conduct controlled burns within their respective jurisdictions. These controlled burns provide a reduction in hazardous fuel loads, provide defensible space for communities at risk, and help rejuvenate natural ecosystems which are dependent upon fire activity to maintain a healthy balance.

General Fire Prevention Measures

Other fire prevention measures that the County has adopted are derived mainly from the Uniform Fire Code, the Public Resources Code, Government Code, and the California Fire Code. Currently, the County has the authority to regulate the location of bulk storage tanks such as those used to store gas and oil. In addition, bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires are allowed only under permit; incinerator burning is restricted to certain hours; and spark arrestors are required on all chimneys. Open flame devices are prohibited in hazardous fire areas except by permit. Also, in fire hazard areas, fuel reduction zones 30 to 100 feet wide around structures are required in order to minimize the risk of property damage and to improve accessibility in case of fire.

Local Fire Hazard Reduction Projects

The SBCoFD is responsible for the development and implementation of fire control measures within LRAs and, by contract with the State of California, for SRAs of the unincorporated areas of the County. This section provides an overview of adopted SBCoFD fire prevention and protection control measures which comply with the requirements of State law. In addition, the SBCoFD offers additional recommended, non-mandatory control measures designed to assist the community in fire prevention

and protection. For a complete list of all current SBCoFD prevention and protection control measures, contact the County Fire Department.

The SBCoFD is responsible for the development and implementation of countywide control measures designed to reduce fire hazards. These control measures may take the form of projects, activities, and infrastructure which reduce the threat of factors such as fuel loading, slope, and urbanization that compound existing fire hazards. Activities may include:

- The removal of dense vegetation from neighborhoods, roadways, and transition zones;
- Construction of fire prevention and protection facilities;
- Clearing fuel breaks; and
- Clearing drainage areas.

SBCoFD staff work with homeowner associations, Fire Safe Councils, the Range Improvement Association, and other interested groups to develop and complete these fire hazard reduction projects.

In post-fire burn areas, the SBCoFD may develop fire recovery and maintenance plans to facilitate comprehensive recovery and fire safe maintenance of an area. Working in collaboration with the SBCoFD, County Public Works Department staff identifies areas of flood and landslide vulnerability related to post-wildfire conditions and develops and implements projects designed to mitigate flood and landslide hazards. These projects include, but are not limited to: drainage crossing debris maintenance, control of storm runoff in burn areas, and revegetation of burn areas. In open space areas, the SBCoFD conducts prescribed burning, clears fuel breaks, and performs vegetation thinning and removal. The SBCoFD also works with the County's Planning & Development Department to ensure that land use programs and policies do not conflict with fire prevention and protection requirements of State law. These programs and policies seek to limit the threat from fire hazards to the maximum extent feasible while balancing the need for responsible levels of development.

LAND USE PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

In areas of high or extreme fire hazard, fire protection measures alone will not solve the problem. Land use planning must recognize the hazards and treat them as constraints in the planning process. Under the California Environmental Quality Act, local County action is directed to achieve a balance between natural processes and urban uses in order to create and maintain conditions of productive harmony. The law requiring a Safety Element in general plans repeats the same theme in relation to the concept of

acceptable and unacceptable risk. Consequently, the County has ample legal authority to regulate land use and development in order to reduce fire hazard.

Land development in fire hazard areas will not only increase the degree of risk by bringing more people into a hazardous area, but also may increase the hazard by altering the vegetation and landform. On private lands within the National Forest, this problem is complicated by the fact that the Forest Service is not chartered and normally is not equipped to protect structures, its primary mission in this area being wildland fire prevention and control.

The County uses planning to minimize these fire hazards by requiring elevated development standards within especially vulnerable areas. These standards include the requirement for fire resistive construction materials, development of adequate emergency access routes, access to fire suppression water supplies (fire hydrants or water tanks), and zones of vegetation clearance around structures. The implementation of these standards will help minimize, but not entirely eliminate, the hazards from wildland fires.

FIRE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

State Law²⁵ also requires the use of ignition resistant building methods and materials as a fire prevention control measure for new buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within SRAs, any local agency VHFHSZ, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency. Planning & Development Department staff refers to the most current and adopted County of Santa Barbara Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps to identify the Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas for the unincorporated County.

SBCoFD Fire Prevention Division maintains Development Standards which serve as control measures designed to promote fire protection and comply with State law.²⁶ The Development Standards, codified in County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention, cover a range of development topics required for new construction. The table below provides a summary of Development Standards 1 through 7. These Development Standards are updated by the SBCoFD as needed to ensure compliance with State law. To secure copies of all current Development Standards in their entirety, contact Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Development Standards ²⁷	
Development Standard #1 Private Roadway and Driveway Standards	Establishes minimum standards for driveways and private roads. These standards outline minimum road widths and vegetation clearance designed to provide fire vehicles access to residences and associated structures.
Development Standard #2 Fire Hydrant Spacing and Water Flow Rates	Establishes fire hydrant spacing, discharge outlet configuration and flow rate requirements. Flow rate standards are used when calculating peakload water supply requirements for one-and-two family dwelling units.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Development Standards ²⁷	
Development Standard #3 Stored Water Fire Protection Systems Serving One and Two-Family Dwellings	Establishes standards for stored water fire protection systems serving one and two-family dwellings.
Development Standard #4 Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Standards	Establishes standards for automatic fire sprinkler systems.
Development Standard #5 Automatic Alarm System Standards	Establishes standards for automatic alarm systems.
Development Standard #6 Vegetation Management Plan	Establishes standards for vegetation management plans.
Development Standard #7 Access Gates	Establishes standards for gates on private roads and private driveway access points.
Source: County Fire Department, 2009 2012	

Government Code §65302(g)(1) requires that the Safety Element address peakload water supply requirements and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire hazards. The Development Standards adopted by the County Fire Department comply with these requirements of State law. SBCoFD Standard #1 provides minimum standards for road widths and vegetation clearance on driveways and private roads designed to provide fire vehicles access to residences and associated structures. Additionally, SBCoFD requires fire apparatus access roads comply with minimum widths pursuant to the California Fire Code §503.2.1. Development Standards for road widths for fire emergencies are maintained and updated as needed by SBCoFD to comply with State law. SBCoFD Development Standards #2 and #3 provide guidelines for stored water fire protection systems, fire hydrant spacing and water flow rate standards for one-and-two family dwelling units. Development Standards for water storage and delivery for fire emergencies are maintained and updated as needed by SBCoFD to comply with State law.

SUBDIVISION REQUIREMENTS

The approval of new subdivisions must meet certain fire safety requirements, codified in County Code Chapter 21-Land Division.²⁸ These requirements include ensuring structural fire protection and suppression services will be available, as well ingress and egress for fire equipment access, and creating design and location of lots that is consistent with regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Sections 4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE/CLEARANCE AROUND STRUCTURES

Establishing defensible space or clearances around structures is a powerful tool for preventing fire hazards and is therefore required by both County regulations and State law.²⁹ Cal Fire defines defensible space as:

The area within the perimeter of a parcel where basic wildfire protection practices are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or escaping structure fire. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures.³⁰

| SBCoFD ~~has recently~~ amended County Code 15-Fire Prevention and SBCoFD Development Standards to comply with State law.³¹ Adherence to SBCoFD Development Standard #6 meets defensible space requirements of the Public Resources Code and Government Code.³² The Development Standard requires completion of a vegetation management plan for new construction of, or in some cases the expansion of existing, residential structures. This plan describes all actions that will be taken to prevent fire from being carried toward structures. SBCoFD will continue to update County Codes and Fire Development Standards to maintain consistency with any changes in State law.

DRAFT

FIRE GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

This section profiles the goals, policies, and implementation measures adopted by the County which demonstrate compliance with fire prevention and protection requirements outlined in State law.

Goals: Fire Protection and Prevention	
Goal 1	Protect the community from unreasonable risks associated with the effects of wildland and urban fires pursuant to Government Code 65302 (g)(1).

Policies	Fire Protection	Implementation Measures
Fire Policy 1	Continue to pursue and promote County fire prevention programs and control measures.	Fire Implementation Measure 1- Maintain and Enforce Fire Prevention Programs and Plans Fire Implementation Measure 2- Continue Development Review Process Fire Implementation Measure 3- Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code Fire Implementation Measure 4- Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2 California Building Code Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations Fire Implementation Measure 6- Maintain and Implement the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Fire Implementation Measure 8- Maintain and Enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards where applicable. Fire Implementation Measure 15- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 2	The County shall use California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection-Fire Hazard Severity	Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations

Policies	Fire Protection	Implementation Measures
	Zones to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in State Responsibility Areas (SRA), local agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and designated Wildland-Urban Interface areas pursuant to the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2, California Building Code.	Fire Implementation Measure 4- Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2 California Building Code Fire Implementation Measure 15- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 3	Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps, as maintained by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall be used to illustrate the official areas of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in the Local and State Responsibility Areas. ³³	Fire Implementation Measure 7-Enforce County of Santa Barbara maps for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10 Building Regulations Fire Implementation Measure 15- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 4	To reduce the potential for fire damage, the County shall continue to require consistency with County Fire Department Development Standards pursuant to the California Fire Code, Public Resource Code §4291, and Government Code §51175-51188.	Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10 Building Regulations Fire Implementation Measure 8- Maintain and Enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards where applicable. Fire Implementation Measure 15- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 5	The County shall continue to require defensible space clearance around all structures in unincorporated Local Responsibility Areas pursuant to Public Resource Code §4291, and Government Code §51175-51188.	Fire Implementation Measure 8- Maintain and Enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards where applicable. Fire Implementation Measure 15- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 6	The County should continue to collaborate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in the revision of Fire	Fire Implementation Measure 7-Enforce County of Santa Barbara maps for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).

Policies	Fire Protection	Implementation Measures
	Hazard Severity Zone Maps.	Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations
Fire Policy 7	The County should strive to maintain partnerships with tribal governments, state, local, and federal agencies to identify, prioritize, and implement fire prevention and protection measures in the County.	Fire Implementation Measure 12- Continue to Encourage Interagency Agreements
Fire Policy 8	The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) shall continue coordinating emergency planning for the Santa Barbara Operational Area pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act of 1970.	Fire Implementation Measure 12- Continue to Encourage Interagency Agreements Fire Implementation Measure 13- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 12- Civil Defense and Disaster Fire Implementation Measure 14- Enforce the California Emergency Services Act
Fire Policy 9	The County shall minimize the potential effects of fire hazards through the development review process pursuant to State law.	Fire Implementation Measure 2- Continue Development Review Process Fire Implementation Measure 3- Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code Fire Implementation Measure 4- Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2 California Building Code Fire Implementation Measure 5- Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations Fire Implementation Measure 6- Maintain and Implement the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Fire Implementation Measure 8- Maintain and Enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards where applicable. Fire Implementation Measure 15-

Policies	Fire Protection	Implementation Measures
		Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention
Fire Policy 10	The County should reference the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan when considering measures to reduce potential harm from fire-related activity to property and lives.	Fire Implementation Measure 6- Maintain and Implement the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

The implementation measures listed below demonstrate how the policies of this Element are carried out through local ordinances, actions, procedures, or programs. A timeline for implementation and policy linkage is also provided.

Timeline	Implementation Measure	Description	Policy Linkage
Ongoing	1. Maintain and Enforce Fire Prevention Programs and Plans	Continue to pursue and promote the following fire prevention programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Fire Department Places of Assembly: General Regulations and Guidelines • County Fire Department Red Flag Alert Plan • Regular inspection and code enforcement by County Fire Department. • Santa Barbara County Wildfire Action Plan • Living with Fire Homeowners Guide • Tent and Canopy Permit Program • County Fire Development Standards • County Code and ordinance development • County Fire Hazardous materials process and inspection • Training and planning • County Fire investigation and data 	Fire Policy 1

Timeline	Implementation Measure	Description	Policy Linkage
		analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education and information • Santa Barbara County Communities Wildfire Protection Plan 	
Ongoing	2. Continuation of Development Review Process	Continue County Planning and Development referral of development proposals to the County Fire Department for review and comment. The review process shall consider the provision of access to lands for fire fighting, street access to structures, peakload water supply, fire prevention programs, and the enforcement of County ordinances, State building and fire codes.	Fire Policy 1
Ongoing	3. Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code	Continue enforcement of the California Fire Code (CFC), which provides specifications and standards for fire safety and prevention. The Code specifies the quantity of water needed for fire protection, early warning devices, automatic detection and reporting devices, and smoke detectors as required preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of fire.	Fire Policy 1
Ongoing	4. Enforce Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 2 California Building Code	Continue enforcement of the California Building Code (CBC) which provides minimum standards for building design, construction techniques, wiring standards, building materials, roofing specifications and fire detection/warning devices to minimize risk of structural fire damage. The CBC requires the use of ignition resistant building methods and materials as a fire prevention control measure for new buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas, any local agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the	Fire Policy 1, 6

Timeline	Implementation Measure	Description	Policy Linkage
		enforcing agency.	
Ongoing	5. Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations	Maintain and continue enforcement of County Code Chapter 10-Building Regulations which provide minimum building standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of buildings and structures within the County. Chapter 10 includes adoption of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) maps which identify areas of medium, high and very high fire hazard.	Fire Policy 1, 2, 4, 6
Ongoing	6. Maintain and Implement Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Maintain and continue implementation of the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which focuses on the assessment of identified risks and implementation of loss reduction measures to insure critical County services and facilities survive a disaster. Topics covered in the plan include flood, wildfire, earthquake, coastal storm surge/tsunami, landslide/coastal erosion and dam failure in the unincorporated areas of the County. Each topic has been assessed to identify, screen and rank hazards; assess the vulnerability of hazards and capabilities for response to and reduction of hazards. Additionally, a series of goals, objectives, and actions to address each hazard is included. ³⁴	Fire Policy 1, 10
<u>ExistingOngoing</u>	7. Enforce Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).	Continue to enforce use of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) maps which identify areas of medium, high and very high fire hazard.	Fire Policy 3, 4, 6, 7

Timeline	Implementation Measure	Description	Policy Linkage
Ongoing	8. Maintain and Enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards where applicable.	Continue to maintain and enforce County, Carpinteria, and Montecito Fire Department Development Standards required to protect the community from unreasonable risk associated with urban and wildland fires pursuant to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code.	Fire Policy 1, 4, 5
Ongoing	12. Encourage Interagency Agreements	Continue coordinating with other local, regional, tribal and state agencies (inclusive of federal land managers from the National Forest and representatives from Vandenberg Air Force Base) to develop and maintain mutual aid agreements.	Fire Policy 7, 8
Ongoing	13. Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 12-Civil Defense and Disaster	Continue enforcement of County Code Chapter 12-Civil Defense and Disaster provides for the direction of the County emergency organization (Office of Emergency Services); preparation and implementation of plans for the protection of persons and property in the event of an emergency; and the coordination of emergency functions of the County with all other public agencies, corporations, organizations and affected private persons.	Fire Policy 8
Ongoing	14. Enforce California Emergency Services Act	Continue enforcement of California Emergency Services Act of 1970 which confers responsibility to the State of California to mitigate the effects of natural, man-made, or war-caused emergencies which result in conditions of disaster or in extreme peril to life, property, and the resources of the State.	Fire Policy 8
Ongoing	15. Maintain and Enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention	Continue to maintain and enforce County Code Chapter 15-Fire Prevention which includes adoption of the California Fire Code, fire Development Standards, standards for	Fire Policy 1,4

Timeline	Implementation Measure	Description	Policy Linkage
		weed abatement, fire protection mitigation fees, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District fire protection mitigation fee ordinance, Orcutt Fire Protection District fire protection mitigation fees, Goleta Fire Protection District fire protection mitigation fees, automatic fire sprinkler systems, fees, violations, Fire Department administration of hazardous materials/wastes laws, and fireworks.	

CONCLUSION

Wildland fire hazards represent an important constraint that must be considered in the land use planning and development process in order to reduce the risk of occurrence, the potential damage, and the threat of injury or death. Programs for fuel management and hazard reduction, as well as for fire prevention and control, will play an important role in the County's efforts to cope with its wildland fire problem.

VIII. County Office of Emergency Services

The California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) coordinates the implementation of the California Emergency Plan (CEP), a statewide planning document designed to coordinate federal, state and local government emergency response efforts.⁵³ The CEP is implemented locally through the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MHFP) which is maintained by the County Office of Emergency Services (OES). The objective of the MHFP is to “provide in an expedient manner, fire, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, urban search and rescue or other expertise in the form of resources and qualified personnel as would be necessary to manage a major incident or disaster that would have exceeded the capabilities of a single agency.” The MHFP covers the Santa Barbara Operational Area (SBOA) which includes all fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical and other emergency response agencies within the County. Members also include:

- all County incorporated cities;
- Vandenberg Air Force Base;
- U.S. Forest Service (Los Padres National Forest);
- special districts, fire districts, sanitary districts, school districts, vector control districts, and water districts;
- volunteer organizations, and;
- industry groups, the petroleum industry mutual aid group, and other industrial associations.

The MHFP requires OES to coordinate disaster plans and exercises with all incorporated cities; assist County departments in developing department and facility emergency plans to address disaster response; maintain the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a state of operational readiness; maintain a trained cadre of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team members; provide ongoing training for County department emergency coordinators; and participate in public education and outreach. OES also provides tri-County coordination with the Office of Emergency Services in Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties

CalEMA has divided the State into various regions for emergency coordination and response. Santa Barbara County is part of Region I which includes San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. Region I members have developed mutual aid agreements which provide for emergency fire, medical and law enforcement services within local operational areas as well as supporting member jurisdictions outside of the individual operational areas. Mutual aid agreements cover a range of topics and may include but are not limited to the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan; the Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Plan; the Public Works Mutual Aid Plan; and the Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan. These Mutual Aid Plans are designed to provide for the systematic mobilization, organization and operation of law enforcement, fire, medical, and search and rescue agencies within Region I.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The County Office of Emergency Services has prepared the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.⁵⁴ The plan complies with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CalEMA. The MJHMP focuses on the assessment of identified risks and implementation of loss reduction measures to ensure critical County services and facilities survive a disaster. Topics covered in the plan include flood, wildfire, earthquake, coastal storm surge/tsunami, landslide/coastal erosion and dam failure in the unincorporated areas of the County. Each topic has been assessed to identify, screen, and rank hazards. The vulnerability of hazards has been assessed and capabilities for response to, and reduction of, these hazards have been identified. Additionally, a series of goals, objectives, and actions to address each hazard is included.⁵⁵

By completing, updating and maintaining the MJHMP the County becomes eligible for funding and technical assistance from state and federal hazard mitigation programs, such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs. By adopting a local hazard mitigation plan with the Seismic Safety and Safety Element the County increases their eligibility for state and federal hazard mitigation programs. As such, in 2010 the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan with the Seismic Safety and Safety Element pursuant to Government Code §65302.6 (a).

While the MJHMP is not required under Government Code 65302(g), as is the Seismic Safety and Safety Element, the two documents are mutually supportive. The data, goals, objectives, policies, actions, and recommendations from one document should be referenced in support of each other, and should remain consistent throughout both documents. The MJHMP is updated every five years pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Therefore, when reviewing the Seismic Safety and Safety Element the most current, adopted MJHMP should also be referenced.

FIRE HAZARDS

California Region Framework Study Committee, 1971, Comprehensive Framework Study California Region, Appendix VIII Watershed Management, Pacific Southwest Interagency Committee, Water Resources Council.

Philpot, Dr. C. W., 1973, The Changing Role of Fire on Chaparral Lands, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Fire Forest Laboratory, Missoula, Montana.

State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry, 1973, A Fire Hazard Severity Classification for California's Wildlands.

Task Force on California's Wildland Fire Problem, 1972, Recommendations to Solve California's Wildland Fire Problem, a report to the Resources Agency of the State of California prepared under the direction of James G. Stearns, Director, State Department of Conservation.

FLOOD CONTROL

Bureau of Reclamation, March 1968, Feasibility Study of Lompoc Project, California.

Bureau of Reclamation, April 1968, Lompoc Project, California.

Bureau of Reclamation, May 1952, Santa Maria Project, Southern Pacific Basin", California.

Bureau of Reclamation, June 1971, Santa Ynez River Flood Study, California.

Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, November, 1968 and January 1970, Flood Plain Information, Santa Ynez River.

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 1970, Lompoc: Flood Control and Drainage Plan.

CITATIONS

¹ [Resolution No. 79-43A](#) (78-GP-5), Adopted January 22nd, 1979 (Adopting Resolution of Seismic Safety Element)

² [Resolution No. 00-56](#) (Case No. 97-GP-002) Adopted February 1st, 2000 (Adopting Resolution for Safety Element Supplement)

³ Council on Intergovernmental Relations, September 1973, p. III-7.

⁴ p. IV-27.

⁵ Late Mesozoic - 140 to 70 million years before present; Cenozoic - 70 million years to the present.

⁶ This name has been applied to several different faults. We follow the usage of the California Division of Mines & Geology, as shown on the 1:250,000 state geologic map sheets (Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo).

⁷ The Cameros fault was so named by M. L. Hall in 1932. The canyon for which it was named was evidently incorrectly shown on a topographic map used by Hill. Upson, in 1951, shows the name as Carneros, which is the correct name for the canyon.

⁸ [Resolution No. 10-227](#) (Case No. 10-GP-1) Adopted August 10, 2010 (Updated various sections of the Seismic Safety and Safety Element)

⁹ [Resolution No. 91-539](#) (Case No. 81-GP-3) Added September 3rd 1991 (Amended Land Use Policy 4 to add adjective of "cultivated" to agriculture.)

¹⁰ Single-family wood or steel framed dwellings less than two stories in height and not part of a development of four or more dwellings are exempt from the Alquist-Priolo Act (including mobile homes, apartment to condominium conversions, seismic retrofitting, any development or structure in existence prior to May 4, 1975; except structural alterations that exceed the value limit and additions to any structure where the alteration does not exceed 50 percent of the value of the structure).

¹¹ [Resolution No. 83-359](#) Amended August 15th, 1983 (Amend Section to read "Fire Hazard and Fire Services")

¹² [Resolution No. 10-227](#) (Case No. 10-GP-1) On August 10, 2010, Section VI: Fire Hazard and Fire Services was amended by the County Board of Supervisors to demonstrate regulatory compliance with the requirements of the Public Resources Code, Government Code, and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

¹³ California Department of Fire (CDF): http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_statsevents

¹⁴ Santa Barbara County Fire Department (2005). *Santa Barbara Communities Wildfire Protection Plan*.

¹⁵ *Ibid*

¹⁶ [California Department of Fire \(CDF\):
\[http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=310\]\(http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=310\)](#)

¹⁷ [California Department of Fire \(CDF\):
\[http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=307\]\(http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=307\)](#)

¹⁸ Government Code §65302(g) (1) requires that Safety Elements address military installations as they relate to identified fire hazards.

¹⁹ Pursuant to Public Resources Code §§ 4201-4204 and Government Code §§ 51175-51188

²⁰ [California Department of Fire \(CDF\):
\[http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_santabarbara.php\]\(http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_santabarbara.php\)](#)

²¹ Santa Barbara County Fire Department (2005). *Santa Barbara Communities Wildfire Protection Plan*.

²² [California Department of Fire: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_santabarbara.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_santabarbara.php)

²³ [Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department: http://www.sbcountyplanning.org/pdf/maps/MiscellaneousMaps/FireHazard_AllRespnsAreas_FloodHazard_Update.pdf](http://www.sbcountyplanning.org/pdf/maps/MiscellaneousMaps/FireHazard_AllRespnsAreas_FloodHazard_Update.pdf)

²⁴ [California Department of Fire. http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf250.pdf](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf250.pdf)

²⁵ Fire Ignition Resistant Construction Methods California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2-California Building Code (CBC)

²⁶ Requirement of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Part 9 California Fire Code. Additionally, Section 13108.5(c) of the Health and Safety Code allows local agencies to revise development standards contained in the California Fire Code in order to meet unique local conditions.

²⁷ [A list of current fire development standards can be found at: http://www.sbctfire.com/special-ops/](http://www.sbctfire.com/special-ops/) Alternative development standards may be applicable within the jurisdiction of the Montecito and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection Districts.

²⁸ [County of Santa Barbara. https://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16322](https://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16322)

²⁹ Required pursuant to Government Code, Section 2, 51182(a)(1-6) and Public Resources Code 4291.

³⁰ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (2006 May). *General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space*. .

³¹ SB 1595 revised Government Code, Section 2, 51182(a)(1-6) and Public Resources Code 4291 amending defensible space requirements and clearance around structures.

³² [County of Santa Barbara Fire Department. http://www.sbctfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/6-Defensible-Space.pdf](http://www.sbctfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/6-Defensible-Space.pdf)

³³ Pursuant to Government Code, Sections 51178 through Section 51182 and SB 1595

³⁴ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (~~2004 November~~2011 September). *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. http://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/ceo/oes/SBC_LHMP_2011.pdf

³⁵ [Resolution No. 10-227](#) (Case No. 10-GP-1) On August 10, 2010, the County amended the Flood Control section of this Element to demonstrate regulatory compliance with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) (42 U.S.C. 4022) and Government Code Sections 65302, 65560 and 65800.

³⁶ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (2004 November) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*

³⁷ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (2004 November) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*

³⁸ *Ibid*

³⁹ *Ibid*

⁴⁰ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (2004 November) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*

⁴¹ National Academy of Sciences (1983) *Safety of Existing Dams- Evaluation and Improvement*.

⁴² Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (2006) *Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Prepared for Winter Storms, report of the 2005-2006 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury*.

⁴³ FEMA (2009 June). *The National Flood Insurance Program*. <http://www.fema.gov/about/programs/nfip/index.shtm>.

⁴⁴ FEMA. *Technical Fact Sheet No. 3-Using a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM); Home Builder's Guide to Coastal Construction.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid*

⁴⁶ FEMA. Map Service Center. <http://msc.fema.gov>.

⁴⁷ County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department. *County Code Chapter 15A-Flood Plain Management.*

⁴⁸ County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department. *County Code Chapter 15B-Development Along Watercourses.*

⁴⁹ Pursuant to Government Code §65302(g)(2).

⁵⁰ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (2004 November) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*

⁵¹ *Ibid*

⁵² Pursuant to Government Code §65302(g)(2)(B) and (C).

⁵³ Pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act of 1970

⁵⁴ Authority to create the MJHMP is derived from Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; Public Law 106-390, Section 322 and the associated Interim Final Rule, 44 CFR Parts 201 and 206, published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002.

⁵⁵ Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (2004) *Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan,*

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SUBDIVISIONS, OF CHAPTER 21, LAND DIVISION, OF THE COUNTY CODE, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 21-18.2 TO ADD NEW FINDINGS FOR SUBDIVISIONS IN STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS OR HIGH FIRE HAZARD AREAS PURSUANT TO SECTION 66474.02 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE TO COMPLY WITH SENATE BILL 1241.

Case No. 14ORD-00000-00011

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara ordains as follows:

SECTION 1:

ARTICLE I, SUBDIVISIONS, of Chapter 21, Land Divisions, of the Santa Barbara County Code, is amended to add a new Section 21-18.2. Findings for Approval of Subdivision Maps Located in Fire Hazard Areas, to read as follows:

Section 21-18.2. Findings for Approval of Subdivision Maps Located in Fire Hazard Areas

Pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code Section 66474.02, before approving a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for a subdivision located in a state responsibility area or a high fire hazard severity zone, the decision-maker must make all of the following findings:

1. 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.
2. Supported by substantial evidence in the record, structural fire protection and services will be available for the subdivision through any of the following entities:
 - a. 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.
 - b. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by contract entered into pursuant to Section 4133, 4142, or 4144 of the Public Resources Code.
3. 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.

This shall not supersede regulations established by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or other ordinances within the County Code that provide equivalent or more stringent minimum requirements than those contained within this section.

SECTION 2:

Except as amended by this Ordinance, ARTICLE I, SUBDIVISIONS, of Chapter 21, Land Divisions, of the Santa Barbara County Code, shall remain unchanged and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3:

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days from the date of its passage and before the expiration of 15 days after its passage a summary of it shall be published once together with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same in the Santa Barbara News-Press, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAINED:
ABSENT:

STEVE LAVAGNINO, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Deputy County Counsel

Attachment C - County of Santa Barbara's SB 1241 Safety Element Update Comments

Fire Hazard Information Included in the Safety Element	
Government Code §65302 Requirements	County Implementation
Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps were updated by the State in 2008 with the State and Federal Responsibility Areas, however, within the Local Responsibility Area, only the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone was mapped by the State. The County map displaying Local Responsibility Areas was updated in 2014.
Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a description of the History of Wildland Fires in the County from 1922 through 2009. The proposed Safety Element update includes updated historical data through 2013. The Safety Element also already includes a Causes and History of Wildfire section, which includes information on ignition sources and fuel beds.
Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element has a discussion about wildfire hazard areas, including Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, Local Responsibility Areas, State Responsibility Areas, and Federal Responsibility Areas. The proposed Safety Element update includes a brief discussion of the maps of these areas and how frequently they are updated.
General location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a discussion of how to best plan for fire safety and fire management. The County's Fire Department is responsible for maintaining the Santa Barbara County Communities Wildfire Protection Plan, which describes the planning process, including the identification of wildfire hazards and at-risk communities and target planning blocks. Furthermore, the Land Use Planning section of the Safety Element has a discussion about planning to minimize fire hazards by requiring certain development standards. Lastly, defensible space is discussed in the Safety Element and is one of the County Fire Department's

	Development Standards (Development Standard #6), which meets the defensible space requirements of the Public Resources Code and Government Code.
Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a description of Responsible Agencies and Hazard Severity. This section discusses the differing levels of responsibility within California (i.e. Local Responsibility Areas, State Responsibility Areas, Federal Responsibility Areas). It also includes a discussion of mutual aid agreements between the fire-fighting agencies within the state.
Goals, Policies, and Objectives for Mitigation	
Government Code §65302 Requirements	County Implementation
A set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified in §65040.20 of the Government Code for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a number of goals and policies which comply with fire prevention and protection requirements outlined in State Law. There are 10 adopted polices and 15 adopted implementation measures within the Safety Element regarding fire prevention and protection.
Implementation Measures	
Government Code §65302 Requirements	County Implementation
Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land	<p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a discussion of how to best plan for fire safety and fire management. The County’s Fire Department is responsible for maintaining the Santa Barbara County Communities Wildfire Protection Plan, which describes the planning process, including the identification of wildfire hazards and at-risk communities and target planning blocks.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Land Use Planning section of the Safety Element has a discussion about planning to minimize fire hazards by requiring certain development standards.</p> <p>Lastly, CEQA directs the County to achieve a balance between natural processes and urban uses, and this theme is carried throughout the Safety Element.</p>
Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency	<i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a discussion of how to best plan for fire safety and fire management. The County’s Fire Department is responsible for maintaining the Santa Barbara County

<p>communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone.</p>	<p>Communities Wildfire Protection Plan, which describes the planning process, including the identification of wildfire hazards and at-risk communities and target planning blocks.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Land Use Planning section of the Safety Element has a discussion about planning to minimize fire hazards by requiring certain development standards.</p> <p>Lastly, CEQA directs the County to achieve a balance between natural processes and urban uses, and this theme is carried throughout the Safety Element.</p>
<p>Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression</p>	<p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> The current Safety Element includes a section on Fire Development Standards, which serve as control measures to promote fire protection and comply with State law. These standards are also codified in County Code Chapter 15 – Fire Protection, and list standards required for new construction.</p>
<p>Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection</p>	<p><i>Fully Implemented.</i> The County of Santa Barbara’s Planning and Development Department works with the County’s Fire Department, as well as the County’s Building and Safety Division, on all topics related to fire protection.</p>
General Plan Reference	
Government Code §65302 Requirements	County Implementation
<p>If a city or county has adopted a fire safety plan or document separate from the general plan, an attachment of, or reference to, a city or county’s adopted fire safety plan or document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives and contains information required pursuant to this paragraph.</p>	<p><i>Fully Implemented</i> - The Safety Element is a part of the County of Santa Barbara’s Comprehensive Plan. The County does not have a “General Plan” document aside from the Safety Element.</p>
Findings	
Government Code §66474.02 Requirements	County Implementation
<p>Before approving a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for an area located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, as both are defined in Section 51177, a legislative body of a county shall make the following three findings:</p> <p>(1) A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the design and location of each lot in the subdivision, and the subdivision as a</p>	<p><i>Part of Current Update</i> – The project update includes an ordinance amendment to County Code Chapter 21 – Land Division, to incorporate the new findings required for subdivisions.</p>

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.

- (2) A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that structural fire protection and suppression services will be available for the subdivision through any of the following entities:
 - (A) 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
 - (B) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by contract entered into pursuant to Section 4133, 4142, or 4144 of the Public Resources Code.
- (3) A finding that 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.

This shall not supersede regulations established by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or local ordinances that provide equivalent or more stringent minimum requirements than those contained within this section.



SB-1241 Land use: general plan: safety element: fire hazard impacts. (2011-2012)

Senate Bill No. 1241

CHAPTER 311

An act to amend Sections 65302 and 65302.5 of, and to add Sections 65040.20 and 66474.02 to, the Government Code, and to add Section 21083.01 to the Public Resources Code, relating to land use.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 13, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1241, Kehoe. Land use: general plan: safety element: fire hazard impacts.

(1) The Planning and Zoning Law requires the legislative body of a city or county to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan that includes various elements, including, among others, a safety element for the protection of the community from unreasonable risks associated with, among other things, wildland and urban fires. The safety element includes requirements for state responsibility areas, as defined, and very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined.

This bill would revise the safety element requirements for state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified, and require the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones, taking into account specified considerations, including, among others, the most recent version of the Office of Planning and Research's "Fire Hazard Planning" document. The bill would also require the office to, at the next update of its general plan guidelines, include these provisions, or a reference to these provisions and any other materials related to fire hazards or fire safety it deems appropriate. By imposing new duties on a city or county with regard to reviewing and updating its general plan, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The Subdivision Map Act requires the legislative body of a city or county to deny approval of a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, unless it makes certain findings.

This bill would require the legislative body of a county to make 3 specified findings before approving a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for an area located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, as defined. The bill would provide that this provision does not supersede the requirements of local ordinances and specified regulations that provide equivalent or more stringent minimum requirements.

(3) The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA requires the Office of Planning and Research to prepare and develop guidelines for the implementation of CEQA by public agencies.

This bill would require the office, on or after January 1, 2013, at the time of the next update of the guidelines for implementing CEQA, in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to prepare, develop, and transmit to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency recommended proposed changes or amendments to the initial study checklist for the inclusion of questions related to fire hazard impacts for

projects in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. The bill would also require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to certify and adopt these recommended proposed changes or amendments.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 65040.20 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65040.20. The Office of Planning and Research, when it adopts its next edition of the general plan guidelines pursuant to Section 65040.2, shall include the provisions of, or a reference to, paragraph (3) of subdivision (g) of Section 65302, and any other materials related to fire hazards or fire safety it deems appropriate.

SEC. 2. Section 65302 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65302. The general plan shall consist of a statement of development policies and shall include a diagram or diagrams and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals. The plan shall include the following elements:

(a) A land use element that designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste disposal facilities, and other categories of public and private uses of land. The location and designation of the extent of the uses of the land for public and private uses shall consider the identification of land and natural resources pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d). The land use element shall include a statement of the standards of population density and building intensity recommended for the various districts and other territory covered by the plan. The land use element shall identify and annually review those areas covered by the plan that are subject to flooding identified by flood plain mapping prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Department of Water Resources. The land use element shall also do both of the following:

(1) Designate in a land use category that provides for timber production those parcels of real property zoned for timberland production pursuant to the California Timberland Productivity Act of 1982 (Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 51100) of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5).

(2) Consider the impact of new growth on military readiness activities carried out on military bases, installations, and operating and training areas, when proposing zoning ordinances or designating land uses covered by the general plan for land, or other territory adjacent to military facilities, or underlying designated military aviation routes and airspace.

(A) In determining the impact of new growth on military readiness activities, information provided by military facilities shall be considered. Cities and counties shall address military impacts based on information from the military and other sources.

(B) The following definitions govern this paragraph:

(i) "Military readiness activities" mean all of the following:

(I) Training, support, and operations that prepare the men and women of the military for combat.

(II) Operation, maintenance, and security of any military installation.

(III) Testing of military equipment, vehicles, weapons, and sensors for proper operation or suitability for combat use.

(ii) "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Defense as defined in paragraph (1) of

subsection (e) of Section 2687 of Title 10 of the United States Code.

(b) (1) A circulation element consisting of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, any military airports and ports, and other local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the land use element of the plan.

(2) (A) Commencing January 1, 2011, upon any substantive revision of the circulation element, the legislative body shall modify the circulation element to plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the general plan.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "users of streets, roads, and highways" mean bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, pedestrians, users of public transportation, and seniors.

(c) A housing element as provided in Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580).

(d) (1) A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.

(2) The conservation element may also cover all of the following:

(A) The reclamation of land and waters.

(B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.

(C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.

(D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.

(E) Protection of watersheds.

(F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand, and gravel resources.

(3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and stormwater management.

(e) An open-space element as provided in Article 10.5 (commencing with Section 65560).

(f) (1) A noise element that shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:

(A) Highways and freeways.

(B) Primary arterials and major local streets.

(C) Passenger and freight online railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.

(D) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.

(E) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.

(F) Other ground stationary noise sources, including, but not limited to, military installations, identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.

(2) Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.

(3) The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.

(4) The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state's noise insulation standards.

(g) (1) A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.

(2) The safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, shall also do the following:

(A) Identify information regarding flood hazards, including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) Flood hazard zones. As used in this subdivision, "flood hazard zone" means an area subject to flooding that is delineated as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate or minimal hazard on an official flood insurance rate map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The identification of a flood hazard zone does not imply that areas outside the flood hazard zones or uses permitted within flood hazard zones will be free from flooding or flood damage.

(ii) National Flood Insurance Program maps published by FEMA.

(iii) Information about flood hazards that is available from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(iv) Designated floodway maps that are available from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

(v) Dam failure inundation maps prepared pursuant to Section 8589.5 that are available from the California Emergency Management Agency.

(vi) Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program maps and 200-year flood plain maps that are or may be available from, or accepted by, the Department of Water Resources.

(vii) Maps of levee protection zones.

(viii) Areas subject to inundation in the event of the failure of project or nonproject levees or floodwalls.

(ix) Historical data on flooding, including locally prepared maps of areas that are subject to flooding, areas that are vulnerable to flooding after wildfires, and sites that have been repeatedly damaged by flooding.

(x) Existing and planned development in flood hazard zones, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.

(xi) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for flood protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.

(B) Establish a set of comprehensive goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risks of flooding, including, but not limited to:

(i) Avoiding or minimizing the risks of flooding to new development.

(ii) Evaluating whether new development should be located in flood hazard zones, and identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if new development is located in flood hazard zones.

(iii) Maintaining the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding.

(iv) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in flood hazard zones.

(v) Establishing cooperative working relationships among public agencies with responsibility for flood protection.

(C) Establish a set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives established pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102 of the Public Resources Code, and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in Section 51177. This review shall consider the advice included in the Office of Planning and Research's most recent publication of "Fire Hazard Planning, General Technical Advice Series" and shall also include all of the following:

(A) Information regarding fire hazards, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

(ii) Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.

(iii) Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.

(iv) General location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.

(v) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.

(B) A set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.

(C) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (B) including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.

(ii) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone.

(iii) Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.

(iv) Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection.

(D) If a city or county has adopted a fire safety plan or document separate from the general plan, an attachment of, or reference to, a city or county's adopted fire safety plan or document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives and contains information required pursuant to this paragraph.

(4) After the initial revision of the safety element pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3), upon each revision of the housing element, the planning agency shall review and, if necessary, revise the safety element to identify new

information that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element.

(5) Cities and counties that have flood plain management ordinances that have been approved by FEMA that substantially comply with this section, or have substantially equivalent provisions to this subdivision in their general plans, may use that information in the safety element to comply with this subdivision, and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the safety element the other general plan provisions or the flood plain ordinance, specifically showing how each requirement of this subdivision has been met.

(6) Prior to the periodic review of its general plan and prior to preparing or revising its safety element, each city and county shall consult the California Geological Survey of the Department of Conservation, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, if the city or county is located within the boundaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, as set forth in Section 8501 of the Water Code, and the California Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of including information known by and available to the department, the agency, and the board required by this subdivision.

(7) To the extent that a county's safety element is sufficiently detailed and contains appropriate policies and programs for adoption by a city, a city may adopt that portion of the county's safety element that pertains to the city's planning area in satisfaction of the requirement imposed by this subdivision.

SEC. 3. Section 65302.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65302.5. (a) At least 45 days prior to adoption or amendment of the safety element, each county and city shall submit to the California Geological Survey of the Department of Conservation one copy of a draft of the safety element or amendment and any technical studies used for developing the safety element. The division may review drafts submitted to it to determine whether they incorporate known seismic and other geologic hazard information, and report its findings to the planning agency within 30 days of receipt of the draft of the safety element or amendment pursuant to this subdivision. The legislative body shall consider the division's findings prior to final adoption of the safety element or amendment unless the division's findings are not available within the above prescribed time limits or unless the division has indicated to the city or county that the division will not review the safety element. If the division's findings are not available within those prescribed time limits, the legislative body may take the division's findings into consideration at the time it considers future amendments to the safety element. Each county and city shall provide the division with a copy of its adopted safety element or amendments. The division may review adopted safety elements or amendments and report its findings. All findings made by the division shall be advisory to the planning agency and legislative body.

(b) (1) The draft element of or draft amendment to the safety element of a county or a city's general plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and to every local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county at least 90 days prior to either of the following:

(A) The adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each county that contains state responsibility areas.

(B) The adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each city or county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone as defined pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51177.

(2) A county that contains state responsibility areas and a city or county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone as defined pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51177 shall submit for review the safety element of its general plan to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and every local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county in accordance with the following dates, as specified, unless the local government submitted the element within five years prior to that date:

(A) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the San Diego Association of Governments: December 31, 2010.

(B) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Southern California Association of Governments: December 31, 2011.

(C) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Association of Bay Area Governments: December 31, 2012.

(D) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Kern

County Council of Governments, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments: June 30, 2013.

(E) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: December 31, 2014.

(F) All other local governments: December 31, 2015.

(3) The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection shall, and a local agency may, review the draft or an existing safety element and recommend changes to the planning agency within 60 days of its receipt regarding both of the following:

(A) Uses of land and policies in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones that will protect life, property, and natural resources from unreasonable risks associated with wildland fires.

(B) Methods and strategies for wildland fire risk reduction and prevention within state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones.

(4) Prior to the adoption of its draft element or draft amendment, the board of supervisors of the county or the city council of a city shall consider the recommendations, if any, made by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and any local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county. If the board of supervisors or city council determines not to accept all or some of the recommendations, if any, made by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or local agency, the board of supervisors or city council shall communicate in writing to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or the local agency, its reasons for not accepting the recommendations.

(5) If the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's or local agency's recommendations are not available within the time limits required by this section, the board of supervisors or city council may act without those recommendations. The board of supervisors or city council shall take the recommendations into consideration the next time it considers amendments to the safety element.

SEC. 4. Section 66474.02 is added to the Government Code, to read:

66474.02. (a) Before approving a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for an area located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, as both are defined in Section 51177, a legislative body of a county shall make the following three findings:

(1) A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that 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.

(2) A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that structural fire protection and suppression services will be available for the subdivision through any of the following entities:

(A) 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.

(B) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by contract entered into pursuant to Section 4133, 4142, or 4144 of the Public Resources Code.

(3) A finding that 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.

(b) This section shall not supersede regulations established by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection or local ordinances that provide equivalent or more stringent minimum requirements than those contained within this section.

SEC. 5. Section 21083.01 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

21083.01. (a) On or after January 1, 2013, at the time of the next review of the guidelines prepared and developed to implement this division pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 21083, the Office of Planning and Research, in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall prepare, develop, and transmit to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency recommended proposed changes or amendments to

the initial study checklist of the guidelines implementing this division for the inclusion of questions related to fire hazard impacts for projects located on lands classified as state responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102, and on lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code.

(b) Upon receipt and review, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall certify and adopt the recommended proposed changes or amendments prepared and developed by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to subdivision (a).

SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.