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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 9, 2015

Keith Gillless, Chair

State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

P.O. Box 944246

Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

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

Mr. Gillless,

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 On November 7th, 2014, the BOF responded with a list of recommendations, ranging from clarifying inconsistent and outdated references, to implementing policies to better reduce wildfire risk.

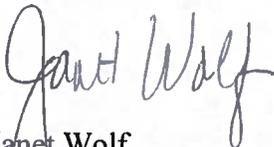
Updates to the Safety Element are currently tied to the County's update of the Housing Element, which is due to the State Department of Housing and Community Development by February 15th, 2015. Due to time and resource constraints, the County does not have the ability to incorporate all the recommendations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 However, the County is committed to and has incorporated all feasible changes, such as updating outdated references, fixing inconsistencies with the Santa Barbara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, and incorporating supporting maps for the planning areas.

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

in tandem with the County Fire Department, as well as CAL FIRE, to ensure that the Safety Element meets the requirements and intent of Senate Bill 1241.

During adoption hearings, the County Board of Supervisors is required by Government Code §65302.5 to consider the aforementioned BOF recommendations and respond in writing to the BOF. On February 3, 2015, the County Board of Supervisors approved the update to the Safety Element and passed Resolution 14-34, authorizing a written response detailing the County's consideration and action regarding each of the Board of Forestry recommendations. Please consider Attachment B to this letter the County's written response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Schneider, Deputy Director of Long Range Planning, at (805) 568-2072.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Chief Pete Muñoz, pete.munoa@fire.ca.gov
Edith Hannigan, edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov
Captain Rob Hazard, rob.hazard@sbcfire.com
Captain Martin Johnson, martin.johnson@sbcfire.com
Glenn Russell, Ph.D., grussell@countyofsb.org
Dianne Black, dblack@countyofsb.org
Matt Schneider, mschneider@countyofsb.org

Attachment A. Resolution No. 14-34, February 3, 2015

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

ATTACHMENT D: 14GPA-00000-00017 RESOLUTION

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

IN THE MATTER OF PROVIDING A) **RESOLUTION NO. 14- 34**
WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE)
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE) **CASE NO. 14GPA-00000-00017**
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE)
PROTECTION REGARDING THE COUNTY'S)
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ITS SEISMIC)
SAFETY AND SAFETY ELEMENT)

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2014, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection provided a set of recommendations regarding the County's proposed amendments to the Seismic Safety and Safety Element; and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that:

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

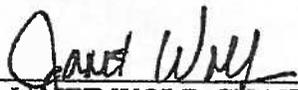
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of February, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Carbajal, Wolf, Farr, Adam & Lavagnino

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None



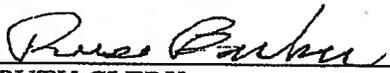
JANET WOLF, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

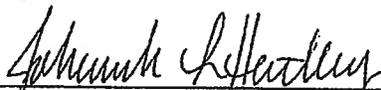
MONA MIYASATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By 

DEPUTY CLERK

By 

DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL

EXHIBITS:

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

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