

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Hesperia 2025

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Purpose and Background

Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3).)

The safety element is required to include:

- Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
- Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
- The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), 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.
- The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(A).)

Based on that information, the safety element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B).) To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the safety element, which include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
- 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 the SRA or VHFHSZ.
- Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(C).)

The safety element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the city or county that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(D).) This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

There are several reference documents developed by state agencies to assist local jurisdictions in updating their safety elements to include wildfire safety. The Fire Hazard Planning, General Plan Technical Advice Series from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), referenced in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and available at

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-2318

The Technical Advice Series is also available from the OPR website ([Technical Advice Series link](#)).^{*} The Technical Advice Series provides policy guidance, information resources, and fire hazard planning examples from around California that shall be considered by local jurisdictions when reviewing the safety element of its general plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) utilizes this Safety Element Assessment in the Board's review of safety elements under Government Code section 65302.5. At least 90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of their safety element, counties that contain SRAs and cities or counties that contain VHFHSZs shall submit their safety element to the Board. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b).) The Board shall review the safety element and respond to the city or county with its findings regarding the uses of land and policies in SRAs or VHFHSZs that will protect life, property, and natural resources from

unreasonable risks associated with wildfires, and the methods and strategies for wildfire risk reduction and prevention within SRAs or VHFHSZs. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3).)

The CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team provides expert fire protection assistance to local jurisdictions statewide. Fire captains are available to work with cities and counties to revise their safety elements and enhance their strategic fire protection planning.

Methodology for Review and Recommendations

Utilizing staff from the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team, the Board has established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes

- 1) reviewing the safety element for the requirements in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3)(A),
- 2) examining the safety element for goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk in the planning area (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B) & (C)), and
- 3) making recommendations for methods and strategies that would reduce the risk of wildfires (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3)(B)).

The safety element will be evaluated against the attached Assessment, which contains questions to determine if a safety element meets the fire safety planning requirements outlined in Government Code, section 65302. The reviewer will answer whether or not a submitted safety element addresses the required information, and will recommend changes to the safety element that will reduce the wildfire risk in the planning area. These recommended changes may come from the list of sample goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that is included in this document after the Assessment, or may be based on the reviewer's knowledge of the jurisdiction in question and their specific wildfire risk. By answering the questions in the Assessment, the reviewer will determine if the jurisdiction's safety element has adequately addressed and mitigated their wildfire risk. If it hasn't, any specific recommendations from the reviewer will assist the jurisdiction in revising the safety element so that it does.

Once completed, the Assessment should provide clear guidance to a city or county regarding any areas of deficiency in the safety element as well as specific goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures the Board recommends adopting in order to mitigate or reduce the wildfire threat in the planning area.

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Jurisdiction: City of Hesperia	Notes: Final Review	CAL FIRE Unit: BDU	Date Received: 2-3-25
County: San Bernardino County	LUPP Reviewer: Jose Quintana	UNIT CONTACT:	Date Reviewed: 2-3-25

BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUMMARY

The safety element must contain specific background information about fire hazards in each jurisdiction.

Instructions for this table: Indicate whether the safety element includes the specified information. If YES, indicate in the comments where that information can be found; if NO, provide recommendations to the jurisdiction regarding how best to include that information in their revised safety element.

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified? <i>CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps</i>	Yes	SE, Pages XX-23 to XX-24 Exhibit SF-6: Fire Hazard Severity Zones Exhibit SF-7: Wildland-Urban Interface Areas
Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included?	Yes	SE, Pages 21-22, Wildfire SE, Page XX-21 Exhibit SF-5: Historic Wildfire Perimeters Draft LHMP, Pages 69 to 73, Past Events Table 3-13 Wildfire Occurrences 1999-2024
Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified?	Yes	SE, Page XX-23 Exhibit SF-6: Fire Hazard Severity Zones
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	SE, Pages XX-25 to XX-26, Fire Protection
Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element?	Yes	SE, Page XX-4, Hesperia Local Hazard Mitigation Plan SE, Page XX-4, Hesperia Emergency Operations Plan SE, Page XX-41 Policy SF-5.5: Upon update and certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, incorporate the Hesperia Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) into this Health and Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are residential developments in fire hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	SE, Page XX-36 SE, Page XX-39 Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	Yes	<p>SE, Page XX-38 Exhibit SF-8: Resilient IE Evacuation Routes with Water Crossings</p> <p>SE, Page XX-43 Policy SF-5.14: Support and participate in San Bernardino County Transportation Authority’s regional evacuation study to identify evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of hazard scenarios</p> <p>A countywide Emergency Evacuation Network Resilience Study is being prepared for all of San Bernardino County through the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. Hesperia will be a part of this study. The Emergency Evacuation Network Resilience Study received grant funding through Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program in 2024 and the study will be completed by December 2025 in accordance with the grant requirements. The scope of work for the project can be found on page 23 of this document. The AB 747 analysis description is part of Task 2 on page 26. https://www.gosbcta.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/RFP24-1003088-PB.pdf</p>

Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs?
<p>“N/A”</p> <p>If there is additional relevant info in the SE not captured in the assessment - “Yes” AND cite what it is and where to find it (Policy/program/figure/section title, p.#)</p>

GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND FEASIBLE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

The safety element must contain a set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the above information to protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire and implementation measures to accomplish those stated goals, policies, and objectives.

Instructions for this table: Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction’s unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction’s fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.

Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
<p>Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25,26 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations. <p>Policy SF-3.4: All new development in the wildland-urban interface or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone must comply with fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space requirements. These standards shall meet or exceed Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This specifically includes Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1 to 5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). New development shall also comply with the Public Resource Code Section 4291 (State Defensible Space Requirements), which requires the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a defensible space of at least 100 feet around the structure. • Remove all dead plants, grass, weeds, and other flammable vegetation from the defensible space. • Remove tree limbs that are within 10 feet of the chimney or stovepipe of the structure.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim tree limbs that are within 6 feet of the ground or within 10 feet of the structure. • Remove all dead branches, leaves, and other debris from roofs and rain gutters. • Create horizontal and vertical spacing between trees and shrubs to prevent the spread of fire. • Space trees at least 10 feet apart from each other. • Maintain the defensible space throughout the year, not just during fire season. • Obtain any necessary permits from local fire agencies before conducting any vegetation management activities. • Provide and maintain access to the property for emergency vehicles. <p>Policy SF-3.7: Require new development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds State standards in two parts of the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p>
<p>Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.2: Encourage new development outside of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Development in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall demonstrate compliance with applicable state and local building and fire code regulations as well as appropriate mitigation measures and design considerations.</p>
<p>Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	Yes	SE, Page XX-41 Policy SF-5.9: To the greatest extent possible, locate new essential public and critical facilities, such as police stations, schools, and community centers, outside of mapped hazard zones. If essential facilities must be located in these zones, site and design them to minimize the risk of damage and maintain their operational capacity during and after a hazard. Require all essential and critical facilities in an identified hazard zone (100-year/500-year flood zone, dam inundation zone, fire hazard severity zone, landslide susceptibility zone, or others), to develop disaster response and evacuation plans that address the actions that will be taken in the event of an emergency.
Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard?	Yes	SE, Page XX-30 Policy SF-3.19: Work with San Bernardino County Fire Protection District to minimize risks to existing development by identifying existing non-conforming development and support San Bernardino County Fire Protection District's Ready, Set, Go, Fire Program to assist property owners in upgrading buildings and properties to current fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard, requiring all development to meet or exceed CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1 -5 requirements (SRA Fire Safe Regulations).
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	YES	SE, Page XX-30 Policy SF-3.13: Develop programs and provide updates, as appropriate, that ensure recovery and redevelopment after a large fire and reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazard risks through site preparation, redevelopment layout design, fire-resistant landscape planning, and fire-retarding building design and materials.
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	YES	SE, Pages XX-25,26 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Policy SF-3.4: All new development in the wildland-urban interface or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone must comply with fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space requirements. These standards shall meet or exceed Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This specifically includes Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1 to 5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). New development shall also comply with the Public Resource Code Section 4291 (State Defensible Space Requirements), which requires the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a defensible space of at least 100 feet around the structure. • Remove all dead plants, grass, weeds, and other flammable vegetation from the defensible space. • Remove tree limbs that are within 10 feet of the chimney or stovepipe of the structure. • Trim tree limbs that are within 6 feet of the ground or within 10 feet of the structure. • Remove all dead branches, leaves, and other debris from roofs and rain gutters. • Create horizontal and vertical spacing between trees and shrubs to prevent the spread of fire. • Space trees at least 10 feet apart from each other. • Maintain the defensible space throughout the year, not just during fire season. • Obtain any necessary permits from local fire agencies before conducting any vegetation management activities.

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain access to the property for emergency vehicles.
<p>Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25,26 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.</p>
<p>Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.12: Coordinate with CAL FIRE, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and landowners to ensure maintenance of existing fuel breaks, vegetation clearance, and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression on public and private roads, especially evacuation routes.</p> <p>SE, Page XX-40 Policy SF-5.2: Coordinate with emergency responders and Caltrans to maintain potential evacuation routes to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of those routes in the event of an emergency, including making improvements to existing roads as needed to support safe evacuations.</p>
<p>Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.
<p>Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations. <p>SE, Page XX-28 Policy SF-3.7: Require new development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds State standards in two parts of the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <p>SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.9: Coordinate with State and regional partners to ensure roadways in fire hazard severity zones comply with current fire safety regulations. The City</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		will maintain City-owned roadways to meet current regulations to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints. These regulations include standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7), specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).
If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?	<p>YES</p> <p>Recommend Referencing the forthcoming evacuation study here</p> <p>The AB 747 analysis description is part of Task 2 on page 26. https://www.gosbcta.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/RFP24-1003088-PB.pdf</p> <p>After speaking with SBCTA staff about their Emergency Evacuation Resilience Study, they confirmed that a website is not yet available for the project. However, SBCTA staff did confirm that a draft of the study would be available in November 2025 and a final version would be available February 2026 based on the Caltrans grant deadline.</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-39 Exhibit SF-9: Evacuation-Constrained Parcels</p> <p>SE, Page XX-36 Exhibit SF-9 Definition</p> <p>SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.9: Coordinate with State and regional partners to ensure roadways in fire hazard severity zones comply with current fire safety regulations. The City will maintain City-owned roadways to meet current regulations to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints. These regulations include standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7), specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <p>SE Page XX-37: “The City is also part of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority’s Emergency Evacuation Network Resilience Study, which meets the requirements of California Government Code</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Section 65302.15. The Emergency Evacuation Network Resilience Study is anticipated to be completed in February 2026.”</p> <p>SE, Page XX-43 Policy SF-5.14: Support and participate in San Bernardino County Transportation Authority’s regional evacuation study to identify evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of hazard scenarios.</p>
<p>Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.11: Make available and share relevant educational and outreach materials, rebate programs, and incentives with the public to help residents understand appropriate fire mitigation and preparedness activities, such as vegetation management, home hardening, defensible space, evacuation routes, and emergency evacuation procedures during a fire hazard.</p>
<p>Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>SE, Page XX-25,26 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations. <p>Policy SF-3.14: Coordinate with the Hesperia Water District to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.</p>
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	YES	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.1: In cooperation with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that fire services—such as firefighting equipment and personnel, infrastructure, and response times—are adequate for all sections of the city.</p> <p>SE, Page XX-28 Policy SF-3.6: In coordination with San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, require that new development be located where fire and emergency services have sufficient capacity to meet project needs, and require existing development be upgraded to provide necessary capacity as part of the proposed</p>

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		development activities to ensure new development has adequate fire protection.

Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Water supply and fire flow?	YES	<p>SE, Page XX-26 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply.

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations. <p>SE, Page XX-30 Policy SF-3.14: Coordinate with the Hesperia Water District to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.</p>
Location of anticipated water supply?	YES	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3,

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?		SE, Page XX-30 Policy SF-3.14: Coordinate with the Hesperia Water District to maintain an adequate, long-term water supply for fire suppression needs for the community.
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	YES	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. • Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations. <p>SE, Page XX-40 SF-5.2: Coordinate with emergency responders and Caltrans to maintain potential evacuation routes to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of those routes in the event of an emergency, including making improvements to existing roads as needed to support safe evacuations.</p>
Fuel modification and defensible space?	YES	<p>SE, Page XX-25 Policy SF-3.3: Require new developments in Very Fire Hazard Severity Zones (see Exhibit SF-6, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to include the following, at a minimum, in applicable permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of defensible space for all buildings and plans for maintenance plan of defensible space. • Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, and fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1–5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). • Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. • Location and source of anticipated water supply. <p>Fire protection plans for long-term, comprehensive fuel reduction and management, consistent with California Fire Code, Chapter 49. Fire protection plans shall include a risk analysis, fire response capabilities, fire safety requirements, mitigation measures, design considerations for nonconforming fuel modifications, and wildfire education maintenance and limitations.</p> <p>SE, Page XX-26 Policy SF-3.4: All new development in the wildland-urban interface or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone must comply with fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space requirements. These standards shall meet or exceed Title 14 of the</p>

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>California Code of Regulations. This specifically includes Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1 to 5 (commencing with section 1270, SRA Fire Safe Regulations), and Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). New development shall also comply with the Public Resource Code Section 4291 (State Defensible Space Requirements), which requires the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a defensible space of at least 100 feet around the structure. • Remove all dead plants, grass, weeds, and other flammable vegetation from the defensible space. • Remove tree limbs that are within 10 feet of the chimney or stovepipe of the structure. • Trim tree limbs that are within 6 feet of the ground or within 10 feet of the structure. • Remove all dead branches, leaves, and other debris from roofs and rain gutters. • Create horizontal and vertical spacing between trees and shrubs to prevent the spread of fire. • Space trees at least 10 feet apart from each other. • Maintain the defensible space throughout the year, not just during fire season. • Obtain any necessary permits from local fire agencies before conducting any vegetation management activities. • Provide and maintain access to the property for emergency vehicles.
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	YES	SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.12: Coordinate with CAL FIRE, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and landowners to ensure

Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
		maintenance of existing fuel breaks, vegetation clearance, and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression on public and private roads, especially evacuation routes.
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	YES	SE, Page XX-28 Policy SF-3.8: Ensure that street and building address signage support firefighting crews and emergency response teams in their response to fire under low-visibility conditions, including installation of high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	YES	SE, Page XX-29 Policy SF-3.12: Coordinate with CAL FIRE, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and landowners to ensure maintenance of existing fuel breaks, vegetation clearance, and emergency access routes for effective fire suppression on public and private roads, especially evacuation routes.

Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	YES	SE, Page XX-33 to XX-40, Emergency Preparation and Response SE, Page XX-22 Exhibit SF-6: Fire Hazard Severity Zones SE, Page XX-23 Exhibit SF-7: Wildland-Urban Interface Areas
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	YES	SE, Page XX-41 Policy SF-5.7: Maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities and the San Bernardino County Operational Area. Cooperate with other public agencies to ensure adequate medical and other

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
<p>Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>emergency services, including assessing and projecting future emergency service needs. SE, Page XX-42 Policy SF-5.12: Offer educational programs to promote measures that for residents and businesses should take prior to, during, and after an emergency. Promote public awareness of City emergency response plans, resources, risk reduction, and preparation of emergency kits. Provide emergency preparedness educational programs in languages and formats accessible to all Hesperia residents and businesses. SE, Page XX-43 Policy SF-5.13: In cooperation with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, develop and hold regular Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training exercises to residents and members of the business community to empower individuals and neighborhoods and increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.</p>
<p>Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?</p>		<p>SE, Page XX-41 Policy SF-5.7: Maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities and the San Bernardino County Operational Area. Cooperate with other public agencies to ensure adequate medical and other emergency services, including assessing and projecting future emergency service needs. SE, Page XX-41 Policy SF-5.6: Continue to support the development of local preparedness plans and multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency situations consistent with regional, state (SIMS), and federal standards, guidelines, and/or recommendations (NIMS).</p>

Sample Safety Element Recommendations

These are examples of specific policies, objectives, or implementation measures that may be used to meet the intent of Government Code sections 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and 65302.5, subdivision (b). Safety element reviewers may make recommendations that are not included here.

A. MAPS, PLANS AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Include or reference CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps or locally adopted wildfire hazard zones.
2. Include or reference the location of historical information on wildfires in the planning area.
3. Include a map or description of the location of existing and planned land uses in SRAs and VHFHSZs, particularly habitable structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
4. Identify or reference a fire plan that is relevant to the geographic scope of the general plan, including the Unit/Contract County Fire Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
5. Align the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for fire hazard mitigation in the safety element with those in existing fire plans, or make plans to update fire plans to match the safety element.
6. Create a fire plan for the planning area.

B. LAND USE

1. Develop fire safe development codes to use as standards for fire protection for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs that meet or exceed the statewide minimums in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
2. Adopt and have certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection local ordinances which meet or exceed the minimum statewide standards in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
3. Identify existing development that do not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances.
4. Develop mitigation measures for existing development that does not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances or identify a policy to do so.

C. FUEL MODIFICATION

1. Develop a policy to communicate vegetation clearance requirements to seasonal, absent, or vacation rental owners.
2. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation clearance on public and private roads.
3. Include fuel breaks in the layout/siting of subdivisions.
4. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of existing or proposed fuel breaks.
5. Identify and/or map existing development that does not conform to current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
6. Identify plans and actions for existing non-conforming development to be improved or mitigated to meet current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance.

D. ACCESS

1. Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps in SRAs or VHFHSZs is conditional based on meeting the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access. (See Gov. Code, § 66474.02.)
2. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with an adequate road network and associated infrastructure.
3. Identify multi-family housing, group homes, or other community housing in SRAs or VHFHSZs and develop a policy to create evacuation or shelter in place plans.
4. Include a policy to develop pre-plans for fire risk areas that address civilian evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans.
5. Identify road networks in SRAs or VHFHSZs that do not meet title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00) or certified local ordinance and develop a policy to examine possible mitigations.

E. FIRE PROTECTION

1. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with adequate water supply infrastructure.
2. Plan for the ongoing maintenance and long-term integrity of planned and existing water supply infrastructure.
3. Map existing emergency service facilities and note any areas lacking service, especially in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
4. Project future emergency service needs for the planned land uses.
5. Include information about emergency service trainings or standards and plans to meet or maintain them.
6. Include information about inter-agency preparedness coordination or mutual aid agreements.

Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan

When updating the General Plan, here are some ways to incorporate fire hazard planning into other elements. Wildfire safety is best accomplished by holistic, strategic fire planning that takes advantage of opportunities to align priorities and implementation measures within and across plans.

LAND USE ELEMENT

Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development or limit development in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Disclose wildland urban-interface hazards, including fire hazard severity zones, and/or other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or local fire agency.

Design and locate new development to provide adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allow citizen egress during emergencies.

Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other fire safe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organization.

HOUSING ELEMENT

Incorporation of current fire safe building codes.

Identify and mitigate substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Consider diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection (group housing, seasonal populations, transit-dependent, etc).

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS

Identify critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Include resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.

Integrate open space into fire safety planning and effectiveness.

Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Provide adequate access to very high fire hazard severity zones.

Develop standards for evacuation of residential areas in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel reduction maintenance program along roadways.