



El Dorado County Safety Element Public Workshop #3

Date: 13 September 2023
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. PST

Meeting at: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Project: County of El Dorado General Plan Safety Element Update Public Workshop #3

Agenda Topics

1. Introductions

Ms. Prosperi opened the meeting and introduced the WSP consulting team. The purpose of the meeting was to review the organization of a General Plan and the components of a Safety Element; discuss the new and revised policies for wildfire, geologic and seismic hazards, flood hazards and climate change adaptation; and discuss the implementation measures in the Safety Element implementation program.

2. General Plan Overview

Ms. Prosperi summarized the purpose and general components of a General Plan. She explained that a General Plan is a long-range planning document that represents the community's view of the future and expresses the community's development goals. It is also a requirement of California State law that each city and county adopt a General Plan. The planning horizon for these documents is typically 15 to 30 years. The County's current General Plan, adopted in 2004, has a planning horizon of about 20 years.

Ms. Prosperi reviewed where the planning team is at in the planning process, the legislative requirements being met by the Safety Element update, the mandatory and optional elements of the General Plan, and key terms used in the document.

3. Introduction to the Safety Element

Ms. Prosperi explained the purpose of the safety element is to articulate the community's desired public health and safety policies. It serves as a guide for decision-making processes, County improvements, and providing information to residents, developers, and decision-makers regarding public health and safety in the County. The safety element also reflects the community's vision for the future in terms of public health and safety. It aims to ensure that both existing and planned development in the area can withstand or mitigate natural hazards prevalent in the region. The goal is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the



community. Ms. Prosperi clarified that the County is only updating the natural hazards components of the Safety Element.

Ms. Prosperi initiated a Slido poll, asking participants a multiple-choice question: **Have you taken any precautionary measures related to disaster preparedness?** Responses are as follows:

- Five participants chose "Defensible space maintenance."
- Four participants chose "Emergency alter sign-ups"
- Four participants chose "Rental or homeowners' insurance."
- Three participants chose "Emergency supply kits."
- Three participants chose "Home hardening."
- Three participants chose "Neighborhood coordination and communication or support network."
- Three participants chose "Purchased back-up power."

Ms. Prosperi then reviewed mandatory requirements for the Safety Element. These requirements include protecting the community from unreasonable risk associated with geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, dam inundation, tsunami/seiche, slope instability, and wildland and urban fires. She initiated another Slido poll, asking participants and open ended question: **What types of resources or programs would you like the County to provide to help people be better informed and prepared for natural hazards?** Responses are as follows:

- Addressing one way in/out roads, especially where blocked off by landowners
- Better alert system that would not only include evacuations but where there would be emergency shelter, where to get firewood if needed, where to take showers, etc. Most of all that the evacuation plan is in place and that people evacuate-they don't most of the time. and that the county does get up to the west slope to do something-really anything since they usually don't get up this way.
- Emergency transportation coordination for residents with reduced mobility during wildfires.
- Improved coordination between federal - state - local agencies on natural hazard planning.

4. Proposed Goals, Policies, and Implementation Programs

Ms. Prosperi continued by providing an overview of the contents of the County Safety Element. She covered the definition of goals, objectives, policies, implementation measures, and implementation programs, and explained how these components work together in a safety element. She gave examples of proposed goals, objectives, policies, and implementation



measures related to geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, fire, climate adaptation and resiliency, and evacuation accessibility.

Ms. Prosperi initiated a third Slido poll, asking the following open-ended question: **During past hazard events, what communication or evacuation challenges did you experience that should be addressed in the Safety Element?** Responses are as follows:

- Gridlock on Pleasant Valley Rd from beyond Oak Hill Rd through Diamond springs during Caldor Fire.
- Development of refuge areas as last resorts when evacuation isn't possible.
- The emergency notification alert system (Code Red at the time) failed to notify me of a mandatory evacuation of my community during last years Mosquito fire. Lack of communication updates to the evacuees by County OES on when we could return.
- Do not think it was adequate in terms of notification of the populace. Once evacuated there was little information to go on as to when we could return.

5. Schedule and Next Steps

Ms. Prosperi then explained plan integration, showing how the General Plan, Safety Element, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and Emergency Operations Plan all work together to reinforce and solidify safety in the County. Ms. Prosperi reviewed the planning schedule and ways the public can stay involved before opening the meeting to discussion.

During the discussion, a participant raised concerns regarding the evacuation accessibility section outlined in the draft Safety Element. Specifically, they highlighted the identification of over 99 neighborhoods with just one means of ingress or egress and inquired about the measures the Safety Element intended to implement for the benefit of these neighborhoods. In response, Ms. Prosperi pointed out that the Safety Element contains several policies designed to address the unique challenges of these neighborhoods. Ms. Graybill from the County's Planning Division further emphasized that prioritizing defensible space maintenance and conducting outreach and education initiatives were among the strategies intended for these areas. Ms. Prosperi also suggested the possibility of incorporating policies focused on neighborhood engagement, facilitating conversations around evacuation, and establishing multiple alert pathways.

Another participant sought information on how to stay informed about upcoming surveys. Ms. Graybill clarified that while there were no more surveys planned for this project, there would be continued opportunities for public feedback, including participation in the Board of Supervisors



meeting and the fourth public workshop. She directed participants to the County’s Safety Element webpage as a valuable resource to stay updated on engagement opportunities.

A separate participant expressed concerns about the County's limited groundwater resources, specifically the potential for groundwater overdraft due to increased demands resulting from climate change. They inquired whether the Safety Element would address these groundwater issues. Ms. Prosperi assured them that the comprehensive management of groundwater and surface water supply is covered in the water supply section of the Public Services and Utilities Element of the General Plan. Additionally, she mentioned that the Safety Element includes complementary policies aimed at reinforcing these existing drought and water supply measures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm. Below is a summary of the project schedule reviewed during the public workshop.

	<i>Deliverable Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Draft Safety Element</i>	Initial Cal Fire Land Use Planning Meeting – General Plan Safety Element Assessment	September 19, 2023
	County Review of Revised SEAC Draft Safety Element (incorporation of Stakeholder comments)	October 27, 2023
	Circulate Public Review Draft Safety Element	November 3, 2023
	Joint Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors (BOS) Workshop	November 14, 2023
	SEAC Work Session #5	TBD – November 2023
<i>Administrative and Public Review Draft Safety Element</i>	Formal Tribal Engagement Starts (90 days from when Notice to request consultation)	November 2023
	Advertise Release of Public Review Draft Safety Element	November 2023
	Circulate Public Review Draft Safety Element	December 2023
	Public Review for Draft Safety Element	30 to 45 days
	Safety Element Workshop #2	TBD – Dec. 2023/Jan. 2024
	California Department of Geological Survey Review (45 days prior to adoption)	30 days
	California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection & Local Fire Protection District Review (90 days prior to adoption)	90 days
	Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors Meetings	January/February 2024