

McNamara, Cade

From: Ausboe, James@CALFIRE <James.Ausboe@fire.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 4:26 PM
To: McNamara, Cade
Subject: 2023_CNR_HUU_Humboldt County_Formal Review
Attachments: 2023_CNR_HUU_Humboldt County_Formal Review.docx; 2023_CNR_HUU_Humboldt County_Formal Review.pdf; Chapter 14 Wildfire Hum Co-LHMP.pdf; Division 11 of Humboldt County Code Title III, Fire Safe Regs.pdf; Humboldt County Safety Element FINAL 06.05.23 BOF.pdf

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Cade,

I have completed the formal review of Humboldt Counties Draft Safety Element you formally submitted to the Board of Forestry for review. I forwarded all the attachments in this email to my supervisor Chief Shane Vargas for review and submission to the Board of Forestry. Attached are all the items you sent to the Board of Forestry as reference as well as copies (in both pdf and word) of the Formal Review Document. I have found all the roadmaps to the draft Safety Element, the LHMP, and the County Codes to be accurate and the information successfully meeting the requirements set forth by the Board of Forestry.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me to help you successfully upload the document into Legestrar for presentation to your Board of Supervisors.

As per the reply from Edith Hannigan of the Board of Forestry, I will be presenting your draft Safety Element to the Board of Forestry for comment on July 25th, 2023. I will keep you posted as we get closer to that date and I see updates on that process.

Respectfully,



James Ausboe
Fire Captain – Northern Region
Land Use Planning
6105 Airport Rd., Redding, CA 96002
(530) 410-5592 Cell



For wildfire preparedness and prevention tips
Visit [ReadyforWildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org) [Land Use Planning Program](#)

General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



Humboldt County 2023

Contents

Purpose and Background.....	1
Methodology for Review and Recommendations	2
General Plan Safety Element Assessment	3
Background Information Summary	3
Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures	5
Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land	5
Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.....	7
Section 3 Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.	7
Sample Safety Element Recommendations.....	9
A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information	9
B. Land Use	9
C. Fuel Modification.....	9
D. Access.....	10
E. Fire Protection	10
Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan.....	11
Land Use Element.....	11
Housing Element	11
Open Space and Conservation Elements.....	11
Circulation Element	11

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: Humboldt County	Notes: Formal Review	CAL FIRE Unit: HUU	Date Received: 06/05/2023
County: Humboldt	LUPP Reviewer: James Ausboe	UNIT CONTACT: Ross Dollarhide	Date Reviewed: 06/05/2023

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, p. 14-15 thru 14-16, Fire Hazard Severity Mapping, SE, p. 14-17, State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, SE, p. 14-18, Humboldt County FHSZ Map, SE, p. 14-59, Standard S-S12
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, p. 14-30 thru 14-32, History of Wildfire Events, SE, p. 14-33, Humboldt County Fire History 1908-2017 Map LHMP, p. 14-2, 14.2.2 Past Events, LHMP, p. 14-6, Figure 14-4 Humboldt County, Number of Fires per Year, 1908-2017
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, p. 14-20, 3.2.6 Metric: Community Fuel Reduction, 2 nd Paragraph, SE, p. 14-26, Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, Essential Public Services, and Environment
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	Yes	SE, p. 14-23 thru 14-25, Table X1. Fire Protection Services within Humboldt County, SE, p. 14-28, Northern Humboldt Emergency Response Map, SE, p. 14-29, Southern Humboldt Emergency Response Map

Required Information	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
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, p. 14-25, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, SE, p. 14-45, Emergency Management, SE, p. 14-45, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, SE, p. 14-56, Policy S-P44, SE, p. 14-57, Policy S-P52, SE, p. 14-59, Standard S-S13
Are residential developments in fire hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes identified?	Yes	SE, p. 14-34, Planning Evacuation Routes, SE, p. 14-35, Humboldt County Roads with Fewer than Two Emergency Evacuation Routes Map.
Have evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios been identified?	Yes	SE, p. 14-65, Implementation S-IM39

Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs?
<p data-bbox="107 878 178 902">"N/A"</p> <p data-bbox="107 907 1667 971">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
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?	Yes	SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P21, SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P23, SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P34, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P42, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P43, SE, p. 14-59, Standard S-S9
Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-20, 3.2.6 Metric: Community Fuel Reduction, SE, p. 14-50, Goal S-G1, SE, p. 14-50, Goal S-G2, SE, p. 14-51, Policy S-P1, SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P21, SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P31, SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P32, SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P34, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P43, SE, p. 14-64, Implementation S-IM28
Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?	Yes	SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P23, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P43
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	Yes	SE, p.14-55, Policy S-P42

Questions	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
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, p. 14-55, Policy S-P37
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	Yes	SE, p. 14-65, Implementation S-IM38
Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P23
Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P43
Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P36, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P41
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P34
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	Yes	SE, p. 14-57, Policy S-P57, SE, p. 14-64, Implementation S-IM28
If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?	Yes	SE, p. 14-34, Planning Evacuation Routes, SE, p. 14-35, Humboldt County Roads with Fewer than Two Emergency Evacuation Routes Map, SE, p. 14-65, Implementation S-IM40
Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?	Yes	SE, p. 14-64, Implementation S-IM31
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P38, SE, p. 14-63, Implementation S-IM24
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	Yes	SE, p. 14-50, Goal S-G4, SE, p. 14-54, Policy S-P35, SE, p. 14-63, Implementation S-IM23

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	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P38, SE, p. 14-63, Implementation S-IM24
Location of anticipated water supply?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P38
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P38
Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	Yes	SE, p. 14-57, Policy S-P57, SE, p. 14-64, Implementation S-IM28
Fuel modification and defensible space?	Yes	SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P23
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P36
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	Yes	SE, p. 14-59, Standard S-S9
Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P36, SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P41

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, p. 14-26, Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, Essential Public Services, and Environment, SE, p. 14-27, Humboldt County Healthcare Facilities Map, SE, p. 14-28, Northern Humboldt Emergency Response Map, SE, p. 14-29, Southern Humboldt Emergency Response Map
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	Yes	SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P24, SE, p. 14-53, Policy S-P25

Question	Yes or No	Comments and Recommendations
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P39
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	Yes	SE, p. 14-55, Policy S-P40

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.

From: [Richardson, Michael](#)
To: [McNamara, Cade](#)
Cc: [Ford, John](#); [Russell, Robert](#)
Subject: FW: Cal OES County of Humboldt Safety Element Update Comments
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 2:22:05 PM
Attachments: [Cal OES County of Humboldt Safety Element Update Comments.msg](#)

Hi Cade,

Fyi. Attached are the comments on the safety element from CalOES.

I read their email to say “We don’t have any specific comments, but we are going to announce everything the Safety Element is required to address and if anyone thinks the Element doesn’t adequately address all of them, the County will need to fix that.”

Let me know if I can clarify any of this or otherwise assist.

Thanks,

- m

From: Washington, Terrance@CalOES <Terrance.Washington@CalOES.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Richardson, Michael <MRichardson@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: LaMar-Haas, Victoria@CalOES <Victoria.LaMar-Haas@CalOES.ca.gov>; CalOES Mitigation Planning <mitigationplanning@caloes.ca.gov>
Subject: Cal OES County of Humboldt Safety Element Update Comments

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good Afternoon

Cal OES has reviewed the Safety Element Update to the General Plan. Our office has a couple of comments.

The Safety Element addresses the following Natural hazards:

- Seismic and geological hazards such as seismic shaking, liquefaction, seiche, and tsunamis
- Fire hazards
- Flood hazards
- Climate Change
- Dam Failure
- Tsunami
- Wildfire

When reviewing your most recently submitted FEMA approved 2019 Multi Jurisdiction Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, we found that the identified high profile hazards are as follows:

- Earthquake
- Severe Weather
- Wildfire

Below is the link to the California Office of Planning and Research Safety Element Guidelines

[General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 4: Required Elements \(ca.gov\)](#)

Required Contents the safety element must, consistent with Government Code Section 65302(g), provide 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
- 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
- Wildland and urban fires
- Climate change

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

Siempre,

Terrance Washington, Emergency Services Coordinator
Local Hazard Mitigation Planning
Recovery - Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services



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Richardson, Michael

From: Richardson, Michael
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 5:06 PM
To: McNamara, Cade
Cc: Ford, John
Subject: California Geological Survey (CGS) review of the Safety Element

Hi Cade,

I received a call from Eric Frost with the CGS this afternoon. He said his office does not have any comments on the draft Safety Element we sent his office to review. He said all of our references and citations were correct and reflective of the most current versions publicly available.

While outside of the scope of his review he did identify an error in the section with the heading "Active Fault Near-Source Zones" shown below.

"Active Fault Near-Source Zones

Since 1997, the UBC (Uniform Building Code) requires that in Seismic Zone 4 (most of Humboldt is in this zone) each listed ground motion fault shall be assigned a near-source seismic factor to be used in building design. Applying these factors to building construction substantially increases building strength and, for large multi-story buildings, cost. In Humboldt County, there are "A" and "B" designated fault zones, with "A" zones (including the San Andreas and Little Salmon faults) having more stringent design requirements."

He said the building codes have been updated with new requirements. Please check in with Keith to modify the language of that paragraph to reflect current building code requirements.

Let me know if I can clarify any of this or otherwise assist.

Thanks!

Michael Richardson
Supervising Planner
Long Range Planning
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
(707) 268-3723