

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**HEARING ON THE GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT AMENDMENT
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039-(1-5)
PLAN AMENDMENT NO. RPPL2024003096
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2024004068
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The recommended action is to approve the General Plan Safety Element Amendment to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes in compliance with Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(5).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING,

1. Consider the Addendum to the Negative Declaration for PRJ2021-002039-(1-5) Safety Element Update, Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2024004068, along with the previously adopted Negative Declaration prior to making a final decision on the Project;
2. Indicate its intent to approve the Project (Plan Amendment No. RPPL2024003096), as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC); and
3. Instruct County Counsel to prepare the necessary final documents for the Project and bring them back to the Board for their adoption.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On September 11, 2024, the RPC held a public hearing to consider the Safety Element Amendment and unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Project to the Board of Supervisors (Board). In addition to the public hearing conducted by the RPC, a public hearing before the Board is required pursuant to Section 22.232.040.B.1 of the County Code. Required notice (Attachment 8) has been given pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth in Section 22.222.180 of the County Code.

The Safety Element is a mandated element of the General Plan. It serves as a policy guide to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made, climate-induced hazards, such as earthquakes, fire, flood, extreme heat, and drought. On July 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Safety Element of the General Plan to include stronger policies to effectively reduce the potential risk of hazards, to make the General Plan consistent with State requirements, and to update outdated information. The Board also adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), concluding that the Safety Element Update would not have a significant effect on the environment.

On February 23, 2024, following a legal challenge to the Safety Element Update in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. 22STCP03038), the trial court judge ordered the County to revise the Safety Element to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

The project is an amendment to the General Plan Safety Element consisting of revisions to the Emergency Response section (Attachment 2) and Appendix H (Attachment 4) and inclusion of Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes* (Attachment 3). This Project does not amend any goals or policies in the Safety Element or any other General Plan elements. The project provides information to comply with the specific provision of Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) and does not impact any County services or development processes.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The County’s 2024-2030 Strategic Plan, adopted in January 2024, aligns with the vision, mission, and values of the Board’s priorities to inform the County’s planning, programming, service delivery, and budgeting efforts over the next six years. This Project promotes North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities. Focus Area Goal D: Sustainability under North Star 2 focuses on environmental justice and “OurCounty” Sustainability Plan’s 12 broad, aspirational, and cross-cutting goals, that embrace positive change and address sustainability

issues regionally. The Safety Element is in line with the Climate Health Strategy of the Strategic Plan by strengthening the County's capacity to effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental and natural hazards and build climate resilient communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Adoption of the Project will not result in any significant new costs to the Department of Regional Planning or other County departments and agencies.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Staff had several consultations with the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning Program staff to review the Safety Element Amendment for compliance with Government Code section 65302(g), which among other things, requires mapping of wildfire hazard zones, policies to avoid and minimize fire risks for new development, and maintenance of public facilities; examine the Safety Element goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk; and discuss methods and strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires. Staff provided various drafts of the Safety Element Amendment to CAL FIRE on September 11, 2024, October 3, 2024, and October 8, 2024.

CAL FIRE presented the Safety Element to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Resource Protection Committee on November 5, 2024, for approval prior to the Board adoption of the Project. The Resource Protection Committee recommended approval with minor editorial revisions on November 5, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

For the project, an Addendum to the Negative Declaration for the General Plan Safety Element (Attachment 5) was prepared in compliance with CEQA and the County environmental guidelines to determine whether the revisions to the Emergency Response section of the Safety Element and Appendix H and inclusion of Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes*, could result in any environmental impact not previously considered in connection with the Safety Element Update as originally approved. The Addendum concludes that the revisions to the Emergency Response section of the Safety Element and Appendix H and inclusion of Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes*, as proposed, would not result in any potentially significant environmental impacts not previously considered in the Negative Declaration, and therefore concludes that a supplemental environmental analysis is not required.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the Project will not significantly impact County services.
For further information, please contact Iris Chi of the Environmental Planning and Sustainability Section at (213) 974-6461 or ichi@planning.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

AJB:CC:TH:IC:ia

Attachments:

1. Project Summary
2. Draft Amendment to Safety Element
3. Draft Figure 12.10
4. Draft Amendment to Appendix H
5. Environmental Determination
6. Regional Planning Commission Resolution
7. Regional Planning Commission Hearing Proceedings
8. Hearing Notice

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Public Works
Fire

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING**

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project is an amendment to the General Plan Safety Element to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes in compliance with Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(5). The limited scope of the project provides information to comply with the specific provision of Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) to fulfill a court order. An addendum to the adopted Negative Declaration was prepared pursuant to CEQA reporting requirements.

The Safety Element is a mandated element of the General Plan. It serves as a policy guide to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made, climate-induced hazards, such as earthquakes, fire, flood, extreme heat, and drought.

REQUEST: Approval and adoption of the Project; Consider the Addendum to the adopted Negative Declaration

LOCATION: Countywide (unincorporated areas)

STAFF CONTACT: Iris Chi, 213-974-6461
ichi@planning.lacounty.gov

RPC HEARING DATE: September 11, 2024

RPC RECOMMENDATION: Approval and recommendation to the Board to consider adoption of the Project and associated environmental documents.

MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Commissioners Hastings, O'Connor, Duarte-White, Louie, Moon

MEMBERS VOTING NAY: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS ABSTAINING: None

KEY ISSUES: On February 23, 2024, following a legal challenge to the Safety Element Update in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. 22STCP03038), the trial court judge ordered the County to revise the Safety Element to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

MAJOR POINTS FOR: This Project does not amend any goals or policies in the Safety Element or any other General Plan elements. The project provides information to comply with the specific provision of Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) and does not impact any County services or development processes.

MAJOR POINTS AGAINST: None

Chapter 12: Safety Element

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VIII. Emergency Response

Background

Emergency Responders

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. OEM is the day-to-day Los Angeles County Operational Area coordinator for the County. The emergency response operations plan for the unincorporated areas is the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP), which is prepared by OEM. The OAERP strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capability, and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in Los Angeles County. To access the OAERP, and to find more information on the OEM, please visit the CEO's web site at <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/emergencydisaster-plans-and-annexes/>.

Disaster Response

Figure 12.6 shows the County's disaster routes. For more information on disaster response, please refer to the County OAERP.

Figure 12.6: Disaster Routes Map

Identifying Possible Evacuation Routes

Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evaluating a route for safety and viability is situational, context-specific, and subject to change. Figure 12.9 identifies roads that are public, paved, and through-ways, which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes during an actual emergency. These evacuation routes are not all inclusive and may not be the most suitable routes since actual emergency events necessitate day-of-event conditions and risks assessments.

More information on the methodology to identify possible evacuation routes can be found in Appendix H.

Figure 12.9: Possible Evacuation Routes Map

Identifying Communities with Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element with Limited Egress That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes

Evacuation planning is also addressed in Senate Bill 99 (Nielsen, 2019), codified at Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5), which focuses on identifying residential developments in any hazard areas identified in the Safety Element that have fewer than do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. ~~Table 12.3~~ In April 2023, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) issued a Draft Evacuation Planning Technical Advisory that provides guidance to public agencies as they update their general plan safety element in accordance with evacuation requirements outlined in SB 99 and related bills. The Draft Technical Advisory states that to comply with SB 99, “[r]esidential developments may be separately identified, based on the hazard, or presented in a comprehensive list and/or map.” In compliance with SB 99 and the OPR guidance, ~~Figure 12.10~~ lists the communities is a comprehensive map that identifies residential developments in unincorporated Los Angeles County that are both subject to a hazard and have at least one residential development within the community that has a single possible evacuation route that are located in at least one hazard area identified in the Safety Element and do not have access to at least two of the emergency evacuations routes depicted in Figure 12.9. These residential communities can be viewed in the Residential Developments with Limited Egress map application, which can be accessed at the following link: <http://bit.ly/SE-SB99>.

Figure 12.10 is intended to provide information to comply with SB 99. Evacuation routes to be used during emergency events are determined by emergency responders to account for the type, severity, and changing conditions of the event. Some evacuation routes may not be viable during an emergency event and alternative routes not identified in Figure 12.9 and 12.10 may be employed for evacuation as needed and appropriate. Figure 12.10 is for reference purposes only and is presented without warranties of any kind.

Residents should monitor the LA County Emergency Response page for official updates during emergency events. The LA County Emergency Response page is activated when two or more County departments are responding to an emergency incident in the County of Los Angeles that is widespread, of long duration, and poses significant threat to life, property and/or the environment. The Emergency Response page will provide specific emergency information, such as road closures and evacuations. To access the LA County Emergency Response page, visit <https://lacounty.gov/emergency/>.

More information on the methodology to identify and communities with residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element with fewer than that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes can be found in Appendix H.

Figure 12.10: Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes

Table 12.3: Unincorporated Communities with Residential Development(s) with Limited Egress*

<u>Antelope Valley Planning Area</u>			
Acton	Angeles National Forest	Crystalaire/(Little Rock/Juniper Hills)	Del Sur
Elizabeth Lake	Fairmont/W. Antelope Valley	Green Valley/Bouquet Canyon	Hi Vista

Lake Hughes	Lake Los Angeles	Lakeview/Anaverde	Leona Valley
Littlerock/Juniper Hills	Llano	Longview/(Pearblossom/Llano)	Neenach
North Lancaster	Paradise	Pearblossom/Llano	
East San Gabriel Valley Planning Area			
Avocado Heights	Bassett	Charter Oak	Covina Islands
East Azusa (CSA: Azusa)	Glendora Islands	Hacienda Heights	La Verne
North Claremont (also see Padua Hills)	North Pomona	Northeast La Verne	Padua Hills
Pollissier Village			
Gateway Planning Area			
East Whittier	La Habra Heights Islands	Long Beach Island	North Whittier
Northwest Whittier	Gerritos Islands		
Metro Planning Area			
Florence Firestone	East LA: Belvedere Gardens	East LA: City Terrace	East LA: Eastmont
East Rancho Dominguez			
San Fernando Valley Planning Area			
Kagel / Lopez Canyon			
Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area			
Agua Dulce	Alpine	Castaic	Castaic Junction/Castaic
Forest Park / Canyon Country	Hasley Canyon / Castaic	Newhall	Placerita Canyon
Santa Monica Mountains Planning Area			
Agoura	Calabasas	Malibu Vista	Cornell
Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon	Malibu Lake	Malibu Bowl	Malibu Highlands
Malibu/Sycamore Canyon	Monte Nido	Seminole Hot Springs	Sunset Mesa
Triunfo Canyon	Pepperdine University		
South Bay Planning Area			
Alondra Park	Del Aire	El Camino Village	Hawthorne Island
La Rambla	Lennox		

West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area			
East Pasadena	East Pasadena- Northeast San Gabriel	Kinneola Mesa/East Pasadena	La Crescenta-Montrose
Mayflower Village/Arcadia	North El Monte/Monrovia		
Westside Planning Area			
Baldwin Hills/ Ladera Heights	Franklin Canyon	Ladera Heights	Marina del Rey
<p><i>*A community listed in this table may contain as few as one residential development with limited egress. A listing here is not an indicator that an entire community is affected by limited egress.</i></p>			

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**Figure 12.10:
Residential Developments in Any
Hazard Area Identified in the Safety
Element That Do Not Have At Least
Two Emergency Evacuation Routes**

Evacuation Routes and Parcels Identified

- Evacuation Routes Identified in Figure 12.9
- Residential Developments Without At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes (Unincorporated Areas Only)

Major Hazard Groups

- **Active Fault Trace:**
Consisting of a combination of Accurately and Approximately Located, Inferred, Concealed, and Aerial Photo Lineament faults.
- **Fire Hazard Area:**
Consisting of a combination of all Fire Hazard Severity classes (or zones) - Moderate, High, and Very High.
- **Inland Flooding Hazard Area:**
Consisting of a combination of FEMA Flood Zones [1% and 0.2% Annual Chance of Flood and Areas with Reduced Risk Due to Levee(s)], Los Angeles County Floodways and Floodplains, and Dam Inundation Boundaries.
- **Seismic / Geotechnical Hazard Area:**
Consisting of a combination of Landslide and Liquefaction areas and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones.
- **Coastal Flooding Hazard Area (Excludes San Clemente Island):**
Consisting of a combination of Sea Level Rise Impact Areas and Tsunami Hazard Areas.
- **Extreme Heat Hazard Area:**
Consisting of a combination of Medium and High Levels of Excess Emergency Room Visits due to Extreme Heat from the Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

Reference Layers

- Freeway
- Highway
- Other Routes
- Perennial Water Body
- National Forest
- Unincorporated Community
- Incorporated City
- Other County

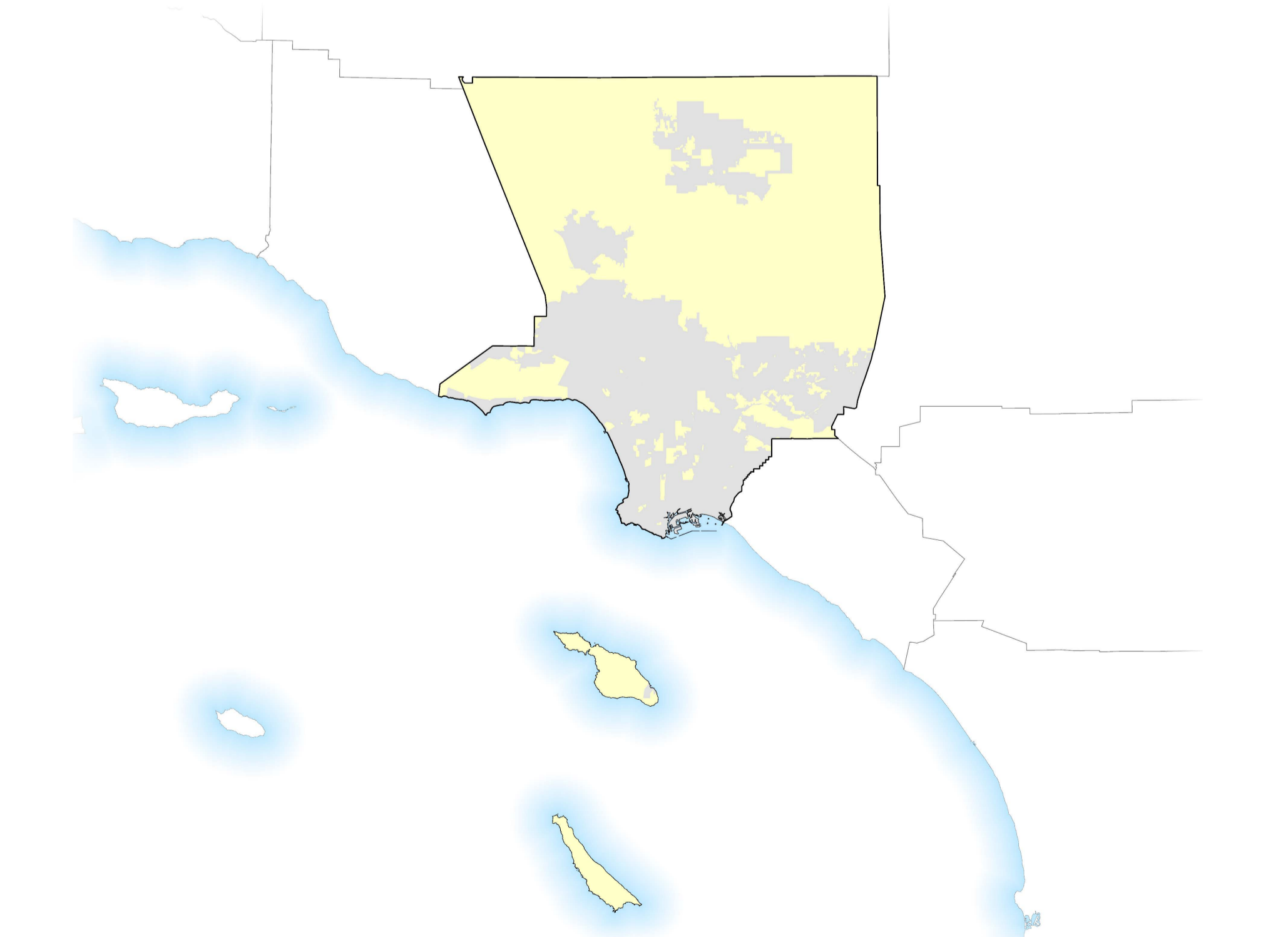
Disclaimer:

Figure 12.10 is intended to provide information to comply with Senate Bill 99 (Nielsen, 2019). Evacuation routes to be used during emergency events are determined by emergency responders to account for the type, severity, and changing conditions of the event. Some evacuation routes may not be viable during an emergency event and alternative routes not identified in Figure 12.9 and 12.10 may be employed for evacuation as needed and appropriate. The County of Los Angeles and its departments make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the County nor its departments shall be liable under any circumstances for any damages with respect to any claim by the user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of data or maps.

Sources:

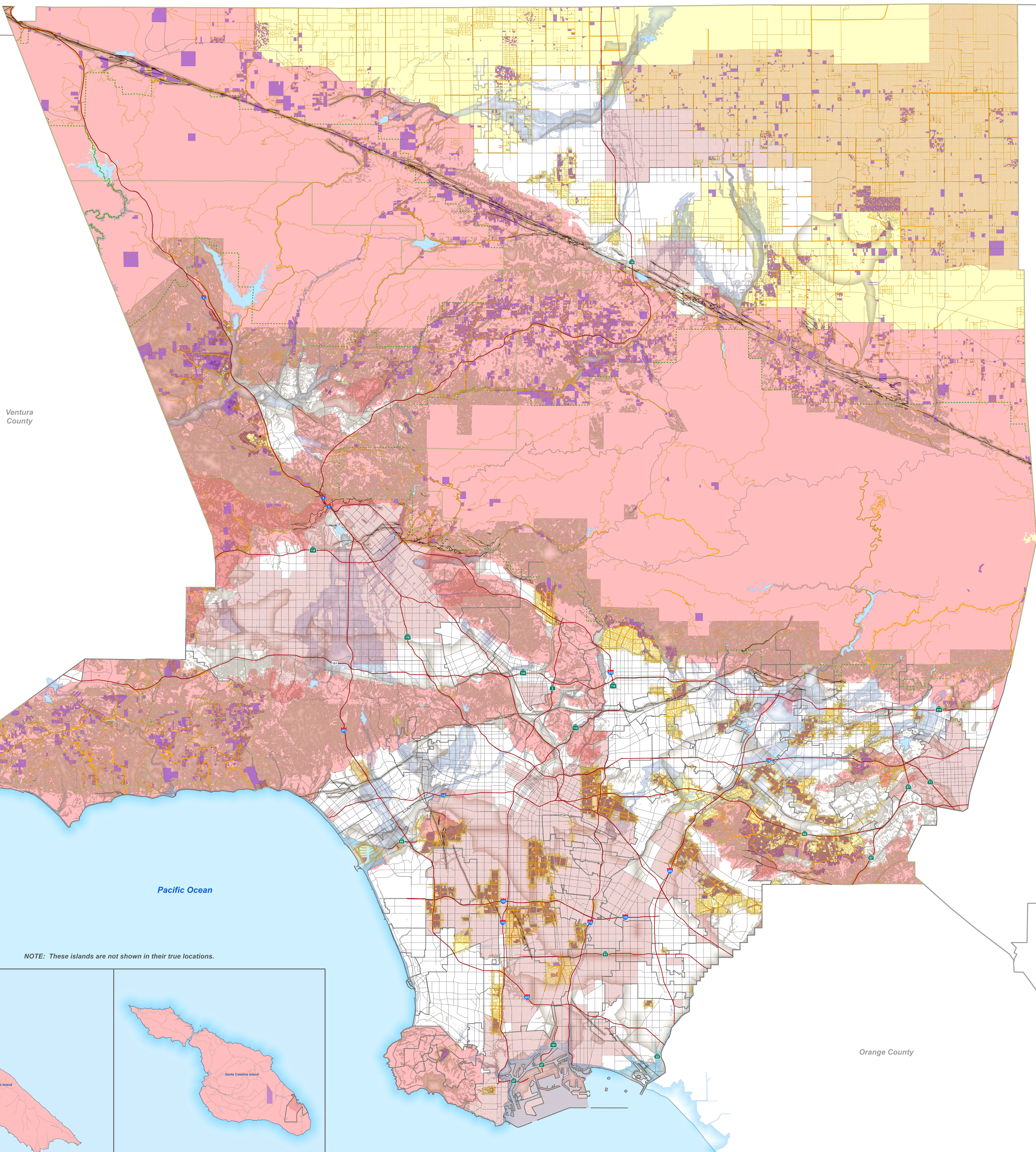
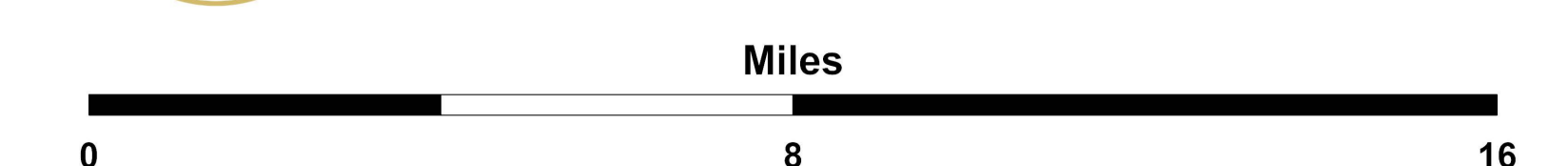
CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); Office of the State Fire Marshall; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office; Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; CA Department of Water Resources; CA Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey; CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services; Tsunami Research Center at the University of Southern California; AECOM Technical Services; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management; UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions.

Vicinity Map



**LA COUNTY
PLANNING**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Dept. of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Ventura County

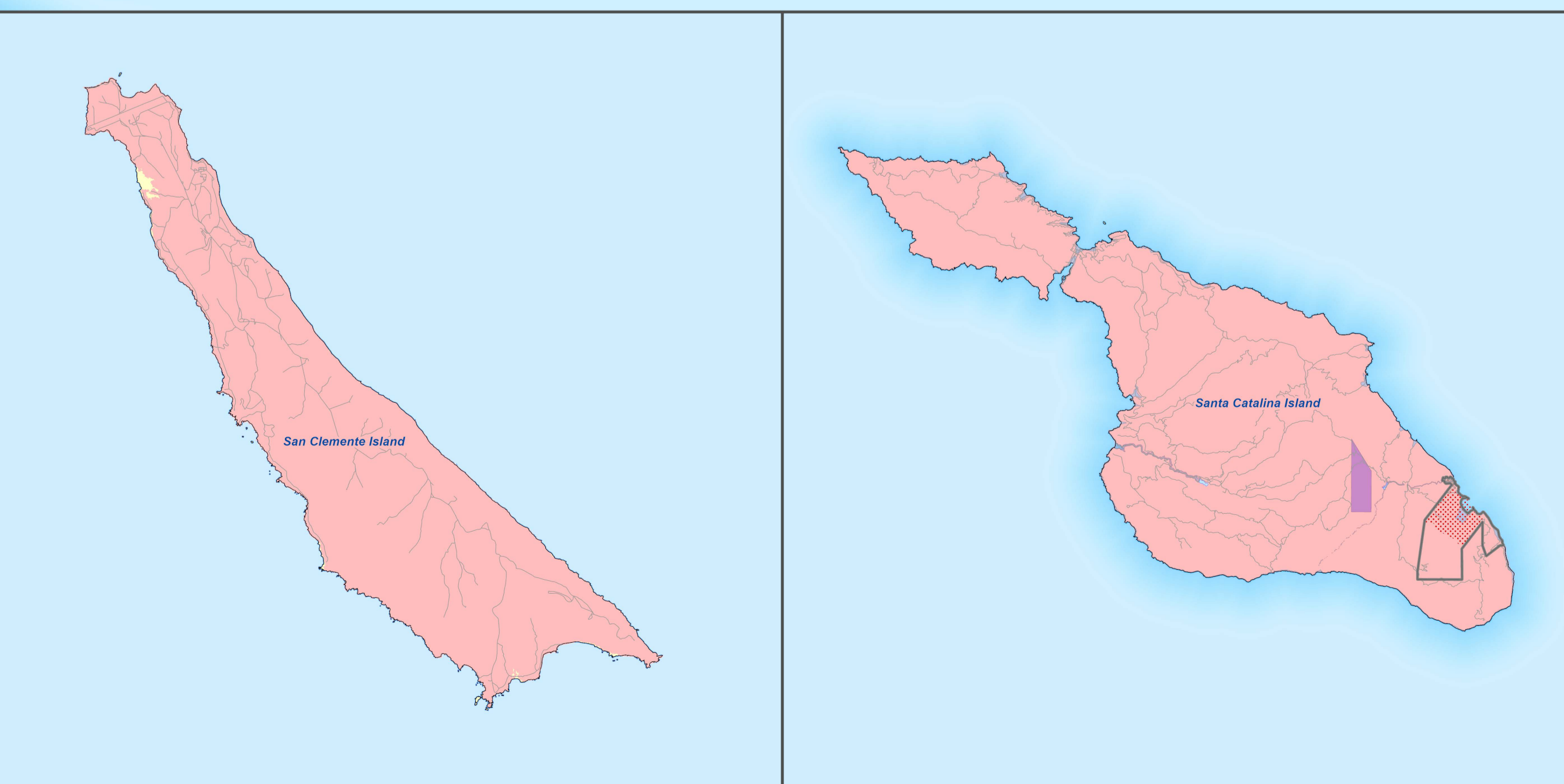
San Bernardino County

Riverside County

Orange County

Pacific Ocean

NOTE: These islands are not shown in their true locations.



Appendix H: Safety Element Resources

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X. Possible Evacuation Routes

Methodology for Identifying Possible Evacuation Routes

Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders at the time of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Roads that were (1) public, (2) paved, and (3) through-ways were identified as possible evacuation routes.

To identify these roads, two datasets were combined: (1) the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Highways (updated March 9, 2016), and (2) the Countywide Address Management System (CAMS). The Master Plan of Highways designates roadways in Los Angeles County by their planned capacity. All roads from this dataset were coded possible evacuation routes because all roads were public and paved. From the CAMS dataset, all primary and secondary roads were coded as possible evacuation routes because they met all three criteria. Other categories in the CAMS dataset, such as trails, dirt roads, onramps, offramps, some driveways, some private roads, and pedestrian walkways were excluded. Gates or road obstacles were not identified due to lack of data. Information on the capacity of these roads is available by clicking on the following links: (1) Master Plan of Highways - Overview (arccgis.com), and (2) CAMS Data (arccgis.com).

The County also classifies some roads as disaster routes (last updated September 24, 2012 by PW). Disaster routes are freeway, highway or arterial routes pre-identified for use during times of crisis. These routes are utilized to bring in emergency personnel, equipment, and supplies to impacted areas in order to save lives, protect property, and minimize impact to the environment. During a disaster, these routes have priority for clearing, repairing, and restoration over all other roads. Disaster routes are not evacuation routes. Although an emergency may warrant a road to be used as both a disaster and evacuation route, an evacuation route is used to move affected populations out of an impacted area.

XI. Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes

Methodology for Identifying ~~Communities with Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element with Limited Egress~~ That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes

~~A list of unincorporated communities was compiled using a combination of Countywide Statistical Areas (CSA) and the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office's List of Unincorporated Communities. As some CSAs are quite large, such as the Santa Monica Mountains and the Antelope Valley, combining CSAs and community names as the unit for analysis enabled a refined identification of residential developments with access to fewer than two possible evacuation routes. The list of unincorporated communities from the Chief Executive Office is here: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Unincorp-Alpha-Web.pdf>~~

~~A multi-step process was undertaken to determine communities with identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element with access to fewer than that do not have at least~~

two possible emergency evacuation routes. For purposes of compliance with SB 99, a “residential development” was conservatively assumed to be any individual parcel associated with a “Residential” use type category, as identified by the Assessor’s Office. Residential developments, based upon zones that allow for residential development, located on non through streets were identified.

Residential developments that were located in at least one of the following mapped hazard areas in the Safety Element were identified for further analysis:

- FEMA Flood Zone
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- County Floodplain and Floodway
- Landslide Zones
- Liquefaction Zones
- Sea Level Rise Impact Areas
- Tsunami Hazard Areas
- Dam Inundation Boundaries
- Active Fault Trace
- Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone
- County Climate Vulnerability Assessment Extreme Heat – Excess Emergency Room Visits

The emergency evacuations routes depicted in Figure 12.9 possible evacuation routes were overlaid onto the residential developments identified in any hazard area(s) identified in the Safety Element to determine if these residential developments were would be able to access at least two possible emergency evacuation routes. Parcels that would be able to access at least two separate emergency evacuations routes were removed from the map, thus providing a comprehensive map of all residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The County of Los Angeles and its departments make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the County nor its departments shall be liable under any circumstances for any damages with respect to any claim by the user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of data or maps.

The CSA was used as the unit basis for determining whether or not a community contained a residential development with access to fewer than two possible evacuation routes. If a minimum of one residential development within the CSA had access to fewer than two possible evacuation routes, the CSA would be identified as having limited egress. The community names found on the County Chief Executive Office’s List of Unincorporated Communities was then used to augment the CSA community names to refine the referenced community. Unincorporated communities that had only one possible evacuation route were flagged and included in Table 12.23 in Chapter 12: Safety Element of the General Plan. These communities are visible on the Residential Developments with Limited Egress mapping application (<http://bit.ly/SE-SB99>).

**ADDENDUM TO NEGATIVE DECLARATION
PRJ2021-002039 SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE**
Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2024004068

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
September 11, 2024

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1. OVERVIEW

On July 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) for the County of Los Angeles (“County”) approved an amendment to the Safety Element of the County’s General Plan to include stronger policies to effectively reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made hazards, to make the General Plan consistent with the State requirements, and to update emergency response information (“Safety Element Update”). In connection with approval of the Safety Element Update, the Board adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), concluding that the Safety Element Update could not have a significant effect on the environment.

On February 23, 2024, following a legal challenge to the Safety Element Update in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. 22STCP03038), the trial court judge ordered the County to revise the Safety Element to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying the residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

The County has now revised the Safety Element Update to comply with the court’s order. Specifically, the County has added a map to Section VIII, Emergency Response, that identifies all residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The County has also made minor textual changes to explain the map.

Prior to re-approval of this revision to the Safety Element Update, the County must determine whether the revision could result in any environmental impact not previously considered in connection with the Safety Element Update as originally approved. When, as here, a project is initially approved by negative declaration, if the proposed modification may produce a significant environmental effect that had not previously been studied, it may be necessary to revise the initial negative declaration or prepare an environmental impact report. Alternatively, if the proposed modification would not introduce any previously unstudied potentially significant effects, or if only minor technical changes or additions are made, the lead agency may prepare what is known as an “addendum” to the previously adopted negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15064, subd. (b).)

The discussion below provides the substantial evidence and explanation to support the County’s determination that the revision to the Safety Element Update would not introduce any potentially significant effects not previously considered in connection with the Safety Element Update.

2. PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

2.1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made hazards. The 2022 Safety Element Update was a comprehensive update to the Safety Element and an associated amendment to the Land Use Element to include new goals and policies to address and reduce risks for seismic and geotechnical hazards, climate adaptation and resiliency, flood, fire, extreme heat and drought, and human-made hazards to make the General Plan consistent with the State requirements, and to update emergency response information. Technical updates were also made to the appendices of the General Plan for consistency and to address additional information regarding wildfire.

Of particular relevance to the currently-proposed revision, the 2022 update included Figure 12.9, Evacuation Routes Map, which identified public, paved, through-way roads which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes

during an actual emergency, as required per Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019). The 2022 update also included a new Table 12.3, which identified unincorporated communities with residential developments with limited egress.

2.1.2 BOARD APPROVAL

On April 5, 2022, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Los Angeles (“Board”) conducted a duly-noticed public hearing in the matter of Project No. PRJ2021-002039-(1-5), consisting of Plan Amendment No. RPPL2021-011001-(1-5) (“Plan Amendment”) and the Negative Declaration associated with Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2021-005522-(1-5) (collectively, “Safety Element Update”). After receiving the staff report and public comment, the Board indicated its intent to approve the Safety Element Update and indicated its intent to adopt a negative declaration. On July 12, 2022, the Board determined that the Safety Element Update was consistent with the goals, policies, and principles of the General Plan, furthered the interests of public health, safety, and general welfare, conformed with good zoning practice, and was consistent with Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board also determined that the Safety Element Update would not have a significant environmental impact and adopted a negative declaration for the Previous Project.

3. REVISION ADDRESSED IN THIS ADDENDUM

The proposed revisions appear in the discussion of Emergency Response in Safety Element, Chapter 12, Section VIII, and Appendix H, Safety Element Resources. The revisions include the following:

- In Chapter 12, Section VIII, the discussion previously entitled “Identifying Communities with Residential Development with Limited Egress” has been retitled and Figure 12.10, Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes, was added to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying residential developments in any hazard areas identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- In Appendix H, the discussion previously entitled “Methodology for Identifying Communities with Residential Developments with Limited Egress” has been retitled “Methodology for Identifying Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified in The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes,” and has been revised to describe the methodology.

No revisions are proposed to any other component of the previously-approved Safety Element Update.

4. REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR USE OF AN ADDENDUM

Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines identifies the circumstances that allow a local agency to prepare an addendum to a negative declaration. An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary, or none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred. CEQA Guidelines section 15162 requires a subsequent EIR to be prepared for that project if the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are in the project which would require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which would require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known, with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project would have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration.
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined would be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, if none of the above conditions are met, the County may prepare an addendum to make minor technical changes to a previously adopted ND and to document as to why no further environmental review is required. An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the negative declaration, which the Board shall consider prior to making a decision on the project. A brief explanation supported by substantial evidence of why an agency decided not to prepare a subsequent negative declaration under Sections 15164 or 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines should also be included in the addendum, the findings on the project, or somewhere in the record.

5. ASSESSMENT OF REVISION

The County has revised the Safety Element to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying all residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The revisions do not affect or modify any other aspect of the previously-approved Safety Element Update, and neither Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) nor any other law, requires local governments to take any specific action based on their identification of residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. Because the revision is purely informational in nature and would not result in any reasonably foreseeable physical changes to the environment, it has no potential to result in significant impacts to any of the environmental factors analyzed in the previously-adopted Negative Declaration.

Of particular note, nothing about the addition of this information would change the conclusion in the previously-adopted Negative Declaration that the Safety Element Update would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As explained in Section 9(f) of the previously-adopted Negative Declaration, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The emergency response plan for the unincorporated areas of the County is prepared by OEM and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County. The County has also prepared a Local All Hazards Mitigation Plan to be in compliance with federal law and to be eligible for disaster funding.

Figure 12.6 of the Safety Element in the General Plan depicts the County's designated Disaster routes. It identifies the routes that emergency responders are likely to use when responding to an emergency scenario and the field facilities that will be used by emergency responders to coordinate their activities. The Department of Public Works also maintains a "Disaster Routes with Road Districts" Map. Further, Safety Element Policy S 7.3 ensures coordination with other County agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and OEM on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning. This coordination is imperative to ensure consistency in different plans that revolve about hazard mitigation and evacuation.

Further, as the previously-adopted Negative Declaration noted, Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency which routes should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. The data that is included in the Safety Element Update pertaining to this legislation, including the information provided in the currently-proposed revision, was confirmed by Public Works, Fire, and OEM to ensure that the data methodology did not conflict with their existing emergency response or evacuation plans.

6. CONCLUSION

The foregoing explanation, and substantial evidence in the County's record, supports the following conclusions:

- (1) *No substantial changes are proposed in the Safety Element Update that will require major revisions of the previously-approved negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.*
- (2) *No substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the Safety Element Update is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.*
- (3) *No new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known, with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
 - (A) *The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration.*
 - (B) *Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR.*
 - (C) *Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*
 - (D) *No mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

In sum, substantial evidence demonstrates the revision would not cause significant effects not discussed in the previously-adopted negative declaration. The revisions are minor in nature, and there is no requirement for the County to perform a subsequent environmental impact report or negative declaration.

Notice of Determination

BY:

To:
 Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
 Public Agency: LA County Regional Planning
 Address: 320 W. Temple St., 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
 Contact: Thuy Hua
 Phone: 213-974-6461

County Clerk
 County of: Los Angeles, Environmental Filings
 Address: 12400 E. Imperial Hwy., #1201
Norwalk, CA 90650

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____
 Address: _____
 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2021110171

Project Title: Los Angeles County General Plan Safety Element Update

Project Applicant: County of Los Angeles

Project Location (include county): Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Project Description:
 The project is a comprehensive update to the Los Angeles County General Plan Safety Element to address projected impacts from climate change hazards by incorporating new adaptation and resiliency goals and policies. It includes the mandated components directed by SB 1035, SB 379, AB 747, AB 1409, and Government Code section 65302(g).

This is to advise that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors has approved the above
 (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)
 described project on July 12, 2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project:

1. The Project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:
https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/se_documents/

Signature (Public Agency): *Thuy Hua* Title: Supervising Regional Planner

Date: July 12, 2022

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

2022 156427

FILED
 Jul 14 2022

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
 ON July 14 2022
 UNTIL August 15 2022

Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study)

County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning



Project title: Los Angeles County General Plan Safety Element Update / Project No. PRJ2021-002039/ Plan Amendment No. RPPL2021011001, Advance Planning No. RPPL2020007456, Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2021005522

Lead agency name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 320 West Temple Street 13th Flr, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact Person and phone number: Iris Chi / 213-974-6461

Project sponsor's name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 320 W. Temple St. 13th Flr, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Project location: Countywide
APN: N/A *USGS Quad:* N/A

Gross Acreage: Countywide

General plan designation: Countywide

Community/Area wide Plan designation: Countywide

Zoning: Applicable to all zones that permit development

Description of project: The project is a comprehensive update to the Los Angeles County General Plan Safety Element to address projected impacts from climate change hazards by incorporating new adaptation and resiliency goals and policies. The proposed Safety Element Update aims to reduce the potential short and long-term risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic damage, and social dislocation from earthquakes, floods, and fire in the County's unincorporated areas. Sections of the Safety Element Update include: Seismic, Fire, Flood, Emergency Services, and Climate Change. Adaptation and resiliency strategies based on the data of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment is incorporated into the Safety Element Update per Senate Bill 379. The project also includes an implementation ordinance to amend Title 21 (Subdivision Ordinance) and Title 22 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Los Angeles County Code to implement goals and policies of the Safety Element Update regarding wildfire. This ordinance aims to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Evacuation routes are determined by emergency

responders who decide at the time of the emergency which routes should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death.

Senate Bill 99 (Nielsen, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify residential developments that have fewer than two evacuation routes.

Goals and Policies for Seismic and Geotechnical Hazards

Goal S 1: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life and property damage due to seismic and geotechnical hazards.	
Topic	Policy
Geotechnical Hazards	Policy S 1.1: Discourage development in Seismic Hazard and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones.
	Policy S 1.2: Prohibit construction of structures for human occupancy adjacent to active faults unless a comprehensive fault study is completed that addresses seismic hazard risks and proposes appropriate actions to minimize the risk.
	Policy S 1.3: Require developments to mitigate geotechnical hazards, such as soil instability and landsliding, in Hillside Management Areas through siting and development standards.
	Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.

Goals and Policies for Climate Adaptation

Goal S 2: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to climate hazards and climate-induced secondary impacts.	
Topic	Policy
Climate Adaptation	Policy S 2.1: Explore the feasibility of community microgrids that are driven by renewable energy sources to increase local energy resilience during grid power outages, reduce reliance on long-distance transmission lines, and reduce strain on the grid when demand for electricity is high.
	Policy S 2.2: Plan for future climate impacts on critical infrastructure and essential public facilities.
	Policy S 2.3: Require new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet required evacuation standards.
	Policy S 2.4: Promote the creation of resilience hubs in frontline communities that are at high vulnerability to climate hazards and ensure they have adequate resources to adapt to climate-induced emergencies.
	Policy S 2.5: Promote the development of community-based and workplace groups such as Community Emergency Response Teams to improve community resilience to climate emergencies.
	Policy S 2.6: Promote climate change and resilience awareness education about the effects of climate change-induced hazards and ways to adapt and build resiliency to climate change.
	Policy S 2.7: Increase the capacity of frontline communities to adapt to climate impacts by focusing planning efforts and interventions on communities facing the greatest vulnerabilities

	and ensuring representatives of these communities have a role in the decision-making process for directing climate change response.
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Goals and Policies for Flood and Inundation Hazards

Goal S 3: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to flood and inundation hazards.	
Topic	Policy
Flood Hazards	Policy S 3.1: Strongly discourage development in the County’s Flood Hazard Zones.
	Policy S 3.2: Strongly discourage development from locating downslope from aqueducts.
	Policy S 3.3: Promote the use of natural, or nature-based, flood protection measures to prevent or minimize flood hazards, where feasible.
	Policy S 3.4: Ensure that developments located within the County’s Flood Hazard Zones are sited and designed to avoid isolation from essential services and facilities in the event of flooding.
	Policy S 3.5: Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a flood event.
	Policy S 3.6: Work cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for flood protection and with stakeholders in planning for flood and inundation hazards.
	Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Goals and Policies for Fire Hazards

Goal S 4: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards.	
Topic	Policy
Fire Hazards	Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.
	Policy S 4.2: Ensure new subdivisions shall provide adequate evacuation and emergency vehicle access on both public and private roads which are evaluated for their traffic access or flow limitations, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, dead-end, one-way, or single lane conditions.
	Policy S 4.3: Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a wildfire event.
	Policy S 4.4: Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum state and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification, and other fire hazard reduction programs within FHSZs.
	Policy S 4.5: Encourage the use of climate-adapted plants that are compatible with the area’s natural vegetative habitats.
	Policy S 4.6: Ensure that infrastructure requirements for new development meet minimum state and local regulations for, ingress, egress, peak load water supply availability, anticipated water supply, and other standards within FHSZs.

Policy S 4.7: Discourage building mid-slope, on ridgelines and on hilltops, and employ adequate setbacks on slopes to reduce risk from wildfires and post-fire, rainfall-induced landslides.
Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
Policy S 4.9: Adopt by reference the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan, as amended.
Policy S 4.10: Encourage the planting of native oaks in strategic locations and near existing oak woodlands, including those to be mapped in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan, to protect developments from wildfires, as well as to lessen fire risk associated with developments.
Policy S 4.11: Support efforts to address unique pest, disease, exotic species and other forest health issues in open space areas to reduce fire hazards and support ecological integrity.
Policy S 4.12: Support efforts to incorporate systematic fire protection improvements for open space, including the facilitation of safe fire suppression tactics, standards for adequate access for firefighting, fire mitigation planning with landowners and other stakeholders, and water sources for fire suppression.
Policy S 4.13: Encourage the siting of major landscape features, such as large water bodies, productive orchards, and community open space at the periphery of new subdivisions to provide strategic firefighting advantage and function as lasting firebreaks and buffers against wildfires, and the maintenance of such features by respective property owners.
Policy S 4.14: Encourage the strategic placement of structures in FHSZs that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.
Policy S 4.15: Encourage rebuilds and additions to comply with fire mitigation guidelines.
Policy S 4.16: Require local development standards to meet or exceed SRA Fire Safe Regulations, which include visible home and street addressing and signage and vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads; all requirements in the California Building Code and Fire Code; and Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations.
Policy S 4.17: Coordinate with agencies, including the Fire Department and ACWM, to ensure that effective fire buffers are maintained through brush clearance and fuel modification around developments.
Policy S 4.18: Require Fire Protection Plans for new residential subdivisions in FHSZs that minimize and mitigate potential loss from wildfire exposure, and reduce impact on the community's fire protection delivery system.
Policy S 4.19: Ensure all water distributors providing water in unincorporated Los Angeles County identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.
Policy S 4.20: Prohibit new large general assembly uses in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage large general assembly uses in all other FHSZs.

Goals and Policies for Extreme Heat and Drought Hazards

Goal S 5: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to extreme heat and drought impacts.	
Topic	Policy
Extreme Heat	Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.
	Policy S 5.2: Encourage the addition of shade structures in the public realm through appropriate means, and in frontline communities.
	Policy S 5.3: Encourage the use of cooling methods to reduce the heat retention of pavement and surfaces.
	Policy S 5.4: Ensure all park facilities, including recreational sports complexes, include a tree canopy, shade structures and materials with low solar gain to improve usability on high heat days and reduce heat retention.
	Policy S 5.5: Encourage alternatives to air conditioning such as ceiling fans, air exchangers, increased insulation and low solar gain exterior materials to reduce peak electrical demands during extreme heat events to ensure reliability of the electrical grid.
	Policy S 5.6: Coordinate with demand-response/paratransit transit services prior to expected extreme heat days to ensure adequate capacity for customer demand for transporting to cooling centers.
	Policy S 5.7: Coordinate with local transit agencies to retrofit existing bus stops, where feasible, with shade structures to safeguard the health and comfort of transit users.
	Policy S 5.8: Enhance and sustainably manage urban forests that provide shade and cooling functions.
	Policy S 5.9: Promote greater awareness of the impacts of extreme heat exposure on the most vulnerable populations, such as seniors, people living in poverty, those with chronic conditions, and outdoor workers.
Drought	Policy S 5.10: Protect and improve local groundwater quality and supply to increase opportunities for use as a potable water source during drought periods.
	Policy S 5.11: Encourage the conservation of water by employing soil moisture sensors, automated irrigation systems, subsurface drip irrigation, and weather-based irrigation controllers.
	Policy S 5.12: Encourage water efficiency in buildings through upgrading appliances and building infrastructure retrofits.
	Policy S 5.13: Encourage the use of drought tolerant landscaping in new developments to reduce reliance on potable and recycled water resources.
	Policy S 5.14: Encourage the installation of grey water reuse systems in new developments.

Goals and Policies for Human-made Hazards

Goal S 6: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to human-made hazards.	
Topic	Policy
Human-made	Policy S 6.1: Assess public health and safety risks associated with existing oil and gas facilities in the unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Hazards	Policy S 6.2: Prohibit all new oil and gas extraction wells in all zones, including those allowed or planned for under existing discretionary permits.
	Policy S 6.3: Designate all existing oil and gas extraction activities, including those allowed or planned for under existing discretionary permits, as legal nonconforming uses in all zones.
	Policy S 6.4: Coordinate with State and regional agencies to ensure funding and implementation of annual inspections, ongoing air monitoring, and health impact assessment data continue to be collected and used to prioritize and facilitate the timely phase out of existing wells.
	Policy S 6.5: Support State and federal policies and proposals that increase funding sources to help plug, abandon, remediate and revitalize idle and orphaned well sites, and advocate for increased funding that will provide critical relief to the County and its residents.

Goals and Policies for Emergency Response

Goal S 7: Effective County emergency response management capabilities.	
Topic	Policy
Emergency Response	Policy S 7.1: Ensure that residents are protected from the public health consequences of natural or human-made disasters through increased readiness and response capabilities, risk communication, and the dissemination of public information.
	Policy S 7.2: Support County emergency providers in reaching their response time goals.
	Policy S 7.3: Coordinate with other County and public agencies, such as transportation agencies and health care providers, on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning.
	Policy S 7.4: Encourage the improvement of hazard prediction and early warning capabilities.
	Policy S 7.5: Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.
	Policy S 7.6: Ensure that essential public facilities are maintained during disasters, such as flooding, wildfires, extreme temperature and precipitation events, drought, and power outages.
	Policy S 7.7: Locate essential public facilities, such as hospitals, where feasible, outside of hazard zones identified in the Safety Element to ensure their reliability and accessibility during disasters.
	Policy S 7.8: Adopt by reference the County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, as amended.

This project proposes amending the Land Use Element to add the following policy.	
	Policy LU 1.10: Prohibit plan amendments that increase density of residential land uses within mapped fire and flood hazard areas.

Implementation Ordinance to Reduce Damage from Wildfire

This ordinance proposes changes to Title 21 that could reduce the risk of personal injury or property damage in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), and this ordinance also identifies amendments to Title 22 that could further reduce these risks.	
Summary of Amendments	1. Revise the number of lots that can be located on a single point of access.
	2. Amend the access requirements in Title 21 to ensure safer access to properties in VHFHSZs.
	3. Modify the lot requirements in Title 21 to reduce wildfire risk for new lots created in VHFHSZs.
	4. Amend Title 21 to better integrate fire risk into existing standards and procedures.
	5. Revise provisions of Title 22 to support the proposed changes to Title 21, and to further reduce the risks of personal injury and property damage in VHFHSZs in a number of ways.

Surrounding land uses and setting: Countywide

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Please review the attached Tribal Cultural Resources Checklist for more details on the consultations that took place in compliance with Assembly Bill 52 requirements. A determination of less than significant impact to tribal cultural resources has been made. This determination and Section 18: Tribal Cultural Resources of this Initial Study is based on not receiving any requests for formal consultation from the California Native American Tribes that were notified on August 3, 2021.

Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

<i>Public Agency</i>	<i>Approval Required</i>
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>

Major projects in the area:

<i>Project/ Case No.</i>	<i>Description and Status</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Reviewing Agencies:

Responsible Agencies

- None
- Regional Water Quality Control Board:
 - Los Angeles Region
 - Lahontan Region
- Coastal Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers
- LAFCO
- Cal FIRE
- Department of Conservation
- Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Special Reviewing Agencies

- None
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- National Parks
- National Forest
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains Area
- CalTrans
- Metro
- Antelope Valley Transit Authority
- Santa Clara Transit
- Foothill Transit

Regional Significance

- None
- SCAG Criteria
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Santa Monica Mtns. Area
-

Trustee Agencies

- None
- State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- State Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- State Lands Commission
- University of California (Natural Land and Water Reserves System)

County Reviewing Agencies

- Department of Public Works
- Fire Department
 - Forestry Division,
 - Environmental Review Unit
 - Fuel Modification Unit
 - Planning Division
 - Land Development Unit
 - Health Hazmat
- Sanitation District
- Public Health/Environmental Health Division: Land Use Program (OWTS), Drinking Water Program (Private Wells), Toxics Epidemiology Program (Noise)
- Sheriff Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Subdivision Committee
-

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

- Aesthetics Greenhouse Gas Emissions Public Services
- Agriculture/Forestry Hazards/Hazardous Materials Recreation
- Air Quality Hydrology/Water Quality Transportation
- Biological Resources Land Use/Planning Tribal Cultural Resources
- Cultural Resources Mineral Resources Utilities/Services
- Energy Noise Wildfire
- Geology/Soils Population/Housing Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Department.)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Iris Chi

Signature (Prepared by)

11/10/2021

Date

Thuy Tran

Signature (Approved by)

11/10/2021

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Department cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the Lead Department has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. (Mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.)
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA processes, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify: the significance threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question, and; mitigation measures identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. Sources of thresholds include the County General Plan, General Plan EIR, other County planning documents, and County ordinances. Some thresholds are unique to geographical locations.

1. AESTHETICS

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>			

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less Than Significant Impact. No direct impact to views from scenic highways or corridors will result from the proposed Safety Element Update. The Safety Element covers all of Los Angeles County, including areas that contain scenic vistas and significant ridgelines. The existing policies carried over from the previous Safety Element and newly proposed policies will not result in direct impacts to these areas. Future development will continue to be required to mitigate visual impacts through the implementation of the County Code and General Plan policies.

- Policy S 4.7: Discourage building mid-slope, on ridgelines and on hilltops, and employ adequate setbacks on slopes to reduce risk from wildfires and post-fire, rainfall-induced landslides.

Policy S 4.7 is a new policy that is included in the Safety Element Update. This policy discourages development on slopes and ridgelines due to the topography that can affect how wildfires burn. There will be a less than significant impact on scenic vistas since this policy aims to reduce the number of new developments on slopes and ridgelines. Also, all development within a Hillside Management Area (HMA) will be required to mitigate impacts caused by the development, including impacts to the scenic values of HMAs.

b) Be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding, hiking, or multi-use trail?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact to the views of regional riding hiking, or multi-use trails. The Safety Element Update applies to all unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County, which will also include designated and proposed trails identified. The Safety Element policies guide development in hazard areas, which can be located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, Significant Ecological Areas, Hillside Management Areas, or sensitive habitat areas in the Coastal Zone. Trails in Los Angeles County are largely located within or next to these areas, which have development standards and permitting requirements that are intended to protect people, property, and biological resources. The Safety Element policies will not directly impact existing or proposed trails since there are not any policies that require the vacating of trails. Potential aesthetic impacts may occur from maintaining required fuel modification zones, brush clearance, and/or firebreaks as thinning of vegetation may impact the view from a trail. Individual developments will be required to conduct a separate environmental analysis during the permitting phase.

c) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Less Than Significant Impact. Portions of Mulholland Highway, Las Virgenes Road, Malibu Canyon Road, Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Angeles Crest Highway are adopted scenic highways. Furthermore, the Santa

Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program identifies scenic elements, which are “designated areas that contain exceptionally-scenic features unique not only to the Santa Monica Mountains, but to the Los Angeles County region. These areas are characterized by rare or unique geologic formations, such as large rock outcroppings and sheer canyon walls, as well as coastline viewsheds, undisturbed hillsides and/or riparian or woodland habitat with intact locally-indigenous vegetation and plant communities.”

Scenic highways and resources are often located within or next to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, Significant Ecological Areas, Hillside Management Areas, and sensitive habitat areas in the Coastal Zone. These areas have development standards and permitting requirements that are intended to protect people, property, and biological resources. Any developments within these areas are required to conduct an environmental analysis at a project-level. Since the Safety Element covers the hazard areas within the entire county, there may be indirect aesthetic impacts to trees and rock outcroppings resulting from maintaining the required fuel modification zones, brush clearance, and/or firebreaks to reduce wildfire risks. Historic buildings within a state scenic highway may have its own fuel modification requirements per the Los Angeles County Fire Department. However, the Safety Element does not propose any policies that will have a direct impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

d) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features or conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point)

Less Than Significant. The policies from Safety Element Update will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features.

- Policy S 4.7: Discourage building mid-slope, on ridgelines and on hilltops, and employ adequate setbacks on slopes to reduce risk from wildfires and post-fire, rainfall-induced landslides.

Policy S 4.7 is a new policy that is included in the Safety Element Update. This policy discourages development on slopes and ridgelines due to the topography that can affect how wildfires burn. There will be a less than significant impact on scenic vistas since this policy aims to reduce the number of new developments on slopes and ridgelines. Also, all development within a Hillside Management Area (HMA) will be required to mitigate impacts caused by the development, including impacts to the scenic values of HMAs.

Any development proposed on Hillside Management Areas will be required to be in compliance with the Hillside Management Areas Ordinance, which requires developments to mitigate impacts in designated hillside management areas to a less than significant level

There are also existing regulations in the County’s Zoning Ordinance relating to the regulation of building form, massing, subdivisions, signs, architectural features, discretionary permits, design, and oak tree preservation that take visual character into consideration when a development is proposed. The Safety Element Update provides the policies that guide how development will occur throughout the County. Area Plans and Specific Plans contain design guidelines and development standards tailored to reflect local character. The Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program also contains development standards as well as other provisions to protect and enhance the visual qualities of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Proposed development will be required to comply with all applicable zoning and development standard requirements that aim to protect the local visual character.

e) **Create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

Less Than Significant. The Safety Element Update project area continues to include the Rural Outdoor Lighting District (ROLD), which includes lighting standards intended to preserve dark skies in applicable rural areas. Standards in this area include shielding outdoor lighting to prevent trespass onto adjacent properties, prohibiting use of certain types of outdoor lighting (such as drop-down lenses, mercury vapor lights, ultraviolet lights, and flashing or blinking lights, such as searchlights or laser lights), and additional standards for specific lighting situations such as streetlights or signage. There are also additional standards for commercial, industrial, and mixed uses that limit the hours of outdoor lighting and require the use of automatic or sensor lights in certain situations. All development in the ROLD area will continue to be subject to the ROLD and policies for this project will not increase the overall building height standards set forth by the zoning designation or specific use proposed. Therefore, any new shadows, light, or glare from new construction designed to be consistent with the policies of the Safety Element Update will create an impact that is less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The analysis concludes that the Safety Element Update will not result in significant impact to aesthetics and visual resources. The extent of less than significant impact to aesthetics and visual resources are the result of existing and policies that encourage development to be sited in a way that reduces the risk of potential hazards. Potential indirect but less than significant impacts can result from the required maintenance of defensible space for development.

Official State Scenic Highways are designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). According to Caltrans, “Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors, through special conservation treatment.”¹ While there are numerous designated Scenic Highways across the state, the following have been designated in Los Angeles County: Angeles Crest Highway (Route 2) from just north of Interstate 210 to the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County Line, two segments of Mulholland Highway from Pacific Coast Highway to Kanan Dume Road and from west of Cornell road to east of Las Virgenes Road, and Malibu Canyon-Las Virgenes Highway from Pacific Coast Highway to Lost Hills Road. There are officially designated scenic highways within the project area since the Safety Element Update will be applied countywide.

Riding and hiking trails have been designated throughout unincorporated Los Angeles County. At present, there are officially adopted trails in the Antelope Valley, the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains designated by the General Plan or applicable Area/Community Plan and Local Coastal Program.

In addition to scenic highways, unincorporated Los Angeles County identifies ridgelines of significant aesthetic value that are to be preserved in their current state. This preservation is accomplished by limiting the type and amount of development near them. These “Significant Ridgelines” (“Major Ridgelines” on Santa Catalina Island) are designated by the General Plan or applicable Area/Community Plan, Local Coastal

Program, or Community Standards District and include San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, Santa Monica Mountains and Puente Hills.

The HMA Ordinance (Los Angeles County Code Title 22, Chapter 22.104) is designed to protect designated hillsides from incompatible development. The ordinance applies to properties that have hillsides with a 25 percent grade or greater. Unless otherwise exempted by the HMA Ordinance, an HMA Conditional Use Permit is required. The HMA Ordinance is intended to protect hillside resources, minimize grading, etc., and focuses on design through the HMA Design Guidelines to minimize such impacts. A potentially significant impact would occur if the proposed project does not protect or avoid hillside resources to the extent feasible, minimize grading, or otherwise does not meet the required burden of proof and General Plan policies related to hillside development.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's aesthetic resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on aesthetics. Furthermore, future development impacted by this ordinance, that is proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

2. AGRICULTURE / FOREST

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Land within areas of the County that are mapped by Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) fall into the following agricultural land use designations: Agricultural Land, Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land. Mapped Important Farmland only exists in 3 of the County’s 11 Planning Areas—Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Santa Monica Mountains Planning Areas.

The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as the policies do not propose direct development on a parcel-level. The Safety Element policies provide guidance on how the County may reduce the risk of harm and damage from natural and climate-induced disasters. None of the policies will limit or eliminate the productive use of farmland, such as conversion of acres to actual non-farm uses. Therefore, impacts to farmland resulting from this project will be less than significant.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Resource Area, or with a Williamson Act contract?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs) are unincorporated areas in the Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys, where farming in unincorporated Los Angeles County is generally concentrated. ARAs include Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and other areas identified in the General Plan. ARAs are almost exclusively zoned for agricultural and single-family residential uses. The only Williamson Act contracts in effect in the County are for land on Catalina Island and held by the Catalina Island Conservancy as set asides for open space and recreational purposes. No impacts to Williamson Act contracts are anticipated with the adoption of the Safety Element Update.

The project area for the Safety Element Update includes ARAs since the Safety Element applies countywide but the project does not propose policies that would result in converting ARAs to non-agricultural uses. None of the policies will alter the permitted uses of land designated by the zone. None of the policies will limit or eliminate the productive use of farmland, such as conversion of acres to actual non-farm uses. Therefore, no conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural uses or with areas designated as ARAs or a Williamson Act contract are anticipated and impacts will be less than significant.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220 (g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code § 51104(g))?

Less Than Significant Impact. The unincorporated County does not have any land that is zoned only for forest or timberland uses. However, the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests are within the boundaries of Los Angeles County. In-holding parcels with structures within the Angeles National Forest boundaries will still need to provide the required fuel modification zones and brush clearance as required by the Fire Department with consultation with the U.S. Forest Service. The policies of the Safety Element Update will not create any conflict with existing zoning, or cause rezoning, of forest land or timberland and any impacts from the policies will be less than significant.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Los Padres and Angeles National Forests lie within the boundaries of Los Angeles County. The policies will not result in any loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The policies aim to reduce wildfire risk and damage that otherwise could perpetuate increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires through forest lands due to climate change. Therefore, impacts from the Safety Element policies will be less than significant.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project area does include the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests and contains mapped Farmland, but the policies of the Safety Element Update provide guidance for future development rather than specific changes to zoning or land use designations. Therefore, none of the policies will foreseeably change the environment in such a way as to convert Farmland to a non-agricultural use or forest land to a non-forest use and therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The analysis concludes that the Safety Element Update will not result in significant impacts to agricultural or forest land.

The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data that are used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called *Prime Farmland*. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance. FMMP produces *Important Farmland Maps*, which are a hybrid of resource quality (soils) and land use information.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965--commonly referred to as the Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which

are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. Local governments receive an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the state via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971. The only Williamson Act contract lands in the County are located on Catalina Island and held by the Catalina Island Conservancy as set asides for open space and recreational purposes. Therefore, there are no agricultural Williamson Act contracts in the remainder of the unincorporated County.

Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs) are a County identification tool that indicates land where commercial agriculture is taking place and/or is believed to have a future potential based on the presence of prime agricultural soils, compatible adjacent land uses, and existing County land use policy. In addition to ARAs, the County has two agricultural zones: A-1 (Light Agriculture) and A-2 (Heavy Agriculture) where agricultural uses are permitted to be established through ministerial or discretionary review, depending on the type and intensity of use. Not all A-1 and A-2 zoned lands contain agricultural uses.

California Public Resources Code section 12220(g) defines forest land as “land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.” California Public Resources Code section 4526 defines timberland as land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the State Board of forestry and Fire Protection as experimental forest land that is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the State Board of Forestry and fire Protection for each district after consultation with the respective forest district communities. California Public Resources Code section 51104(g) defines “Timberland production zones” or “TPZ” as an area which has been zoned and is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses.

The County contains important and prime farmland, and the Angeles National Forest and a portion of the Los Padres National forest are also located in the County. The County does not have any zone that is strictly used for forest uses or timberland production. However, the Angeles National Forest, and a portion of the Los Padres National forest are located in the County, and the Watershed Zone allows for any use owned and maintained by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and any authorized leased use designated to be part of the Forest Service overall recreational plan of development, including logging. In addition, Los Angeles County has been mapped by the CalFire’s FRAP to identify the different categories of land cover capable of being sustained therein, including forests, woodlands, wetlands, and shrubs, for example.

The project area for the Safety Element Update encompasses the entire unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and includes Prime Farmland, a limited number of Williamson Act parcels, and ARAs, but due to the nature of the policies of the Safety Element, there will not be any significant impacts that would lead to the conversion of agricultural or forest lands. The policies aim to reduce the risk of hazards experienced in Los Angeles County; agricultural and forest lands are less intense land uses and the preservation of these lands will only help the County to adapt to a changing climate.

The project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County’s agriculture and forest resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on agriculture and forest resources. Furthermore, fuel modification and brush clearance requirements are already in place in Los Angeles County. This ordinance does not significantly expand these requirements. Future development impacted by this ordinance, that is proposed after the approval of the

ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

3. AIR QUALITY

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of either the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD (AVAQMD)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less Than Significant Impact. The policies of the Safety Element Update are not likely to conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans for SCAQMD or AVAQMD. The policies are meant to reduce the risk and harm caused by natural and climate induced hazards. The SCAQMD and the AVAQMD are responsible for monitoring air quality as well as planning, implementing, and enforcing programs designed to attain and maintain state and federal ambient air quality standards in the region.

Natural and climate induced hazards, such as wildfires and extreme heat events, have caused poor air quality for the Los Angeles basin. These events are categorized as “exceptional events” that cause higher air pollutant concentration that is beyond the AQMD control to prevent or mitigate². The Federal Clean Air Act allows for AQMDs to not consider the data for these exceptional events to meet the federally regulated National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Secondary impacts that result from exceptional events, such as public safety power shutoffs may have air quality impacts due to continual generator usage. SCAQMD regulates the number of hours of generator usage during power outages.³

The Safety Element policies would not cause air quality impacts. The policies would help reduce the risk from “exceptional events” through design methods to moderate temperature, planting of shade trees and ground cover, and maintaining proper brush clearance. The policies do not require actions that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of regional air quality plans, which therefore, results in a less than significant impact.

<p>b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The project area is in the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The California Air Resources Board identifies non-attainment areas in California and National Area Designations

² <http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/public-notice/exceptional-events> (accessed July 28, 2021)

³ <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/compliance-advisory---emergency-generators-wildfires---11-12-19.pdf?sfvrsn=4> (accessed July 28, 2021)

for ambient air quality standards.⁴ “Non-attainment” describes any region that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for a specific pollutant. In Los Angeles County, the levels of ozone, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide continually exceed the Federal and California Ambient Air Quality Standards and the County is considered in “Non-Attainment” for these pollutants.

However, this project is not intended to exceed any thresholds of significance due to the nature of the policies. The purpose of the Safety Element Update is to reduce the risk and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies and the existing policies that are carried over do not require additional development that would add to the cumulative criteria pollutant numbers for the County. The Safety Element of the General Plan is a long-range planning document, the policies are to guide how development will happen in the County over the next decade. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are those susceptible to respiratory distress, such as, but not limited to, asthmatics, the elderly, young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. Uses where sensitive receptors may be found include playgrounds, schools, senior citizen centers, hospitals, day-care facilities and residential areas, or other uses that are more susceptible to poor air quality, such as residential neighborhoods. The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County do contain sensitive receptors, such as residential areas, schools, libraries, and other public facilities. The General Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)⁵ includes a mitigation measure, AQ-3, that requires the submittal of a health risk assessment (HRA) for sensitive land uses within the following distances as measured from the property line of the project to the property line of the source/edge of the nearest travel lane, from these facilities:

- Industrial facilities within 1000 feet
- Distribution centers (40 or more trucks per day) within 1,000 feet
- Major transportation projects (50,000 or more vehicles per day) within 1,000 feet
- Dry cleaners using perchloroethylene within 500 feet
- Gasoline dispensing facilities within 300 feet

The Safety Element policies do not require the development of the uses mentioned above. Therefore, the project does not rise to the threshold of significance requiring an HRA and impacts will be less than significant.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. AQMD Rule 402, states that “A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury

⁴ <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>

⁵ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_lac-mmrp-final.pdf

or damage to business or property. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals.”

General Plan MMRP⁶ measure AQ-4 requires an odor management plan if it is determined that a project has the potential to emit nuisance odors beyond the property line. Facilities listed as to have the potential to generate nuisance odors include but are not limited to:

- Wastewater treatment plants,
- Composting, greenwaste, or recycling facilities,
- Fiberglass manufacturing facilities,
- Painting/coating operations,
- Large-capacity coffee roasters,
- Food-processing facilities,
- Landfills, waste transfer stations,
- Chemical manufacturing facilities.

The project will not alter any of the existing requirements for, or ease any of the standards to permit, the abovementioned facilities, or other similar facilities. A less than significant impact can be anticipated because the proposed project may result in low level, intermittent odors from emergency response vehicles during a hazard event.

- Policy S 7.5: Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.

The Safety Element requires that there are enough sheriff and fire services that can handle emergency response situations. The determination of adequacy is based on the density of development and population. New development will be required to undergo CEQA review for both air quality and public services impacts. Policy S 7.5 directs the review of new projects to ensure that the emergency response coverage exists. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The analysis concludes that the project will not result in significant impacts to air quality. This is due to the fact that the Safety Element Update is not requiring new development that will increase the amount of air pollutants released or siting near sensitive receptors. The policies of the Safety Element guide development in the County in order to reduce risk and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards.

The air pollutants that are regulated by the Federal and California Clean Air Acts fall under three categories, each of which are monitored and regulated:

- Criteria air pollutants;
- Toxic air contaminants (TACs); and,
- Global warming and ozone-depleting gases.

In 1970, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified six “criteria” pollutants they found to be the most harmful to human health and welfare. They are:

- Ozone (O₃);

⁶ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_lac-mmrrp-final.pdf

- Particulate Matter (PM);
- Carbon Monoxide (CO);
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂);
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂); and,
- Lead (Pb).

The Federal government and the State of California have established air quality standards designed to protect public health from these criteria pollutants. Among the federally identified criteria pollutants, the levels of ozone, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide in Los Angeles County continually exceed federal and state health standards and the County is considered a non-attainment area for these pollutants.

In response to the region's poor air quality, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) & the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) were created. The SCAQMD and the AVAQMD are responsible for monitoring air quality as well as planning, implementing, and enforcing programs designed to attain and maintain state and federal ambient air quality standards in the region. The SCAQMD implements a wide range of programs and regulations, most notably, the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The SCAQMD jurisdiction covers approximately 10,743 square-miles and includes all of Los Angeles County except for the Antelope Valley, which is covered by the Antelope AVAQMD.

Sensitive receptors are uses such as playgrounds, schools, senior citizen centers, hospitals or other uses that would be more highly impacted by poor air quality. AQMD Rule 402, which states "A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals."

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's air quality. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on air quality. Wildfires have a significant impact on air quality, and this ordinance would not increase either the intensity or frequency of wildfires. Furthermore, future development impacted by this ordinance, that is proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less Than Significant Impact. The unincorporated areas have six main types of biological resource categories: regional habitat linkages; forests; coastal zone; riparian habitats, streambeds and wetlands; woodlands; and Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). The General Plan EIR Figure 5.4-1 (Sensitive Biological Resources, page 5-4.17) and Figure 5.4-2 (Designated Critical Habitats, page 5-4.19) illustrate where plant communities and habitat resources have been found.

Sensitive plant communities and special status species identified by the CA Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) are listed by planning areas in the Biological Resources chapter of the Los Angeles County General Plan.⁷ The planning areas that may be potentially impacted are those areas in the County that are within the Fire Hazard Severity Zones mapped by CAL FIRE. The species within these areas may potentially be impacted from the Safety Element policies that ensure the maintenance of fuel modification, brush clearance, and fire breaks to reduce the harm caused by wildfires.

- Policy S 4.4: Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum state and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification and other fire hazard reduction programs within FHSZs.

Policy S 4.4 reiterates the importance of meeting minimum regulations for vegetation management and fuel modification. New development that requires approved fuel modification plans by the Fire Department will also be required to undergo CEQA review for each individual project. The development may require additional biological review if the development is located within a designated ecological area, such as the Significant Ecological Areas or Coastal Zone. Any impacts to sensitive plants or special status species will be mitigated at the individual development level.

The Safety Element also proposes policies that can prevent impacts to biological resources through development siting and design, especially within Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). The policies listed below illustrate how the Safety Element Update considers biological integrity to be a factor in reducing wildfire risks.

⁷ Los Angeles County General Plan – pages https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_deir.pdf

- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.
- Policy S 4.3: Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a wildfire event.
- Policy S 4.11: Support efforts to address unique pest, disease, exotic species, and other forest health issues in open space areas to reduce fire hazards and support ecological integrity.
- Policy S 4.14: Encourage the strategic placement of structures in FHSZs that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.

The cumulative effects of the Safety Element’s policies will lead to a less than significant impact on sensitive and special status species found within Los Angeles County.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update applies to all the unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. The areas that contain sensitive natural communities are often within the rural, coastal, and foothill areas. These areas are also at most risk of wildfires, coastal flooding, and inland flooding. Potential impacts to these sensitive natural communities come from measures taken to mitigate or prevent impacts from hazards such as fuel modification associated with an approved development.

There are numerous local and regional plans, and ordinances that protect the sensitive natural communities found in Los Angeles County. These include the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Ordinance, Marina Del Rey Local Coastal Program, Santa Catalina Local Coastal Program, Malibu Local Coastal Program, Oak Tree Ordinance, Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan, Hillside Management Areas, Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan. These plans and ordinances have building requirements and discretionary permit review processes designed to protect the most sensitive natural communities in the unincorporated areas. Most new development that are subject to the above-mentioned plans and ordinances cannot receive a CEQA categorical exemption, which will require an environmental analysis per CEQA. These development projects will also require review by the SEA Technical Advisory Committee or Environmental Review Board for recommended mitigation measures for impacts to sensitive environmental resources. These include, but are not limited to, reducing the project’s height, or minimizing its footprint, avoidance of certain natural resources, or preparation of species or habitat preservation plans.

In addition to the currently listed species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the Western Joshua tree is a Candidate species under CESA, and is being considered for CESA listing as Threatened or Endangered by CDFW. Therefore, during the review period and potentially after, projects that propose removal of western Joshua trees will require an incidental take permit issued by CDFW.

The General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element contains policies to preserve and protect riparian habitats, wetlands, woodlands, and shrublands. County policies also regulate the removal of oak trees. The Safety Element policies do not conflict with the Conservation and Natural Resources Element policies. The Safety Element policies, such as Policy S 3.5 and S 4.3 are to ensure that future mitigations of fire and flood events take the protection of biological resources into consideration.

- Policy S 3.5: Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a flood event.
- Policy S 4.3: Ensure that biological and natural resources are protected during rebuilding after a wildfire event.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies do not have direct development impacts to federally protected wetlands, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, and waters defined by the Clean Water Act or the California Fish and Game code. Policy S 3.5 of the Safety Element Update ensures that the mitigation of flood-related property damage and loss limits impacts to biological and other resources. Since the Safety Element applies to all of the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and these areas do contain federally protected wetlands, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, and waters defined by the Clean Water Act or the California Fish and Game code, there will be a less than significant impact.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less Than Significant Impact. The General Plan has identified five linkages (identified by South Coast Wildlands) that are important to habitat connectivity throughout Southern California. The General Plan EIR discusses Wildlife Movement Corridors that identified missing linkages (page 5.4-88 to 5.4-89), which include areas along linear topographic features such as principle water courses of the County (Antelope Wash, Little Rock Creek, Big Rock Creek, San Antonio Canyon, San Gabriel River, Los Angeles River, Santa Clara River, Topanga Canyon, Malibu Canyon, Zuma Canyon, and the Arroyo Sequit; those along the mountain and hilly ranges of the County: the San Gabriel Mountains, of the Transverse Ranges⁸, the Tehachapi Mountains, the Santa Susana Mountains, the Simi Hills, the Santa Monica Mountains, the Verdugo Mountains, the San Jose Hills, the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and the Puente Hills; and the linkage along the San Andreas Fault).

⁸ The western part of the San Gabriel Mountains has been given various names including “Sierra Pelona,” “Liebre Mountains,” and “Castaic Ranges.” The Transverse Ranges are also referred to as “Sierra Madre”.

While the mapping of wildlife corridors in the County is extensive, the reality of wildlife movement corridors and linkages is more complex and exists in more locations that are not easily mapped, especially for bird and bat migration corridors and most linear natural features such as mountain ranges and water courses.

The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Policies S 3.5 and S 4.3 of the Safety Element Update ensures that the mitigation of flood and fire-related property damage and loss limits impacts biological and other resources. Since the Safety Element applies to all of the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and these areas do contain wildlife corridors, there will be a less than significant impact.

e) Convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or other unique native woodlands (juniper, Joshua, southern California black walnut, etc.)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not be converting oak woodlands or other unique native woodlands like juniper, Joshua, or southern California black walnut. The policies encourage the protection and proliferation of native oaks as a first line of defense from wildfires and support the ecological integrity that comes with the health of the County’s native woodlands.

- Policy S 4.10: Encourage planting native oaks in strategic locations and near existing oak woodlands, including those to be mapped in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan, to protect developments from wildfires, as well as to lessen fire risk associated with developments.
- Policy S 4.11: Support efforts to address unique pest, disease, exotic species, and other forest health issues in open space areas to reduce fire hazards and support ecological integrity.

Additionally, the CDFW has listed the Western Joshua tree as a Candidate Species. Through the review period during which Joshua tree is a Candidate for listing, it is subject to CESA protection, and this protection will be extended if the species is officially listed at the end of the review period. During the review period, and potentially beyond, any impacts to the species require an incidental take permit from CDFW.

The Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Ordinance, Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program, and the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Community Standards District protect native trees species that are found within Los Angeles County, including oak, juniper, Joshua, and southern California black walnut trees. The Safety Element policies do not induce impacts to these protected trees. Any future development proposed will have to go through the permit and CEQA review process to mitigate impacts to oak woodlands and SEA protected trees. Therefore, the impact to oak and other unique native woodlands is less than significant.

f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36),

the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.174), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.102), and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.44)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not conflict with or impact wildflower reserve areas, the SEA or SERA areas, or the County’s Oak Tree Ordinance. There is one state Wildflower Reserve Area in Los Angeles County, the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve. Other County wildflower reserve areas also located in the Antelope Valley identified by Range & Township location in Title 12, Ch. 12.36 of the County Code.

The Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance sets requirements for how proposed developments are to interact with oak trees on or near the project site and how to deal with their removal or encroachment by the proposed project, when necessary.

The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas, Oak Tree, SEAs, and SERAs. Since the Safety Element applies to all of the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and contains a state Wildflower Reserve Area, SEAs, SERAs, there will be a less than significant impact.

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. Within Los Angeles County, The SEA program surveyed the entirety of Los Angeles County to identify ecologically important land and water systems that support valuable habitat for plants and animals. The intent of this program is not to preclude development but to minimize the impacts of development on the biota that resulted in the SEA designation in the first place. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

The CDFW has created several regional Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs), beginning in 1991 with the passage of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. These plans are intended to be broader in scope than localized conservation plans and have the intent of preserving the integrity of large ecosystems, which sometimes stretch over multiple cities and counties. Currently, the Newhall Ranch NCCP is being developed that includes Los Angeles County. The NCCP for the Palos Verdes Peninsula has been adopted. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which implements standards for renewable energy development in the Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley areas has been concluded and is only applicable to public lands. The Phase II part of the DRECP for private lands is ongoing.

At the federal level, the Endangered Species Act requires a project seeking an incidental take permit for one or more federally listed species to develop a project-specific Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which requires approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The HCP describes “the anticipated effects of the

proposed taking; how those impacts will be minimized, or mitigated; and how the HCP is to be funded.”⁹ These HCPs are listed in an online database, separated by region. The only active HCP in unincorporated Los Angeles County as of August 2021 is the Newhall Farm Seasonal Crossings HCP, which addresses temporary vehicle crossings and water diversions along the portion of the Santa Clara River west of Valencia to the Ventura County line.

The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan. Since the Safety Element applies to all of the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and there are active NCCPs and HCPs within the County, there will be a less than significant impact.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Biological resources are identified and protected through various federal, state, regional, and local laws and ordinances. The federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) state that animals and plants that are threatened with extinction or are in a significant decline will be protected and preserved. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife created the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), which is a program that inventories the status and locations of rare plants and animals in California.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act defines wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.”

The County’s primary mechanism to conserve biological diversity is an identification tool and planning overlay called Significant Ecological Areas (SEA). SEAs are ecologically important land and water systems that are valuable as plant and/or animal communities, often integral to the preservation of threatened or endangered species, and conservation of biological diversity in the County. These areas also include nearly all of the wildlife corridors in the County, as well as oak woodlands and other unique and/or native trees.

Sensitive biological resources in the Coastal Zone are known as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs). ESHAs are defined in the Coastal Act as areas “in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments. On Santa Catalina Island, there are both ESHAs and SEAs. In the Coastal Zone segment of the Santa Monica Mountains, sensitive biological resources are designated as Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) by the Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan, which contains terrestrial and marine resources that, because of their characteristics and/or vulnerability, require special protection. SERAs include the following sub-categories: ESHAs; Significant Woodlands and Savannahs; Significant Watersheds; the Malibu Cold Creek Resource Management Area; and Wildlife Migration Corridors.

The project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County’s biological resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a

⁹ Federal Endangered Species Act, website: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/hcp-overview.html>

significant impact on biological resources. Furthermore, fuel modification and brush clearance requirements are already in place in Los Angeles County. This ordinance does not significantly expand these requirements. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

The Safety Element Update seeks to accomplish the goal of reducing risk and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards but incorporates policies to ensure that the protection of biological resources is considered during any hazard mitigation. The health and ecological integrity of the County's biological resources found in diverse and sensitive natural communities are the first line of defense in preventing and reducing harm from hazards. The health of the biological resources help to combat the adverse effects from climate change and therefore, the policies proposed in the Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The project does not propose any policies that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Since the Safety Element Update applies countywide, all national and state-designated historic resources may potentially be affected. However, the Safety Element update consists of high-level goals and policies that do not dictate requirements that would change the structural and cultural integrity of historic resources. There are three policies that support retrofitting buildings to mitigate the risk of damage from earthquakes and fires and assist with adapting to extreme heat events.

- Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.
- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.

These policies may potentially impact historical resources if such retrofits are required to reduce risks but maintain a less than significant impact because these retrofits are encouraged rather than required of all structures and could be implemented in a manner that does not detract from the historical integrity.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource. The development of a site will be evaluated on a project-specific basis in order to determine the need for further studies to determine historical significance. The Safety Element applies to all unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and there may be archaeological resources within these areas, but the limited scope of the project will have a less than significant impact to historical resources.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. This project will not include any direct impacts to land; there are no construction or development activities proposed as part of this project. The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. None of the policies are intended to address ground disturbances, including grading. Therefore, the policies of the Safety Element will not disturb human remains and impacts will be less than significant

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The analysis concludes that the ordinance will not result in significant impacts to cultural resources. This is because the project does not propose any policies that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significant of a historical resource. The Safety Element policies are high-level policies that do not dictate requirements that would change the structural and cultural integrity of historic resources. The policies do not include any direct impacts to land; there are no construction or development activities proposed as part of this project. Three policies support retrofitting buildings to mitigate the risk of damage from earthquakes and fires and assist with adapting to extreme heat events. These policies may potentially impact historical resources if such retrofits are required to reduce risks but maintain a less than significant impact because these retrofits are encouraged rather than required of all structures.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's cultural resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on cultural resources. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

6. ENERGY

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The County Green Building Standards Code (Title 31), as well as Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and the State of California Green Code, requires applicable projects to provide energy saving features. The goal of conserving energy implies decreasing overall per capita energy consumption, decreasing reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and oil, and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources.

There are three policies in the Safety Element Update that can potentially have an impact on the usage of energy during construction and operation of the buildings. Policies S 1.4, S 4.8, and S 5.1 all encourage retrofitting existing structures to assist in reducing harm caused by hazards, such as wildfire, earthquakes, and extreme heat events. These policies do not require retrofitting of all structures but support the action when feasible.

- Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.
- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations such as the building and fire code to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.

There are three additional policies that can potentially reduce the usage of energy. Policies S 2.1 and 5.2 provide alternative means of distributing energy in hazard areas, using passive cooling methods, and provide more opportunities for renewable energy capture.

- Policy S 2.1: Explore the feasibility of community microgrids that are driven by renewable energy sources to increase local energy resilience during grid power outages, reduce reliance on long- distance transmission lines, and reduce strain on the grid when demand for electricity is high.
- Policy S 5.2: Encourage the addition of shade structures in the public realm through appropriate means, and in frontline communities.

The above-mentioned policies provide guidance for how development should occur in Los Angeles County in order to reduce the risks from natural and climate-induced hazards. Future development projects will be reviewed by the Department of Public Works for compliance with the Building Code standards and will be

required to incorporate energy-saving measures consistent with those requirements. Therefore, impacts from the Safety Element Update policies will be less than significant.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewal energy or energy efficiency?

Less Than Significant Impact. The County’s Renewable Energy Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2016 and became effective January 12, 2017. None of the policies in the Safety Element Update will conflict with the Renewable Energy Ordinance or Building Code standards related to energy efficiency as the policies promote the usage of renewable energy in within existing structures and in areas that are built out. Impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Safety Element Update do not conflict with the County Green Building Standards Code (Title 31), as well as Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and the State of California Green Code, which requires applicable projects to provide energy saving features. The policies in the Safety Element support the usage of renewable energy in appropriate areas in order to reduce the harm that can be caused by hazards such as extreme heat and wildfire events. Reduction of the reliance of fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and oil can contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change and help the residents of Los Angeles County adapt to climate-induced hazards.

The project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County’s energy resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County’s energy resources. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known active fault trace? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The entirety of Los Angeles County is part of the seismically active region of Southern California. Within the County, there are numerous known faults which generally trend northwest-southeast. In the areas surrounding these fault traces, fault and seismic hazard zones have been designated to identify areas of active seismic concern.

Within the regulatory environment regarding seismicity, the Alquist-Priolo Act addresses active surface faults and is intended to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults.

However, this project will not cause potential substantial adverse effects involving rupture of a known earthquake fault because none of the Safety Element policies are intended for ground disturbance beyond what is currently allowed by the County Code.

- Policy S 1.1: Discourage development in Seismic Hazard and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones.
- Policy S 1.2: Prohibit construction of structures for human occupancy adjacent to active faults unless a comprehensive fault study is completed that addresses seismic hazard risks and proposes appropriate actions to minimize the risk.
- Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.

Policies S 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 contain guidance to ensure that future development in Los Angeles County does not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known earthquake fault. None of the policies will cause deviation from the current Building Code requirements. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. The entirety of Los Angeles County is part of the seismically active region of Southern California. Within the County, there are numerous known faults which generally trend northwest-southeast. In the areas surrounding these fault traces, fault and seismic hazard zones have been designated to identify areas of active seismic concern.

Policies S 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 contain guidance to ensure that future development in Los Angeles County does not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Policies S 1.1 and 1.2 addresses new development that may be established in areas with known strong seismic ground activity. Policy S 1.4 addresses the retrofitting of existing structures that were built in zones with strong seismic ground shaking. None of the policies will cause deviation from the current Building Code requirements. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and lateral spreading?

Less Than Significant Impact. Soils subject to liquefaction are water saturated soils, frequently loosely packed and granular in nature, that when subjected to seismic activity lose their cohesion and act like a fluid. Liquefaction areas are usually found in areas throughout the County with a water table near the surface.

Specific development project sites may be located within the Liquefaction Zone. However, the Safety Element Update will not cause potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure because none of the policies are intended for ground disturbance beyond what is currently allowed by the County Code. None of the polices will cause additional impacts to the soil that could lead to significant seismic-related ground failure. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

iv) Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. A landslide is the movement or flow of soil, rocks, earth, water, or debris down a slope. Seismic activity can trigger landslides, especially on steep slopes or those with slide planes that will move easily. The California Geologic Survey maps potential landslide areas throughout California. These maps are updated periodically and usually in response to some geological event. However, the Safety Element Update will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides since none of the policies are related to creating the need for grading or large ground disturbance.

- Policy S 1.3: Require developments to mitigate geotechnical hazards, such as soil instability and landsliding in Hillside Management Areas through siting and development standards.

Policy S 1.3 addresses landsliding issues especially in Hillside Management Areas where development on steep slopes can exacerbate landsliding problems during seismic activity. Therefore, impacts causing or resulting in potential landslides are less than significant.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. The County’s Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance provides post-construction requirements for the management of storm runoff, which will lessen potential amounts of erosion activities resulting from stormwater (hydro-modification). In addition, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Municipal Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES Permit No. CAS004001) that requires new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate storm water mitigation measures. As such, compliance with the LID Ordinance and NPDES permit is required for development projects to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of rainfall runoff that leaves the site.

- Policy S 3.3: Promote the use of natural, or nature-based, flood protection measures to prevent or minimize flood hazards, where feasible.
- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

The Safety Element proposes policies to reduce risks from flood hazards that may prevent in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. These policies support the need for efficient flood protection measures and stormwater management for new development that is established in Los Angeles County. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving unstable soil that may potentially results in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. Policy S 1.3 requires developments to mitigate geotechnical hazards, such as soil instability and landsliding, in Hillside Management Areas through siting and development standards.

Development projects will continue to be reviewed by County departments for compliance with County Code to ensure that they will not create significant unstable geological conditions through an analysis of a soils or a geology report. A soils report detailing project site conditions is required by the Subdivision Map Act and Los Angeles County Code Title 21 for subdivision projects. Therefore, impacts from the Safety Element Update and policies will be less than significant

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less Than Significant Impact. There may be areas within Los Angeles County that contain expansive soil. Expansive soils are those that change their volume depending on the presence and extent of water saturated in the soil. However, the Safety Element Update does not include construction activities. Development projects that will be required to comply with the Safety Element will also be required to comply with the Los Angeles

County Building Code, which includes construction and engineering standards, as well as any additional recommendations developed in tandem with a soils or geology report. None of the policies in the Safety Element will have a direct impact on soil, nor will any of the policies relate to grading or ground disturbance. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

e) **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update does not include construction activities that would necessitate the need for onsite wastewater treatment systems. Development projects that will be required to comply with the Safety Element and provide geotechnical report and percolation testing required by the Department of Public Health. None of the policies in the Safety Element will have a direct impact on soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

f) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element policies provide high-level guidance on how Los Angeles County can reduce risks and harm from natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a paleontological resource or unique geologic feature. The development of a site will be evaluated on a project-specific basis to determine the need for further studies to determine paleontological significance. The Safety Element applies to all unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and there may be archaeological resources within these areas, but the limited scope of the project will have a less than significant impact to paleontological resources.

g) **Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.104)?**

Less Than Significant Impact. Los Angeles County has mapped Hillside Management Areas (HMA).¹⁰ If a development project site is located in an HMA, the proposed project will be required to comply with the HMA Ordinance. Safety Element Policy S 1.3 requires developments to mitigate geotechnical hazards, such as soil instability and landsliding, in HMA through siting and development standards. Therefore, the Safety Element will not conflict with the HMA Ordinance and impacts are less than significant.

¹⁰ Los Angeles County GIS interactive mapping; Layer: **Hillside Management Area** – Department of Regional Planning General Plan 2035

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act of 1972 prohibits the location of most structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults, and lessens the impacts of fault rupture. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act requires the California Geological Survey to prepare Seismic Hazard Zone Maps that show areas where earthquake induced liquefaction or landslides have historically occurred, or where there is a high potential for such occurrences. Liquefaction is a process by which water saturated granular soils transform from a solid to a liquid state during strong ground shaking. A landslide is a general term for a falling, sliding or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water and debris. The County General Plan prohibits the construction of most structures for human occupancy adjacent to new faults until a comprehensive fault study that addresses the potential for fault rupture has been completed. .

Since 1700, over 78 significant earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.5 or greater have occurred in California. In the Los Angeles region, there are over 50 active and potentially active fault segments, an undetermined number of buried faults, and at least four blind thrust faults capable of producing damaging earthquakes in Los Angeles County. The Safety Element has a section that ensures that geotechnical and seismic hazards are addressed through policies that may assist in reducing the harm and risk that can be caused by seismic activity.

More than 50 percent of the unincorporated areas are comprised of hilly or mountainous terrain. The vast majority of hillside hazards include mud and debris flows, active deep-seated landslides, hillside erosion, and man induced slope instability. These geologic hazards include artificially-saturated or rainfall saturated slopes, the erosion and undercutting of slopes, earthquake induced rock falls and shallow failures, and natural or artificial compaction of unstable ground. The Hillside Management Area (HMA) Ordinance regulates development in hillsides of 25 percent slope or greater to address these potential hazards. The Safety Element supports the requirement of mitigating geotechnical hazards especially in HMAs through proper siting and application of development standards.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's geology and soils. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on geology and soils. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Generate greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) is the County’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is a component of the Air Quality Element in the General Plan. The CCAP includes an inventory of emissions generated by community activities in the unincorporated areas, identifies a target reduction needed to achieve the County’s goal, and identifies specific actions that can be taken to support reduced emissions. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) and 15064(h)(3), projects can qualitatively evaluate GHG impacts by identifying how applicable CCAP actions have been incorporated into the project. Projects that demonstrate consistency with applicable CCAP actions can be determined to have a less than significant cumulative impact on GHG emissions and climate change. The CCAP lists five strategy areas with existing initiatives and 26 new actions. The County has implemented the existing initiatives and the 26 new actions are voluntary. The required GHG emission reductions for year 2020 have been met through the implementation of the existing initiatives. The County is in the processing of updating the CCAP and will be incorporating additional new actions that will further reduce GHG emissions.

The Safety Element policies contribute to the direct and indirect reduction of GHGs. These policies are meant to help reduce the risk of harm and damage and from natural and climate-induced hazards like wildfire and extreme heat events and increase the community adaptability and resilience to hazardous events.

- Policy S 2.1: Explore the feasibility of community microgrids that are driven by renewable energy sources to increase local energy resilience during grid power outages, reduce reliance on long- distance transmission lines, and reduce strain on the grid when demand for electricity is high.
- Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.
- Policy S 5.2: Encourage the addition of shade structures in the public realm through appropriate means, and in frontline communities.
- Policy S 5.3: Encourage the use of cooling methods to reduce the heat retention of pavement and surfaces.

Although these policies are meant to help communities to adapt and become more resilient to climate hazards, it can also contribute to the reduction of GHGs since the policies are meant to lower the demand on fossil fuels and transition to passive designs like efficient shading and installation of more renewable and independent sources of energy. There may be a potential that retrofits to adapt to extreme heat will be energy intensive in order to accommodate the cooling demand. Air conditioning is an appropriate method to adapt to extreme heat events. However, the more reliance on energy dependent appliances may have a less than

significant impact on the generation of GHGs since there is a coordinated effort to transition to renewable energy in the CCAP.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element is a part of the Los Angeles County General Plan and consistency amongst all the different elements is imperative. The policies in the Safety Element Update do not conflict with the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) which is the County’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is a component of the Air Quality Element in the General Plan. The CCAP includes an inventory of emissions generated by community activities in the unincorporated areas, identifies a target reduction needed to achieve the County’s goal, and identifies specific actions that can be taken to support reduced emissions. The consistency between the Safety Element Update and the CCAP ensures that there is a less than significant impact on the reduction of GHG emissions.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, projects which are consistent with the General Plan may rely on the General Plan EIR and the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP), both certified on October 2015, to address project-specific greenhouse gas emissions. The County has met the required GHG reduction goals for 2020 through implementation of the General Plan and the Existing Initiatives of the CCAP.

This Project is consistent with the General Plan land use and zoning since there are no policies that require the change in zoning or land use designations. The Project is consistent with the CCAP, as the policies directly and indirectly support the CCAP’s effort in reduction of GHG emissions through policies that can serve both GHG mitigation and climate adaptation strategies. These policies encourage renewable and independent energy sources, and passive cooling methods.

The project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County’s greenhouse gas emissions. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County’s greenhouse gas emissions. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. In California, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which is housed under Cal/EPA, is responsible for classifying hazardous materials. Hazardous materials are commonly stored and used by a variety of businesses, residences, and are commonly encountered during construction activities. Hazardous materials are routinely used, stored, and transported in conjunction with the construction and operation of industrial and some commercial/retail businesses, educational facilities, and hospitals. In industrial and commercial uses, hazardous materials may include petroleum products and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and in residential uses, hazardous materials may include landscaping chemicals and cleaning solvents. Hazardous materials may be stored in small quantities in buildings and structures, in aboveground storage tanks, underground storage tanks (USTs), drums, and other types of containers. Typically, USTs are used by businesses, such as gasoline stations and auto mechanics. Processing, transportation, and transfer operations are other activities that have the potential to pose a risk to human health and the environmental from the accidental release of hazardous materials

None of the policies for the project will create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials because none of the policies pertain to direct development of a property that would lead to new construction or demolition of structures.

- Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.
- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.

However, three policies encourage the retrofitting of existing structures to reduce the risk caused by earthquakes, wildfires, and extreme heat events. These retrofit activities can necessitate the transport of construction materials which may cause less than significant impact. Any development projects that require the routine handling of hazardous substances as a project component would be required to comply with the existing regulatory requirements related to hazardous substance handling. These regulations may include the Hazardous Materials Business Plan requirements of the Health and Safety Code, Fire Code storage and containment requirements, or other applicable regulatory requirements.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. None of the policies for the project will create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waster into the environment because none of the policies pertain to direct development of a property that would lead to new construction or demolition of structures.

- Policy S 1.4: Support the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures and soft-story buildings to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to seismic hazards.
- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations such as the building and fire code to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- Policy S 5.1: Encourage building designs and retrofits that moderate indoor temperatures during extreme heat events.

However, three policies encourage the retrofitting of existing structures to reduce the risk caused by earthquakes, wildfires, and extreme heat events. These retrofit activities can necessitate the transport of construction materials which may cause less than significant impact. Any development projects that require the routine handling of hazardous substances as a project component would be required to comply with the existing regulatory requirements related to hazardous substance handling. These regulations may include the Hazardous Materials Business Plan requirements of the Health and Safety Code, Fire Code storage and containment requirements, or other applicable regulatory requirements

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses?

Less Than Significant Impact. None of the policies for the Safety Element Update introduce new uses or activities that will emit hazardous emissions or include the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses.

- Policy S 6.1: Assess public health and safety risks associated with existing oil and gas facilities in the unincorporated Los Angeles County.
- Policy S 6.2: Prohibit all new oil and gas extraction wells in all zones, including those allowed or planned for under existing discretionary permits.

Policies S 6.1 and 6.2 take into consideration the hazards that comes with oil and gas extraction and the impact to communities, especially sensitive land uses. Policy 6.2 prohibits the development of new oil and gas extraction wells in all zones, including those allowed or planned for under existing permits.

Also, there are policies that support the retrofit of existing buildings and maintenance of fuel modification and brush clearance but these activities have a very low chance of emitting hazardous emissions. Since the Safety Element applies countywide, that would mean that any potential activity may be within a quarter mile

of sensitive land uses. However, because there is no direct correlation with the policies and hazardous emission, the impact is considered to be less than significant.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. State law requires CalEPA to maintain the Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites List (Cortese List) which provides information about all known hazardous materials release sites throughout the state. The Cortese List is comprised of data resources from various state agencies including DTSC’s EnviroStor database, State Water Resources Control Board’s GeoTracker database, as well as other resources (see Cortese List Data Resources link in Resources section below). Envirostor details site-specific contamination and may have requirements for cleanup or have restrictions on permitted uses, which may limit the scope of the proposed project.

The Safety Element Update will apply countywide to all unincorporated areas. However, the policies do not specify or require direct development activity on a parcel-level. Therefore, it is not possible to know which parcels would be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 56962.5 and result in the creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Due to these reasons, these impacts will be analyzed on a project-specific level and be subject to required mitigation if needed. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

Less Than Significant Impact. There are 15 airports within the Los Angeles Airport Land Use Commission’s (ALUC) jurisdiction. Five are County-owned by other public entities and one is privately owned. The Los Angeles County Airports Map¹¹ identifies the locations of the airports within the jurisdiction of ALUC and their Airport Influence Area. Among 15 public airports within the County, Agua Dulce Airport in Santa Clarita Valley and Catalina Airport are located within the unincorporated area. LAX, Palmdale Regional Airport, and the William J. Fox Airfield also have airport influence areas that include portions of the unincorporated area. The policies in the Safety Element do not directly require activity within two miles of a public airport or public use airport that would result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area. Since the Safety Element is applied countywide, the impacts is considered to be less than significant.

f) Substantially impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

¹¹ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ALUC_Airports_Aug2018_rev3.pdf

Less Than Significant Impact. The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The emergency response plan for the unincorporated areas of the County is the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP), which is prepared by OEM. The OAERP strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capability and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County. The County has also prepared a Local All Hazards Mitigation Plan to be in compliance with federal law and to be eligible for disaster funding. Figure 12.6 of the Safety Element in the General Plan¹² depicts the County’s designated Disaster routes. It identifies the routes that emergency responders are likely to use when responding to an emergency scenario and the field facilities that will be used by emergency responders to coordinate their activities. The Department of Public Works also maintains a “Disaster Routes with Road Districts” Map¹³.

The Safety Element Policy S 7.3 ensures coordination with other County agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning. This coordination is imperative to ensure consistency in different plans that revolve about hazard mitigation and evacuation. Two new legislation regarding evacuation planning is required to be incorporated into the Safety Element Update. Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency which routes should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evacuation planning was also addressed in Senate Bill 99 (Nielsen, 2019) which focuses on identifying residential developments that have fewer than two evacuation routes. The data that is included in the Safety Element Update pertaining to these two legislation was confirmed by Public Works, Fire, and OEM to ensure that the data methodology did not conflict with their existing emergency response or evacuation plans. Therefore, the project will not substantially impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and the impact will be less than significant.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, because the project is located:

i) within a high fire hazard area with inadequate access?

Less Than Significant Impact. The General Plan Safety Element addresses the magnitude of resources the County devotes to fire protection. Although multiple regulations are in place to ensure that adequate infrastructure, such as the ability to deliver peak load water supplies and access to necessary disaster routes in new development projects, older communities with aging and substandard infrastructure may face greater risks from exposure to fires. Policies S 4.6 and 4.8 address access issues for new construction and existing construction.

¹² https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_12-6_Disaster_Routes.pdf

¹³ https://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/DisasterRoutes/map/disaster_rdm-North.pdf

- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.
- Policy S 4.6: Ensure that infrastructure requirements for new development meet minimum state and local regulations for ingress, egress, peak load water supply availability, anticipated water supply, and other standards within FHSZs.
- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations such, as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.

Policy S 4.1 prohibits new subdivisions in Very High FHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation and discourages similar subdivisions from being established in High and Moderate FHSZs. Policy S 4.6 ensures that development should meet the minimum state and local regulations with reference to ingress and egress. These two policies are important because additional density in the FHSZs will increase the risk of ignition of fire but also the number of residents that may potentially be affected by an oncoming wildfire. Policy S 4.8 supports retrofitting existing structures to make them more resilient against wildfires. Many existing structures may have access issues that can be difficult to solve after establishment. Therefore, retrofitting structures to make them more fire hardened can help to reduce the damage. Therefore, the potential for the Safety Element Update to expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located within a high fire hazard area with inadequate access is less than significant.

ii) within an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow standards?

Less Than Significant Impact. Policy S 4.6 ensures that development should meet the minimum state and local regulations for peak load water supply availability. The availability of water supply is critical for structures that are within an area with wildfire risk. The inclusion of this policy reduces the risk and damages cause by wildfires and is considered a less than significant impact.

- Policy S 4.6: Ensure that infrastructure requirements for new development meet minimum state and local regulations for ingress, egress, peak load water supply availability, anticipated water supply, and other standards within FHSZs.

iii) within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard?

Less Than Significant Impact. Policy S 4.1 prohibits new subdivisions in Very High FHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation and discourages similar subdivisions from being established in High and Moderate FHSZs. Policy S 4.14 encourages the strategic placement of structures so developments that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire. This policy will enable the County to potentially prevent the increase of the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary and decrease the number of residents that may be at risk. The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact on exposure of people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard.

- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.
- Policy S 4.14: Encourage the strategic placement of structures in FHSZs that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.

h) Does the proposed use constitute a potentially dangerous fire hazard?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element does not propose uses that can constitute a potentially dangerous fire hazard. The policies in the Safety Element Update will guide development in Los Angeles County to ensure reduction of risk of harm and damage that can come from a fire hazard. Therefore, the impact of the project is considered to be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Hazardous materials are generally defined as any material that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or future hazard to human health and safety or to the environment, if released into the workplace or the environment (Health and Safety Code (H&SC), §25501(o)). The California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) is responsible for classifying hazardous materials in the state of California. Hazardous materials are commonly stored and used by a variety of businesses and are commonly encountered during construction activities.

DTSC oversees the cleanup of disposal and industrial sites that have resulted in contamination of soil and groundwater. In close cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC administers both state and federal hazardous waste programs including The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601–9675), the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and a number of other State and Federal bodies of law dealing with hazardous materials and the environment. The Envirostar database lists properties regulated by DTSC where extensive investigation and/or cleanup actions are planned or have been completed at permitted facilities and clean-up sites. No hazardous materials sites or properties listed in compliance with California Government Code, Section 65962.5 (e.g., Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System [CERCLIS], Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA]) are located on the project site. Any sites within the general vicinity are not likely to have contaminated the project site.

Projects in close proximity to airports are within the jurisdiction of the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). The Regional Planning Commission meets in the capacity of the ALUC to consider projects requiring ALUC review and it makes a determination of the compatibility of the proposed project with the nearby airport.

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The OEM is the day-to-day Los Angeles County Operational Area coordinator for the County. The emergency response plan for the unincorporated areas is the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP), which is prepared by OEM. The OAERP

strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capability and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County. The disaster response plan is the County Local All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

None of the policies will alter the primary uses allowed by the underlying zone and therefore, none of the policies will expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires and impacts will be less than significant.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on hazards and hazardous materials. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's hazards and hazardous materials. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Los Angeles County is split between two water quality regions: the Los Angeles Region and the Lahontan Region. Each regional board prepares and maintains a Basin Plan, which identifies water quality objectives to protect all beneficial uses of the waters of that region. The objectives detailed in the Basin Plan range from controlling the amount of oxidized ammonia in inland surface waters to regulating the mineral quality of ground waters. The Basin Plans achieve the identified water quality objectives through implementation of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). These water quality objectives are achieved by employing three strategies for addressing water quality issues: control of point source pollutants, control of nonpoint source pollutants, and remediation of existing contamination

Point sources of pollutants are well-defined locations at which pollutants flow into water bodies (discharges from wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources, for example). These sources are controlled through regulatory systems including permitting under California’s Waste Discharge Requirements and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program; permits are issued by the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board and may set discharge limitation or other discharge provisions. Individual properties are required to provide an on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) and would include point-source discharges.

The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. These policies influence how ground water quality will be maintained since water supply is threatened by climate change and risks from flood hazards can be exacerbated by climate change.

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Policy S 3.7 ensures that run-off from development is handled in a way that the water is retained within the property and not infiltrated outside. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, projects are required to comply with the requirements of the Low-Impact Development (LID) Ordinance in order to control and minimize potentially polluted runoff. Because all projects are required to comply with these requirements in order to obtain construction permits and certificates of occupancy, they would not impact any nonpoint source requirements. The Safety Element Update will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality with the inclusion of these two policies and the lack of direct development initiated by the project. Therefore, the impact is considered to be less than significant.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less Than Significant Impact. None of the policies in the Safety Element Update relate to extraction from a water source, nor will any of the policies prevent infiltration or natural recharge. No policies will trigger grading activities or alter the permitted uses allowed by the underlying zone. None of the policies are growth-inducing or will allow an increased density.

- Policy S 5.10: Protect and improve local groundwater quality and supply to increase opportunities for use as a potable water source during drought periods.
- Policy S 5.11: Encourage the conservation of water by employing soil moisture sensors, automated irrigation systems, subsurface drip irrigation, and weather-based irrigation controllers.

Policies S 5.10 and 5.11 encourage the conservation and retention of water. Policy S 5.10 plans for sustaining and improving groundwater in case of future drought events. Policy S 5.11 encourages the conservation of water through smart irrigation measures. The inclusion of these policies will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin and the impacts are considered to be less than significant.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river through the addition of impervious surfaces. The Safety Element does not require direct development of the County at a parcel-level. The policies provide guidance for how long-range planning of the County shall occur over the next decade.

- Policy S 3.3: Promote the use of natural, or nature-based, flood protection measures to prevent or minimize flood hazards, where feasible.

Policy S 3.3 promotes the use of nature-based flood protection measures that can reduce the amount of impervious surfaces used to channel drainage and prevent erosion or siltation on or off site. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river through the addition of impervious surfaces that will substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff that results in flooding on or offsite. The Safety Element does not require direct development of the County at a parcel-level. The policies provide the guidance as to how the long-range planning of the County shall occur over the next decade.

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Policy S 3.7 promotes retaining stormwater runoff onsite and restoring the natural hydrological function of the site through infiltration of the run-off. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river through the addition of impervious surfaces that will create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The Safety Element does not require direct development of the County at a parcel-level. The policies provide the guidance as to how the long-range planning of the County shall occur over the next decade.

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Policy S 3.7 requires infiltration of runoff onsite to help with the preservation or restoration of the natural hydrological function of the site. This will result in minimizing the amount of runoff that leaves the development parcel and decreases the amount of water that is channel through wastewater treatment. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river through the addition of impervious surfaces that will impede or redirect flood flows. Housing will not be allowed to impede flood flows and any redirection of the floodway would be conditioned to obtain a Conditional Letter of Map Revisions (CLOMR) and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) from FEMA. An area that has been designated a 100-year flood plain is considered likely to flood during the 100-year storm event. The Safety Element does not require direct development of the County at a parcel-level. The policies provide the guidance as to how the long-range planning of the County shall occur over the next decade.

- Policy S 3.3. Promote the use of natural, or nature-based, flood protection measures to prevent or minimize flood hazards, where feasible.

Policy 3.3 promotes the use of nature-based flood protection measures that can reduce the amount of impervious surfaces used for flood protection measures. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

d) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Low Impact Development Ordinance is designed to promote sustainability and improve the County’s watersheds by preserving drainage paths and natural water supplies in order to “...retain, detain, store, change the timing of, or filter stormwater or runoff.”

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Policy S 3.7 requires infiltration of runoff onsite to help with the preservation or restoration of the natural hydrological function of the site. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

e) Use onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas with known geological limitations (e.g. high groundwater) or in close proximity to surface water (including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, and drainage course)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. The project does not suggest use onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas with known geological limitations or in close proximity to surface water (including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, and drainage course). Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

f) In flood hazard , tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. Two policies discourage development from being established in areas that are at risk for flooding. This includes a 100-year flood hazard area identified by FEMA, tsunami inundation areas, and areas that are downslope from aqueducts.

- Policy S 3.1: Strongly discourage development in the County’s Flood Hazard Zones.
- Policy S 3.2: Strongly discourage development from locating downslope from aqueducts.

These policies were in the previous version of the Safety Element and were further strengthened in the update since these are fundamental policies that protect the residents of Los Angeles County from flood hazards and reduce the harm and damages that are caused by such hazard events. The impacts from this project are considered to be less than significant.

g) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. Los Angeles County is split between two water quality regions: the Los Angeles Region and the Lahontan Region. The policies of the Safety Element Update will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of water quality control plans or sustainable groundwater management plans as they only relate to policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County. None of the policies will require additional water consumption and therefore, will not impact the water supply for the area. The policies encourage the conservation and retention of water. Therefore, the project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of water quality control plans and impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Los Angeles County is split between two water quality regions: the Los Angeles Region and the Lahontan Region. Each regional board prepares and maintains a Basin Plan which identifies narrative and numerical water quality objectives to protect all beneficial uses of the waters of that region. The Basin Plans achieve the identified water quality objectives through implementation of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and by employing three strategies for addressing water quality issues: control of point source pollutants, control of nonpoint source pollutants, and remediation of existing contamination.

Point sources of pollutants are well-defined locations at which pollutants flow into water bodies (discharges from wastewater treatment plants and industrial sources, for example). These sources are controlled through regulatory systems including permitting under California’s Waste Discharge Requirements and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program; permits are issued by the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board and may set discharge limitation or other discharge provisions.

Nonpoint sources of pollutants are typically derived from project site runoff caused by rain or irrigation and have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) into one of the following categories: agriculture, urban runoff, construction, hydromodification, resource extraction, silviculture, and land disposal, according to the Basin Plan for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. This type of pollution is not ideally suited to be addressed by the same regulatory mechanisms used to control point sources. Instead, California’s Nonpoint Source Management Plan describes a three-tiered approach including the voluntary use of Best Management Practices, the regulatory enforcement of the use of Best Management Practices, and effluent limitations. Generally speaking, each Regional Water Quality Control Board implements the least restrictive tier until more stringent enforcement is necessary.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board addresses on-site drainage through its construction, industrial, and municipal permit programs. These permits require measures to minimize or prevent erosion and reduce the volume of sediments and pollutants in a project’s runoff and discharges based upon the size of the project site.

During the construction phase of a proposed project, the pollutants of greatest concern are sediment, which may run off the project site due to site grading or other site preparation activities, and hydrocarbon or fossil fuel remnants from the construction equipment. Construction runoff is regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit. This permit applies to all construction which disturbs an area of at least one acre.

The Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance is designed to promote sustainability and improve the County's watersheds by preserving drainage paths and natural water supplies in order to '...retain, detain, store, change the timing of, or filter stormwater or runoff.' Policy S 4.6 promotes the expansion of Low Impact Development (LID) best practices to help retain stormwater runoff onsite. The policy encourages LID best practices to be applied to all new development as well as retrofitting existing development to improve water quality along with the retention of stormwater runoff. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, prepares hydrological studies throughout the country, called Flood Insurance Studies, in order to identify areas that are prone to flooding. From the results of these studies, FEMA prepares Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that are designed to geographically depict the location of areas prone to flooding for purposes of determining risk assessment for flood insurance. An area that has been designated a 100-year flood plain is considered likely to flood under the 100-year storm event. Policy S 2.6 promotes the use of nature-based flood protection measures that can reduce the amount of impervious surfaces used for flood protection measures. The impact of the Safety Element Update is less than significant.

Dam inundation areas are areas that have been identified as being potentially susceptible to flooding from a catastrophic failure of one or more of the dams in Los Angeles County. These areas were mapped in accordance with California Government Code Section 8589.5 and do not suggest with certainty that a particular plot of land would be inundated given a catastrophic dam failure. A seiche is the sudden oscillation of water that occurs in an enclosed, landlocked body of water due to wind, earthquake, or other factors. A tsunami is an unusually large wave or set of waves that is triggered in most cases by a seaquake or an underwater volcanic eruption. A mudflow is flow consisting predominantly of earthen materials/soil and water. The policies discourage development from being established in areas that are at risk for flooding. This includes a 100-year flood hazard area identified by FEMA, tsunami inundation areas, and areas that are downslope from aqueducts.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on hydrology and water quality. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's hydrology and water quality. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Physically divide an established community?**

Less Than Significant Impact. This project is updating the Safety Element and Land Use sections of the General Plan. The policies provide guidance on the future development of Los Angeles County. These policies do not require direct development at a parcel-level and will not physically divide an established community. No physical changes are proposed as part of this project. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

b) **Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any County land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The General Plan provides the framework for consistency amongst the different land use plans, policies, and regulations. The Safety Element Update is not in conflict with the rest of the elements in the General Plan and will not cause a significant environmental impact. This will ensure that all regulations that come from the guiding policies from the General Plan are consistently implemented. The Implementation Programs of the Safety Element will assist in ensuring that consistency is met.

c) **Conflict with the goals and policies of the General Plan related to Hillside Management Areas or Significant Ecological Areas?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project will not conflict with the goals and policies of the General Plan related to Hillside Management Areas (HMAs) or Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). The HMAs and SEAs are components of the Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the General Plan. The different elements of the General Plan are not implemented independently of the other elements. Consistency amongst the policies of all the different General Plan elements is imperative. Several of the policies of the Safety Element Update include the protection of biological resources during the mitigation of fire or flood related property damage and loss. Other Safety Element policies include mitigating landsliding hazards in HMAs. Because of the consistency with the goals and policies of the Conservation and Natural Resources Element, the impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The policies of the Safety Element Update high-level policies that provide guidance on how the County will be reducing harm and risk from natural and climate-induced hazards. These policies do not conflict with the other elements in the General Plan. The consistency amongst the elements is the reason that the project will have a less than significant impact. Any regulations found to be inconsistent after when the Safety Element is updated and adopted will be required to be consistent with the updated Safety Element.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's land use and planning. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's land use and planning. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Mineral resources are commercially-viable aggregate or mineral deposits, such as sand, gravel, oil, and other valuable minerals. The County depends on the State of California’s Geological Survey (State Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology) to identify deposits of regionally- significant aggregate resources. No policies in the Safety Element Update will have significant impacts to mineral resources as none of them relate to grading or ground disturbance activities and does not involve any construction or development activities. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

b) **Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The County depends on the State of California’s Geological Survey (State Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology) to identify deposits of regionally- significant aggregate resources. These clusters or belts of mineral deposits are designated as Mineral Resources Zones (MRZ-2s) that can be found within Los Angeles County. However, none of the Safety Element policies relate to grading or ground disturbance activities and does not involve any construction or development activities. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The County depends on the State of California’s Geological Survey (State Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology) to identify deposits of regionally- significant aggregate resources. These clusters or belts of mineral deposits are designated as Mineral Resources Zones (MRZ-2s), and there are four major MRZ-2s are designated in the County: the Little Rock Creek Fan, Soledad Production Area, Sun Valley Production Area, and Irwindale Production Area. The California Department of Conservation protects mineral resources to ensure adequate supplies for future production. However, none of the Safety Element policies relate to grading or ground disturbance activities and does not involve any construction or development activities. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was adopted to encourage the production and conservation of mineral resources, prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment, and protect public health and safety. In addition, Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code (Chapter 22.190) requires that applicants of surface mining projects submit a Reclamation Plan prior to receiving a permit to

mine, which must describe how the excavated site will ultimately be remediated and transformed into another use.

Small-scale oil production still occurs in many parts of the County, including the Baldwin Hills and the Santa Clarita Valley. The California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) permits and tracks each operating production well and natural gas storage well and ultimately monitors the decommissioning process.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on mineral resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's mineral resources. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

13. NOISE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project result in:

a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not generate substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies. The project is an update to a General Plan element, which contains policies that guide how the County can reduce the risk and harm from natural disaster or climate-induced hazards. These policies are not directly related to development on a parcel-level or propose any uses. The impact of this project is considered to be less than significant.

b) **Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors that could be impacted by excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels include schools, hospitals, senior citizen facilities, day-care facilities, libraries, churches, nursing homes, residential properties, and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment, public health, and safety (page 5.12-6 of General Plan EIR). The policies of the Safety Element Update are not directly related to development on a parcel-level or propose any uses. The impact of this project is considered to be less than significant.

c) **For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. There are 15 airports within the Los Angeles Airport Land Use Commission’s (ALUC) jurisdiction. Five are County-owned by other public entities and one is privately owned. The Los Angeles County Airports Map¹⁴ identifies the locations of the airports within the jurisdiction of ALUC and their Airport Influence Area. The policies of the Safety Element Update are not directly related

¹⁴ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ALUC_Airports_Aug2018_rev3.pdf

to development on a parcel-level or propose any uses. The impact of this project is considered to be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The proposed project will conform to Los Angeles County Code Title 12, Chapter 12.08 (Noise Control Ordinance). Section 12.08.390 of the County Code provides a maximum exterior noise level of 45 decibels (dB) between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (nighttime) and 50 dB from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (daytime) in Noise Zone II (residential areas).

Noise generated by construction equipment during the construction phase of the project may result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels. Construction activities will be conducted according to best management practices, including maintaining construction vehicles and equipment in good working order by using mufflers where applicable, limiting the hours of construction, and limiting the idle time of diesel engines. Noise from construction equipment will be limited by compliance with the Noise Control Ordinance and County Code Section 12.12.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on noise. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's noise. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

The Safety Element Update will not generate substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies. The project is an update to a General Plan element, which contain policies that guide how the County can reduce the risk and harm from natural disaster or climate-induced hazards. These policies are not directly related to development on a parcel-level or propose any uses. The impact of this project is considered to be less than significant.

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The Los Angeles County General Plan and Housing Element uses population, household, and employment projections from a growth forecast that is developed from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council in the Connect SoCal (2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) that was adopted on September 3, 2020. The County estimates that the 2018 population in unincorporated Los Angeles County is 1,057,162 persons, representing approximately 10.3% of Los Angeles County’s total population. The total population of Los Angeles County was approximately 10,283,729 persons . There were 986,050 residents in unincorporated Los Angeles County in 2010, representing 10.3% of Los Angeles County’s total population in 2010. Between 2000 to 2018, the population of unincorporated Los Angeles County increased by 71,112 persons. According to SCAG’s Connect SoCal, the 2020–2045 RTP/SCS population forecasts, the unincorporated Los Angeles County is estimated to reach a population of 1,258,000 by 2045. However, the policies in the Safety Element Update will not induce substantial unplanned population growth because some of the policies discourage or prohibit new development in hazard areas.

- Policy S 1.1: Discourage development in Seismic Hazard and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones.
- Policy S 2.3: Require new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet required evacuation standards.
- Policy S 3.1: Strongly discourage development in the County’s Flood Hazard Zones.
- Policy S 3.2: Strongly discourage development from locating downslope from aqueducts.
- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.

The policies listed above are the policies that discourage growth in areas that are identified as at-most risk from natural or climate-induced hazards. These areas are in the seismic hazard and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, flood hazard zones, downslope from aqueducts, and fire hazard severity zones. Policy S 4.1 prohibits the development of high-density subdivisions in fire hazard zones. Policy S 2.3 requires new residential subdivisions and accessory dwelling units meet evacuation standards. These policies will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area and the impact of this project is less than significant.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, especially affordable housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Less Than Significant Impact. The policies in the Safety Element Update are not intended to displace people or cause the demolition of existing housing units. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. These policies include retrofitting of existing buildings but do not require the demolition of existing structures that can result in the displacement of people and housing. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Typical local thresholds of significance for housing and population growth include effects that would induce substantial growth or concentration of a population beyond a city’s or county’s projections; alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the population beyond that projected in the city or county general plan housing element; result in a substantial increase in demand for additional housing, or create a development that significantly reduces the ability of the county to meet housing objectives set forth in the city or county general plan housing element.

The Los Angeles County General Plan and Housing Element uses population, household, and employment projections from a growth forecast that is developed from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council in the Connect SoCal (2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) that was adopted on September 3, 2020. The County estimates that the 2018 population in unincorporated Los Angeles County is 1,057,162 persons, representing approximately 10.3% of Los Angeles County’s total population¹⁵. The total population of Los Angeles County was approximately 10,283,729 persons¹⁶. There were 986,050 residents in unincorporated Los Angeles County in 2010, representing 10.3% of Los Angeles County’s total population in 2010. Between 2000 to 2018, the population of unincorporated Los Angeles County increased by 71,112 persons¹⁷. According to SCAG’s Connect SoCal, the 2020–2045 RTP/SCS population forecasts, the unincorporated Los Angeles County is estimated to reach a population of 1,258,000 by 2045¹⁸.

The State law requires that all local jurisdictions accommodate a share of the region’s projected housing needs, or the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation, for the planning period. Compliance with this requirement is measured by the local jurisdiction’s ability to provide adequate land to accommodate the RHNA. The state law mandates that local jurisdictions provide sufficient land to accommodate a variety of housing opportunities for all economic segments of the community. The Southern California Association of

¹⁵ Profile of Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Adopted May 2019. Accessed August 2, 2021. <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/unincarealosangelescounty.pdf?1604708602>.

¹⁶ Profile of Los Angeles County. Adopted May 2019. Accessed August 2, 2021. <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/losangelescountyip.pdf?1605653130>.

¹⁷ Profile of Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Adopted May 2019. Accessed August 2, 2021. <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/unincarealosangelescounty.pdf?1604708602>.

¹⁸ Connect SoCal: The 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies of the Southern California Association of Governments. Adopted September 3, 2020. Accessed August 2, 2021. https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial-plan_0.pdf?1606001176.

Governments (SCAG), as the regional planning agency, is responsible for allocating the RHNA to each local jurisdiction within its six-county region. The County's existing inventory of residential sites is insufficient to accommodate the 90,052 units in its RHNA for 2021-2029. As such, as part of the Proposed Project, the County includes a rezoning to accommodate its RHNA gap. The 6th Cycle RHNA allocation plans for a total housing production need of 90,052 units for the unincorporated Los Angeles County¹⁹. Table 4.14-6, SCAG Regional Housing Needs Allocations, details the allocated housing needs assessment for the unincorporated Los Angeles County and Los Angeles County as a whole.

The policies for the Safety Element Update will not impact population growth. They will not induce growth or cause the displacement of residents. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. These policies include retrofitting of existing buildings but do not require the demolition of existing structures that can result in the displacement of people and housing. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on population and housing. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's population and housing. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

¹⁹ "6th Cycle Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment Proposed Final Allocation Plan." March 4, 2021. Accessed August 2, 2021. <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/6th-cycle-rhna-proposed-final-allocation-plan.pdf?1614911196>.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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a) **Would the project create capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

Fire protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Fire suppression services in unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), which has 177 fire stations providing services to 60 cities and the whole unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Development in the unincorporated areas must comply with the requirements of the Fire Code (Title 32), which provides design standards for all development in the unincorporated County.

The Safety Element Update has several policies that provide support to County emergency providers. These policies ensure that response time goals are met through coordination and adequate resources.

- Policy S 7.2: Support County emergency providers in reaching their response time goals.
- Policy S 7.3: Coordinate with other County agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and the Office of Emergency Management on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning.
- Policy S 7.5: Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.

Although fires are a natural part of the wildland ecosystem, development in wildland areas increases the danger of wildfires to residents, property, and the environment. Increased fire frequency is the primary threat to wildland ecosystems, which are adapted to an infrequent fire return interval. Wildfires are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change, while the capacity of fire agencies to respond to heightened fire risks within their own jurisdictions and to provide mutual aid to other areas is becoming increasingly strained. Policies S 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5 will assist the LACoFD in providing the required fire suppression and other emergency response services for the County. The impact for this project will be less than significant.

Sheriff protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Law enforcement services within the unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). LASD is the largest sheriff's department in the country. In addition to specialized services, the LASD is divided into 10 divisions, including the Office of Homeland Security, which focuses on potential threats related to local homeland security issues,

such as terrorism or bioterrorism. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department strives to maintain a service ratio of approximately one officer for every 1,000 residents within the communities it serves.

The project will not result in a net increase in individuals to service areas because no development is proposed as part of this project that may accommodate additional growth. The Safety Element Update has several policies that are meant to provide support to County emergency providers. These policies ensure that response time goals are met through coordination and adequate resources.

- Policy S 7.2: Support County emergency providers in reaching their response time goals.
- Policy S 7.3: Coordinate with other County agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and the Office of Emergency Management on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning.
- Policy S 7.5: Ensure that there are adequate resources, such as sheriff and fire services, for emergency response.

While the Safety Element Update does not spur an increase in development, continued growth in Los Angeles County will significantly affect LASD operations. Coordination among various County departments is necessary to ensure adequate emergency response. Collaboration can also ensure that development occurs at a rate that keeps pace with service needs. Policies S 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5 will assist the LASD in providing the law enforcement services for the County. The impact for this project will be less than significant.

Schools?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not result in a net increase in individuals to service areas because no development is proposed as part of this project that may accommodate additional growth. The policies in the Safety Element Update will not induce substantial unplanned population growth because of the policies that discourage or prohibit new development in hazard areas.

- Policy S 1.1: Discourage development in Seismic Hazard and Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones.
- Policy S 2.3: Require new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet required evacuation standards.
- Policy S 3.1: Strongly discourage development in the County's Flood Hazard Zones.
- Policy S 3.2: Strongly discourage development from locating downslope from aqueducts.
- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.

These policies will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area that would increase the school age population of the community beyond the capacity of existing schools. There will not be a need for new school construction. Therefore, the impact of this project is less than significant.

Parks?

Less Than Significant Impact. In Los Angeles County, parks are operated and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The County’s park system, including facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by the County totals approximately 70,000 acres.²⁰ The Los Angeles County General Plan Parks and Recreation Element, provides the standard for the allocation of parkland in the unincorporated county. This standard is four acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents, and six acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents. This project will not reduce the parkland-to-population service ratio because it is not a development project and none of the policies will increase housing opportunities. These policies will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area that would reduce the parkland-to-population service ratio. Therefore, the impact of this project is less than significant.

Libraries?

Less Than Significant Impact. In the unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County, as well as in 49 of the 88 cities within the County, library services are provided by the County of Los Angeles Public Library. There are approximately 84 libraries operated by the County with roughly 7.5 million volumes in its book collection.²¹ According to the General Plan, the Library’s planning guidelines specify that 2.75 library material items should be available per capita as well as 0.5 gross square feet of library space per capita. The Public Library also imposes Library Facilities Mitigation Fees on residential development based on the cost estimation of providing the appropriate library facilities and services to each library planning area. This project will not require new libraries because it is not a development project and none of the policies will increase housing opportunities. Therefore, the impact of this project is less than significant.

Other public facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The availability of essential public facilities like resilience hubs, cooling centers, evacuation centers, or hospitals is imperative for emergency response. The Safety Element Update policies ensure that essential public facilities are located outside of hazard areas and are maintained during disaster events.

- Policy S 7.6: Ensure that essential public facilities are maintained during disasters, such as flooding, wildfires, extreme temperature and precipitation events, drought, and power outages.
- Policy S 7.7: Locate essential public facilities, such as hospitals, where feasible, outside of hazard zones to ensure their reliability and accessibility during disasters.

Policies S 7.6 and S 7.7 provide the services that will assist people during disaster events and make sure that they are out of harm’s way. These public facilities are different from emergency response facilities like fire and police stations, which those emergency response stations may need to be located within hazardous areas to meet response time goals. This project will have a less than significant impact.

²⁰ Los Angeles County General Plan, Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element, Page 172

²¹ <https://lacountylibrary.org/aboutus/>

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Fire suppression services in unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), which has 22 battalions providing services to 58 cities and the whole unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The LACoFD uses national guidelines of a 5-minute response time for the 1st-arriving unit for fire and EMS responses and 8 minutes for the advanced life support (paramedic) unit in urban areas, and 8-minute response time for the 1st-arriving unit and 12 minutes for advanced life support (paramedic) unit in suburban areas.

Law enforcement services within the unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department strives to maintain a service ratio of approximately one officer for every 1,000 residents within the communities it serves.

In Los Angeles County, parks are operated and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. As of 2010, there were approximately 153 recreational facilities managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation totaling approximately 65,528 acres of recreation and open space. The Los Angeles County General Plan, Regional Recreation Areas Plan, provides the standard for the allocation of parkland in the unincorporated county. This standard is four acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents and six acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents. For subdivision projects, the Quimby Act permits the County, by ordinance, to require the dedication of parkland or the payment of an in-lieu fee to achieve the parkland-to-population ratio sought in the General Plan. Further, as a condition of a zone change approval, General Plan amendment, or Specific Plan approval, the County may require the applicant pursuing the subdivision to dedicate and/or improve land according to the applicable General Plan policies. This requirement is justified as long as an appropriate nexus between the proposed project and the dedication can be shown.

In the unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County, as well as in 50 of the 88 cities within the County, library services are provided by the County of Los Angeles Public Library. There are approximately 84 libraries operated by the County with roughly 7.5 million volumes in its book collection. The County of Los Angeles Public Library is a special district and is primarily funded by property taxes, but other funding mechanisms include a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District, developer impact fees, developer agreements, and a voter-approved special tax.

According to the General Plan, the Library's planning guidelines specify that 2.75 library material items should be available per capita as well as 0.5 gross square feet of library space per capita. The Public Library also imposes a mitigation fee on residential development based on the cost estimation of providing the appropriate library facilities and services to each library planning area. The current fees are as follows and also listed in County Code 22.246.040:

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on public resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's public resources. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

The Safety Element Update has several policies that are meant to provide support to County emergency providers. These policies ensure that response time goals are met through coordination and adequate resources. The project will not result in a net increase in individuals to service areas because no development is proposed as part of this project that may accommodate additional growth.

16. RECREATION

- | | <i>Potentially
Significant
Impact</i> | <i>Less Than
Significant
Impact with
Mitigation
Incorporated</i> | <i>Less Than
Significant
Impact</i> | <i>No
Impact</i> |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Less Than Significant Impact. The policies for the Safety Element Update will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The project will not potentially create a substantial permanent residential population increase because no development is proposed as part of this project that may accommodate additional growth. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b) Does the project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Less Than Significant Impact. The project does not include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. This project will not reduce the parkland-to-population service ratio and therefore, require the construction or expansion of park facilities, because it is not a development project and none of the policies will increase housing opportunities. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c) Would the project interfere with regional open space connectivity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not interfere with regional open space connectivity. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. The Safety Element is consistent with the Conservation and Natural Resources Element and Goal C/NR 1 that states open space areas must meet the diverse needs of Los Angeles County. This project is not proposing any policies that will conflict with the Conservation and Natural Resource Element and the impacts will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

In Los Angeles County, parks are operated and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The County's park system, including facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by the County totals approximately 70,000 acres.²² The Los Angeles County General Plan Parks and Recreation Element, provides the standard for the allocation of parkland in the unincorporated county. This standard is four acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents, and six acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact recreation in Los Angeles County. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's recreation. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

This project will not reduce the parkland-to-population service ratio and therefore, require the construction or expansion of park facilities, because it is not a development project and none of the policies will increase housing opportunities. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant

²² Los Angeles County General Plan, Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element, Page 172

17. TRANSPORTATION

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. This project will not conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Safety Element is consistent with the General Plan Mobility Element for the unincorporated communities. The Mobility Element provides an overview of the transportation infrastructure and strategies for developing an efficient and multimodal transportation network.

Measure T-6 of the General Plan Environmental Impact Report Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program requires traffic engineering firms retained to prepare traffic impact studies to consult with Caltrans when a development proposal meets the requirements of Statewide, regional, or area wide significance per CEQA Guidelines §15206(b). Development proposals that meet this criterion include residential development projects of more than 500 dwelling units, shopping centers or business establishments with more than 1,000 persons or encompassing more than 500,000 square feet of floor space, commercial office buildings employing more than 1,000 persons or encompassing more than 250,000 square feet of floor space, or a proposed hotel/motel with more than 500 rooms. None of the policies for the Safety Element Update will exceed these thresholds since the project is not proposed any direct development at a parcel-level.

Policy S 2.3 requires new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet evacuation requirements. This policy is to improve evacuation route access for future subdivisions. While this may have some impact to circulation system, projects will be analyzed at the time of permitting. The impacts of this project are less than significant.

b) **Would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines lists the criteria for analyzing transportation impacts. In this subdivision, it specifies that projects where vehicle miles traveled exceed an applicable threshold of significance may have a significant impact. However, if projects will decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area, then the project may have a less than significant impact. None of the policies for the Safety Element Update will exceed these thresholds since the project is not proposing any direct development at a parcel-level. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

c) **Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not exacerbate dangerous road conditions since the project is not proposing any direct development at a parcel-level. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The Safety Element Update is proposing a policy that will prevent development with inadequate access. Policy S 2.3 requires new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet required evacuation standards.

The Safety Element Update is not proposing any direct development at a parcel-level. Development projects will continue to be reviewed on a project-specific level by Public Works and Fire to ensure that no emergency access is blocked by construction, operation, or structural design. The impacts of this project are less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Safety Element is consistent with the General Plan Mobility Element for the unincorporated communities. The Mobility Element provides an overview of the transportation infrastructure and strategies for developing an efficient and multimodal transportation network. The Element assesses the challenges and constraints of the Los Angeles County transportation system and offers policy guidance to reach the County’s long-term mobility goals.

Policy S 2.3 requires new residential subdivisions and new accessory dwelling units within hazard areas to meet evacuation requirements. The Safety Element Update is not proposing any direct development at a parcel-level. Development projects will continue to be reviewed on a project-specific level by Public Works and Fire to ensure that no emergency access is blocked by construction, operation, or structural design. The impacts of this project are less than significant.

The project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on transportation. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County’s transportation. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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a) **Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:**

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k), or</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Less Than Significant Impact. There are several resources listed in the California Register of Historical Resources²³ and in the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks Registry²⁴. These sites could potentially meet the criteria set forth in the CEQA guidelines or should be evaluated because of their proximity to an area that may contain tribal cultural resources. However, the Safety Element Update does not propose any ground disturbance or grading as part of the project scope, so there will be no substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. The General Plan is a guiding document for the future development of Los Angeles County. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

²³ California Register of Historical Resources and Landmarks (<https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=19>)

²⁴ Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks Registry (<http://hlrc.lacounty.gov/HLRC/pdf/Registry%202020.pdf?ver=2020-06-24-172750-153>)

Less Than Significant Impact. In compliance with AB 52, staff notified the tribes that have requested to be informed when Los Angeles County, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, considers projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe. The formal notification letter was emailed to the tribes on August 3, 2021. The tribes had 30 days from receipt of the letter to request a formal consultation with the County regarding the proposed project. Considering that the Safety Element policies are high-level policies that do not propose any ground disturbance or grading, and no requests for formal consultations were received from the notified tribes, the impact of this project is less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

There are several resources listed in the California Register of Historical Resources²⁵ and in the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks Registry²⁶. These sites could potentially meet the criteria set forth in the CEQA guidelines or should be evaluated because of their proximity to an area that may contain tribal cultural resources. However, the Safety Element Update does not propose any ground disturbance or grading as part of the project scope, so there will be no substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. The General Plan is a guiding document for the future development of Los Angeles County. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. In compliance with AB 52, staff has notified the tribes that have requested to be informed when Los Angeles County, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, considers projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe. Considering that the Safety Element policies are high-level policies that do not propose any ground disturbance or grading, and no requests for formal consultations were received from the notified tribes, the impact of this project is less than significant.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on tribal cultural resources. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's tribal cultural resources. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

²⁵ California Register of Historical Resources and Landmarks
(<https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=19>)

²⁶ Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks Registry (<http://hlrc.lacounty.gov/HLRC/pdf/Registry%202020.pdf?ver=2020-06-24-172750-153>)

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>			

Would the project:

a) **Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. These policies influence how ground water quality will be maintained since water supply is threatened by climate change and flood risks can be exacerbated by climate change.

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.

Policy S 3.7 ensures that run-off from development is handled in a way that the water is retained within the property and not infiltrated outside. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, projects are required to comply with the requirements of the Low-Impact Development (LID) Ordinance in order to control and minimize potentially polluted runoff. Because all projects are required to comply with these requirements in order to obtain construction permits and certificates of occupancy, they would not impact any nonpoint source requirements. Therefore, the impact is considered to be less than significant.

b) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

Less Than Significant Impact. None of the policies in the Safety Element Update will require additional water supply as they relate to accessory uses and commercial aesthetic design. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards.

- Policy S 3.7: Infiltrate development runoff on-site, where feasible, to preserve or restore the natural hydrologic cycle and minimize increases in stormwater or dry weather flows.
- Policy S 5.10: Protect and improve local groundwater quality and supply to increase opportunities for use as a potable water source during drought periods.
- Policy S 5.11: Encourage the conservation of water by employing soil moisture sensors, automated irrigation systems, subsurface drip irrigation, and weather-based irrigation controllers.

The project has three proposed policies to allow for more water conservation and retention within the development site. These policies will contribute to the efforts to adapt to drought years by encouraging measures that ensures that the region will be able to have sufficient water supplies in the future. The project will have less than significant impacts.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments. The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. Development projects that are required to be consistent with the Safety Element may result in the need for onsite wastewater treatment systems, but each project will be analyzed on a project-specific level. Therefore, impacts from the project will be less than significant.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project will not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. Development projects that are required to be consistent with the Safety Element may generate solid waste, but each project will be analyzed on a project-specific level. Therefore, impacts from the project will be less than significant.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less Than Significant Impact. All projects must comply with the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and other solid waste diversion documents required by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). In addition to AB 939, certain businesses must comply with Assembly Bill 341 (2011) and Assembly Bill 1826 (2014) to set up recycling services for recyclables and organic waste. Environmental documents should include/discuss methods that are or will be provided for adequate collection of recyclable and organic waste materials as a result of the project for such businesses. The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires each "development project" to provide an adequate storage area for collection and removal of recyclable materials. Environmental documents should include/discuss standards to provide adequate recyclable storage areas for collection/storage of recyclable and green waste materials for such projects.

The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. The project will not generate organic waste or recyclables; therefore, the project will not need to comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Development projects that are required to be consistent with the Safety Element may generate solid waste, but each project will be analyzed on a project-specific level. Therefore, impacts from the project will be less than significant.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

All public wastewater disposal (sewer) systems are required to obtain and operate under the terms of an NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit, which is issued by the local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The NPDES is a permitting program that established a framework for regulating municipal, industrial, and construction stormwater discharges into surface water bodies and stormwater channels.

The Los Angeles and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for implementing the federally-mandated NPDES program in the County through the adoption of an Order, which is effectively the NPDES Permit for that region. The Los Angeles Regional Board's Permit designates 84 cities within the Board's region as permittees, and the County as the principal permittee of the NPDES Permit. The NPDES Permit defines the responsibilities of each permittee to control pollutants, including the adoption and enforcement of local ordinances and monitoring programs. The principal permittee is responsible for coordinating activities to comply with the requirements set forth in the NPDES Permit but is not responsible for ensuring the compliance of any other permittee. The County's Stormwater Ordinance requires that the discharge, deposit, or disposal of any stormwater and/or runoff to storm drains must be covered by a NPDES permit.

For the unincorporated areas, in accordance with the NPDES Permit, the County implements LID standards at the project site level to address pollutants generated by specific activities and types of development. The main purpose of this planning program is to identify new construction and redevelopment projects that could contribute to stormwater pollution, and to mitigate run-off from those projects by requiring that certain Best Management Practices be implemented during and after construction. Moreover, the LID standards prevent erosion by controlling runoff rates, protecting natural slopes and channels, and conserving natural areas.

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), which is compiled by the interagency Integrated Waste Management Task Force and updated annually, has identified landfills with sufficient disposal capacity for the next 15 years, assuming current growth and development patterns remain the same.

In addition to the projections of the IWMP (see above), all projects must comply with other documents required by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939).

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on utilities and service systems. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's utilities and service systems. Future development impacted by this ordinance, proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

The Safety Element Update is not requiring direct development at a parcel-level but provides policies that will guide the development of Los Angeles County in the next decade. Development projects that are required to be consistent with the Safety Element may result in the need for onsite wastewater treatment systems, but each project will be analyzed on a project-specific level. The Safety Element Update policies are meant to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be inflicted by natural and climate-induced hazards. The policies also include strategies to help residents adapt and become more resilient to climate-induced hazards. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant

20. WILDFIRE

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>			

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. This update was mandated by the State per Senate Bill 379 to include adaptation and resilience strategies for a changing climate. Wildland fire threats are increasing, in part due to climate change. The rise in temperatures and prolonged periods of drought increase the fire ignition potential and may increase the frequency and duration of wildfires. Although multiple regulations are in place to ensure that adequate infrastructure is incorporated into new developments, older communities with aging and substandard infrastructure may face greater risks from wildland fires.

- Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless entirely surrounded by existing built development, will connect to public infrastructure, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.
- Policy S 4.14: Encourage the strategic placement of structures in FHSZs that conserves fire suppression resources, increases safety for emergency fire access and evacuation, and provides a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.

Policies S 4.1 and 4.14 provide guidance on how new development in fire hazard severity zones will be established. Limiting the density in fire hazard areas are a way to prevent the loss of life and property from wildfire events. Additional density within a fire hazard area also affects the rate of emergency response.

- Policy S 4.4: Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through meeting minimum state and local regulations for fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification and other fire hazard reduction programs.
- Policy S 4.6: Ensure that infrastructure requirements for new development meet minimum state and local regulations for, ingress, egress, peak load water supply availability, anticipated water supply, and other standards within FHSZs.

Policies S 4.4 and 4.6 provide additional protection through defensible space and water supply availability for development that is established in fire hazard zones.

- Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations such as the building and fire code to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.
- Policy S 4.15: Encourage rebuilds and additions to comply with fire mitigation guidelines.

Policy S 4.8 and 4.15 address the need for existing structures to be retrofitted to be fire-hardened. These measures may reduce the risk of damage to the property.

The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact due to the comprehensive list of policies that may reduce the risk of harm and damage that comes from an oncoming wildfire. The project does not establish development on a parcel-level. Those development will be analyzed on a project-specific basis.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element reduces the risk of exposing occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire due to slope, winds, and other factors. Policy S 4.7 discourages building mid-slope, on ridgelines and on hilltops, and employ adequate setbacks on slopes to reduce risk from wildfires and post-fire, rainfall-induced landslides. Specific development established in fire hazard zones will be required to undergo review by the Fire Department to get a fuel modification plan approved. The project-specific review will analyze the site of the development and required adequate fuel modification. The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact.

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element Update does not directly require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Policy S 4.12 supports efforts to incorporate systematic fire protection improvements for open space, including facilitation of safe fire suppression tactics, standards for adequate access for firefighting, fire mitigation planning with landowners and other stakeholders, and water sources for fire suppression. Specific development established in fire hazard zones will be required to undergo review by the Fire Department to get a fuel modification plan approved. The project-specific review will analyze the site of the development and required adequate fuel modification. The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Safety Element reduces the risk of exposing people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Policy S 4.7 discourages building mid-slope, on ridgelines and on hilltops, and employ adequate setbacks on slopes to reduce risk from wildfires and post-fire, rainfall-induced landslides. Specific development established in fire hazard zones will be required to undergo review by the Fire Department to get a fuel modification plan approved. The project-specific review will analyze the site of the development and required adequate fuel modification. Development projects will continue to be reviewed for compliance with the Low Impact Development and Stormwater Ordinances. The Safety Element Update will have a less than significant impact.

e) Substantially impair implementation an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The emergency response plan for the unincorporated areas of the County is the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP), which is prepared by OEM. The OAERP strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capability and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County. The County has also prepared a Local All Hazards Mitigation Plan to be in compliance with federal law and to be eligible for disaster funding. Figure 12.6 of the Safety Element in the General Plan²⁷ depicts the County’s designated Disaster routes. It identifies the routes that emergency responders are likely to use when responding to an emergency scenario and the field facilities that will be used by emergency responders to coordinate their activities. The Department of Public Works also maintains a “Disaster Routes with Road Districts” Map²⁸.

The Safety Element Policy S 7.3 ensures coordination with other County agencies, such as Public Works, Fire, and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on emergency planning and response activities, and evacuation planning. This coordination is imperative to ensure consistency in different plans that revolve about hazard mitigation and evacuation. Two new legislation regarding evacuation planning is required to be incorporated into the Safety Element Update. Assembly Bill 747 (Levine, 2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. Evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency which routes should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency to avoid endangering the lives of others, personal injury, or death. Evacuation planning was also addressed in Senate Bill 99 (Nielsen, 2019) which focuses on identifying residential developments that have fewer than two evacuation routes. The data that is included in the Safety Element Update pertaining to these two legislation was confirmed by Public Works, Fire, and OEM to ensure that the data methodology did not conflict with their existing emergency response or evacuation plans. Therefore, the project will not substantially impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and the impact will be less than significant.

²⁷ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_12-6_Disaster_Routes.pdf

²⁸ https://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/DisasterRoutes/map/disaster_rdm-North.pdf

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The General Plan Safety Element addresses the magnitude of resources the County devotes to fire protection. The update to the Safety Element was mandated by the State per Senate Bill 379 to include climate change adaptation and resilience strategies for a changing climate. Wildland fire threats are increasing, in part due to climate change. The rise in temperatures and prolonged periods of drought increase the fire ignition potential and may increase the frequency and duration of wildfires. Although multiple regulations are in place to ensure that adequate infrastructure is incorporated into new developments, older communities with aging and substandard infrastructure may face greater risks from wildland fires.

The project's implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires will not have a significant impact on Los Angeles County's wildfires. This ordinance does not directly propose any development, and it does not indirectly encourage the approval of development that would have a significant impact on the County's wildfires. Wildfires have a significant impact Los Angeles County, and this ordinance would not increase either the intensity or frequency of wildfires. Furthermore, future development impacted by this ordinance, that is proposed after the approval of the ordinance, would require discretionary review, and would be analyzed separately consistent with CEQA requirements.

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment that would substantially reduce or degrade the habitat of sensitive biological resources. This project is the update to the General Plan Safety Element, which provides goals and policies that set the direction of how Los Angeles County can reduce the risk of natural and climate-induced hazards. The project does not establish any direct development of land. Any future development will be required to be consistent with the goals and policies of the Safety Element and undergo a project-specific environmental analysis.

b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The General Plan Safety Element Update is a long-range planning document that provides guidance in form of policies to help direct how Los Angeles County can reduce risk of harm and damaged that is caused by natural disasters and climate-induced hazards. The nature of the project is to think of the long-term environmental goals since climate change has been exacerbating the known hazards that affect Los Angeles County. The policies in the Safety Element Update are consistent with other elements of the General Plan and therefore will have a less than significant impact.

c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Safety Element Update does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The policies are comprised previous policies that were carried over to the update, revisions of previous

policies, and new policies that address the changing needs of the current climate. The cumulative impact of all the policies in the Safety Element will still have a less than significant impact since the implementation of these policies will contribute to the reduction of risk of harm and damage from natural and climate-induced hazards.

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

As discussed in this Initial Study, the proposed project would not result in any environmental effects which will cause substantial direct or indirect adverse effects to human beings. The policies for the Safety Element Update, and the project’s implementation ordinance to reduce damage to life and property from wildfires, will not create any direct impacts as this project is an update to a General Plan element and no development or construction activities are proposed.

However, the policies will not cause significant impacts to humans related to flooding, drainage issues, wastewater, air quality, noise, water quality, wildfires, emergency operations, or to existing infrastructure or public services because the nature of the policies is to reduce the risk of harm and damage that can be caused by natural or climate-induced disasters, such as fire, flood, seismic and geotechnical hazards. The policies provide guidance on how future development will be established in Los Angeles County. The policies provide guidance on site development in hazardous areas, preventative measures for flooding, support for programming, climate change adaptation and resilience strategies. With these policies, impacts to humans, whether direct or indirect, will be less than significant.

**RESOLUTION
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039
PLAN AMENDMENT NO. RPPL2024003096
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2024004068**

WHEREAS, Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code ("Government Code") (commencing with section 65350) provides for the adoption of, and amendment to, a county's general plan and elements thereof;

WHEREAS, Government Code section 65358 allows for the amendment of all or part of an adopted general plan and specifies that each amendment may include more than one change to the general plan, including an amendment to comply with a court order pursuant to subdivision (d)(1);

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission ("Commission") of the County of Los Angeles ("County") conducted a duly-noticed public hearing on September 11, 2024 on amendments to the General Plan Safety Element and the Addendum to Negative Declaration PRJ2021-002039 Safety Element Update; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds as follows:

1. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors ("Board") adopted the General Plan Update, pursuant to California Government Code ("Government Code") section 65300 on October 6, 2015;
2. The Safety Element is a mandated element of the General Plan that serves as a policy guide to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation resulting from natural and human-made, climate-induced hazards, such as earthquakes, fire, flood, extreme heat, and drought;
3. On July 12, 2022, the Board approved a comprehensive amendment to the General Plan Safety Element to include stronger policies to effectively reduce the potential risk of hazards, to make the General Plan consistent with the State requirements, and to update emergency response information. In connection with approval of the Safety Element Update, the Board adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), concluding that the Safety Element Update could not have a significant effect on the environment;

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT AMENDMENT
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039-(1-5)
PLAN AMENDMENT NO. RPPL2024003096
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2024004068**

September 11, 2024 Regional Planning Commission Hearing

Staff presented the General Plan Safety Element Amendment at the September 11, 2024 public hearing. Staff provided the project overview; proposed amendments; methodology used to create the new informational map, *Figure 12.10*; and important notes regarding the limits of the Safety Element Amendment.

Discussion

No individuals testified at the hearing. There was no discussion by the Commission.

Vote

The Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the approval of the Project.

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039
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4. On February 23, 2024, following a legal challenge to the Safety Element Update in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. 22STCP03038), the trial court judge ordered the County to revise the Safety Element to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes;
5. The Department of Regional Planning (“Department”) has prepared a limited scope amendment to the Safety Element to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes in compliance with Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(5);
6. Section VIII. Emergency Response of the Safety Element was revised, including the addition of one new informational map, Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes*, to comply with Government Code, section 65302, subdivision (g)(5) by identifying residential developments in any hazard areas identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes;
7. Section XI of Appendix H was revised to describe the updated methodology used to produce Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes*;
8. The Safety Element, as proposed to be amended, is consistent with all the other elements of the General Plan as required per State law, in that it does not require any changes to the other elements of the General Plan, or recommend policies or programs that conflict with goals and policies of other General Plan elements;
9. An Addendum to the July 12, 2022 Negative Declaration for the General Plan Safety Element was prepared in compliance with CEQA and the County environmental guidelines to determine whether the revisions to the Emergency Response section of the Safety Element and Appendix H and inclusion of Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes* could result in any environmental impact not previously considered in connection with the Safety Element Update as originally approved. The Addendum concludes that the revisions to the Emergency Response section of the Safety Element and Appendix H and inclusion of Figure 12.10, *Residential Developments In Any Hazard Area Identified In The Safety Element That Do Not Have At Least Two Emergency Evacuation Routes*, as proposed, would not result in any potentially significant environmental impacts not previously considered in

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PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039
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the Negative Declaration, and therefore concludes that a supplemental environmental analysis is not required;

10. Pursuant to Section 22.222.180 of the Los Angeles County Code, a public hearing notice was published in the following local and regional newspapers at least 30 days prior to the public hearing: Acton/Agua Dulce News, Antelope Valley News, Gardena Valley News, Glendale Independent, La Opinión, Sentinel, Malibu Times, Pasadena Star-News, San Gabriel Valley News, The Acorn, The Argonaut, The Daily Breeze, The Signal, and Whittier Daily;
11. The public hearing notice was sent by mail to 232 interested parties who registered for departmental notification lists;
12. The public hearing notice was sent by email to 551 interested parties who requested project-related information. Materials were also posted on the Department's website; and
13. On September 11, 2024, the Commission conducted a duly-noticed public hearing to consider the Amendment to the Safety Element. No individuals testified at the hearing. The Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the approval of the Project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commission recommends to the Board as follows:

1. That the Board holds a public hearing to consider Project No. PRJ2021-002039, which includes Plan Amendment No. RPPL2024003096, and Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2024004068;
2. That the Board consider the Addendum to the Negative Declaration for PRJ2021-002039 Safety Element Update, Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2024004068, along with the previously adopted Negative Declaration, prior to making a final decision on Project No. PRJ2021-002039; and
3. That the Board adopts Plan Amendment No. RPPL2024003096, amending the General Plan Safety Element; and determine that the Safety Element, as proposed to be amended, is consistent with and supports the goals and policies of the General Plan.

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039
PLAN AMENDMENT NO. RPPL2024003096
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RESOLUTION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the voting members of the Regional Planning Commission on the County of Los Angeles on September 11, 2024.

Elida Luna

Elida Luna, Secretary
County of Los Angeles
Regional Planning Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM: OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By *Kathy Park*

Kathy Park
Deputy County Counsel
Office of the County Counsel
County of Los Angeles

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT AMENDMENT
PROJECT NO. PRJ2021-002039-(1-5)
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