

SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

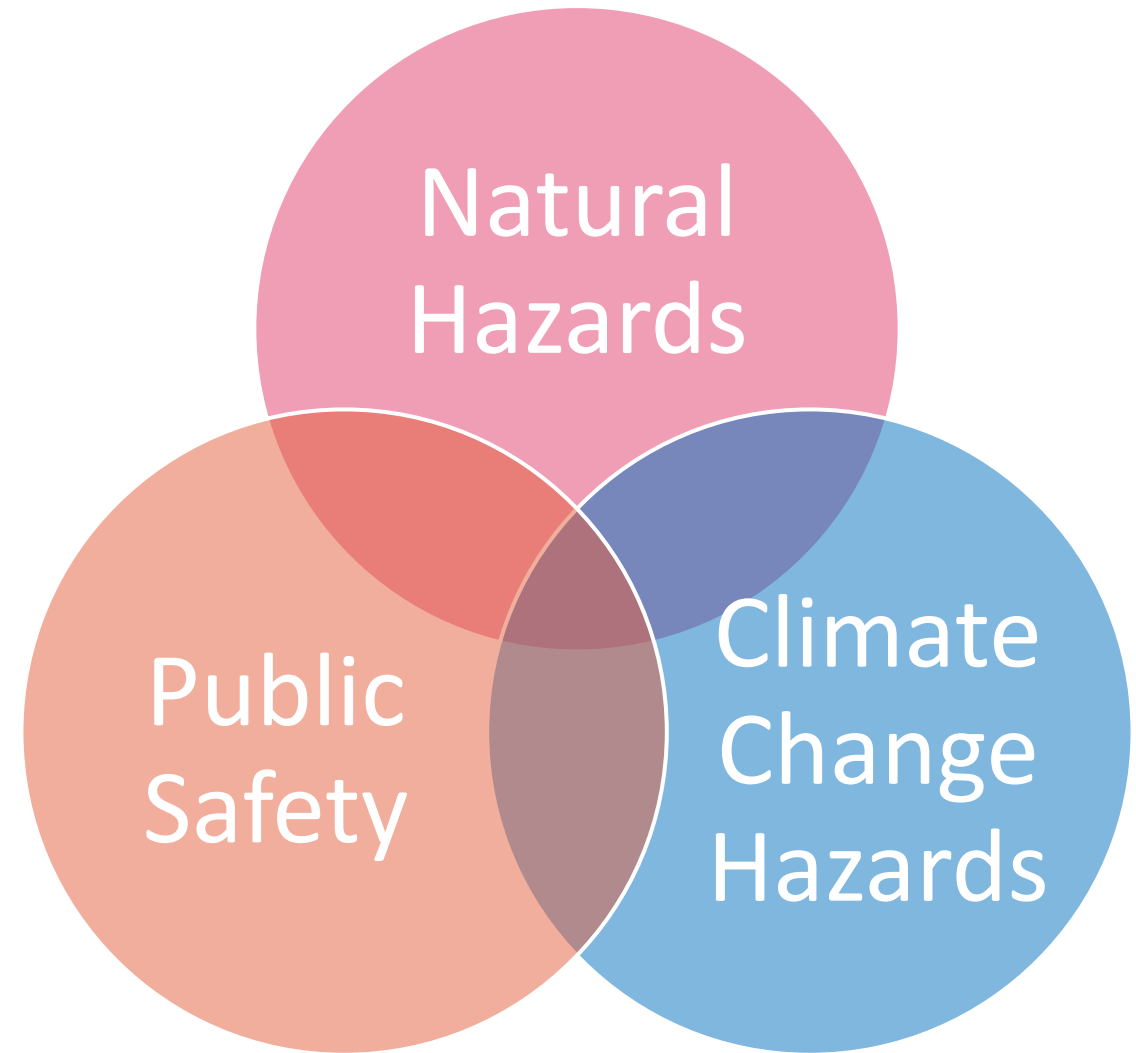
SAN MATEO COUNTY
NORTH FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

August 27, 2026



What is a Safety Element?

- Required part of a community's General Plan.
- Identifies hazards of concern and related issues, and establishes policies to protect people and property.
- Updated to meet new state requirements and address climate resilience.



Why Update the Safety Element?

- Review and update of the Safety Element is required following adoption of Housing Element.
- Respond to new requirements and emerging safety issues, including climate resilience.
- Support consistency with other similar plans (such as LHMP)
- Enhance eligibility for grant funding.



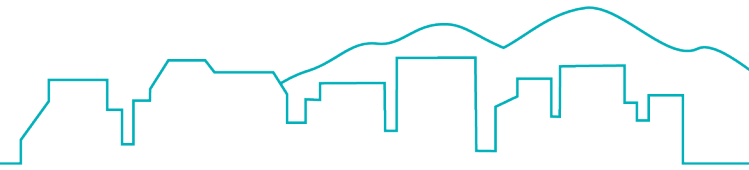
2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 1—Planning-Area-Wide Elements



October | 2021



Hazards Assessed



Seismic Hazards (Earthquakes,
Liquefaction, Tsunami)



Flooding & Sea Level Rise
(Emergent Groundwater, Dam
Failure)



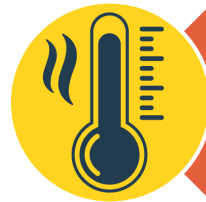
Geologic Hazards (Landslides,
Coastal Erosion)



Drought



Severe Weather



Extreme heat

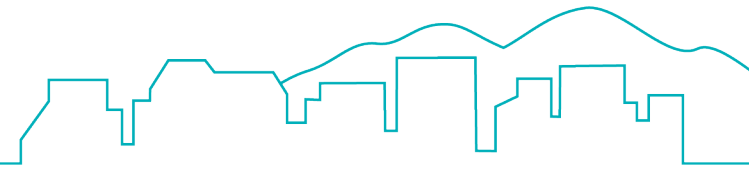


Infectious & Vector-Borne
Diseases



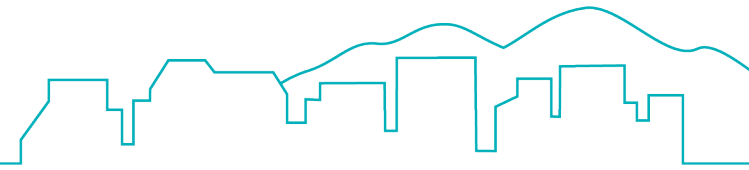
Fire Hazards

Community Engagement Activities



- **Community Workshops** - Obtain input from residents, employees, and business owners.
 - March 13, 2024: Virtual Community Workshop #1
 - May 21, 2025: Virtual Community Workshop #2
- **Local Community Meetings** - in partnership with CBOs to hear from residents that may not have previously participated in planning processes.
 - Jun 18, 2024: North Fair Oaks Safety Element Workshop #1
 - April 15th, 2025: North Fair Oaks Safety Element Workshop #2
- **Stakeholder Meetings** –Chambers of Commerce, community service organizations, environmental groups, public health organizations, service providers
- **Project Website** - Central hub for project information and community engagement.

What We've Heard



Key themes from community meetings:

- Improve **emergency response** times, **communication**, and **preparation**.
- Need for **flood** assessment and mitigation.
- Risks from **extreme heat**, and need for a Heat Action Plan and cooling centers.
- Need to reduce risks from **fire and smoke / air pollution**.
- Concerns about **housing conditions**, including lack of air conditioning.
- Hazards disproportionately affect **vulnerable populations**.



How Input Informed the Safety Element

- Community concerns directly addressed in **hazard profiles** and **vulnerability assessments**.
- **Emergency communication and preparedness** policies strengthened to address language barriers and information gaps.
- **Infrastructure resilience** prioritized in implementation actions for roads, drainage, and power systems.
- **Equity considerations** integrated throughout goals, policies, and implementation measures.
- Community feedback will help strengthen **grant applications**.



Goal, Policy, Action Example

GOAL 7: Extreme Heat

The community is prepared for an increasing amount of extreme heat events.

Policy SE 4.9 | Shade Cover in Public and Private Spaces

Install and maintain drought-tolerant trees, shade structures, and landscaped areas as part of cooling strategies in public and private spaces.

Hazard(s): Extreme Heat

Responsible Department(s): Department of Public Works, Parks Department, Planning and Building Department

Supporting Agencies: SamTrans, Caltrain, BART, Sustainability Department

Action SE 4.9a Ensure extreme heat mitigation strategies and design features are considered in the County budget and Capital Improvement Program regular processes.

Action SE 4.9b Coordinate with SamTrans, Caltrain, and other transit providers to increase shading and use of heat-mitigating materials at transit stops.

Action SE 4.9c Develop and implement heat mitigation strategies in partnership with community-based organizations.

Policy Types



Data Gathering: regularly collect, update, analyze, or model data on public safety and resilience topics to inform planning for hazard mitigation and resilience.



Public Communication: educate, inform, or engage members of the public on safety and resilience topics.



Development Regulations: establish and revise standards for new development and renovations to better resist hazardous conditions and more effectively protect the community.



Infrastructure Improvements: public infrastructure improvements to better resist hazardous conditions and more effectively protect the community.



Programs & Plans: create or strengthen programs, plans, partnerships, or administrative structures.

We Want Your Input

Feedback requested on Policies & Actions:

- Are we focusing on the right issues?
- Any gaps should we address?

How to Provide Input:

- Share comments today during discussion
- Contact Katie Faulkner, kfaulkner@smcgov.org
- Visit project website:
<https://www.smcgov.org/planning/safety-element-update>
- Attend upcoming public hearings



**Project
Website:**

