

**Los Angeles County
Safety Element Update Webinar
March 24, 2021**

Questions	Answers
Is there an Environmental Impact Report for the Safety Element Update?	We are currently in the process of conducting the analysis to determine the environmental document for the Safety Element Update. The environmental document will be publicly released when the public hearings for the draft Safety Element begin.
Is the presentation posted on your website?	Yes, the presentation PowerPoint and the recorded video of the webinar are posted on our website at planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/se_documents/ .
Will the update include earthquakes and fault movement?	Yes, the Safety Element Update is required by the State to update the Seismic and Geotechnical Hazards section with new information and maps of fault zones.
How will the Safety Element Update impact other plans, such as the Antelope Valley Area Plan. Will components of the Antelope Valley Area Plan have to be rewritten?	Part of the process of updating the Safety Element includes ensuring consistency with other elements of the General Plan. Community-based plans, such as the Antelope Valley Area Plan, is a component of the General Plan and must be consistent with the foundational elements. We will be analyzing the elements in the General Plan and related community-based plans to determine if modifications will be necessary to meet the State-mandated requirements and ensure consistency.
What are the goals and objectives for the Safety Element Update?	<p>The Safety Element is a required element of the General Plan by the State. Therefore, the goal for this element is set by the State and required to be met. "The goal of the safety element is to reduce the potential short and long-term risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards."</p> <p>SB 379 also requires the Safety Element to include climate change adaptation strategies based on information from a Climate Vulnerability Assessment.</p> <p>For more information on the requirements of a Safety Element, please visit: opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_C4_final.pdf</p>
Where can we send any follow up questions we might have after this presentation?	You can send follow up questions to climate@planning.lacounty.gov .
What is the relationship between you and the U.S. Forest Service?	The U.S. Forest Service will be invited to comment on the Safety Element when the public review draft is released. The General Plan, of which the Safety Element is a component of, only applies to unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest is under federal jurisdiction. However, since there are unincorporated areas adjacent to and private lands within the Angeles National Forest, we invite the U.S. Forest Service to provide comments when the draft Safety Element is released.

<p>How will inequity between unincorporated communities be addressed?</p>	<p>Using the Environmental Justice Screening Method (EJSM), the Department of Regional Planning has identified unincorporated communities that bear a disproportionate pollution burden and may not have resources to adapt to climate change induced hazards. Outreach will be focused in these communities to engage them in adaptation planning. Programs that will reduce climate risks to these communities and increase their resilience will be prioritized.</p>
<p>Who can we contact who can provide a real/scientific/quantified presentation for Climate Change?</p>	<p>The Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) currently being conducted by the County's Chief Sustainability Office will provide the technical data of the effects of climate change hazards. Please visit the CVA project website: lacounty.gov/sustainability-projects/</p>
<p>How will you coordinate with other agencies, such as City of Los Angeles, South Coast Air Quality Management District, etc.?</p>	<p>Public agencies and other jurisdictions will be invited to comment on the draft Safety Element when it is released for public review.</p>
<p>Who can we contact who can provide a real/scientific/quantified presentation for earthquake and seismicity?</p>	<p>The CA Department of Conservation's Seismic Hazards Program has an EQZapp website that shows all fault, landslide, and liquefaction zones in a web-GIS interface. You can navigate the map at the parcel level for hazard zone information and link to the Seismic Hazard Zone Reports/Fault Evaluation Reports: maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/</p> <p>If you have further questions, the geologists at the Seismic Hazards Program can help you: shmp@conservation.ca.gov</p>
<p>It's going to be tough to assess flood risk accurately with 40 year old FEMA mapping. Will you be proceeding based on this out of date information, which significantly under rates flood risk?</p>	<p>The Safety Element Update will use the FEMA Flood Zone Types 1% Annual Chance of Flood (100-Year) and 0.2% Annual Chance of Flood (500-Year) which were updated in 2019 and 2020, respectively.</p>
<p>What is being done to mitigate the damage to the environment by solar panel field?</p>	<p>Mitigations for disturbances caused by individual solar projects are maintained by the Conditional Use Permit issued for that specific solar projects. Please contact our Zoning Enforcement section to see how a solar project is complying with the conditions of approval for that project. You can contact our Zoning Enforcement section at zoningenforcement@planning.lacounty.gov.</p>
<p>How will you actually work with other departments such Fire?</p>	<p>Our department collaborates directly with various County departments (Fire, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Chief Sustainability Office) to produce the necessary data or studies to meet the requirements of the Safety Element.</p> <p>Other non-County agencies will be invited to comment on the draft Safety Element when it is released for public review.</p>
<p>Who would we contact regarding guidelines around protecting utilities?</p>	<p>The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the best contact regarding guidelines for protecting utilities. The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services.</p>

<p>Who would we contact regarding emergency evacuation routes for my community?</p>	<p>The Sheriff is responsible for coordinating emergency notifications and evacuations for unincorporated communities during a disaster. Alert LA County is used by the Sheriff’s Communications Center (SCC) to notify residents, schools, and businesses via recorded telephone, text and/or e-mail messages of emergencies or critical situations as well as provide information regarding necessary actions, such as evacuations:</p> <p>lacounty.gov/emergency/alert-la/</p> <p>In addition, 2-1-1, an information and referral service, supplements the public’s access to vital emergency-related information, including evacuation routes, shelter locations, road closures, referrals to essential health and social services:</p> <p>211la.org/resources/subcategory/crisis-services</p>
<p>Will the update show the impacts on different ethnic/economic/communities - equity?</p>	<p>Using the Environmental Justice Screening Method (EJSM), the Department of Regional Planning has identified unincorporated communities that bear a disproportionate pollution burden and may not have resources to adapt to climate change induced hazards. Outreach will be focused in these communities to engage them in adaptation planning. Programs that will reduce climate risks to these communities and increase their resilience will be prioritized.</p>
<p>During the Bobcat Fire I noticed a lack of involvement with CalFire. Will this be addressed in the future?</p>	<p>During this project we will consult with the Land Use Planning Program of CalFire to review the Fire section of the draft Safety Element before the project goes to public hearing. As for coordination during a wildfire event, please contact the Los Angeles County Fire Department for more information on how coordination is conducted with CalFire.</p>
<p>When is next meeting?</p>	<p>The next meeting, the Adaptation workshop, is not scheduled yet but we anticipate to hold it sometime this summer. Please make sure to sign up for our email list to be notified of the workshop when it is scheduled.</p> <p>Email us at climate@planning.lacounty.gov to be added to our email list.</p>
<p>Your plan is quite thorough in contrast to the plans of smaller incorporated cities. How will Los Angeles County address these discrepancies?</p>	<p>The County's Safety Element will only apply to unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. However, since the Safety Element is a required element of the General Plan by the State, other incorporated cities will be required to provide adaptation and resiliency policies just as the County will be doing. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment will be a countywide analysis that all 88 cities in Los Angeles County can access and use to inform the update to their Safety Element.</p>

<p>Your answer on flooding concerns me as Leona Valley was completely cut off due to massive flooding in 2015. How are you obtaining relevant and more current information?</p>	<p>The 2020 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) describes the 500-year rainfall event that resulted in flooding that happened in October 2015 in Leona Valley. Potential mitigation actions are listed in pages 163 through 174 of the FMP. As part of the development of the FMP, the Department of Public Works also collected survey information from residents in 2019. Results of the survey are found in the Appendix of the FMP. The FMP can be found here:</p> <p>pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/NFIP/FMP2020/documents/Draft%20Comprehensive%20Floodplain%20Management%20Plan.pdf</p>
<p>It sounds like the safety element update is intended to address increased vulnerability due to climate change. How are you going to quantify the amount by which vulnerability is increased by climate change? In other words, you say that our vulnerability to wildfire impacts has increased in high fire hazard areas because of climate change, but high fire hazard areas have always been vulnerable to wildfires, so how are you quantifying the amount by which our vulnerability has increased due to climate change?</p>	<p>The methodology used to assess the increase of hazard risks due to climate change will be provided in the forthcoming Climate Vulnerability Assessment. We expect the CVA draft will be released this summer.</p>
<p>You just said the update will include seismic and address new faults. What about the increased densities that will result from the changes to the housing element?</p>	<p>The increased densities resulting from changes to the Housing Element will be addressed in the Housing Element and the corresponding Environmental Impact Report for the Housing Element Update.</p>