

State Requirements for Public Safety Element Update

Excerpts from Govt. Code Section 65302 (g)

- (2) The safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, shall also do the following:
 - (A) Identify information regarding flood hazards, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (i) Flood hazard zones. As used in this subdivision, "flood hazard zone" means an area subject to flooding that is delineated as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate or minimal hazard on an official flood insurance rate map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The identification of a flood hazard zone does not imply that areas outside the flood hazard zones or uses permitted within flood hazard zones will be free from flooding or flood damage.
 - (ii) National Flood Insurance Program maps published by FEMA.
 - (iii) Information about flood hazards that is available from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
 - (iv) Designated floodway maps that are available from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
 - (v) Dam failure inundation maps prepared pursuant to Section 8589.5 that are available from the California Emergency Management Agency.
 - (vi) Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program maps and 200-year flood plain maps that are or may be available from, or accepted by, the Department of Water Resources.
 - (vii) Maps of levee protection zones.
 - (viii) Areas subject to inundation in the event of the failure of project or nonproject levees or floodwalls.
 - (ix) Historical data on flooding, including locally prepared maps of areas that are subject to flooding, areas that are vulnerable to flooding after wildfires, and sites that have been repeatedly damaged by flooding.
 - (x) Existing and planned development in flood hazard zones, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
 - (xi) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for flood protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.

- (B) Establish a set of comprehensive goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risks of flooding, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Avoiding or minimizing the risks of flooding to new development.
 - (ii) Evaluating whether new development should be located in flood hazard zones, and identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if new development is located in flood hazard zones.
 - (iii) Maintaining the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding.
 - (iv) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in flood hazard zones.
 - (v) Establishing cooperative working relationships among public agencies with responsibility for flood protection.
 - (C) Establish a set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives established pursuant to subparagraph (B).
- (3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102 of the Public Resources Code, and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in Section 51177. This review shall consider the advice included in the Office of Planning and Research's most recent publication of "Fire Hazard Planning, General Technical Advice Series" and shall also include all of the following:
- (A) Information regarding fire hazards, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - (i) Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
 - (ii) Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
 - (iii) Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
 - (iv) General location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including

structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.

- (v) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.
- (B) A set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.
- (C) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (B) including, but not limited to, all of the following:
- (i) Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
 - (ii) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone.
 - (iii) Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
 - (iv) Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection.
- (5) Cities and counties that have flood plain management ordinances that have been approved by FEMA that substantially comply with this section, or have substantially equivalent provisions to this subdivision in their general plans, may use that information in the safety element to comply with this subdivision, and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the safety element the other general plan provisions or the flood plain ordinance, specifically showing how each requirement of this subdivision has been met.

