



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Report to the Planning Commission

DATE ISSUED: March 15, 2018

REPORT NO. PC-18-017

HEARING DATE: March 22, 2018

SUBJECT: General Plan Amendment-Safety Element Sections D and P

### **SUMMARY**

#### Issue:

Should the Planning Commission recommend to the City Council approval of the General Plan Amendment to the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element Sections D and P?

#### Objective:

California Senate Bill 1241 requires jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to review and update as necessary, the Safety Element within the General Plan to address the risk of fire. The proposed amendment to the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element Sections D and P is for compliance with the adopted state legislation. Additional climate adaptation and resiliency strategies have also been added in the Disaster Preparedness Section.

#### Staff Recommendation:

1. RECOMMEND to the City Council **ADOPT** the General Plan Amendment to the Public Facilities, Services, and Safety Element Sections D and P.

#### Environmental Review:

The General Plan Amendments were reviewed for environmental consistency with the General Plan PEIR. As previously analyzed in the General Plan PEIR, the General Plan includes policies that address wildfire and sustainability and adaptation. The General Plan Amendments as proposed would not conflict with any applicable and adopted plan, policy or regulation and would complement and comply with the analysis already in the General Plan and General Plan PEIR. The General Plan Amendments expand on wildfire history, programs, policies and goals already in place and supported by the original PEIR Health & Safety discussion. The PEIR Health & Safety impacts remain significant and unavoidable and no new significant environmental impact beyond those analyzed in the PEIR would result.

Thus, the proposed General Plan Amendments are consistent and covered by the City's General Plan. The General Plan Amendments, themselves, would not result in new impacts or changed circumstances that would require a new environmental document.

#### Community Planners Committee Recommendation:

On January 23, 2018, the Community Planners Committee (CPC) voted 17-0-1 to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element Sections D and P of the General Plan. Members of the committee requested that Figure PF-3, Fire and Life Guard Facilities be updated to include proposed facilities. The map has been updated as requested and is included in the proposed amendment.

#### Housing Impact Statement:

The proposed amendment does not alter land use and would have no impact on the total number of units identified in the adopted community plans.

### **BACKGROUND**

California Senate Bill 1241, signed into law in 2012, requires jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to comply with Government Code Section 65302(g)(3). Government Code Section 65302(g)(3) states that upon the next revision of the Housing Element or on or after January 1, 2014, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address risk of fire for the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. SB 1241 states the Safety Element must contain goals, policies and objectives that protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire. The draft safety element must be submitted for review to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection prior to adoption.

### **DISCUSSION**

The City of San Diego has a comprehensive approach to fire protection. Fire Safety is addressed in multiple areas including the General Plan, in the Fire Prevention Bureau policies, in the San Diego Municipal Code and in the emergency preparedness guides such as the Ready, Set, Go, Wildland Fire Action Guide. Additionally, the City of San Diego is a participating jurisdiction and has adopted the San Diego County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a countywide plan that identifies risks and ways to minimize damage by natural and manmade disasters. City staff continues to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions regarding disaster safety.

In the proposed amendments to the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element (Safety Element), the San Diego Municipal Code, Fire Rescue Department policy and other General Plan elements were referenced rather than restated. The Safety Element was also reviewed and updated, as needed, with current information. The majority of the new policies were added to address requirements in the legislation and are located in a new section titled Wildfire Planning within Section D of the Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element.

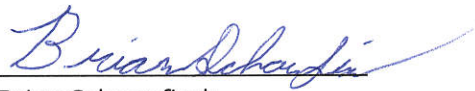
Planning Department staff used the Land Use Planning Program guidebook produced by CAL FIRE specifically for this legislation as well as the Fire Hazard Planning Guide provided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to prepare the proposed amendments. Both guides provide a checklist of items required by SB 1241. Planning staff worked closely with Fire Department staff to draft the proposed amendment, according to the checklists provided. Throughout the process, City staff also worked collaboratively with CAL FIRE staff to produce edits that would satisfy the requirements in the legislation.

The proposed Safety Element Amendment was presented by CAL FIRE staff to the Resource Committee of the State Board of Forestry at the January 23, 2018 meeting. The Resource Committee forwarded the Safety Element to the full State Board of Forestry without comments. The State Board of Forestry reviewed the Safety Element and had no further comments.

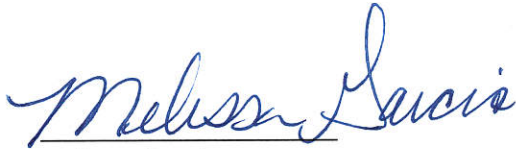
### **CONCLUSION**

Planning Department staff recommends approval of the amendment to the General Plan Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element Sections D and P.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Schoenfisch  
Program Manager  
Planning Department



Melissa Garcia  
Senior Planner  
Planning Department

BS/mg

#### Attachments:

1. Proposed Amendment to the Public Facilities Services and Safety Element
2. Environmental Evaluation-Amendment to the General Plan Public Facilities, Services and Safety Element