



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the City Manager

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***City of Saratoga Planning for Safety:
City to Release Draft of General Plan Safety Element***

Earlier this year, the City of Saratoga began the process of updating the Safety Element of the City of Saratoga General Plan. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify the potential natural and human-caused hazards and the means by which to address these hazards.

“The Safety Element is a critical planning document for the City that identifies potential hazards within our community and establishes policies that prevent these hazards from becoming disasters or serious problems,” said Saratoga Mayor Jill Hunter.

The public review and comment period for the Safety Element will begin on December 19, 2012 and the City plans to hold the following meetings:

- Planning Commission Study Session, January 8, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Joan Pisani Community Center, located at 19655 Allendale Avenue.
- Planning Commission Public Hearing on January 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Theater, located at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue.
- City Council Study Session on February 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Saratoga City Hall Administrative Conference Room, located at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue
- City Council Public Hearing of the Safety Element on February 20, 2012 at the Civic Theater, located at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue.

In 2011, the City of Saratoga was awarded a \$175,000 State of California 2008 Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI) grant to update the Safety Element of the City’s General Plan. The DRI program was developed in response to the Presidentially declared national emergency of the 2008 California wildfires. The City of Saratoga entered into an agreement with RBF Consulting in the amount of approximately \$94,000 to update the Safety Element of the City’s General Plan, which hasn’t been updated since 1987. A portion of the remaining funds will be used toward an updated ground movement potential map.

“The last update to the Safety Element took place 25 years ago. As someone who has lived in Saratoga for more 31 years, I can tell you that a lot has changed since 1987. I’m pleased that the City is updating the Safety Element and that we were able to pay for the project using grant funds,” Mayor Hunter added.

The Safety Element will be available online at www.saratoga.ca.us/safetyelement starting December 19, 2012.

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