



PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Crystal Bothelio, City Clerk
MEETING DATE: January 8, 2012
SUBJECT: Safety Element Update

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of tonight's study session is to discuss an update to the City's Safety Element of the General Plan. The safety element is required by the State of California¹ for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence, liquefaction, and other seismic hazards.

The update was prepared by RBF Consulting, under contract with the City. The existing Safety Element was adopted in 1986. The update was necessary to bring the City's Safety Element into compliance with State requirements and document current conditions.

The revisions to the Safety Element range from minor grammatical edits, changes reflecting new and/or changes in existing regulatory requirements, new processes in place since the previous element was prepared and adopted, and development of new exhibits to reflect current practices and conditions in the City of Saratoga. Updated exhibits include:

1. Geologic Map
2. Landslide Areas
3. Fault Location Map and Earthquake Fault Zones
4. Liquefaction Areas
5. Dam Failure Inundation Areas
6. FEMA Flood Zones
7. Fire Hazard Zones
8. Evacuation Routes

There are no significant changes to City policies and the updates would not materially affect the physical environment, nor result in any new environmental impacts not already contemplated as part of the City's General Plan EIR.

Representatives from RBF Consulting will be present during the Study Session to answer questions and provide additional information about the update to the Safety Element.

¹ Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code

Additional Materials may be presented at the study session

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The project has been the subject of a Negative Declaration (“ND”) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This ND is based on an Initial Study which indicates there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the City of Saratoga, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. The Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration was circulated for public review. The IS and ND were available for review beginning December 19, 2012.

NEXT STEPS:

The Safety Element update is scheduled for a Planning Commission Public Hearing on January 23, 2013, a City Council Study Session on February 4, 2013, and a City Council Public Hearing on February 20, 2013.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Safety Element
2. Negative Declaration