

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
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(916) 653-8007



David Carlson
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

December 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is required to review and provide recommendations to the safety element of county and local government general plans when such plans are being amended. This review is in accordance with Government Code (GC) §65302.5 which requires the Board to review the fire safety elements when the general plans contains State Responsibility Areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The Board has identified several issues with the submitted safety element. The policies and programs outlined in the Draft Safety Element are focused on specific development requirements for road construction and other standards, which are best placed in local ordinance. If these standards remain in the safety element, the Board is concerned about potential conflicts and confusion between the safety element, local ordinances, and state fire safe development regulations.

Additionally, the safety element mentions Critical Fire Hazard Maps and Urban Services Line but does not define or map those areas. Including maps of those areas would greatly enhance the submitted safety element. The Board also recommends the County coordinate those areas with CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, so that implementation projects can be aligned between all the fire protection plans covering the planning area.

The policies and implementation measures included in the safety element should address ways in which development in Santa Cruz County will recognize and respond to the wildfire risk in the given project area, as well as opportunities to reduce risk to existing nonconforming structures and developments or vulnerable populations. They should be consistent with implementation measures in other plans such as the Santa Cruz Unit Strategic Fire Plan and San Mateo-Santa Cruz Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Attached is the Safety Element Assessment the Board and local Units use to evaluate safety elements submitted to the Board for review. The Board recommends Santa Cruz County use it as a guide to revise the Draft Safety Element for greater alignment with SB 1241 and the updated requirements in Government Code §65302. As it currently stands, the Board believes this safety element would create confusion among people

trying to develop in Santa Cruz County, as it conflicts with other plans and ordinances that guide development in the County.

Government Code §65302.5 also requires Santa Cruz County to consider and accept the recommendations made by the Board and communicate in writing to the Board its reasons for not accepting any recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your planning process and we look forward to working with you on these recommendations. We hope this input leads to greater protection and reduced cost and losses from wildfires to Santa Cruz County and adjacent wildlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Gilles", written in a cursive style.

Keith Gilles
Chair, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

CC: Captain Chris Walters, CAL FIRE CZU/Santa Cruz County Fire
Chief Pete Muñoa, CAL FIRE Land Use Planning Program

Enclosure: General Plan Safety Element Assessment Template Version 1



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT / *CAL FIRE*

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SCOTT JALBERT
FIRE CHIEF

November 4, 2014

Edith Hannigan
Board Consultant, SRA
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Review of the Fire Safe Element of the Santa Cruz County General Plan (2014).

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department contacted the Santa Cruz County Fire Prevention Officers Association in the spring of 2014 to inform the group that a review of the Fire Safe Element of the General Plan needed to be conducted prior to November of 2014.

In the late summer of 2014 personnel from the Santa Cruz County Planning department presented a "draft" edition of the fire safe element to the Santa Cruz County Fire Prevention Officers for their review and comments. A discussion followed during that meeting, and it was determined that a review committee of Fire Prevention Officers and the lead planning staff member would meet for discussion of the review comments.

In October of 2014, the committee met and discussed the "draft" fire safe element and a consensus was reached with the new review comments. The county planning staff member captured the review comments and in October returned a final "draft" version of the fire safe element. Other than some minor corrections, that is the version that was submitted to your office.

We are pleased with the final construction of the new 2014 fire safe element, and believe it will meet the needs of Santa Cruz County into the future.

Should you have any additional concerns, you may contact our office at (831) 335-6748.

Sincerely,

Christopher Walters
Deputy Fire Marshal
Santa Cruz County Fire

Cc: Chron

[NAME OF AGENCY]

[NAME OF REVIEWING UNIT]

**General Plan Safety Element
Assessment
Version 1**

[DATE]

**Board of Forestry and Fire
Protection**



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August 2014

Purpose and Background: The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF/Board) is required to review and make recommendations for the fire safety element of general plan updates in accordance with Government Code (GC) §65302.5. The review and recommendations apply to those general plans with State Responsibility Area (SRA) (Public Resources Code 4125) or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) (GC 51175).

The statutory requirements for the Board review and recommendations pursuant to GC 65302.5 (a)(1) and (2), and (b) are as follows:

- *“The draft elements...to the fire safety element of a county’s or a city’s general plan...shall be submitted to the Board at least 90 days prior to... the adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan [for each county or city with SRA or VHFHSZ].”*
- *“The Board shall... review the draft or an existing safety element and report its written recommendations to the planning agency within 60 days of its receipt of the draft or existing safety element....”*
- *“Prior to adoption of the draft element..., the Board of Supervisors... shall consider the recommendations made by the Board... If the Board of Supervisors...determines not to accept all or some of the recommendations..., the Board of Supervisors... shall communicate in writing to the Board its reasons for not accepting the recommendations.”*

Methodology for Review and Recommendations: The Board established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes 1) examining the general plan for inclusion of factors that are important for mitigation of fire hazard and risks, and 2) making recommendations related to these factors. The evaluation factors and recommendations were developed using CAL FIRE technical documents and input from local fire departments.

Enclosed is the most expansive set of recommendations suggested by the Board. These recommendations are directed at communities that include:

- Most counties
- Widespread Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone acreage and/or State Responsibility Area acreage
- Extensive financial and physical resources
- Broad community support
- Previous wildfire protection planning efforts

The General Plan Safety Element of each jurisdiction that fits those criteria will be assessed based on the recommendations below.

Review Process and Timeline

The county, local jurisdiction, and local fire unit will receive and review technical guidance documents, the BOF checklist, and other relevant information from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and CAL FIRE.



The county or local jurisdiction will work closely with the local fire unit during the development of the general plan and the safety element in particular.



90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of the General Plan: The county or local jurisdiction will submit the safety element to the Board of Forestry for review.



No more than 30 days later: The Board will work with the unit to develop findings and recommendations.



No more than 60 days later: The Board will consider the fire unit's recommendations and will approve or approve with amendments the recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Standard List of General Plan Safety Element Recommendations

Please click on the appropriate box to “check” whether the plan satisfies each point. Standard recommendations are included in the checklist but please highlight or add additional comments as necessary.

1.0 Wildfire Protection Planning

1.1 General Plan references and incorporates County or Unit Fire Plan. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Identify, reference or create (if necessary) a fire plan for the geographic scope of the General Plan. General Plan should incorporate the general concepts and standards from any county fire plan, fire protection agency (federal or state) fire plan, and local hazard mitigation plan. Identify or reference the local Unit Fire Plan and, if applicable, the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Ensure fire plans incorporated by reference into the contain evaluations of fire hazards, assessment of assets at risk, prioritization of hazard mitigation actions, and implementation and monitoring components.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Wildfire Protection Planning Recommendations:

2.0 Land Use Planning:

2.1 Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for specific ordinances addressing evacuation and emergency vehicle access; water supplies and fire flow; fuel modification for defensible space; and home addressing and signing.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Specify the local ordinances, code sections, or regulations addressing the above standards, particularly any ordinances that address right-of-way, easement, and other reasonable offsite and onsite improvements for a division of land which qualifies for a Parcel Map rather than a Tentative/Final Map under the Subdivision Map Act.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Develop fire safe development codes used as standards for fire protection for new development in State Responsibility Area (SRA) within the entity’s jurisdiction that meet or exceed statewide standards in Title14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Adopt, and have certified by the BOF, local fire safe ordinances which meet or exceed standards in 14 CCR § 1270 for State Responsibility Area.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Consider mitigation of previously developed areas that do not meet Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq. or equivalent local ordinance.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 2.2 Disclose wildland urban interface hazards, including Fire Hazard Severity Zone designations and other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or fire prevention organizations. Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other firesafe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organizations. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Specify whether the entity has a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) designation pursuant GC 51175 and include a map of the zones that clearly indicates any area designated VHFHSZ.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Adopt CAL FIRE recommended Fire Hazard Severity Zones including model ordinances developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for establishing VHFHSZ areas.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Discuss and/or include local fire hazard maps.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 2.3 The design and location of new development provides for adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allows civilian egress during an emergency: Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps is conditional based on meeting regulations adopted pursuant to §4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Develop pre-plans for fire prone areas that address civilian evacuations to temporary safety locations.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 2.4 When approving parcel maps and use permits, consideration is given to providing adequate water supply infrastructure that meets zoning and fire protection needs. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps is conditional based on

meeting zoning requirements and fire safe development codes.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Land Use Planning Recommendations:

3.0 Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods:

3.1 Incorporation of current fire safe building codes. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Adopt building codes for new development in State Responsibility Areas or incorporated areas with VHFHSZ that are based on those established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Title 19 and Title 24 CCR, referred to as the “Wildland Urban Interface Building Codes.”

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

3.2 Identification and actions for substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard area. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Identify and map existing housing structures that do not conform to contemporary fire standards in terms of building materials, perimeter access, and vegetative hazards in VHFHSZ or SRA by fire hazard zone designation.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Identify plans and actions to improve substandard housing structures and neighborhoods. Plans and actions should include structural rehabilitation, occupancy reduction, demolition, reconstruction, neighborhood –wide fuels hazard reduction projects, community education, and other community based solutions.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Identify plans and actions for existing residential structures and neighborhoods, and particularly substandard residential structures and neighborhoods, to be improved to meet current fire safe ordinances pertaining to access, water flow, signing, and vegetation clearing.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

3.3 Consideration of diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection.

Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Ensure risks to uniquely occupied structures, such as seasonally occupied homes, multiple dwelling structures, or other structures with unique occupancy characteristics, are considered for appropriate and unique wildfire protection needs.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

3.4 Fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Ensure new development proposals contain specific fire protection plans, actions, and codes for fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ. Examples include codes requiring automatic sprinklers in VHFHSZ.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods Recommendations:

4.0 Conservation and Open Space:

4.1 Identification of critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard areas. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Identify critical natural resources and other “open space” values within the geographic scope of the General Plan.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

4.2 Inclusion of resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop plans and action items for vegetation management that provides fire damage mitigation and protection of open space values. Plans should address protection of natural resource financial values, establishment of fire resilient natural resources, protection of watershed qualities, and protection of endangered species habitats. Actions should consider prescribed burning, fuel breaks, and vegetation thinning and removal

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for reducing the wildland fire hazards within the entity’s boundaries, especially on vacant residential lots and greenbelts and, with the relevant partners, on adjacent private wildlands or federal lands with fire hazards that threaten the entity’s jurisdiction.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

4.3 Integration of open space into fire safety effectiveness. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for incorporating systematic fire protection improvements for open space. Specifics policies should address facilitation of safe fire suppression tactics, standards for adequate access for firefighting, fire mitigation planning with agencies/private landowners managing open space adjacent to the GP area, water sources for fire suppression, and other fire prevention and suppression needs.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

4.4 Urban forestry plans relative to fire protection. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Ensure residential areas have appropriate fire resistant landscapes and discontinuous vegetation adjacent to open space or wildland areas.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Evaluate and resolve existing laws and local ordinances which conflict with fire protection requirements. Examples include conflicts with vegetation hazard reduction ordinances and listed species habitat protection requirements.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 4.5 Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that address unique pest, disease, exotic species and other forest health issues in open space areas for purposes of reducing fire hazard and supporting ecological integrity.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Conservation and Open Space Recommendations:

5.0 Circulation and Access:

- 5.1 Adequate access to high hazard wildland/open space areas. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for adequate access in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that meet or exceed standards in Title 14 CCR 1270 for lands with no structures, and maintain conditions of access in a suitable fashion for suppression access or public evacuation.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 5.2 Standards for evacuation of residential areas in high hazard areas. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Goals and policies should be established to delineate residential evacuation routes and evacuation plans in high or very high fire hazard residential areas.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 5.3 Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel maintenance program along roadways in the agency having jurisdiction. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop an adaptive vegetation management plan that considers fuels, topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and

fire history.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 5.4 Adequacy of existing and future transportation system to incorporate fire infrastructure elements. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for proposed and existing transportation systems to facilitate fire infrastructure elements such as turnouts, helispots and safety zones.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Circulation and Access Recommendations:

6.0 Defensible Space

- 6.1 Develop geographic specific fire risk reduction mitigation measures using fuel modification.
 Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Include policies and recommendations that incorporate fire safe buffers and greenbelts as part of the development planning. Ensure that land uses designated near very fire hazard severity zones are compatible with wildland fire protection strategies/capabilities.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 6.2 Fuel modification around homes. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish ordinances in SRA or VHFHSZ for vegetation fire hazard reduction around structures that meet or exceed the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Defensible Space Guidelines for SRA and the Very High Fire Hazard severity zones, including vacant lots.

See http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_29_06.pdf

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Reduce fuel around communities and subdivisions, considering fuels, topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and fire history.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

- 6.3 Fire suppression defense zones. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that create wildfire defense zones for emergency services, including fuel breaks or other staging areas where WUI firefighting tactics could be most effectively deployed.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Defensible Space Recommendations:

7.0 Emergency Services:

7.1 Map/describe existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking services, specifically noting any areas in SRA or VHFHSZs. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Include descriptions of emergency services including available equipment, personnel, and maps of facility locations.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

7.2 Assessment and projection of future emergency service needs. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Ensure new development includes appropriate facilities, equipment, personnel and capacity to assist and support wildfire suppression emergency service needs. Future emergency service needs should be:

- Established consistent with state or national standards.
- Developed based on criteria for determining suppression resource allocation that includes elements such as identified values and assets at risk, ignition density, vegetation type and condition, as well as local weather and topography.
- Local Agency Formation municipal services reviews for evaluating level of service, response times, equipment condition levels and other relevant emergency service information.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

7.3 Adequacy of training. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for emergency service training that meets or exceeds state or national standards.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

7.4 Inter-fire service coordination preparedness/mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional fire service agreements. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Adopt the Standardized Emergency Management System for responding to large scale disasters requiring a multi-agency response. Ensure and review mutual aid/automatic aid and other cooperative agreements with adjoining emergency service providers.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Emergency Services Recommendations:

8.0 Post Fire Safety, Recovery and Maintenance:

The post fire recommendations address an opportunity for the community and landowners to re-evaluate land uses and practices that affect future wildfire hazards and risk. They also provide for immediate post-fire life and safety considerations to mitigate potential losses to life, human assets and critical natural resources.

8.1 Evaluation of redevelopment. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: In High and Very hazardous areas, ensure redevelopment utilizes state of the art fire resistant building and development standards to improve past ‘substandard’ fire safe conditions.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.2 Long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction mitigation projects. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Provide polices and goals for maintenance of the post-fire-recovery projects, activities, or infrastructure.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.3 Reevaluate hazardous conditions and provide for future fire safe conditions. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Incorporate goals and policies that provide for reassessment of fire hazards following wildfire events. Adjust fire prevention and suppression needs for both short and long term fire protection.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Develop burn area recovery plans that incorporate strategic fire safe measures developed during the fire suppression, such as access roads, fire lines, safety zones, and fuelbreaks, and helispots.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.4 Post fire life and safety assessments. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop frameworks for rapid post-fire assessment and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Identity flood and landslide vulnerability areas related to post wildfire conditions.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that address the intersection of flood /landslide/post fire burn areas into long term public safety protection plans. These should include treatment assessment of fire related flood risk to life, methods to control storm runoff in burn areas, revegetation of burn areas, and drainage crossing maintenance.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.5 Restore sustainable landscapes and restore functioning ecosystems. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Develop burn area recovery plans, evaluation processes and implementation actions that encourage tree and biomass salvage, reforestation activities, create resilient and sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.6 Incorporate wildlife habitat/endangered species considerations. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for consideration of wildlife habitat/endangered species into long term fire area recovery and protection plans, including environmental protection agreements such as natural community conservation plans.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

8.7 Native species reintroduction. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Incorporate native species habitat needs as part of long term fire protection and fire restoration plans.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Post Fire Safety, Recovery and Maintenance Recommendations:

9.0 Terrorist and homeland security impacts on wildfire protection:

These recommendations are included to address fire protection needs related to terrorist acts or other homeland security preparedness and response actions. Both preparedness and incident response can adversely impact fire protection. Adverse effects include substantially decreasing emergency resources' availability, responsiveness and effectiveness by diverting resources, interrupting communications, or restricting emergency access.

9.1 Emergency response barriers. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Identify goals and policies that address vital access routes that if removed would prevent fire fighter access (bridges, dams, etc.). Develop an alternative emergency access plan for these areas.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

9.2 Prioritizing asset protection from fire when faced with a lack of suppression forces.

Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Identify and prioritize protection needs for assets at risk in the absence of response forces.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Recommendation: Establish fire defense strategies (such as fire ignition resistant areas) that provide adequate fire protection without dependency on fire resources (both air and ground) and could serve as safety zones for the public or emergency support personnel.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

9.3 Communication channels during incidents. Yes Partial No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies consistent with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission of 2005 for communications and interoperability. Example goals and policies should address fire personnel capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands and update and expansion of current handheld and mobile radios used on major mutual aid incidents.

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

Additional Terrorist and Homeland Security Recommendations:

Additional Recommendations:



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

October 27, 2014

Edith Hannigan
State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Fire Hazard Safety Element Review

Dear Ms. Hannigan:

In accordance with Government Code (GC) §65302.5 The County of Santa Cruz is submitting draft amendments to the Safety Element of the General Plan to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF). The draft amendments are focused on the Fire Hazards section of the General Plan, which is part of Chapter 6 Public Safety and Noise, Section 6.5. Enclosed is the updated Fire Hazards section in underline-strikeout format. The current General Plan can be found on the Planning Departments website at:
www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/GeneralPlan.

These updates implement an action item in the County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to update the Fire Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element. These updates were prepared in consultation with the Fire Prevention Officers Section of the Fire Chiefs Association of Santa Cruz County.

Please review the draft amendments and provide any recommendations for changes within 60 days, by December 29, 2014. If you have any questions regarding these updates please contact me at (831) 454-3173 or david.carlson@santacruzcounty.us

Sincerely,

David Carlson
Resource Planner

Enclosure: 1) Draft Amendments to Fire Hazards Section 6.5

FIRE HAZARDS

Fire History

Prior to about 1950 information on wildfire in Santa Cruz County is limited to verbal history and newspaper accounts. After the Division of Forestry began gathering data in the 1950's, significant wildfires in Santa Cruz and adjacent counties were documented in the early 1960's and again in the 1980's (Lexington fire). The devastating wildfires that occurred in Santa Cruz County in 2008 (Summit, Martin and Trabing fires) and 2009 (Lockheed and Loma fires) burned a combined area of nearly 14,000 acres and numerous homes and structures. What makes wildfire different today as compared to the early part of the the last century is the number of people living in the rural area, or the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). According to the United States Census, the population of Santa Cruz County has increased by nearly 200,000 people since the middle of the last century, from 66,534 in 1950 to 262,340 in 2010. Much of the increase occurred in urban areas, but rural areas have experienced significant population increases, as well. This has caused the fire agencies to change their approach to fire hazards from focusing primarily on the fire to dealing with increasing demands for protecting roads, structures, and people. Because there are not enough firefighters or fire apparatus to protect each and every home during a wildfire, the community and government must take greater responsibility for preventative measures to make homes, neighborhoods, and the community more defensible from wildfire. (Source: Santa Cruz - San Mateo Unit Strategic Fire Plan)

Fire Plans

The Santa Cruz - San Mateo Unit Strategic Fire Plan identifies and prioritizes pre fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit. Locally, there is a history of collaborative efforts between fire agencies and communities including Las Cumbres, Olive Springs and Bonny Doon. Efforts such as these have culminated in numerous fuel reduction projects and community education. More recently, the Unit has seen an unprecedented level of pre-fire "grass roots" organization, including the formation of the Soquel, South Skyline, and Bonny Doon Fire Safe Councils. Also, with the assistance of the Resource Conservation District (RCD) through a grant from the United Fish and Wildlife Service, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed with input from stakeholders throughout Santa Cruz County. In 2010, the Board of Supervisors for Santa Cruz County adopted the 2010 San Mateo County – Santa Cruz County CWPP. The Unit Strategic Fire Plan is meant to work in collaboration with the CWPP

The CWPP attempts to identify fire hazards, as seen across the landscape, and provide strategies to mitigate wildfire risk and restore healthier, more resilient ecosystems while protecting life and property. A CWPP also serves as a tool for the accrual of grant funding to aid in the implementation of wildfire prevention projects. The CWPP is a guidance document that recommends both general and specific projects in priority fuel reduction areas, and provides recommendations to reduce the ignitability of structures. Local projects are subject to appropriate permitting and environmental review process. The CWPP was developed collaboratively by CalFire, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service, other agencies, and members of the community.

State and Local Responsibility Areas

Wildland fire protection in California is the responsibility of either the State, local government, or the federal government. -The State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the area of the state where financial responsibility for the prevention and suppression of wildfires is primarily the responsibility of the state. In general, SRA includes forest-covered lands, whether of commercial value or not, or brush or grass-covered lands. SRA does not include lands within city boundaries or in federal ownership. Fire protection in SRA is typically provided by CAL FIRE. However, in Santa Cruz County, autonomous fire protection districts provide fire protection in large parts of the SRA. Local responsibility areas (LRA) include incorporated cities and other urbanized areas, and cultivated agriculture lands. Local responsibility area fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, and by CAL FIRE under contract to local government.

CAL FIRE is the County Fire Department for the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County that are not included in an autonomous fire protection district. In addition, CAL FIRE contracts with the County to provide fire protection for Pajaro Dunes, and provides administrative and staffing needs for the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District.

Because the majority of wildland fires occur in the SRA, there is potential for many different agencies in the county to be affected. In many cases, fires occur in Mutual Threat Zones (MTZ's) or in areas near adjoining jurisdictions and also in the LRAs. It is through mutual relationships with local government agencies where initial attack resources become larger and more effective. The following Santa Cruz County local government agencies are typically available and involved in suppressing wildland fires:

- Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District
- Scotts Valley Fire Protection District
- Boulder Creek Fire Protection District
- Central Fire Protection District of Santa Cruz County
- Felton Fire Protection District
- Santa Cruz City Fire Department
- Watsonville Fire Department
- Zayante Fire Protection District
- Ben Lomond Fire Protection District
- Branciforte Fire Protection District
- Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District

Property owners living in SRAs are required by Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291 to maintain defensible space around structures on their property. Defensible space means the area adjacent to a structure or dwelling where wildfire prevention or protection practices are implemented to provide defense from an approaching wildfire or to minimize the spread of a structure fire to wildlands or surrounding areas. A property owner's responsibility for maintaining defensible space is limited to 100 feet from his or her structure(s) or to the property line, whichever is closer, and is limited to their lands. Defensible space inspections are completed by inspectors from CALFIRE and fire protection districts (Central and Aptos/La Selva). Educational materials distributed to residents during inspections, through direct mailing, and public events include a

Draft Santa Cruz County General Plan

brief pamphlet focusing on defensible space and a document called Living With Fire in Santa Cruz County.

Santa Cruz County Code requires new projects and construction meet fire safety standards consistent with State law (PRC 4290). Chapter 7.92 of the County Code establishes requirements for fuel modification and emergency water supply, as well as minimum fire safe driveway and road standards. New structures built in Santa Cruz County must also comply with fire safety building regulations. These building codes require the use of ignition-resistant building materials and establish design standards to improve the ability of a building to survive a wildfire.

Cal Fire has mapped areas of very high fire hazard within LRA and SRA. Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on relevant factors such as fuels, terrain, and weather. The Fire Code of Santa Cruz County (County Code Chapter 7.92) includes provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by the Building Official to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the Wildland-Urban Interface. In addition, pursuant to State law, the updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and 100 foot defensible space clearance.

The County's GIS mapping information system has been updated to incorporate the FHSZ maps for Santa Cruz County. These maps complement the existing General Plan Resources and Constraints maps designating Critical Fire Hazard Areas.

Objective 6.5 Fire Hazards

To protect the public from the hazards of fire through citizen awareness, mitigating the risks of fire, responsible fire protection planning and built-in systems for fire detection and suppression.

Policies

6.5.1 Defensible Space

In the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the Local Responsibility Area maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of structures, but not beyond the property line. The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense management being within the first 30

feet around the structure. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion. For the purposes of this policy, "fuel" means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.

6.5.2 **Defensible Space in Environmental Resource Areas**

Fuel reduction activities that remove or dispose of vegetation are required to comply with all federal, state or local environmental protection laws, including, but not limited to, laws protecting threatened and endangered species, sensitive habitats, water quality, air quality, and cultural/archeological resources, and obtain any and all required permits.

6.5.3 **Defensible Space Exception in Sensitive Habitat**

Establishment and maintenance of defensible space in order to comply with state law qualifies for an exception to the Sensitive Habitat Protection Ordinance because maintenance of defensible space is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. In granting an exception, the decision-making body shall require adequate measures to be taken to ensure consistency with the purpose of the Sensitive Habitat Protection Ordinance to minimize the disturbance of sensitive habitats.

6.5.14 **Access Standards**

Require all new structures, including additions of more than 500 square feet, to single-family dwellings on existing parcels of record, to provide, and maintain, an adequate road for fire protection in conformance with the following standards:

(a) Fire Apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet. Areas within 10 feet on each side of portions of highways, public and private streets and roads which are ordinarily used for vehicular traffic shall be cleared of flammable vegetation and other combustible growth, and maintained, consistent with the defensible space requirements for the 30 – 100-foot zone around structures. Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, succulents or similar plants used as ground covers, are exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

Exceptions:

(a) Outside the Urban Services Line: Access roads shall be a minimum of 18 feet wide for all access roads or driveways serving more than two habitable structures, and 12 feet for an access road or driveway serving two or fewer habitable structures. Where it is environmentally inadvisable to meet these criteria (due to excessive grading, tree removal or other environmental impacts), a 12-foot wide all-weather surface access road with 12-foot wide by 35-foot long turnouts located approximately every 500 feet may be provided with the approval of the Fire Chief/fire code official. ~~Exceptions: Title 19 of the California Administrative Code, requires that access roads from every state-governed building to a public street shall be all-weather hard surface (suitable for use by fire apparatus) roadway not less than 20 feet in width. Such roadway shall be unobstructed and~~

maintained only as access to the public street.

Inside the Urban Services Line: Inside of the Urban Services Line, private access roads extending from a public road shall be a minimum of 18 feet wide for all access roads or driveways serving more than two habitable structures, and 12 feet for an access road or driveway serving two or fewer habitable structures. Where it is environmentally inadvisable to meet these criteria (due to excessive grading, tree removal or other environmental impacts), a 12-foot wide all-weather surface access road with 12-foot wide by 35-foot long turnouts located approximately every 500 feet may be provided with the approval of the fire code official.

Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy, subcelents or similar plants used as ground covers, are exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

(b) Obstruction of the road width, as required above, including the parking of vehicles, shall be prohibited, as required in the Uniform Fire Code of Santa Cruz County.

(c) The access road surface shall be "all weather", which ~~means~~ is defined based on road gradient as follows: zero to five percent gradient - a minimum of six inches of compacted aggregate base rock, Class 2 or equivalent, certified by a licensed engineer to 95 percent compaction and shall be maintained; five to fifteen percent gradient - the required base rock shall be overlain by oil and screenings; greater than fifteen percent grade - ~~Where the grade of the access road exceeds 15 percent, the required base rock shall be overlain by 2 inches of asphaltic concrete, Type B or equivalent, and shall be maintained.~~

(d) The maximum grade of the access road shall not exceed 20 percent (18 percent average), with grades greater than 15 percent not permitted for distances of more than 200 feet at a time, and grades not exceeding 16 percent in State Responsibility Area.

(e) The access road shall have a vertical clearance of 14.5 feet for its entire width and length, including turnouts in State Responsibility Area, and 13 feet, 6 inches in other areas.

(f) All Gates providing access from a road to a driveway, or within any access road, shall be located at least 30 feet from the roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on the road. Gates shall be a minimum of 2 feet wider than the access road/driveway they serve but in no case shall the width be less than 14 (fourteen) feet. Overhead gate structures shall have a minimum of 15 feet vertical clearance. When gates are to be locked, the installation of a key box or other acceptable means for immediate access may be required

(g) An access road or driveway shall not end farther than 150 feet from any portion of a structure.

(h) A turn-around area which meets the requirements of the fire department shall be provided for access roads and driveways in excess of 150 feet in length.

(i) No roadway in the State Responsibility Area shall have an inside turning radius of less than 50 feet, with minimum centerline turning radius of 35 feet in other areas.

Roadways with a radius curvature of 50 to 100 feet shall require an additional 4 feet

of road width. Roadways with radius curvatures of 100 to 200 feet shall require an additional 2 feet of road width.

(j) Drainage details for the road or driveway shall conform to current engineering practices, including erosion control measures.

(k) Bridges shall be a minimum of 20 feet of clear width as wide as the road being serviced, meet a minimum load bearing capacity of 25 tons (AASHTO HS-20), and have guard rails. Guard rails shall not reduce the required minimum road width. Width requirements may be modified for access to U-1, U-2 or R-3 occupancies in accordance with other General Plan Fire Hazard policies only with written approval from the Fire Chief fire code official. In such cases, bridges shall be as wide as the road or driveway being serviced. Every private bridge hereafter constructed shall be engineered by a licensed civil or structural engineer and approved by the fire code official. Certification shall be provided by the licensed engineer in writing that the bridge complies with the design standard required by this section to the fire code official. Bridge capacity shall be posted and shall be recertified every five ten years by a licensed engineer. For bridges served by 12 foot access roads, approved turnouts shall be provided at each bridge approach.

(l) All private access roads, driveways, turnarounds and bridges are the responsibility of the owner(s) of record and shall be maintained to ensure the fire department safe and expedient passage at all times.

(m) To ensure maintenance of private access roads, driveways, turnarounds and bridges, the owner(s) of parcels where new development is proposed shall participate in an existing road maintenance group. For those without existing maintenance agreements, the formation of such an agreement shall be required.

(n) All access road and bridge improvements required under this section shall be made prior to permit approval, or as a condition of permit approval.

(o) Access for any new dwelling unit or other structure used for human occupancy, including a single-family dwelling on an existing parcel of record, shall be in the duly recorded form of a deeded access or an access recognized by court order.

Diagrammatic representations of access standards are available at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department and local fire agencies.

6.5.25 Exceptions to Access Road Standards

Exceptions to these standards may be granted at the discretion of the ~~Fire Chief~~ fire code official for single-family dwellings on existing parcels of record as follows:

- (a) When the existing access road is acceptable to the Fire Department having jurisdiction.
- (b) In addition, any of the following mitigation methods may be required:
 - (1) Participation in an existing or formation of a new road maintenance group or association.
 - (2) Completion of certain road improvements such as fill pot holes, resurface access road, provide turnouts, cut back brush, etc. are made, as determined by the fire officials, and provided that the fire department determines that adequate fire protection can still be provided.

(3) Provision of approved fire protection systems as determined by the Fire Chief fire code official.

(c) The level of road improvement required shall bear a reasonable relationship to the magnitude of development proposed.

6.5.36 Conditions for Project Approval

Condition approval of all new structures and additions larger than 500 square feet, and to single-family dwellings on existing parcels of record to meet, and maintain at all times, the following fire protection standards:

(a) Address numbers shall be posted on the property so as to be clearly visible from the access road. Where visibility cannot be provided, a post or sign bearing the numbers shall be set adjacent to the driveway or access road to the property and shall have a contrasting background. Numbers shall be posted when construction begins. Where required by the fire code official, address numbers shall be provided in additional approved locations to facilitate emergency response. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (101.6 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm). Address numbers shall be maintained

(b) Provide adequate water availability. ~~This may be provided from an approved water system within 500 feet of a structure, or by an individual water storage facility (water tank, swimming pool, etc.) on the property itself.~~ An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction in accordance with the Fire Code of Santa Cruz County. The fire department shall determine the adequacy and location of individual water storage fire flow to be provided. Built-in fire protection features (i.e., sprinkler systems) may allow for some exemptions of other fire protection standards when incorporated into the project.

(c) Maintain all around structures a ~~clearance~~ defensible space of not less than 30 feet or to the property line (whichever is a shorter distance) ~~of all flammable vegetation or other combustible materials;~~ or for a greater distance as may be prescribed by the fire department. In State Responsibility Areas and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones maintain all around structures a defensible space of not less than 100 feet or to the property line (whichever is a shorter distance).

(d) Provide and maintain a spark arrester constructed with heavy wire mesh or other noncombustible material with openings not to exceed 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). ~~one-half inch wire mesh screens on all chimneys.~~

(e) Automatic smoke detection and carbon monoxide devices shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the California Building Code and local Fire Department regulations. Sprinkler and fire alarm systems, when installed, shall meet the requirements of the local Fire Department and shall be maintained at all times.

(f) Provide adequate disposal of refuse. All development outside refuse collection boundaries shall be required to include a suitable plan for the disposal of flammable refuse. Refuse disposal shall be in accordance with state, County or local plans or ordinances. ~~Where practical, refuse disposal should be by methods other than open~~

~~burning~~Open outdoor burning for the purpose of disposal or burning of household rubbish and/or waste is prohibited.

~~(g) Require fire retardant roofs~~construction on all projects, as specified in the Building Code of the County of Santa Cruz~~Fire Code and the Uniform Fire Code. Exterior walls constructed of fire resistant materials are recommended, but are not necessarily required.~~

6.5.47 Fire Protection Standards for Land Divisions Outside the Urban Services Line

Require all new minor land divisions and subdivisions outside the Urban Services Line to meet the following fire protection standards:

(a) If a proposed building site is located on a dead-end access road and is more than one-half mile from the nearest intersection with a through road, then secondary access must be provided. (See section 6.5.5, Standards for Dead-End Roads). If building site is located within a 5 minute response time from the fire department and within 500 feet of a county maintained road, then secondary access will not be required. Secondary access is defined as a 12 foot wide all-weather surface roadway with a recorded right of access and maintenance agreement. The secondary access may be provided with a gate or other barrier on the approval of the ~~Fire Chief~~fire code official. If these conditions cannot be met, development may take place only at the lowest density allowed for the area by the General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan.

(b) All primary and secondary roads shall meet the requirements of this section and shall be maintained through a County Service Area or a joint road maintenance agreement with all property owners of record.

(c) Location within the response time of 20 minutes from the fire station which is responsible for serving the parcel. Response time is defined as the length of time between the dispatch of ground fire vehicles from the fire station to their arrival at the location of the proposed structure(s). In areas exceeding 20 minutes response time, development may take place only at the lowest density allowed by the General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan.

(d) Locate the building site outside any designated Critical Fire Hazard Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). If building sites cannot be located outside a Critical Fire Hazard Area and VHFHSZ, the following criteria shall be met:

(1)If the building site is served by a through access road or by secondary access, development may be approved only at the lowest density allowed by the General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan.

(2)If the parcel is on a dead-end access road and cannot develop secondary access, development may consist of only one single-family residence on the existing parcel of record; all land divisions must be denied.

(e) The project can meet the vegetation modification requirements called for by the ~~Fire Chief~~fire code official, based upon an on-site inspection, including appropriate erosion control facilities. The homeowner must maintain this vegetation modification in order to assure long-term protection. Land clearing or vegetation modification shall be in conformance with the Erosion Control Ordinance of the Santa Cruz County Code, including obtaining a Land Clearing Approval, if required, and state timberland conversion regulations, if applicable, ~~which exceeds one acre, whether planned to take place prior to or after development approval, must submit an erosion~~

control plan for the review and approval of the County Watershed Management Section. ~~Vegetation modification plans shall not be allowed which introduce non-native invasive plant species, and wherever possible should utilize native fire-resistant vegetation.~~

(f) The project can meet and maintain the standards established by the ~~Fire Chief~~fire code official for water supply and/or water storage for fire-fighting purposes.

~~(g) Mitigable Critical Fire Hazard Areas. If the project lies in a Critical Fire Hazard Area and within the area bordered by the following access roads: From Day Valley Road to Freedom Blvd., to Hames Road, to Browns Valley Road to Hazel Dell Road, to Gaffey Road, down Highway 152 to Carlton Road, Carlton Road to Highway 129 and ending at Murphy Road,* and the project can meet the water storage standards, then the development may proceed at a density as determined by the Rural Density Matrix. Mitigation was based upon the following criteria:~~

- ~~(1) extent of the critical fire hazard vegetation;~~
- ~~(2) distance to adjacent fire hazard areas;~~
- ~~(3) accessibility for fire fighting equipment;~~
- ~~(4) air moisture content;~~
- ~~(5) historic record of wildland fires;~~
- ~~(6) slope and terrain.~~

~~*This area has been mapped to denote areas where the fire hazard is of lesser concern, if mitigated by vegetation modification and water supply/storage supplementation. These maps are available at Santa Cruz County Planning Department, or at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection headquarters for review.~~

6.5.58 Standards for New Dead End Roads

Prohibit newly constructed dead-end roads without secondary access serving more than one parcel in new minor land divisions or subdivisions which exceed the following distances from an adequate through road unless approved by the applicable fire protection agency, the Department of Public Works, and by the Planning Commission; in no case shall a new dead-end road exceed ½ mile in length.
Urban & Suburban General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan designation 500'
Rural General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan designation 1000'
Mountain General Plan and LCP Land Use Plan designation 1500'

The standard for new subdivisions of 5 or more lots shall not exceed 500' unless recommended by the applicable fire protection agencies and the Department of Public Works, and approved by the Planning Commission.

6.5.69 Maintenance for Private Roads

Require the creation or expansion of County Service Areas (to provide road maintenance), road maintenance agreements or associations (deemed adequate to provide appropriate road maintenance) for all new private roads, and for land divisions in rural areas served by private roads.

6.5.710 Certification of Adequate Fire Protection Prior to Permit Approval

(LCP) Require all land divisions, multi-unit residential complexes, commercial and industrial complexes, public facilities and critical utilities to obtain certification from the appropriate fire protection agency that adequate fire protection is available, prior to permit approval.

6.5.811 Public Facilities Within Critical Fire Hazard Areas

(LCP) Discourage location of public facilities and critical utilities in Critical Fire Hazard Areas and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. When unavoidable, special precautions shall be taken to ensure the safety and uninterrupted operation of these facilities.

6.5.912 Consistency With Adopted Codes Required for New Development

(LCP) Require all new development to be consistent with the Uniform California Fire Code, California Building Code, and other adopted County and local fire agency ordinance.

6.5.1013 Land Divisions Access Requirements

(LCP) (a) Require all private roads used for either primary or secondary access to be maintained through road maintenance agreements and/or associations or through a County Service Area.
(b) Prohibit land divisions where any new building site is located more than ½ mile from a through road unless secondary access is provided.
(c) In the North Coast and Bonny Doon planning areas, prohibit new land divisions where any new building site is located more than ½ mile from a publicly maintained road even where secondary access is provided.

6.5.1114 Fire Protection Standards for Land Divisions Inside the Urban Services Line

Require all new land divisions within the Urban Services Line to be consistent with the California Fire Code, California Building Code, and other adopted County and local fire agency ordinances.

Programs

a. Encourage fire protection agencies to enter into first alarm response and initiate contractual agreements in order to assure that the fire unit nearest the fire will respond on first alarm to a fire emergency. (Responsibility: County Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors, local fire protection agencies)

b. Newly constructed or approved public and private roads and streets must be identified by a name or number through a consistent countywide system, which provides for sequenced or patterned numbers and/or non-duplicating naming within the County. All signs shall be mounted and oriented in a uniform manner. This section does not require any entity to rename or renumber existing roads or streets. Nor shall a roadway providing access only to a single commercial or industrial occupancy require naming or numbering. (Responsibility: ~~Office of Emergency Services~~ Planning Department, County Fire Marshal)

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- c. Define levels of fire protection services using criteria relating to distance from fire stations, density of development and magnitude of fire risk. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, local fire protection agencies)
- d. Develop firefuel break standards for new development to separate communities or clusters of structures from native vegetation. (Responsibility: County Fire Marshal, Board of Supervisors, State Department of Forestry, and local fire protection agencies)
- e. Develop an overall firefuel break plan in Critical Fire Hazard Areas and implement the plan in conjunction with the Department of Forestry CAL FIRE and fire protection agencies. (Responsibility: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection County Fire Marshall, local fire protection agencies, Office of Emergency Services)
- f. Provide, to the maximum extent feasible, two emergency access routes for all communities, with at least one developed to County standards. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Planning Department, Public Works)
- g. Upgrade water distribution systems where deficient to ensure adequate peak load water supply requirements for fire protection within the service areas of recognized water purveyors. Priority shall be given to areas within the Urban Services Line. (Responsibility: Water Purveyors, County Fire Department, local fire protection agencies, County Office of Emergency Services)
- h. Give priority to areas within the Urban Services Line when planning expansion of fire protection facilities and equipment. (Responsibility: fire protection agencies, Board of Supervisors)
- ~~i. Encourage all fire protection agencies to participate in the development and implementation of a joint communications center. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Communications Director, County Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, County Office of Emergency Services)~~
- ~~j. Update Annually review the "Santa Cruz County Master Fire Plan" and the "Santa Cruz County Community Wildfire Protection Plan", and periodically update the plans as necessary. "Fire Protection Improvement Program and Long Range Plan for Santa Cruz County." (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, County Fire Marshal, County Office of Emergency Services CAL FIRE and Resource Conservation District)~~
- k. Encourage the State Department of Forestry CAL FIRE to provide land and air fire-fighting facilities and equipment adequate to meet estimated peak fire demands. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, County Fire Marshal)

~~h.k.~~ Encourage fire protection agencies to establish educational fire prevention programs in order to have the public recognize their responsibility in preventing fires. (Responsibility: ~~California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection~~, County Fire Marshal, local fire protection agencies, County Office of Emergency Services)

~~m.l.~~ _____ Review and update on a periodic basis the countywide Disaster Contingency Plan. Include the appropriate County agencies in all phases of disaster contingency planning. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, Office of Emergency Services)

(LCP) ~~n.m.~~ Update the Critical Fire Hazard Map as new site-specific information becomes available which more precisely defines these areas. (Responsibility: Planning Department, County Fire Department, ~~California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection~~ CAL FIRE, local fire protection agencies)

n. Identify high fire risk areas within the Urban Services Line and rural areas with topography, hazardous fuels, structures, density similar to those found in the Oakland Hills fire of 1991. (Responsibility: Planning Department, County Fire Marshal, local fire protection agencies, Board of Supervisors)

(LCP) ~~p.o.~~ In cooperation with fire protection agencies, develop coordinated action programs to reduce the hazard to existing development in critical fire hazard areas such as the following:

- (1) Assessment districts to finance road improvements and secondary access; water storage, distribution and hydrant facilities; purchase of pumper trucks and/or vegetation clearance and fire break construction.
- (2) Fire hazard inspection and code enforcement.
- (3) Public education programs on fire prevention.

(Responsibility: Planning Department, County Fire Marshal, local fire protection agencies, Board of Supervisors)

~~q.p.~~ Amend and update the Santa Cruz County General Plan Fire Safety Element as needed, to reflect fire code amendments. (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, County Fire Marshal, local fire protection agencies, Planning Department)