

Mariposa County

Land Use Planning – CSR – MMU General

Plan Safety Element Assessment Tier 1

February 24, 2016

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Purpose and Background: The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is required to review and make recommendations for the 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 (PRC) 4125) or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Local Responsibility Area (VHFHSZ LRA) (GC 51177(i), PRC 4125).

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 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 safety element for inclusion of factors that are important for mitigation of wildfire hazard and risks, and 2) making recommendations related to these factors. The evaluation factors and recommendations below 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, known as a Tier 1 Assessment. These recommendations are directed at communities that include:

- Overall high population densities; or
- High proportion of SRA or 20% or more of a city’s acreage is VHFHSZ LRA; or
- Population centers in or adjacent to VHFHSZ SRA, if there is no designated VHFHSZ LRA in the county; or
- Within the context of neighboring jurisdictions, the location of VHFHSZ in the jurisdiction creates an overall picture of contiguous fuels that threaten population or economic centers.

As local fuels, boundaries, populations, and other variables change throughout time, Board staff have the discretion to re-assign a jurisdiction into a lower or higher assessment tier. Staff will consider:

- Variations in population and population density; or
- Changes in proportion of land designated VHFHSZ (lower or higher); or
- Firefighting capabilities (paid, volunteer, equipment, etc) and contract changes; or

- Past planning efforts and involvement of organizations such as local Fire Safe Councils and new initiatives or efforts that have emerged over time; or
- Changes to the context of VHFHSZ within the region – does the VHFHSZ in a jurisdiction combine with neighboring fuels to create a continual pattern of very high fire risk in a way that it hadn't previously?

A full list of communities to be evaluated under Tier 1 are listed below.

Counties (alphabetical)				
Alameda	Glenn	Monterey	San Diego	Solano
Alpine	Humboldt	Napa	San Joaquin	Sonoma
Amador	Kern	Nevada	San Luis Obispo	Stanislaus
Butte	Lake	Orange	San Mateo	Tehama
Calaveras	Lassen	Placer	Santa Barbara	Trinity
Alameda	Los Angeles	Plumas	Santa Clara	Tulare
Alpine	Madera	Riverside	Santa Cruz	Tuolumne
Contra Costa	Marin	Sacramento	Shasta	Ventura
Del Norte	Mariposa	San Benito	Sierra	Yolo
El Dorado	Mendocino	San Bernardino	Siskiyou	Yuba
Fresno				

Cities (alphabetical by county)				
Alameda	Los Angeles con't	Napa	Riverside con't	San Mateo
Oakland	Glendale	Calistoga	Lake Elsinore	Hillsborough
Butte	Glendora	Nevada	Murrieta	San Carlos
Paradise	Hidden Hills	Calistoga	San Bernardino	Woodside
Contra Costa	Irwindale	Grass Valley	Big Bear Lake	Santa Barbara
El Cerrito	La Canada Flintridge	Nevada City	Colton	Santa Barbara
Lafayette	La Habra Heights	Truckee	Grand Terrace	Santa Clara
Orinda	La Verne	Orange	Highland	Los Gatos
Richmond	Los Angeles	Aliso Viejo	Loma Linda	Monte Sereno
El Dorado	Malibu	Anaheim	Rancho Cucamonga	Saratoga
Placerville	Monrovia	Brea	Redlands	Shasta
South Lake Tahoe	Palmdale	Laguna Beach	San Bernardino	Redding
Lake	Palos Verdes Estates	Laguna Niguel	Yucaipa	Shasta Lake
Clearlake	Pasadena	Lake Forest	San Diego	Siskiyou
Los Angeles	Rancho Palos Verdes	Newport Beach	Encinitas	Dunsmuir
Agoura Hills	Rolling Hills	Rancho Santa Margarita	Escondido	Fort Jones
Avalon	Rolling Hills Estates	San Clemente	Poway	Mount Shasta
Azusa	San Dimas	Yorba Linda	San Diego	Weed
Beverly Hills	Santa Clarita	Placer	San Marcos	Tuolumne
Bradbury	Sierra Madre	Colfax	Santee	Sonoma
Burbank	Westlake Village	Plumas	San Luis Obispo	Ventura
Calabasas	Whittier	Portola	Atascadero	Moorpark
Claremont	Marin	Riverside	Pismo Beach	Ojai
Diamond Bar	Mill Valley	Banning	San Mateo	Simi Valley
Duarte	Monterey	Beaumont	Belmont	Thousand Oaks
	Carmel	Calimesa	Half Moon Bay	

Review Process and Timeline

The county/local jurisdiction and CAL FIRE Land Use Planning staff will receive and review technical guidance documents, the Board assessment, and relevant information from CAL FIRE and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.



The county or local jurisdiction will work closely with CAL FIRE Land Use Planning staff during the development of the general plan and the safety element in particular.



At least 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 & Fire Protection for review. Jurisdictions are encouraged to send safety elements to the Board prior to the 90 day statutory requirement for greater collaboration.



No more than 60 days later: The Board will consider staff recommendations and approve as-is or with changes at the next Board meeting. This deadline may be modified upon mutual agreement between Board staff and local jurisdictions.

Mariposa County Planning will add portions of this introductory information to the section of the staff report where Board of Forestry review is discussed.

Tier 1 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.

Jurisdiction: Mariposa Co.	Notes:	CAL FIRE Unit: MMU	Date Received:
County: Mariposa	LUPP Reviewer: Kevin Lindo	Unit Contact: Nancy Koerperich	Date Reviewed: 1/27/16

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 General Plan 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

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

Text has been added to the draft Safety Element to confirm that all subdivisions in Mariposa County, including both minor and major subdivisions, are currently required to comply with all applicable codes and policies for adequate access for the total number of parcels to be served, including existing and proposed parcels. The applicable provisions

for adequate access are established by the Mariposa County General Plan; the Mariposa County Code, Title 16 (the Mariposa County Subdivision Ordinance; the Mariposa County Road Improvement and Circulation Policy; the Mariposa County Improvement Standards; and the California State Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq.).

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 Title 14 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

When the California State Fire Safe Regulations became effective in 1992, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors took affirmative action to not adopt a local fire safe ordinance (thus, allowing the state standards to apply and allowing state employees to implement the state requirements). This was done in recognition of limited local staff resources available in the county and the fact that the regulations were an unfunded state mandate.

As of 2016, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has still not adopted local fire safe ordinances; the state standards apply. All development projects in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) in Mariposa County, including but not limited to all building permits, subdivisions, conditional use permits, lot line adjustments, variances, and general plan/zoning amendments are routed to local CAL FIRE staff for review and application of standards established by 14 CCR §1270 for SRAs. Building permits are not given a Certificate of Occupancy until CAL FIRE staff has inspected and certified compliance with State Fire Safe Standards. Development projects and subdivisions are not finalized or completed until CAL FIRE staff has inspected and certified compliance with State Fire Safe Standards.

The procedures as described above have been effective in Mariposa County for the past 24 years. All development in Mariposa County is reviewed by CAL FIRE professional staff, for compliance with State Fire Safe Regulations.

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

Implementation measures 16-1b(1) and 16-1b(2) in the Safety Element address fire safe standards, including for very high hazard areas. The proposed amendments include implementing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, but standards have not been specifically codified by ordinance. The LHMP contains fire hazard area mapping and provides for mitigation of fire hazards.

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:

2.1- Recommend specifying local ordinances and code sections that support implementation of PRC 4290 & 4291.

See county staff response above.

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

This recommendation is currently achieved through permitting requirements implemented by the Mariposa County Building Department. The Building Department implements state building codes, which contain fire protection measures, for all structures. This includes uniquely occupied structures, such as those identified above. The Building Department does not have authority over construction of mobile homes or recreational vehicles; this authority lies with California Housing and Community Development (HCD). Additionally, all projects for which a building permit is submitted are routed for review by local CAL FIRE professional staff to ensure compliance with state fire safe standards.

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:

3.1- Intent has been met; however recommend providing a link or reference to applicable Building Codes.

3.4- Intent has been met; however recommend specifying local ordinances and code sections that support fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ.

This issue can be addressed under a comprehensive review of the Safety Element and/or General Plan.

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

The Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals, policies and implementation measures for the preservation of scenic resources, but does not link these goals to impacts of fire on such resources located in fire hazard areas. Implementation Measure 11-1b(1) in the Safety Element states that the County should participate in conservation management planning with Federal and State and other public and private agencies. This could be construed to include impacts of fire on natural and open space resources. Firmly establishing linkage, should decision-makers desire to undertake such an effort, should be part of a comprehensive update to the General Plan at a future date, even though it's identified as a “high” priority by CalFire. It is beyond the scope of this Safety Element amendment effort as initiated by the Board.

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

Limited staff and funding. However, Implementation Measure 16-1b(2) in the Safety Element establishes the requirement to implement the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan which mandates a requirement for fire-resistant plants in high and very high fuel hazard areas. The Community Plan would need to be reviewed to determine if it includes such provisions and, if so, whether or not they are being implemented by a specific agency. Implementation Measure 11-4a(4) in the Conservation and Open Space Element requires the County to publish landscaping guidelines for the use of site-appropriate native plant species. This measure could be amended to provide guidelines for fire-resistant landscaping adjacent to open space or wildland areas. Enforcement, however, would be a strain on staff and funding resources. Mitigation Action No. 22 in Table 7-4 of the LHMP requires implementation of a fuel modification program. The program will require guidelines for planting and a listing of undesirable plant species.

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

Implementation measures 11-4a(3) and 11-4a(5) in the Conservation and Open Space Element address the eradication of invasive plant species, however such measures are not specifically linked to reducing fire hazards. The General Plan does not contain specific policies relating to forest health issues in open space areas and the linkage of that issue with reducing fire hazards. This effort could be undertaken during a comprehensive review of the Safety Element and/or General Plan.

Additional Conservation and Open Space Recommendations:

4.4- Non applicable

4.5- Recommend providing goals, policies and implementation measures that address the growing tree mortality issues. Addressing this issue is in process.

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

Requirements for turnouts are addressed during development review. Projects are reviewed for consistency with State fire safe code. For certain projects, such as organized camps, quest ranches, etc., safety zones are also addressed during project review.

Additional Circulation and Access Recommendations:

5.4- Recommend including existing transportation systems.

Existing transportation systems are considered when development projects are Reviewed.

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

Implementation Measure 16-1b(2) in the Safety Element requires implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is to include wildland fire management activities such as controlled burning, fuel removal, vegetation management, and firebreaks. In addition, mitigation actions in the LHMP address fuel reduction and modification and defensible space issues.

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:

6.2- Recommend to include vacant lots into existing policies for fire hazard reduction.

This would be difficult to implement due to limited staff and funding.

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

New construction is required to adhere to updated building code standards. Implementation Measure 16-1b(1) in the Safety Element requires site design specifications for buildings in locations of extremely high fire danger within new subdivisions and development. Implementation Measure 16-1b(2) requires implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is to include requirements for fire-resistant exterior construction materials, such as fire safe roofing and fire-resistant plants.

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

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

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

All new construction and development projects are reviewed for conformance with current standards. Limited staffing and financial resources would make monitoring of post-fire recovery projects, activities, or infrastructure difficult to accomplish after a certificate of occupancy is issued, a map is recorded, or a project is completed. One of the purposes of adopting the LHMP and incorporating it into the Safety Element is to ensure the County is eligible for disaster relief funding. Such funding may provide for post-fire recovery monitoring of such activities.

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

This could be accomplished during a more comprehensive review and update to the Safety Element and/or the General Plan. This would require a commitment by the Board of Supervisors to allocate staff time and provide funding. Implementing such goals and policies will necessarily require a partnership between the County and CalFire. Funding for such a program may be available through grants.

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

Since this would most likely involve private property, enforcement to ensure that access roads, fire lines and fuelbreaks, etc. are maintained may be difficult to effect. Mitigation Action No. 24 contained in Table 7-4 – Mitigation Action Plan in the LHMP states “in cooperation with other organizations, complete a fire break around the foothills communities and mountain areas.” Other mitigating actions contained in the LHMP address fuel modification and reduction programs. Implementation Measure 16-2a(1) in the Safety Element promotes County cooperation with CalFire in providing advice to landowners on vegetation management programs keeping forest fuel values at acceptable levels. Implementation of this measure could assist in implementing this recommendation.

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

The Safety Element contains goals, policies and implementation measures that address flood-related issues. However, these measures do not specifically address post-fire issues. Development and implementation frameworks as described in this recommendation would necessarily be detailed and complex and would require intensive cooperation between all firefighting agencies. Such an undertaking is beyond the scope of this amendment to the Safety Element, which is to incorporate the LHMP into the Element. Establishing General Plan goals, policies and implementation measures would involve the Conservation and Open Space Element since it would entail

policies for the protection of water resources and watersheds. Establishing such frameworks could be undertaken during a more comprehensive review and update to the General Plan and/or through grant funding should such funding be available.

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

Priority: High Medium Low N/A

See response above.

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

See response above.

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

See response above

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

The development and implementation of these actions would necessarily involve the Conservation and Open Space Element since they would address ecosystems and sustainable landscapes. Establishing such goals and policies would be beyond the scope adopted by the Board of Supervisors relating to this Safety Element amendment. The intent of this amendment is to incorporate the LHMP into the Safety Element and to address requirements of SB 1241. Development and implementation of such plans may be funded by grants should such funding be available.

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

See response above.

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

See response above.

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

Goals, policies and implementation measures could be incorporated into the Safety Element under a more comprehensive update to the Element and/or the General Plan. They could be incorporated into existing implementation measures within the Element, specifically under Goal 16-2, which states "Utilize the most efficient multi-level fire prevention and protection system." Policy 16-2 under the goal states "Develop and maintain cooperative arrangements with CalFire to maximize the efficient deployment of fire prevention and protection resources." This development and implementation effort would need to be coordinated with CalFire and asset prioritization information disseminated to all firefighting agencies. Mitigation Action Plan No. 20 in Table 7-4 in the LHMP calls for the implementation of a fuel reduction program including within open spaces and around critical facilities located in hazardous fuel buildup areas. A list of critical facilities and assets may be developed as part of the implementation of this mitigation action.

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