



SUBJECT: An application for a General Plan amendment (GPA 24-002) to amend the Safety Element as it relates to the recently certified Housing Element and Government Code section 65302(g)(3), in compliance with state law.

DEPARTMENT: Community Development Department

STAFF: Alexis Morris, Director of Community Development
Erik Nolthenius, Planning Manager
Jennifer Hagen, Senior Planner

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving General Plan amendment (GPA 24-002) to amend the City's Safety Element, in compliance with State law [Government Code section 65302\(g\)\(3\)](#).

The amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility it would have a significant effect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with approving the General Plan amendment. The Housing Element and Safety Element Update, CIP Project No. 337-37258, is included in the adopted 2023/24 - 2027/28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and is funded by the General Fund and grants.

BACKGROUND

The State of California requires every city to have a Safety Element in its General Plan. The City of Brentwood's current Safety Element was adopted in 2014 as a part of the City's comprehensive update of its General Plan.

The General Plan is a long-term visioning document that guides the future development of the city, addresses issues affecting the city and region, and sets forth its priorities for initiatives and programs through the various goals and policies of each element. The Safety Element specifically includes methods to reduce and plan



for the potential risks associated with natural disasters and public emergencies, including the risk of death, property damage, and economic and social disruptions. The Safety Element includes goals and policies that outline preparedness methods and mitigation efforts to address such risks associated with wildfires, floods, geologic and seismic hazards, hazardous materials, noise, and man-made disasters.

Changes in state laws enacted since the last General Plan update (e.g., [SB 1035 \(2018\)](#), [SB 99 \(2019\)](#), and [AB 747 \(2019\)](#)) now require jurisdictions to update the Safety Element upon each revision of their Housing Element, with the goal of identifying new information relating to flood and fire hazards, climate adaptation, and resiliency strategies.

Following the Housing Element update process, staff worked with a consultant team (Kimley-Horn) to prepare the draft updated version of the Safety Element and supporting documents, which are included as Attachment 2, Exhibit A, in accordance with State law.

On June 4, 2024, staff presented the Draft Safety Element to the Planning Commission. After deliberation, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the General Plan amendment and associated Safety Element Update with additional public outreach ahead of the City Council hearing.

DISCUSSION

CONTENT OF THE SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

The goal of updating the Safety Element is to identify new information relating to flood and fire hazards, climate adaptation, and resiliency strategies. The revisions to the Safety Element generally include the following:

- an analysis of the potential for development to occur in designated hazard areas;
- an assessment of peak load water supply requirements related to fire and geological hazards;
- the identification of hazard areas and emergency evacuation routes;
- information on community fire break barriers; and
- the addition of maps such as the National Flood Insurance Program map, designated floodway map, dam failure inundation maps, Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program map, levee protection zone map, etc.



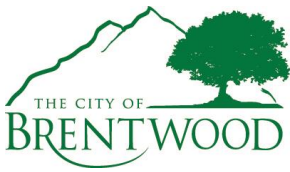
In addition, state law requires that a jurisdiction's revised Safety Element include an analysis of climate change, and feasible implementation programs that will help avoid or minimize impacts due to climate change (known as the "Climate Vulnerability Assessment"). The following is a summary of the contents of the draft Safety Element documents:

Safety Element

The draft Safety Element (Attachment 2, Exhibit A) is the document containing goals and policies intended to guide the City's programs related to public safety and hazard mitigation and prevention. In line with new state requirements, additional information has been included in this document regarding the risks presented by climate change, with reference to the information in the Climate Vulnerability Assessment document. The Safety Element also includes further details related to the risk of urban fires, the City's water supply conditions, flood hazards, geologic/seismic hazards, and landslide hazards. The analysis within the updated Safety Element is new and incorporates maps related to such hazards for reference; however, the Goals, Policies, and Programs section is attached in a redline form in order to clearly identify changes to City goals and policies.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

The draft Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) (Attachment 2, Exhibit B) is a new document that will be incorporated as a component of the Safety Element, as required by state law. This document evaluates the city's specific risks as related to climate change impacts, and addresses climate adaptation and resiliency strategies that may mitigate such impacts. The sections of the CVA evaluate the six exposures identified as specific climate hazards that could have potential impacts on the city: air quality, precipitation changes, flooding, severe rainstorms/extreme weather, temperature changes, and wildfire. Once the specific hazards were identified, further detail was included to explain how such hazards could affect the city. The CVA provides an overall summary of the city's levels of vulnerability to specific climate change hazards, which then informs the updated or additional policies present in the Safety Element. The CVA ultimately concludes that the long-term climate effects predicted to be experienced by Brentwood include changes in precipitation amounts and patterns, increases in flooding, increased temperature, and wildfires. However, local annual levels of precipitation in Brentwood are not anticipated to change drastically, with slight increases in the latter decades of this century.



CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Focus Area 4: Community Development

Provide a diversity of housing opportunities, including equitable distribution of affordable housing for all socio-economic segments of the Brentwood community.

- Update the City's Housing Element including: an evaluation of the 2015 Housing Element; assessment of housing needs, resources, constraints; approval of an updated Regional Housing Needs Allocation; and adoption of housing goals, policies, and actions.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Previous Action by the City Council and Planning Commission is included in Attachment 1.

DATE OF NOTICE

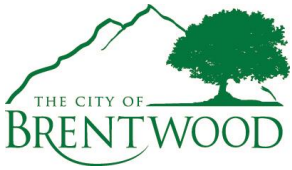
As recommended by the Planning Commission, additional outreach was conducted for the Safety Element update including providing information in the June *Brentwood Buzz* and on the City's social media platforms. Legal advertisement of this item was also published in The Brentwood Press on June 14, 2024. As of June 18, 2024, no comments have been received.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed Safety Element Update would have a significant effect on the environment, in that the amended policies would not alter the physical environment and that the updated regulations would provide greater protection of the environment through the mitigation of natural and manmade hazards, and so do not have the potential for causing a reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect change in the physical environment

ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

1. Do not approve staff's recommendation. Not complying with state law will trigger potential negative consequences.
2. Modify staff's recommendation based on legally defensible findings.



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3. Continue the item with direction for staff to return with additional information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Action
2. City Council Resolution
 - a. Draft Safety Element
 - b. Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)