

8 Safety Element

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Statutory Requirements

California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that general plans include a “safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence, liquefaction, and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.”

The Government Code requires consultation with the State Department of Conservation, California Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection with respect to earthquake and geologic hazards, emergency preparedness, and State responsibility areas of fire protection.

In 2006, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 2140 which added provisions specifying what is to be included in a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and requiring a linkage between a local jurisdiction’s LHMP and the Safety Element of their General Plan. AB 2140 requires a jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan in order to be fully eligible for disaster relief funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act. AB 2140 can be met by either including the LHMP language specific to AB 2140 as part of the Safety Element or to incorporate the LHMP by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan.

Amador County has a current LHMP which includes an assessment of the County’s risk and vulnerability related to natural and other identified hazards and a comprehensive mitigation strategy which includes actions and projects designed to mitigate or reduce the impacts of those hazards and to increase community resiliency. This LHMP has been formally adopted and incorporated by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan.

To further meet the requirements of AB 2140, the City adopts and incorporates by reference the most current LHMP as part of this Safety Element to the General Plan which should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of people within the City.

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8.1.2 City’s Purpose

The City’s purpose in assuring the General Plan maintains and implements an adequate General Plan Safety Element is to protect property and the health and safety of persons living in or visiting the City.

8.1.3 Format

The Sutter Creek General Plan Safety Element addresses the following subjects in order:

- Earthquakes
- Other Geologic Hazards
- Dam Failure
- Flooding
- Wildland and Urban Fires
- Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness
- Hazardous Materials
- Aviation

The hazards associated with each of these subjects are assessed in General Plan Volume III, Setting and Background Reports. Section 8.2 lists goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that are intended to improve and/or maintain health and safety as well as the protection of private property over the 20-year planning period.

8.1.4 Recommendations for Emergency Preparedness

Recommendations regarding evacuation and emergency preparedness are:

- Prepare and practice flood and fire evacuation procedures in identified hazard areas;
- Coordinate major natural disasters response with the City of Amador City, City of Jackson, and the County of Amador;
- Require emergency plans of public service providers serving the City;
- Emergency water, power supplies, and communication networks should be available and ready for use;
- Establish mechanisms to call up police reserve.

8.2 Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures

8.2.1 Goal

Goal S-1: The goal of the City of Sutter Creek Safety Element is to improve and/or maintain services, facilities, and regulations that will ensure the long-term health and safety of persons and private property in the City.

8.2.2 Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures

The following lists of objectives, policies, and implementation measures are intended to achieve this goal. The lists are categorized to match the format of the preceding text.

8.2.3 Earthquakes

Objective S-1.1: To minimize possible threat to life or property due to earthquakes.

Policy S-1.1.1: State building code requirements pertaining to earthquake safety for seismic Zone 3 shall be applied to new construction and remodeling projects that require a building permit.

8.2.4 Other Geologic Hazards

Objective S-1.2: To minimize possible threat to life or property due to geological hazards such as soils-related damage or hazards and mine-related hazards.

Policy S-1.2.1: Site-specific soils investigations will be required for construction projects when and wherever there is concern for soils-related hazards.

Policy S-1.2.2: Development proposals involving the creation of more than four lots, parcels, or units shall be required to investigate the potential for mine collapse and other mine-related hazards in parts of the City known or suspected of being underlain by mine shafts, drifts, or vents.

Policy S-1.2.3: Mine hazards such as vent, drift, or shaft openings should be plugged, covered, fenced, signed, and/or otherwise managed to protect public health and safety.

Policy S-1.2.4: Site-specific soils investigations will be required to evaluate the health risk from proposed projects within or adjacent to mine waste materials. Schools, day care centers, hospitals, and residential subdivisions should not be located in areas where hazardous materials are present in mine waste materials.

Policy S-1.2.5: Records concerning mining activities within the planning area should be collected and maintained at City Hall for reference and use by the City and developers.

Implementation Measure S-1.2.5.1: The City shall maintain a record of mining activities within the city. Target date: Short-term and Ongoing.

8.2.5 Flooding and Dam Failure

Objective S-1.3: To minimize possible threat to life or property due to flooding.

Policy S-1.3.1: Building and planning permit applications proposing improvements within the FEMA/FIRM map Zones 'A' or 'AE' shall comply with the City's flood plain management ordinance.

Policy S-1.3.2: The City of Sutter Creek and County of Amador should require new development projects within the Sutter Creek drainage area to control peak flow runoff such that post-development discharge rates are not greater than pre-development discharge rates, ensuring new development does not significantly add to flooding hazards.

Implementation Measure S-1.3.2.1: The City shall consult with the County of Amador about General Plan Policy S-1.3.2, which concerns peak flow runoff from new development within the Sutter Creek drainage area but outside of City jurisdiction. Target date: Ongoing

Policy S-1.3.3: The County of Amador should give the City of Sutter Creek the opportunity to review development projects within the Sutter Creek drainage area to ensure flood hazards within the City are not increased.

Implementation Measure S-1.3.3.1: The City shall consult with the County of Amador about General Plan Policy S-1.3.3, which concerns review of development projects within the Sutter Creek drainage area. Target date: Ongoing

Policy S-1.3.4: Reduce the extent of flooding that threatens existing developed areas within the City.

Implementation Measure S-1.3.4.1: The City shall continue to identify flood hazards and funding to correct the hazards. Target date: Intermediate-term

8.2.6 Wildland and Urban Fires

Objective S-1.4: To minimize possible threat to life or property due to wildland and urban fires.

Policy S-1.4.1: The Sutter Creek Fire District shall be asked by the City to review development plans, land division projects, and planned developments to ensure compliance with fire suppression and prevention requirements.

Policy S-1.4.2: New development shall ensure there is sufficient water supply and facilities for fire suppression units in the event of a wildland fire.

Policy S-1.4.3: Looped water systems shall be installed within new developments, where feasible, and new water systems shall provide for adequate pressure and volumes at each hydrant installed.

Policy S-1.4.4: In new developments there shall be sufficient access for emergency vehicles and evacuation of residents. Two or more routes of access should be provided, preferably on different sides of the development.

Policy S-1.4.5: Roads in wildland fire areas ~~shall~~ should be well marked and homes ~~shall~~ should have addresses in plain view.

Policy S-1.4.6: New roadways shall comply with City standards.

Policy S-1.4.7: Vehicular access ~~shall~~ should be provided to within 150 feet of a structure.

Policy S-1.4.8: Buildings in urban-wildland interface areas shall comply with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection recommendations on defensible space.

Implementation Measure S-1.4.8.1: The City, in cooperation with the Fire Protection District, shall prepare a Fire Safe Plan for the City's consideration and adoption. Target date: Short Term

Policy S-1.4.9: Property owners in the Main Street Historic District should become organized to plan for and fund a program to reduce or eliminate the threat of urban fire.

Implementation Measure S-1.4.9.1: The City and/or Fire District shall facilitate property owners in fulfillment of this objective by sponsoring educational programs as well as efforts to obtain grants, special districts formation, or other funding mechanisms. Target date: Short-term

8.2.7 Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness

Objective S-1.5: To minimize possible threat to life or property through evacuation and emergency preparedness.

Policy S-1.5.1: The County Office of Emergency Services should complete an upgrade of the County's Emergency Management Plan making the document more usable by jurisdictions involved.

Implementation Measure S-1.5.1.1: The City should urge the County to accomplish this objective. The document should address the recommendations of General Plan Task Force #3 as listed within the

previous text. City departments and other public service agencies should be directed to actively cooperate and provide their own emergency plans in the effort. Target date: Short-term

Policy S-1.5.2: Coordinated interagency emergency drills should be conducted on a regular basis, especially in hazard areas identified in this plan.

Implementation Measure S-1.5.2.1: Drills should be coordinated with the County Office of Emergency Services. Target date: Short-term and Ongoing.

Policy S-1.5.3: Major developments and large commercial or industrial activities should have their own emergency plans and periodic drills.

8.2.8 Hazardous Materials

Objective S-1.6: To minimize possible threat to life or property due to hazardous materials.

Policy S-1.6.1: The City of Sutter Creek adopts and incorporates by reference the *Household Hazardous Waste Element* prepared by the Countywide AB 939 Committee.

Policy S-1.6.2: The City shall review industrial and commercial development projects that involve the transportation, storage and/or use of hazardous materials and insure steps are taken to protect public health and safety.

Policy S-1.6.3: The City Building Inspector will screen non-residential building permits to determine the proposed use of hazardous materials and refer such proposed uses to appropriate State and local agencies as necessary.