

Public Safety Commission Comments on Safety Element

#	Commissioner Name	Comment	Comment Theme	City Response
1	Brian Cameron	I found the section on emergency evacuations very lacking. I believe it grossly under-represented the amount of chaos that can be expected. For example, on Mulholland Highway in the span of a little more than a mile there are five schools: Viewpoint, Calabasas High, Chaparral Elementary, A.C. Stelle, and Louisville. We know each school has its own plans for dealing with emergencies but I didn't hear if our plans are integrated with theirs. If a wildfire mandated emergency evacuation is declared during school hours there will be a huge traffic snarl of school buses traveling to the schools to pick up the children and staff and then going north on Mulholland Highway and turning on Mulholland Drive either west - to get to the freeway or east to Topanga Canyon Blvd and then to the freeway. If the school district issues a shelter in place order how will the city deal with a mandatory evacuation order when a large number of parents will likely ignore the LVUSD order and drive to the schools to collect their children which will put a much larger burden on the roads.	Emergency Evacuation with schools in session	Added coordination with school district to Policies VII-45, 46, 52, 63 on pages VII-27 - VII-29. Incorporated evacuation protocols for schools in Policies VII-70 and 71 on page VII-30. Also, within Chapter XIII of the General Plan ("General Plan Implementation"), the section concerning coordination with the Las Virgenes Unified School District will be amended by adding a statement about the City coordinating with the School District regarding emergency evacuations necessitated by wildfires or other disasters, consistent with the added policies VII-45, VII-46, VII-52, VII- 63, VII-70, and VII-71.
2	Brian Cameron	Both The Oaks and Calabasas Park Estates have a second (emergency) exit via Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road ro Mulholland Highway. Once on Mulholland Highway traffic can go either north toward the 101 or west toward Las Virgenes. Neither of these exit routes are well known nor particularly effective in an emergency, but their availability should not be ignored.	Emergency Routes	Figure VII-9 on page VII-26 identifies residential neighborhoods with only single-access. Policy VII-61 on page VII-29 speaks to coordination with HOAs that have single-access only neighborhoods on emergency evacuation. As the work with Zonehaven gets underway, there will be an educational campaign regarding emergency evacuation.
3	Brian Cameron	Evacuation via the 101 freeway makes absolute sense since wildfires will likely be approaching from the south. On the other hand an earthquake could destroy overpasses and bridges making the freeway impassable in places. In that event, evacuation to the south may be the best option and should be considered in our plan.	Emergency Evacuation	Discussion added to page VII-27 hat acknowledges that even the US 101 freeway may be impassable in an evacuation scenario.
4	Brian Cameron	I heard that you are exploring Zone Haven as a means of identifying evacuation routes in real time. If I'm correct in that assumption Zone Haven (or an equivalent service) can be a lifesaver provided, of course, the information can reach the people who need it. Communication in real time will be essential with EPIC's ECHO platform, CERP and AM1630 working in concert.	Zonehaven	Policy VII-63 on page VII-29 addresses coordination with CERP and EPIC. Policy VII-51 on page VII-28 speaks to working with the County on Zonehaven. CERP and EPIC will be part of evacuation drills associated with zones created through the Zonehaven effort.
5	Brian Cameron	For those who cannot - or will not until it is too late to - evacuate, the city should be identifying and developing shelter in place zones. The golf course and the school playgrounds spring to mind as likely places if agreements can be made with the property owners. The General Plan should incorporate shelter in place zones development.	Shelter in place	Policy VII-59.d on page VII-29 directs the City to designate shelter-in-place locations.
6	Matt Slatoff	We should consider creating zones for the city, similar to the Topanga Canyon area (Debbie advised in process with Zone Haven)	Evacuation Zones	This is an ongoing effort with Zonehaven and zone boundaries will be determined as part of the process.
7	Matt Slatoff	If/When we zone the city, we should consider posted signage in the community to show the zone numbers. I would also recommend creating a page on the city website with zone maps, evac information, etc and adding a QR code to all posted zone signs that takes people to that page. ohttps://www.qr-code-generator.com/wp-content/themes/qr/new_structure/assets/media/images/qr_codes_on/gallery/street-signs/v2/street-signs_05.jpg ohttps://www.qr-code-generator.com/wp-content/themes/qr/new_structure/assets/media/images/qr_codes_on/gallery/street-signs/v2/street-signs_01.png	Zonehaven Implementation	Added "signage" to Policy VII-46 on page VII-27.
8	Matt Slatoff	We might consider holding back this larger plan until these zones are in place as that could alter a number of aspects including evacuation plans	Safety Element Process	The evacuation zones are not included in the Safety Element as they could change during the Zonehaven planning process. The outcomes of the Zonehaven process are anticipated to be more granular than what would need to be reflected in the Safety Element.

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9	Matt Slatoff	CERT is referenced in the plan, however no one ever defines how they can assist, how they are rallied together, etc. It is larger group of volunteers that seems to not get properly used.	CERT role	The City will be determining how best to use CERT volunteers.
10	Matt Slatoff	There should be text addressing the people that don't choose to evacuate, as that appeared to be big concern before.	Shelter in place	Policy VII-59.d on page VII-29 directs the City to designate shelter-in-place locations.
11	Matt Slatoff	We might also add the new definitions for evacuations that were published after the Woolsey review	Evacuation	Added discussion on page VII-24 distinguishing the difference between evacuation routes and disaster routes.
12	Matt Slatoff	The use of outside agencies to assist in evacuation is not addressed fully and we know that was an issue before – we might want that defined here with minimum requirements or duties for those people.	Agency roles in evacuation	Outside agencies roles are defined in the EOP and will be refined during an upcoming update to the EOP. Also, within Chapter XIII of the General Plan (specifically on page XIII-10) are the following implementation statements: "The City will maintain a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan to coordinate disaster recovery activities within Calabasas. As part of this effort, the City will actively solicit the input of local disaster preparedness agencies, including, but not limited to, fire, police, and the American Red Cross. Local disaster response will continue to be coordinated under the Calabasas Emergency Response Program (CERP). To ensure adequate provision of emergency services in the event of a local disaster, the City will continue to maintain mutual aid agreements with the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, the counties of Los Angeles and Ventura, and the cities of Los Angeles, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, and Malibu." Due to unpredictable variables associated with a wildfire or other disaster (such as the location(s), magnitude, and time of day) specific roles to be played by any of the fore-mentioned entities will vary on a case-by-case basis and therefore, cannot be defined within the Calabasas General Plan.
13	Norma Citron	Include the date at the top of the description for all figures. The date appearing at the bottom of the figure is unreadable.	Figure edits	A reference to the source and date associated with each figure in the Safety Element has been added.
14	Norma Citron	In the second paragraph "...such an event cannot be accurately predicted." According to Dr. Husker, Caltech there are "no forecasting methods" and I would suggest removing the word "accurately."	Prediction	Deleted accurately on page VII-2.
15	Norma Citron	In addition, of the San Andreas Fault, identified as one of the largest in the world at more 800 miles long, is worth a mention. The reason for adding the San Andreas Fault mention is a statement by Dr. Lucy Jones in the LA Times, June 12,2021, "approximately 88% of Los Angeles' aqueducts could be damaged" and the USGS Great ShakeOut reports the potential of the loss of power in the entire western United States. Both significant events attached to the San Andreas Fault and affecting Calabasas	San Andreas Fault	Additional discussion regarding the San Andreas Fault has been added to page VII-3.
16	Norma Citron	In paragraph 4 which begins "Portions of Calabasas may be susceptible..." the detailed definition of liquefaction should include a list of the Sectors within the City potentially affected by liquefaction. This would allow residents to properly prepare.	Define liquefaction	The City is undergoing a process with Zonehaven that may result in modification to the sector map. For this reason, we have not included the map in the Safety Element. Additional discussion on liquefaction impacts added to page VII-6.
17	Norma Citron	The Figure VII-2 uses two similar colors. It is necessary to have a better differentiation of colors to enable the reader to discern the difference.	Figure edit	Figure VII-2 on page VII-5 edited to better distinguish between the layers.

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18	Norma Citron	Comment: "Discourage development within potential landslide areas..." My questions are rhetorical and meant only to express the need for clarification. Is there a current list of potential landslide areas posted declaring this management strategy? Is it included in the CBC? Regarding implementing engineering solutions, who, or which department or division, (or combination) makes that decision? Is the decision making at the Planning Commission level? I am assuming this is a combination opinion of the Public Works department and/or the Community Planning Director.	Landslide risk	Landslide risk is determined as part of development applications and involves a combination of Community Development and Public Works.
19	Norma Citron	Comment: "Include projected climate change impacts..." After the Woolsey Fire has there been slope instability? If so, where (using Sector map?). What is the current action plan? Which department or division is being asked to develop mitigation strategies?	Program lead for post-wildfire	Policies VII-93 and VII-94 on page VII-41 identifies specific landslide risk mitigation strategies and directs the City to conduct inspections after wildfire and heavy rain events. Multiple factors may contribute to the level of mudflow and/or landslide risk following a wildfire or heavy rain event, including underlying geologic strata, soil conditions, remaining vegetation root densities, rainfall amounts and frequencies, and the rate(s) of post-wildfire re-vegetation, which is why it is difficult to present a map. Formulating a specific set of actions would also need to be unique to the type of risk, whether the disaster was a wildfire or heavy rainfall event, and the conditions in areas at risk of landslide.
20	Norma Citron	Comment: "Work cooperatively with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District ..." My questions are rhetorical as referenced above. Is there currently a plan in place? Which department or division within the City is tasked with working with the LVMWD to achieve this goal? I am assuming Public Works. In checking the LVMWD site, I did find suggestions for emergency preparedness but did not find a reference to preparation of interruption of water supplies during a seismic event. There is a reference to a generator project keeping residents water service when the power is out which is a different and probably not applicable response to seismic activity.	Program lead for reducing water supply disruption	Policy VII-9 on page VII-7 clearly distinguishes the role that Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) plays, which is the lead agency in charge of improving reliability of local water sources, as well as the maintenance and strengthening of the water system. The City's role is to cooperate as and when needed, based on the District's program needs and desire for City assistance. Policies VII-34 and VII-35 on page VII-18 address coordination with the LVMWD. Policy VII-35 on page VII-18 has been revised to also reference the District's new "Pure Water Project", which will increase the local water supply, as well as improve the reliability and availability of water resources for all water demand purposes, to include water needs associated with wildfires and other disasters.
21	Norma Citron	Comment: Under General Plan Approach, the third paragraph states "Calabasas will facilitate efforts with local, state, and federal agencies..." Have past have efforts been facilitated? If so, by whom (which department or division – I am assuming Public Works but believe it should be stated along with when that previous facilitated effort took place under the assumption that there has been a previous effort). It would be helpful to know which Sectors in the City are involved.	Coordination	Chapter XIII of the General Plan addresses inter-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, specifically in regard to disaster preparedness. The applicable section of chapter XIII (refer to page XIII-10) will be expanded to also address emergency response coordination. Meanwhile, it should be noted that inter-agency and inter-governmental disaster response efforts have been accomplished in the past, most recently during the 2018 Woolsey Fire. All City departments have roles to play during an emergency, as defined in the City's Emergency Operations Plan.
22	Norma Citron	On page 11 in the second complete paragraph which starts "The Las Virgenes-Malibu COG..." Comment: "...Los Angeles Fire County Fire Department are assigned to directly serve the Region. Fire station #68 and, #125..." would include location. Fire Station #68 is located on Calabasas Road and Fire Station 68 is located on Las Virgenes Road. This gives local residents the location of each station.	Fire station locations	Locations of the fire stations added to page VII-11.
23	Norma Citron	Comment: A continuation from the previous page "...it will be necessary for Calabasas to obtain additional water from sources such as the State Water Project (SWP)..." From a resident's point of view perhaps include the LVMWD and JPA joint Pure Water Project which increases availability of residents' water use through reclamation even through disasters.	Water availability	Added discussion for Pure Water Project on page VII-11.

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24	Norma Citron	Comment: There is an explanation of this Figure on page VII-11 in the middle of the page. A brief explanation of how and why the facilities noted were selected would be helpful. I have reviewed the 2018 version of the LVM COG report and did not find a definition of “critical facilities” nor a reason for their selection. I am assuming that item 4, Parkway Calabasas, on the list might refer to a natural gas or oil pipeline and it would be important to know which it is as a matter of public safety. Not knowing the reasoning behind the selection makes it difficult to understand the selections. The AHCCC might be considered part of this list if it falls in the definition of “critical.” The AHCCC might be considered as an EOC in the future.	Critical facilities	Added a definition of critical facilities on page VII-10. Added discussion that AHCCC could serve as a critical facility if retrofitted on page VII-10. Parkway Calabasas Shopping Center is included because it is a major commercial facility which qualifies it as a critical facility.
25	Norma Citron	Is active collaboration being done? If so, by whom, which department or division? This identification and responsibility should be included in the Policy.	Program lead	Policy VII-16 on page VII-16 is a new policy and outlines the City's intent to accomplish the specified activities; it does not refer to present active collaboration efforts to this specific degree. Department-level roles and responsibilities will depend upon the exact nature of certain wildfire mitigation measures, and will be assigned through the City Manager. Chapter XIII of the General Plan addresses inter-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, specifically in regard to disaster preparedness (refer to page XIII-10 of the General Plan). The applicable section of chapter XIII will be expanded to address implementation of policy VII-16.
26	Norma Citron	Which department or division is responsible for this survey at the City level? Include name responsible department or division in the Policy.	Program lead	The referenced wildfire approach conditions survey would most likely fall to the Community Development Department (Planning). However, wildfire approach conditions relevant to the City's safety and preparedness are not limited to the City boundaries; therefore, surveys of this sort would most likely be accomplished in a collaborative fashion with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Policy VII-17 on page VII-16 has been revised to include collaboration with County Fire.
27	Norma Citron	State the responsible division or department who will be “actively” engaging.	Coordination	The most likely department-level responsibilities pertinent to policy VII-18 would be Community Development and Public Safety; however, department-level roles and responsibilities depend upon the exact nature of certain wildfire planning and implementation measures, and would be assigned through the City Manager. Also, chapter XIII of the General Plan addresses inter-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, specifically in regard to disaster preparedness (refer to page XIII-10 of the General Plan). The applicable section of chapter XIII will be expanded to address implementation of policy VII-18.
28	Norma Citron	Would it be appropriate to add the Santa Monica Conservancy?	Coordination	Added to Policy VII-18 on page VII-16.
29	Norma Citron	I would like to point out that communication problems exist with differentiating between homeowners and residents who may rent or lease properties. Also, it would be important to change this Policy to include businesses in the hardening and retrofitting outreach process and, as a point of safety, and add protection of our transient population (visitors, business owners and employees) who daily visit our City.	Outreach	Policy VII-26 on page VII-17 revised to include landlords and businesses. Visitors added as a group that requires special assistance during an emergency event on page VII-25.
30	Norma Citron	Is this coordinated by the Public Works division? Perhaps include the previously mentioned LVMWD and JPA joint Pure Water Project which increases availability of residents’ water use through reclamation even through disasters.	Water availability	Pure Water Project discussion added to Policy VII-35 on page VII-18.
31	Norma Citron	It would be helpful to overlay this Figure with our current Sector map.	Radon Gas	Radon leakage would not trigger an emergency evacuation. New buildings must meet standards to prevent radon from leaking into homes. Old homes may have radon meters to monitor for potential leaks.
32	Norma Citron	Debbie mentioned that we would be looking at Zonehaven in the future.	Evacuation	Correct, Policy VII-51 on page VII-28 speaks to Zonehaven

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33	Norma Citron	The development named Palatino (I believe it has been renamed) is not shown on the map. There is also another evacuation route located in that HOA. Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road which parallels and then crosses Mulholland Hwy allowing a second evacuation route at Cordova Drive in the Palatino HOA.	Single-access neighborhoods	Figure VII-9 on page VII-26 only identifies residential neighborhoods with single-access, not residential neighborhoods with two or more access routes.
34	Norma Citron	Neighborhood with schools carry an additional evacuation concern. It was mentioned recently that the City cannot talk to the schools as the schools are a "different government." I am not asking that the City dictate to the schools any disaster planning scheme. What I encourage is the City liaison with the appropriate school officials to work with disaster planners in both areas. For neighborhoods with schools, it is important to know if buses will be used and/or if parents going against the flow of traffic to pick up their children can be accommodated. If the school is using a shelter in place model if a disaster occurs during school hours, look at the impact on the neighborhood.	Evacuation	Added coordination with school district to Policies VII-45, 46, 52, 63 on pages VII-27 - VII-29. Incorporated evacuation protocols for schools in Policies VII-70 and 71 on page VII-30. Also, within Chapter XIII of the General Plan ("General Plan Implementation"), the section concerning coordination with the Las Virgenes Unified School District will be amended by adding a statement about the City coordinating with the School District regarding emergency evacuations necessitated by wildfires or other disasters, consistent with the added policies VII-45, VII-46, VII-52, VII- 63, VII-70, and VII-71.
35	Norma Citron	I have included acknowledgement of the transient population in a previous comment but would like to include those who are just passing through. What disaster plan is available for bus riders who are left stranded if buses are not running.	Evacuation	Added transit users as a group that requires special assistance during an emergency event on page VII-25.
36	Norma Citron	I noticed that the AHCCC is not included among the evacuation locations. I realize at the present time ownership is being discussed. Should AHCCC be included with that caveat.	Evacuation location	Added discussion that AHCCC could serve as a critical facility if retrofitted on page VII-10
37	Norma Citron	For use of Mureau Road, I don't believe Mountain Gate was included in map Figure VII-New. This is a large community located on Mureau Road. This location will compete for evacuation along Las Virgenes or on the 101 with residents.	Single-access neighborhoods	This community is not considered a single access neighborhood which is the focus of Figure VII-9.
38	Sharon Boucher	My initial concern is the lack of an incorporation of or inclusion of an element around preparation, education and execution for health crises similar to the pandemic we are still experiencing. Definition of roles for County, City and private properties (The Lake at Calabasas). How to incorporate all the moving guidelines for the community. In addition, the education, readiness and support for a safe and secure community. The security aspect is more of a continued education and readiness plan supported by experts in the field. Small but very important.	Health crises, defining roles, emergency preparedness	Policy VII-105 on page VII-42 addresses health crises.
39	Sharon Boucher	In addition, I believe that the Policies identify what we must do but not the blueprint for the how. I don't know if this is the area for a specific plan but if not, I fear we will not carry the Policies forward to execution. I am concerned about educating the community about readiness, evacuation process, zoning ownership, outside agencies understanding our City, the fact that a great deal of the safety elements are focused on wild fires and not enough on earthquake readiness and how the HOA's and other agencies work together to educate, create active readiness understanding and support for the community. EPIC and CERT importantly are identified as groups that can support during a disaster. Perhaps we need to create a Health and Security group to support our City. While some Policies are very specific other Policies are not. Details are important and hopefully we can develop the proper blueprints to support during a disaster.	Policy execution	Language will be added to the implementation chapter of the General Plan (Chapter XIII), particularly within the section addressing Disaster Preparedness. The following language, or language similar to this, will be added: "To accomplish implementation of the disaster preparedness policies specified within the Safety Element, the Calabasas City Council will explore funding options, to include State and Federal grants; and, based upon successful funding allocations, experts will be retained to carry out policy implementation under the guidance of the City Manager and departmental staff as appropriate."