

City of Calabasas



Updates to the General Plan Circulation and Safety Elements

Planning Commission Meeting, 7-21-2022

Project Team



- City Departments
 - Planning Division
 - Transportation/Transit Division
 - Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Consultant Team



Circulation and Safety Elements



- The Circulation and Safety Elements are required chapters of the General Plan
 - Circulation Element establishes policies to achieve and maintain a balanced, safe, and reliable transportation system city-wide
 - Safety Element identifies policies that seek to reduce impacts from hazards (e.g., earthquake, wildfire, hazardous materials)

Legislative and Local Drivers for the Updates



- 8-year Housing Element Update triggered Safety Element update
 - Climate change (Senate Bill 379)
 - Evacuation (Senate Bill 99, Assembly Bills 1409 and 747)
 - Wildfire (Senate Bill 1241)
- Senate Bill 743 requires updates to the Transportation Study (TS) guidelines
 - Shift from Levels of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled for CEQA
 - Update Circulation Element for consistency with the TS guidelines
 - Traffic and Transportation Commission has already recommended approval of TS Guidelines
- Local drivers
 - Emergency evacuation and wildfire risk
 - Updating transportation improvements in the circulation element
 - Greater focus on bicycle and pedestrian modes

Update Process



Technical Analyses

- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
- Evacuation Scenario Analyses
- Wildfire Risk Assessment

Stakeholder Engagement

- Meetings with County Fire, Office of Emergency Management, and Sherriff
- CAL FIRE review and meeting

Engagement with Elected and Appointed Officials

- Presentation and input from the Traffic and Transportation Commission and Public Safety Commission
- Planning Commission and City Council meetings

Draft Circulation and Safety Elements

- Public Drafts posted and available since August 2021
- Revised Drafts in Packet for Commission members' review

What is the Circulation Element?



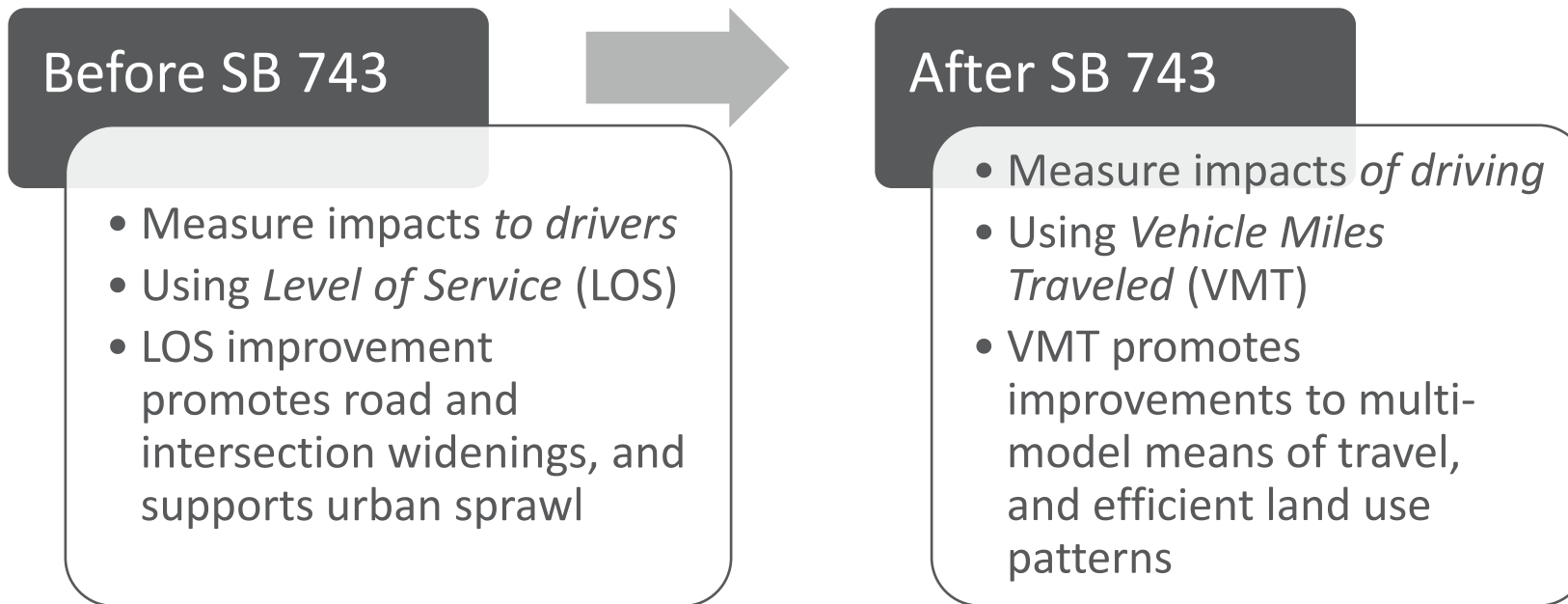
The Circulation Element of the General Plan defines the goals and policies around how people and goods move within and through the community.

- The Circulation Element has several goals focused on achieving and maintaining a balanced, safe, and reliable transportation system in the City of Calabasas, such as:
 - Provide safe, easy, and convenient access to all areas of the community.
 - Maintain Calabasas' rural, small town sense of place.
 - Protect significant environmental features.
 - Reduce dependence on single occupant automobile travel by providing a high level of pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit travel opportunities.

Why is there a Circulation Element Update?



The Circulation Element must be updated to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 743, and to reflect the updated Safety Element.



How does SB 743 relate to the Circulation Element?

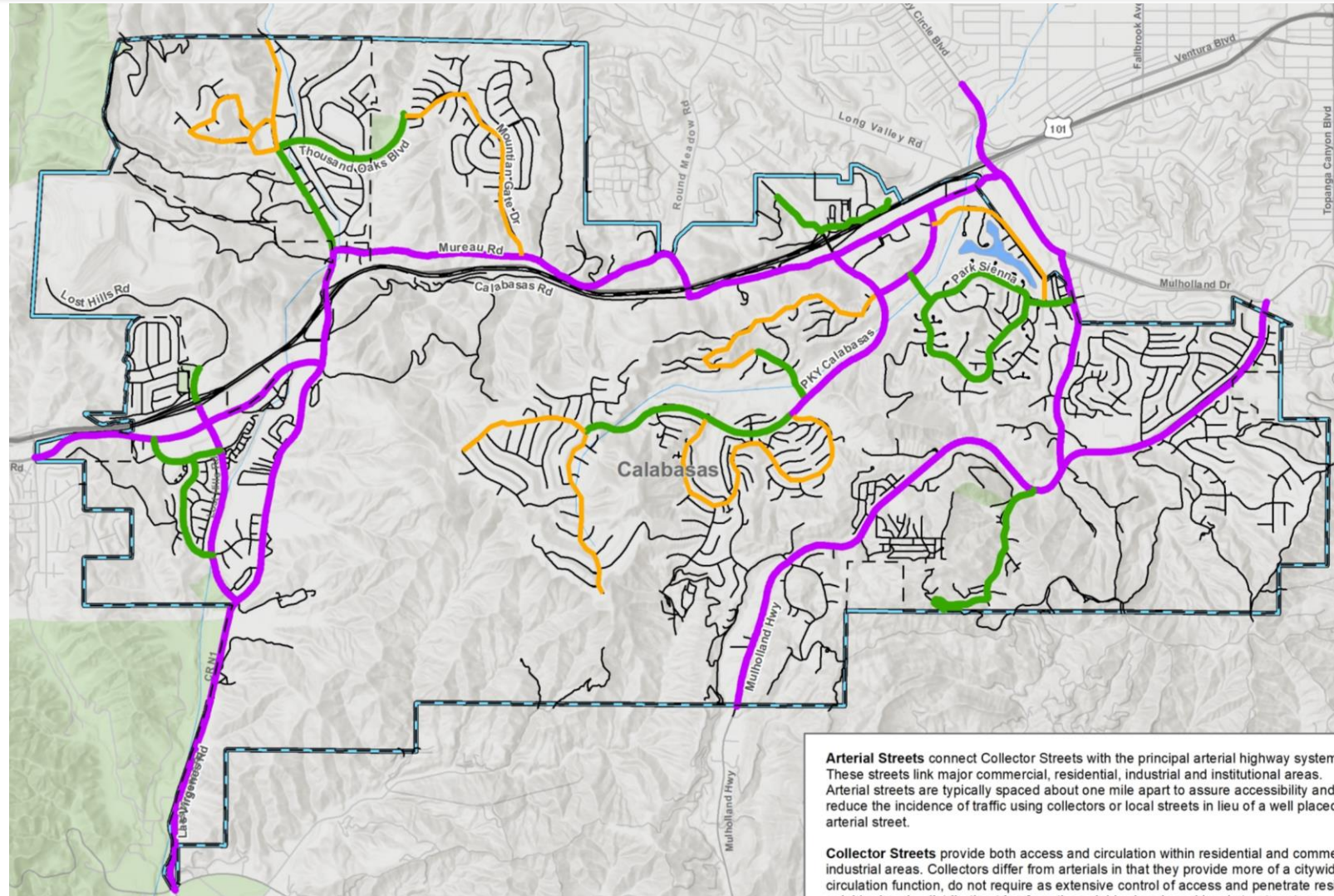


SB 743 shifts focus of transportation analysis to better align with the following State goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Encourage infill development
- Improve public health through increased active transportation (walking and biking)

The Circulation Element goals, polices, and projects have been updated to reflect these goals.

What are examples of Circulation Element Updates?



Update roadway classifications to better reflect existing conditions

- Plan Area
- Calabasas City Limit
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local Streets**
- Major Neighborhood Street
- Minor Neighborhood Street

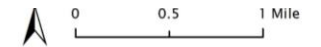


Figure VI-1
Calabasas Roadway System

What are examples of Circulation Element Updates?



Remove or modify goals, polices, or projects related to level of service:

- *Section VI.A Vehicle Circulation - Objectives:*

Where it is feasible to do so in a manner consistent with the non-circulation policies of the General Plan, ~~achieve and maintain level of service (LOS) C for all intersections and roadway links within the City except as indicated on Figure VI-1 (Calabasas Roadway System)~~ maintain an efficient circulation system to improve travel conditions and reduce vehicle miles traveled through future infrastructure investments and land use development.

- *Section VI.A Vehicle Circulation - General Plan Approach:*

~~The performance objective for all City roads and intersections is LOS C except at freeway interchanges and the two-lane segment of Calabasas Road that traverses Old Town Calabasas. The performance standard at the freeway interchanges has been set at LOS D, while the performance standard through the Old Town Calabasas portion of Calabasas Road has been set at LOS F. The standards are based on the actual function of these roadways. The freeway interchange standard reflects the fact that the interchanges are subject to regional influences beyond Calabasas' control, specifically the diversion of regional through traffic from the Ventura Freeway. The standard for the Old Town portion of Calabasas Road reflects the City's desire to maintain the character of that roadway despite the high levels of traffic congestion.~~

What are examples of Circulation Element Updates?



Add goals, policies, or projects in support of multi-modal transportation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions:

- *Section VI.A Vehicle Circulation – General Plan Approach:*
Require each new development that would contribute to the need for improvements or additions to the City’s circulation system to fund its pro-rata share of such improvements or additions and/or provide programs to reduce their contribution to the number of vehicle miles traveled in the community and region.
- Limit the intensity and vehicle miles traveled ~~traffic-generation~~ of new development in the City to that which would not compromise attainment and/or maintenance of vehicle miles traveled reduction targets ~~roadway level of service standards~~.

What are examples of Circulation Element Updates?



Add goals, policies, or projects in support of complete streets concepts:

- Consistent with the purpose and requirements of the Complete Streets Act (AB 1358), as public rights-of-way are resurfaced or otherwise improved or maintained, evaluate opportunities to enhance the quality and safety of the roadway by implementing new or improved walking, bicycling, or public transit infrastructure. If no walking, bicycling or public transit improvements are being provided, a report to council should provide an explanation for why such improvements are not needed or not feasible along the roadway segment(s).

What is the Safety Element?



The Safety Element seeks to identify and, whenever possible, reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards that may threaten the health, safety, and property of Calabasas residents, business owners, and visitors.

■ Issues addressed in the Safety Element include:

- Geology and seismicity
- Flooding and stormwater management
- **Fire Hazards**
- Radon Gas
- Hazardous Materials
- **Disaster Response**
- **Climate Change (*new)**

Note: bold text indicates revised portions of the Safety Element

Scope of Safety Element Amendments



- Updates as necessary to comply with recently enacted State legislation
- Added forty-eight new or amended policy statements to address wildfire risk, emergency preparedness, emergency response and evacuations, and post-disaster recovery; and climate change vulnerability and adaptation
- Prepared a new Wildfire Assessment report (Appendix D-1 to the updated Element)
- Prepared a new Emergency Evacuation Traffic Assessment (Appendix D-2 to the updated Element)
- Updated figures depicting seismic risk, liquefaction risk, flood risk, wildfire risk, historic fires, radon risk, and single-access neighborhoods

What are examples of Safety Element Updates?



■ Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

- Public health impacts from heat and smoke
- More intense and frequent flooding and landslides
- Extended drought causes water shortages and price hikes
- Vegetation and habitat impacts, including tree die-offs
- Increase in wildfire frequency and intensity

■ Identification of Vulnerable populations

- Seniors
- Youth
- Outdoor workers
- Low-income households
- Mobile home residents
- Physical disabilities



Extended Drought



Extreme Heat



Stronger Storms



Wildfire

What are examples of Safety Element Updates?



- Examples of new and/or updated Climate Change Policies
 - **Mitigate landslide risks** in the hills by improving drainage, reconstructing retaining walls, installing netting and vegetation, avoiding clear cutting, and stabilizing the soil after tree clearing.
 - Coordinate with emergency management services to establish **solar photovoltaic systems and battery storage** at emergency centers and cooling centers in case of power outages.
 - Weatherize homes using a **holistic "healthy homes" model** that addresses severe weather protection, energy efficiency, indoor air improvements, and other housing improvements.
 - Use available data and studies to **simulate how expanded wildfire, flooding, and landslide impacts might affect the transportation system**; in particular, study changes along designated evacuation routes associated with more frequent and severe wildfire, flood, and landslide events.

What are examples of Safety Element Updates?



Disaster Response Section Substantially Revised

- Emergency evacuation capacity analysis (new technical appendix added and new policies)
- Single-access residential neighborhoods (new map and new policies)
- Acknowledgement of Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas (EPIC) and Calabasas Emergency Radio Program (CERP)
- Description of critical evacuation routes and evacuation shelters
- Description of mobility-impaired groups and facilities

What are examples of Safety Element Updates?



Example policies

- **Enhance Calabasas Emergency Radio Program's (CERP) participation** with volunteers and agencies and incorporate emergency preparedness **procedures** on a continuing basis.
- Engage **residents** to better prepare for wildfire mitigation and protection. Empower EPIC (Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas) to serve as one of the City's Fire Safe Councils and **offer Defensible Space and Home Hardening Training and Assessments**
- **Provide Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)** to increase disaster preparedness to the community **at the neighborhood level**.
- Update and regularly maintain the **City of Calabasas' Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** to include an assessment of current emergency service and projected emergency service needs specific to the City of Calabasas. The EOP should be prepared in consultation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Sheriff Department, and the school district and align with the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan.
- Establish and maintain a **Disaster Recovery Plan** that includes critical needs, such as debris removal and evaluation of post-disaster redevelopment options.
- Improve **coordination between frontline emergency personnel, CERP, EPIC, media sources, and the school district** to ensure accurate and clear information is being disseminated.

Why does the Safety Element require an evacuation analysis?

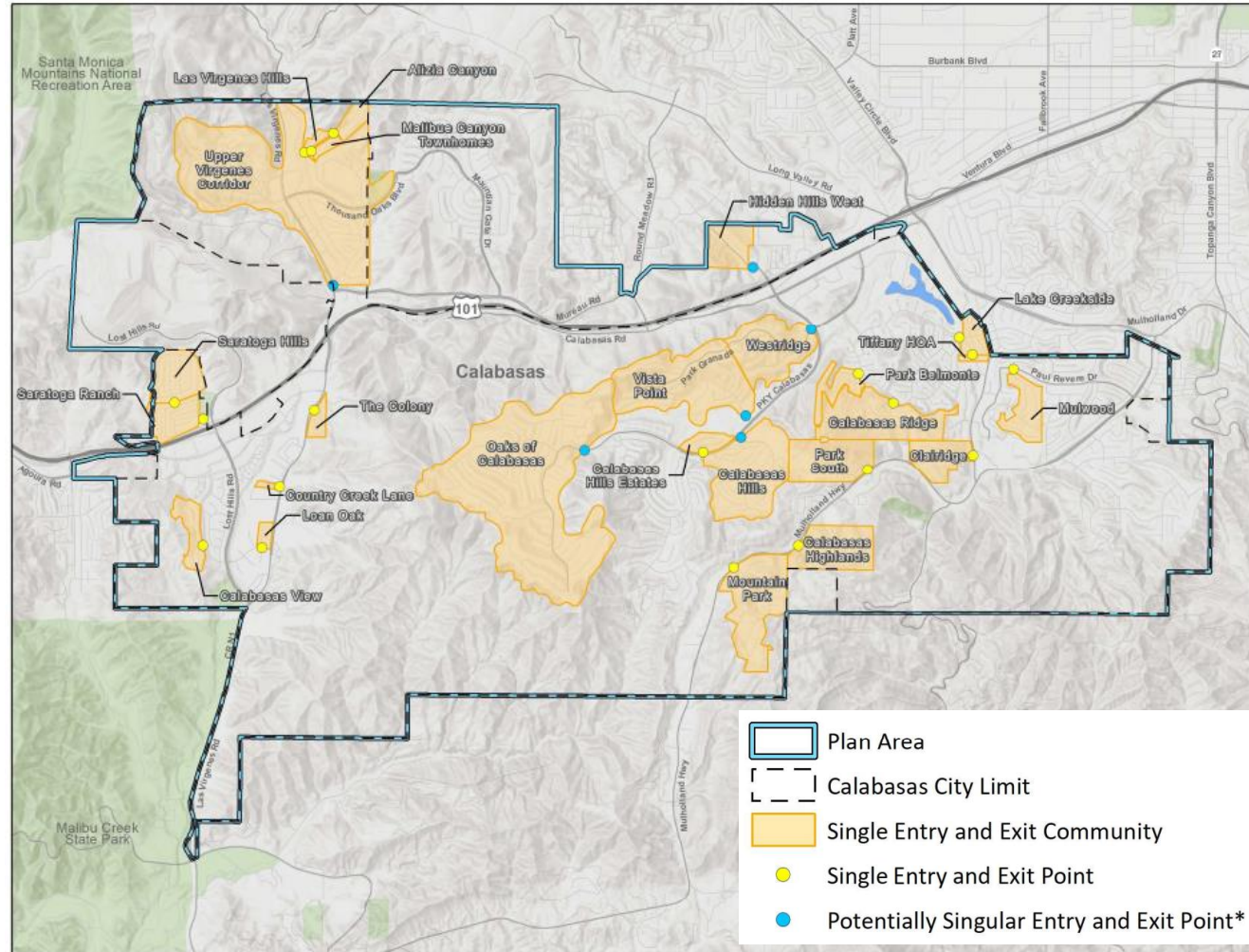


Senate Bill (SB) 99 requires jurisdictions to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two (2) emergency evacuation routes.

- Passed in 2019
- After the next revision of the Housing Element on or after January 1, 2020, this analysis is required as part of the Safety Element

The single entry and exit figure included in the Safety Element is responsive to SB 99 requirements.

Single Entry and Exit Communities in Calabasas



Source: City of Calabasas, 2018, and Rincon Consultants, 2021. Updated August 2021. Basemap provided by ESRI and its licensors © 2021.

Why does the Safety Element require an evacuation analysis?



Assembly Bills (AB) 747 and 1409 require jurisdictions to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of emergency scenarios.

- Passed in 2019
- On or after January 1, 2022, this analysis is required as part of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or Safety Element

Exhibit D to written staff report includes two analyses responsive to AB 747 and 1409 requirements:

- Wildfire Assessment
- Emergency Evacuation Traffic Assessment

How are the emergency scenarios analyzed?



Evacuation Modeling Tool – “**Evac+**” used to identify evacuation bottlenecks and develop policies for Safety Element and Circulation Element updates.

- Builds from SCAG Travel Demand Forecasting Model roadway network
- Incorporates local and SCAG land use data.
- Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA) Model.
- 24-hour model with 2-hour evacuation window.

Four emergency scenarios analyzed



A wide range of emergency scenarios with varying levels of complexity could occur in Calabasas. As such, it is impossible to predict and model every scenario.

Four evacuation scenarios were identified to reflect a range of potential worst-case emergency scenarios:

1. Regional Fire Evacuation (e.g., Woolsey Fire)
2. Calabasas Citywide Fire Evacuation (1:00 AM- 3:00 AM)
3. Localized Evacuation along Las Virgenes Road due to Earthquake with Liquefaction
4. Calabasas City-wide Fire Evacuation (7:00 AM- 9:00 AM)

Four emergency scenarios analyzed



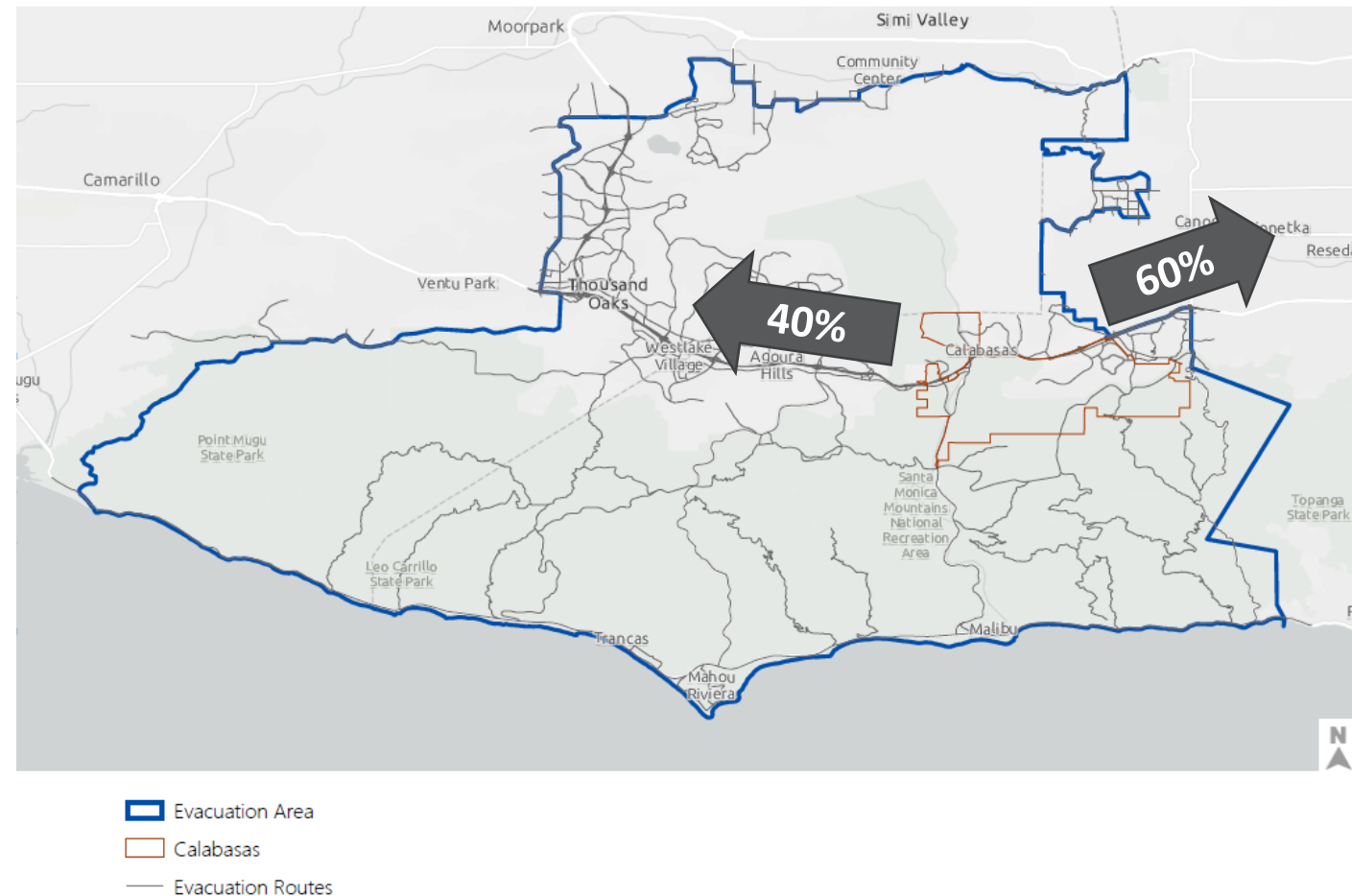
For all four scenarios:

- Analysis Year: 2030
- Socioeconomic Data:
 - Calabasas land uses and populations include 2021 – 2029 Housing Element update housing sites.
 - Remaining evacuation area reflects future local conditions based on SCAG travel demand model.

Scenario 1: Regional Fire Evacuation



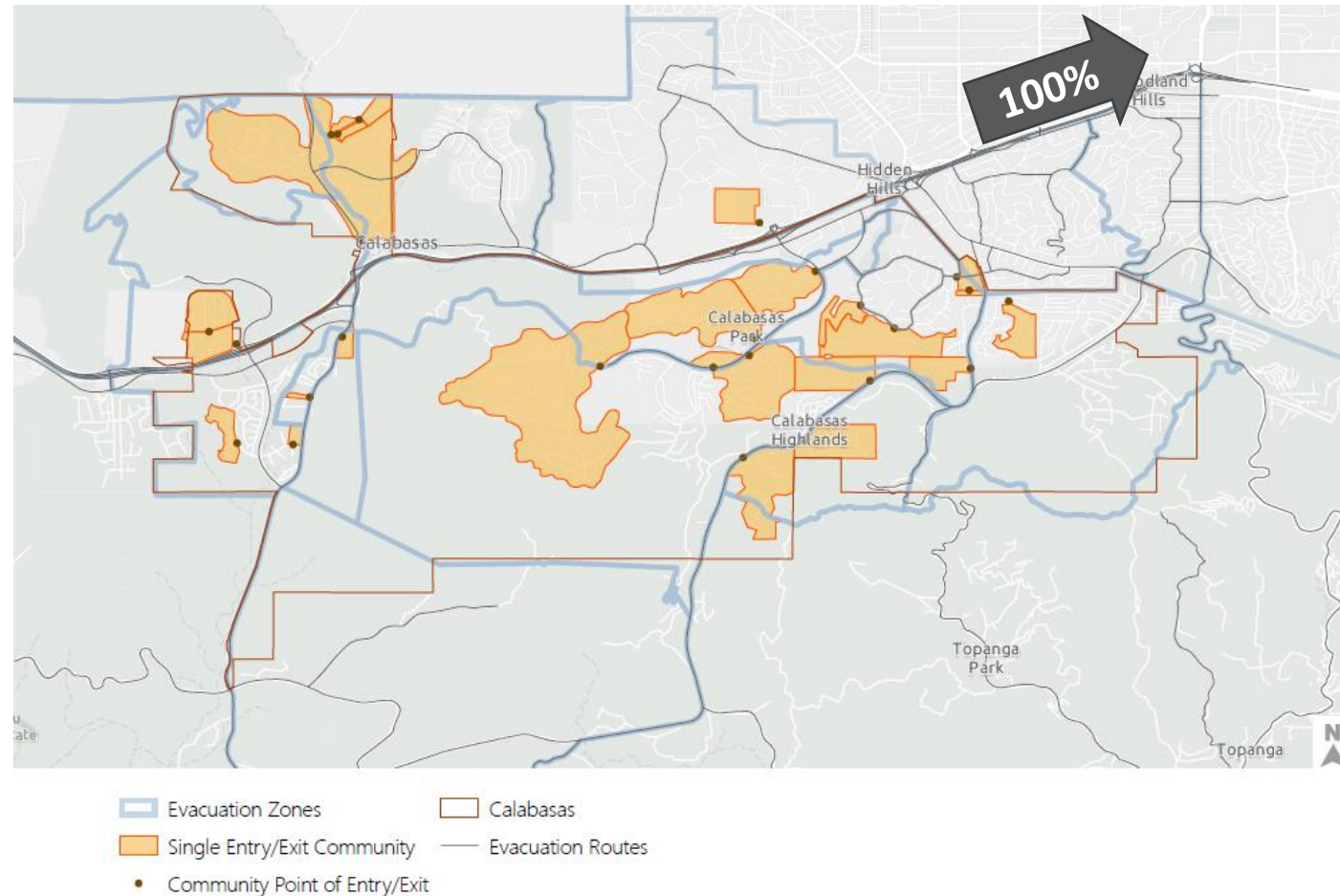
- Evacuation Time Window:
1 AM – 3 AM
- Evacuee Details:
 - ~122,000 people
 - ~43,000 households
 - ~79,000 vehicles
- Evacuation Routes:
 - Area north of Mulholland Highway evacuates along US-101.
 - Area south of Mulholland Highway (e.g., Malibu) evacuates along Pacific Coast Highway.



Scenario 2: Calabasas Citywide Fire Evacuation



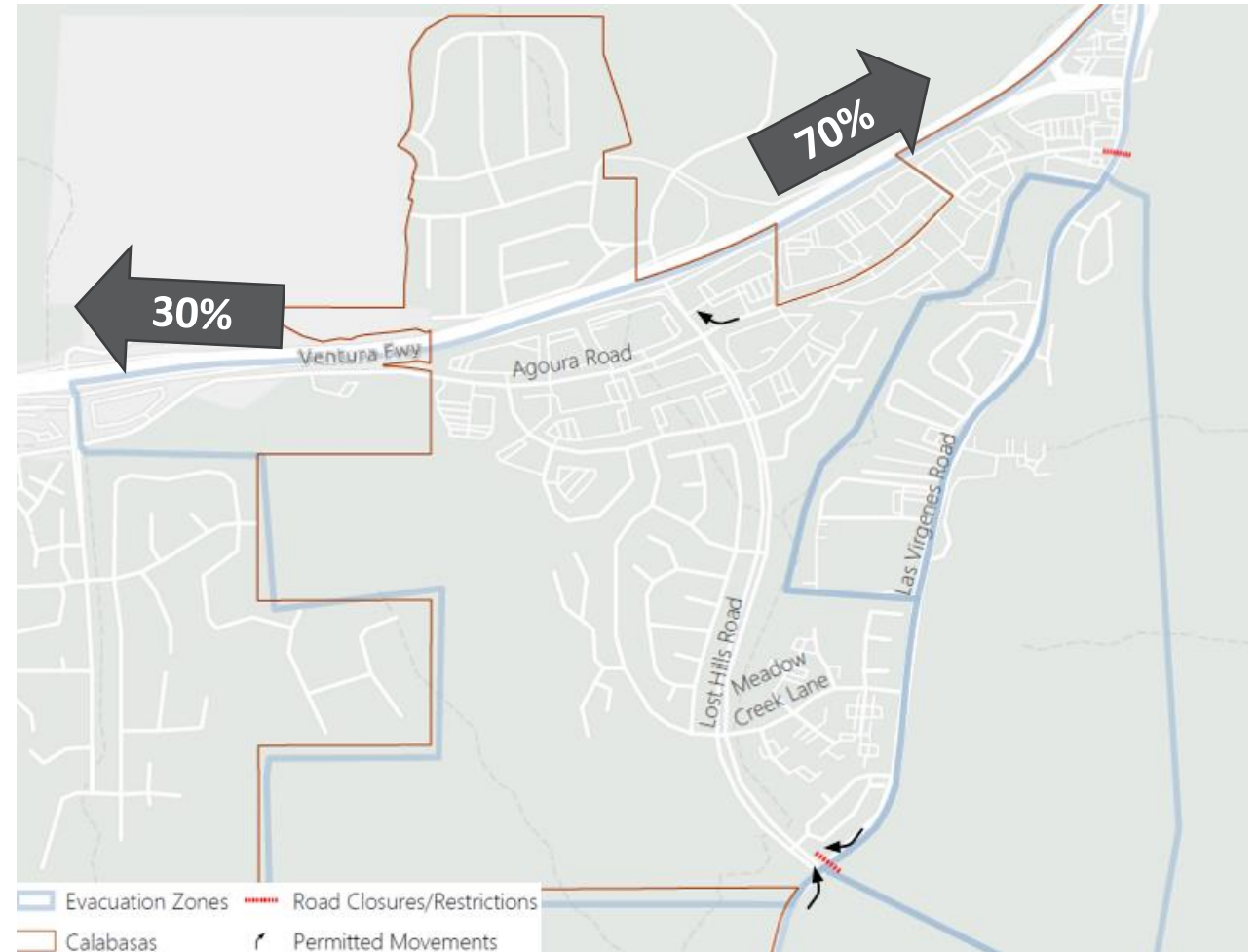
- Evacuation Time Window:
1 AM – 3 AM
- Evacuee Details:
 - ~31,000 people
 - ~11,000 households
 - ~22,000 vehicles
- Evacuation Routes:
 - All vehicles travel east on US-101 South due to smoke restricting ability to travel west on US-101 North.



Scenario 3: Localized Evacuation along Las Virgenes Road due to Earthquake with Liquefaction



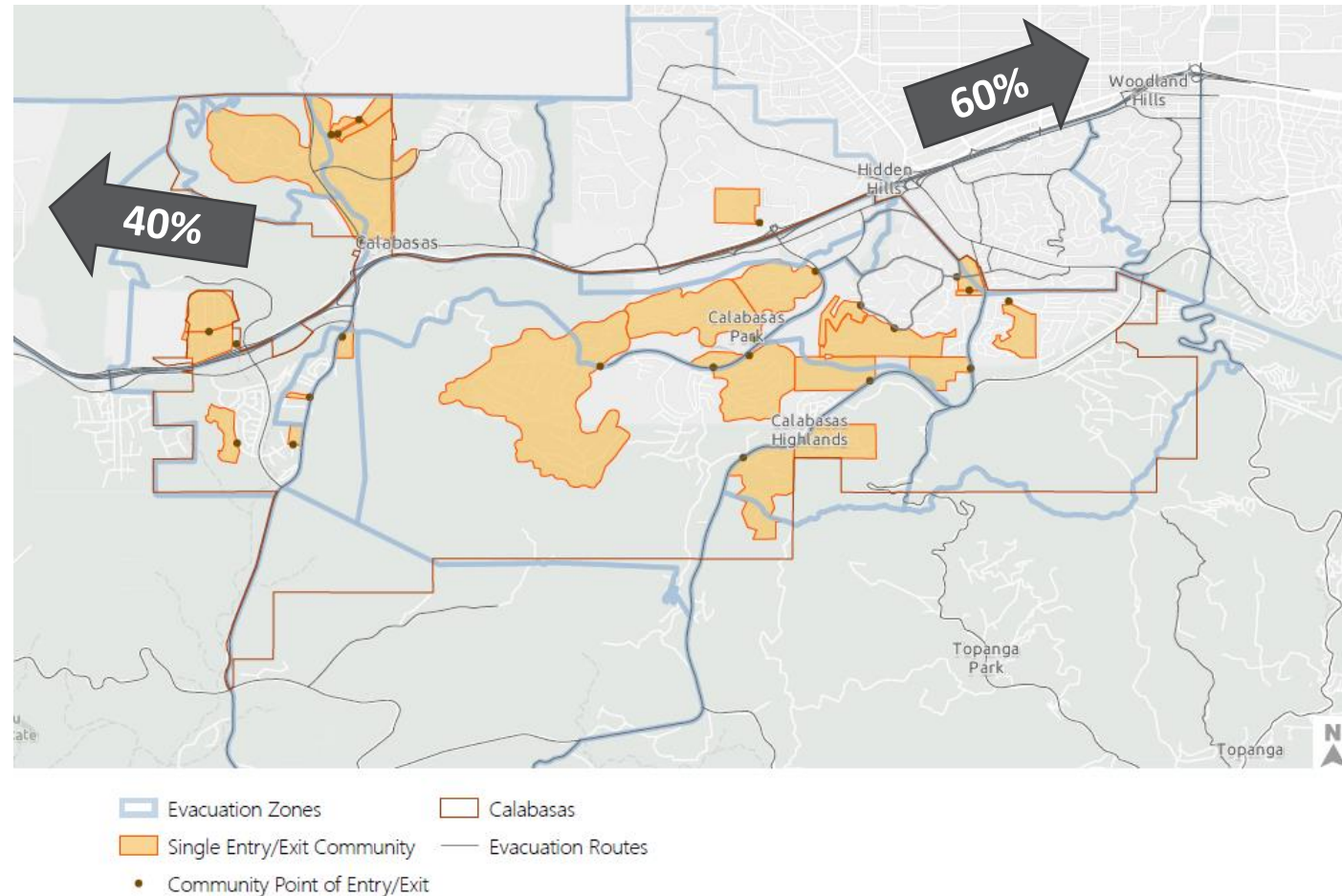
- Evacuation Time Window:
1 AM – 3 AM
- Evacuee Details:
 - ~13,000 people
 - ~4,000 households
 - ~8,000 vehicles
- Evacuation Routes:
 - Agoura Road & Las Virgenes Road closed.
 - Turn restrictions at Lost Hills Road & Las Virgenes Road.
 - Primary evacuation along US-101



Scenario 4: Calabasas Citywide Fire Evacuation



- Evacuation Time Window:
7 AM – 9 AM
- Evacuee Details:
 - ~31,000 people
 - ~11,000 households
 - ~22,000 vehicles
- Evacuation Routes:
 - Vehicles can travel east or west on US-101



Safety Element Update - Recommendations



Three types of recommendations to improve evacuation:

- **Demand-Side:** how, when, and where people evacuate in an emergency.
- **Supply-Side:** the physical and operational infrastructure that facilitates an emergency evacuation.
- **Information-Side:** how information is shared and received in an emergency.

Safety Element Update - Recommendations



The Safety Element contains a range of evacuation policies:

Demand-Side:

- Evaluate availability for **community facilities to serve as evacuation centers.**

Supply-Side:

- Develop and maintain **evacuation options for residents with mobility challenges.**
- Ensure that the **LACFD has complete access to all locations** in the City, including gated communities and critical infrastructure.

Information-Side:

- Encourage collaboration and partnership with local and regional partners on future **enhancements of alert and notification systems.**
- Conduct regular **evacuation trainings with single-access community HOAs** and residents.

Safety Element Update - Recommendations



Additional considerations for emergency evacuation:

Demand-Side:

- **Phased evacuation** by neighborhood or based on hazard characteristics (e.g., fire spread)
- Households use **minimum number of necessary vehicles**

Supply-Side:

- **Flexible roadway design** for additional capacity during evacuation
- **Manage traffic signals** to increase flow through intersections

Information-Side:

- Use alerts and wayfinding to **dynamically reroute** people to evacuation routes
- Establish a **redundant and resilient communications system** to continue emergency operations and communications: back-up generators, phone/text alerts, radio, and signage.

Recommendations: Supply-Side Considerations



The Circulation Element identifies seven intersections and roadway corridors that are critical to overall vehicle movement in Calabasas:

- Old Topanga Road/Mulholland Highway
- Calabasas Road/Parkway Calabasas
- Lost Hills Road
- Las Virgenes Road
- Agoura Road
- Thousand Oaks Boulevard
- Mureau Road

Signal prioritization and access management would prioritize these roadways for people in Calabasas to safely and efficiently evacuate.

Recommendations: Supply-Side Details



The Circulation Element identifies potential transportation projects on major roadways that can consider emergency access needs.

Projects Identified in Circulation Element	Emergency Access Consideration
<p>No widening of Mulholland Highway to create additional through travel lanes shall be permitted west of Old Topanga Canyon Road to the City boundary except to provide for walking and bicycling facilities.</p>	<p>Explore bicycle facility or shoulder design that can accommodate vehicle travel during an evacuation.</p>
<p>Provide bicyclist and pedestrian-only connectivity to Las Virgenes Road from the end of Calabasas Road (i.e. near the Juan Bautista de Anza East Trailhead).</p>	<p>Explore bicycle/pedestrian corridor design that can facilitate emergency vehicle access during an evacuation.</p>

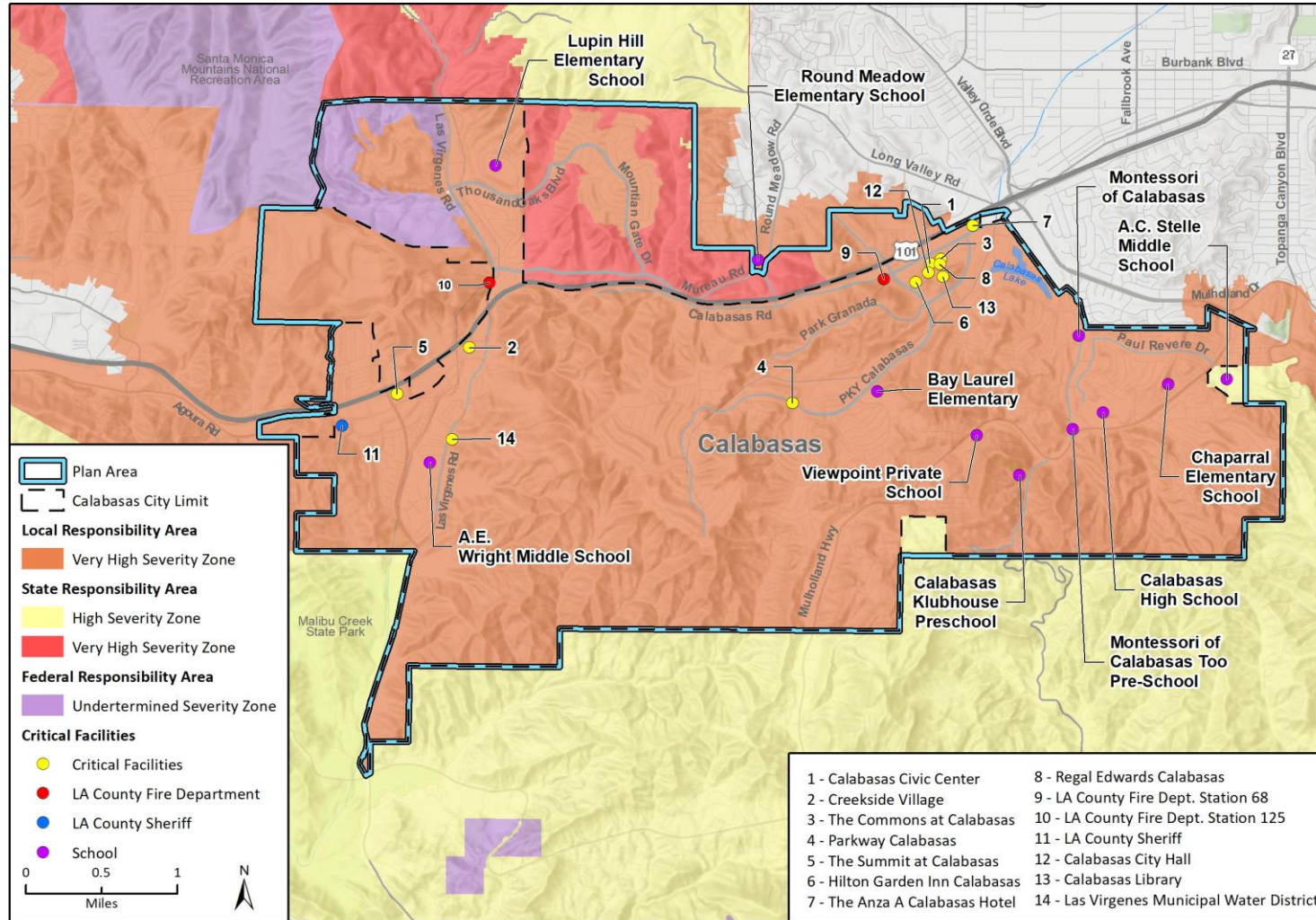
Examples of Safety Element Updates



■ Fire Hazards Section

- New maps
- New wildfire assessment (included as an appendix – based on TSS Consultants)
 - Wildfire Fundamentals
 - Wildfire Hazard Designations
 - Post-fire Slope Instability and Drainage Pattern
 - Citywide Conditions (Hillside Slope and Aspect, Vegetation, Weather and Atmosphere, Wind Pattern)
 - Emergency Response Facilities
 - Wildfire Risk
 - Regional and Local Plans

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

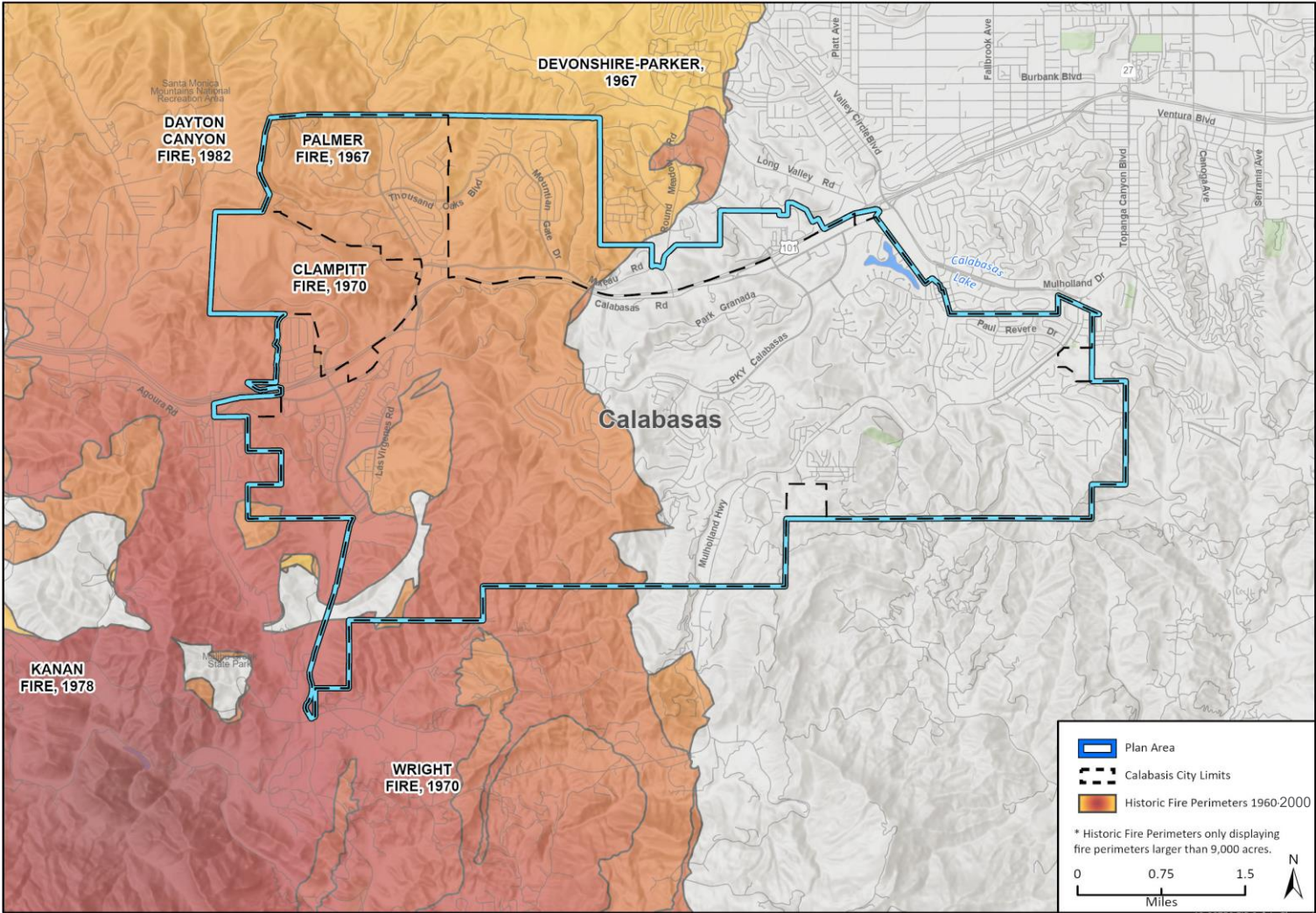


Base map provided by Esri and its licensors © 2022.
Sources provided by City of Calabasas, 2022

Fig X Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones



Historic Wildfires

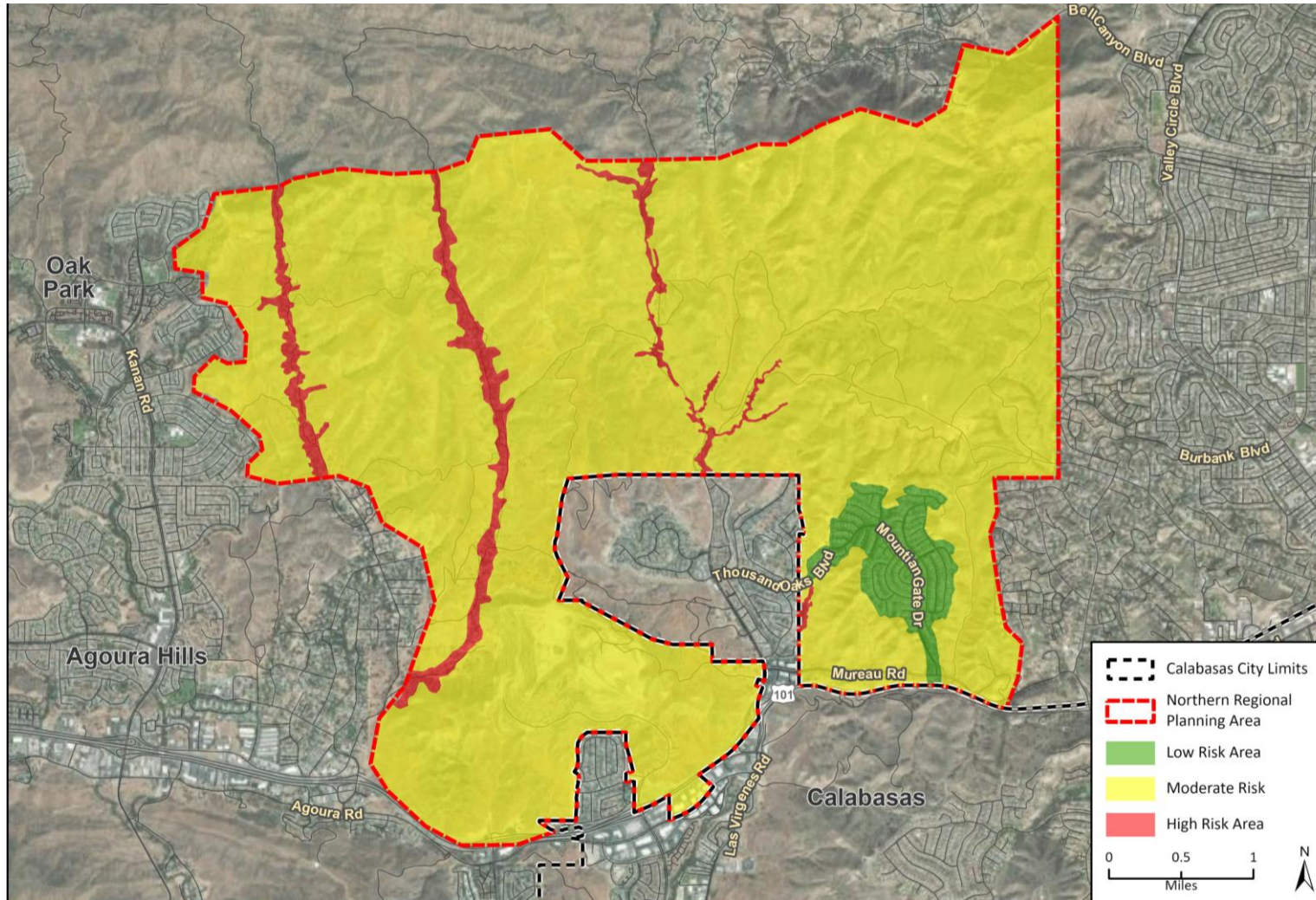


Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors. © 2022.
Sources provided by City of Calabasas, 2021

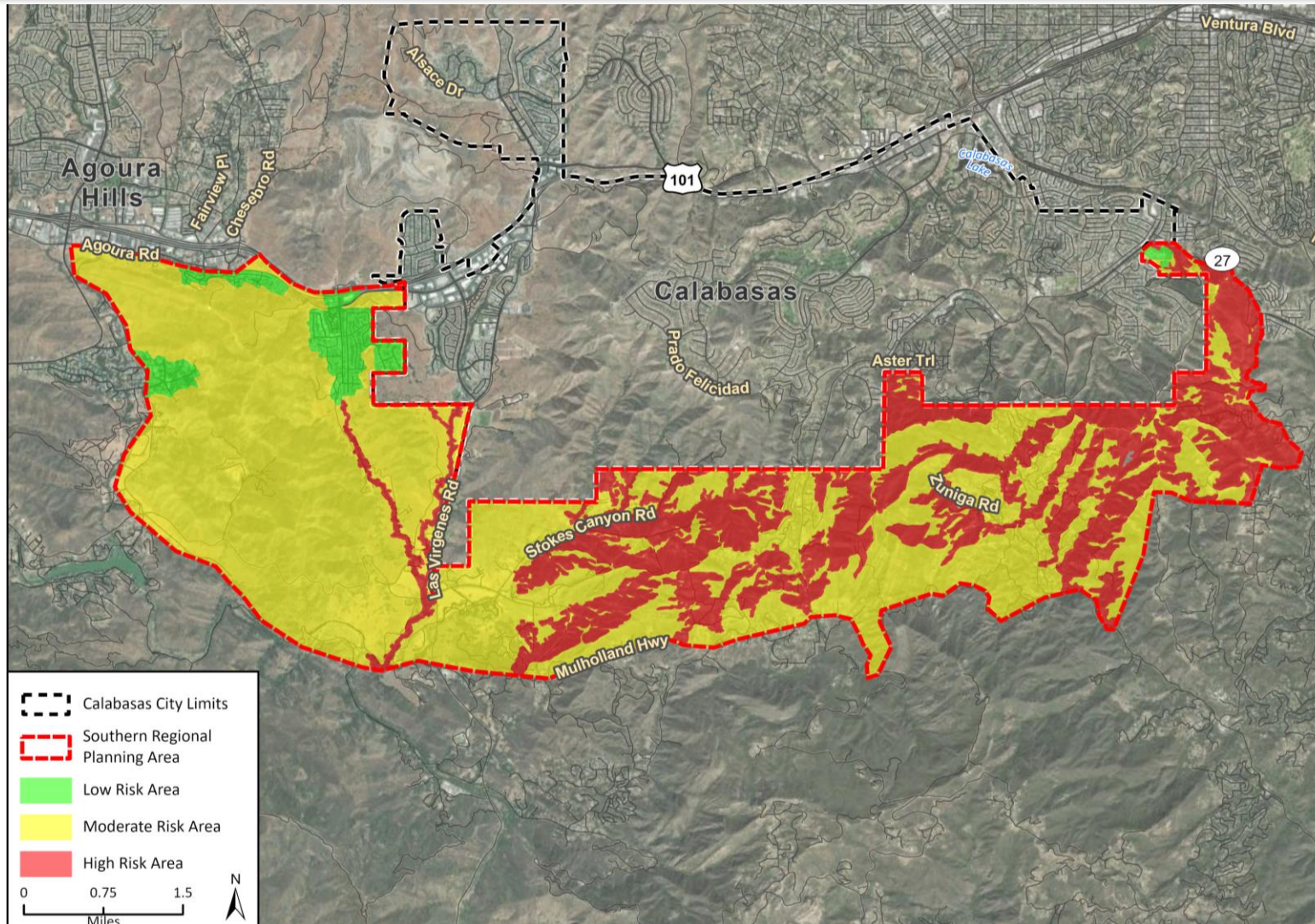
13-087501-01 Safety Element



Wildfire Approach Pathways – From the North



Wildfire Approach Pathways – From the South



Fire Hazard Policy Examples



- Actively collaborate with regional, state and Federal fire agencies to **coordinate and implement wildfire mitigation measures and fuel load modifications / reduction zones**, including load clearing, prescribed burns, fire breaks, livestock grazing, and public and private road clearance and other mitigation activities for areas proximal to the city, particularly **potential wildfire approach pathways located to the south of the city** as identified in Figure 8 of Appendix D-1. Establish **cooperative management agreements** with entities that have jurisdiction over lands located to the south of the city limits.
- **Survey the conditions in the wildfire approach pathways located within city limits** as identified in Figure 8 of Appendix D-1 in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to assess vegetation management actions that could reduce wildfire movement.
- Conduct a **City-wide survey of vegetation conditions in drainage corridors, hillsides**, and similarly well vegetated areas that could provide opportunities for wildfire to approach valued assets, and specify recommended actions to reduce wildfire risks in these locations.
- Develop and disseminate education and outreach materials to homeowners, residents, businesses, and landlords regarding retrofits and hardening that align with recommendations from CAL FIRE's Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide. **Identify financial resources that support home retrofit cost subsidies.**
- Discourage development and encourage sensitive siting of structures within hazardous fire areas as higher priorities than attempting to implement fuel modification techniques that would **adversely affect significant biological resources.**

Fire Hazard Policy Examples



- **Incorporate wildfire risk reduction measures**, including healthy hillside management, load clearing, and brush management into plans, operations, and maintenance procedures **for public access roads, parks, trails, open space, critical roads, and critical infrastructure**.
- Encourage existing businesses and residents to **adopt drought tolerant and fire-resistant landscaping** practices.
- Support Los Angeles County's Defensible Space Inspection Program that **enforces defensible space standards of existing development** in Calabasas by posting informational resources on the City's website and distributing via social media platforms.
- To reduce vulnerability of structures to ember ignition and wildfire impacts, **review current building code standards** and other applicable statutes, regulations, requirements, and guidelines regarding construction, and specifically the **use and maintenance of non-flammable materials** (both residential and commercial).
- **Evaluate the City's capacity to adequately suppress wildfire**, taking into account water supply availability, as part of the next Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Implementation Chapter Updates



Updated Implementation Chapter to align with new Safety Element policies:

- Added coordination with the Las Virgenes Unified School District on emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Added coordination with local, regional, state and federal entities to implement wildfire reduction strategies
- Added review of funding opportunities to facilitate implementation of disaster preparedness policies



- The General Plan Update EIR analyzed updates to the Land Use, Housing, Safety and Circulation Elements.
- Further updates to the Safety and Circulation Elements were made which were analyzed in the Addendum (Exhibit F).
- There are no substantial changes or substantially important new information that will cause the project to have significant new impacts or substantially increase previously identified significant impacts.

Recommended Planning Commission Action and Next Steps



1. Staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve and adopt Planning Commission Resolution No. 2022 – 746, recommending to the City Council approval of the proposed updates to the Calabasas 2030 General Plan Safety Element, Circulation Element, and Implementation Chapter, as described in the staff report.
2. Submit Safety Element to State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.
3. City Council considers adoption of updated Circulation and Safety Elements.

**Thank you for
your time!**

Questions or comments?



Links to Bills



- **Climate change (Senate Bill 379)**
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB379
- **Evacuation (Senate Bill 99, Assembly Bills 1409 and 747)**
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB99
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1409
- **Wildfire (Senate Bill 1241)**
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB1241
- **Adoption process (Assembly Bill 3065)**
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200320040AB3065
- **Vehicle Miles Traveled (Senate Bill 743)**
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB743



- **Level of service** - a measure of traffic congestion along a roadway or at an intersection.
- **Vehicle Miles Traveled** - a measure of total vehicular travel that accounts for the number of vehicle trips and the length of those trips.
- **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection** - a government-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection who is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state and representing the state's interest in federal forestland in California
- **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone** - CAL FIRE maps fire hazards based on zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). There are three levels of severity: 1) Moderate FHSZs; 2) High FHSZs; and 3) Very High FHSZs. Each of the zones influence how people construct buildings and protect property to reduce risk associated with wildland fires. To reduce fire risk under State regulations, areas within Very High FHSZs must comply with specific building and vegetation management requirements intended to reduce property damage and loss of life in those areas.

Acronyms



- SB – Senate Bill
- AB – Assembly Bill
- TS – Transportation Study
- LOS – Level of service
- VMT – Vehicle miles traveled
- GHG – Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- EPIC – Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas: A Fire Safe Council
- CERP - Calabasas Emergency Response Radio Program
- SCAG – Southern California Association of Governments
- DTA - Dynamic Traffic Assignment