



## **CITY *of* CALABASAS**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION** **AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE:**           **SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

**TO:**               **MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

**FROM:**          **MICHAEL KLEIN, AICP, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
                      **TOM BARTLETT, AICP, CITY PLANNER**

**SUBJECT:**       **GENERAL PLAN UPDATES – SAFETY ELEMENT AND CIRCULATION**  
                      **ELEMENT**

**MEETING**  
**DATE:**           **SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

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#### **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve and adopt Planning Commission Resolution No. 2022 – 746 (Exhibit A), recommending to the City Council approval of proposed updates to the Calabasas 2030 General Plan Circulation Element (Exhibit C), the Calabasas 2030 General Plan Safety Element (Exhibit D), and the Calabasas 2030 General Plan “Implementation” chapter (Exhibit F).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

As required by California Government Code sections 65353 and 65354, and in accordance with chapter 17.76 of the Calabasas Municipal Code, the Planning Commission must review and consider proposed amendments to the General Plan elements, and then forward a recommendation to the City Council. Accordingly, on July 21, 2022 the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to consider proposed updates to the General Plan Circulation Element and Safety Element.

The staff report for the July 21st Planning Commission meeting discussed the reasons behind the General Plan updates, discussed the planning process employed to prepare the proposed updates, and summarized key components of the proposed updates. Attached to the July 21st staff report were red-line mark-ups of both revised General Plan elements as well as a few related updates to the “Implementation” chapter of the General Plan. Neither the July 21st staff report nor the attachments are replicated here; Commission members are asked to refer back to them as may be necessary. This report and attached documents focus on only further revisions, based on input and questions raised by the Planning Commission and by the general public.

As a reminder, California Government Code section 65302.5(b)(1) requires that the final draft Safety Element update (as will be recommended by the Planning Commission to the City Council) be formally submitted to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for review and approval, and that City Council adoption of the updated Safety Element shall not occur until after Board approval. Accordingly, staff will submit the final draft of the updated Safety Element to CalFIRE immediately following Planning Commission action.

#### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

In addition to providing input and comments during the July 21, 2022 public hearing, following the meeting, members of the Planning Commission also provided to staff by e-mail a number of additional questions and comments. Staff compiled all Commission members’ questions and comments in a matrix document, with a response to each question or comment provided in the column titled City Response. The matrix is attached as Exhibit B.

Also, staff from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and City’s Public Safety Department have provided additional input into the Safety Element. The City Department of Public Works provided additional input for the Circulation Element.

#### **Updated Circulation Element – Summary of Revised and Additional Amendments**

- Removed redundant language relating to goals and objectives of the Circulation Element.
- Clarified the difference between the Circulation Element objectives and Circulation Element themes.

- Removed language relating to slow moving trucks accessing the County landfill.

### **Updated Safety Element – Summary of Revised and Additional Amendments**

- Added references to the Safety Element appendices at the beginning of the element
- Added discussions on the availability of emergency water supplies in case of a natural disaster such as an earthquake or wildfire
- Added a policy to prepare a bridge preventative maintenance plan and to implement bridge maintenance recommendations.
- Reorganized policies under Disaster Response under new headings titled Disaster Response Planning, Disaster Response Coordination, Disaster Response Preparedness, Community Awareness, Single-access Residential Communities, and Emergency Evacuation.
- Added a policy to develop a continuity of operations/government plan to ensure the City has the ability to operate and provide services regardless of an emergency.
- Added a policy for the City to explore issuing voluntary evacuation orders early prior to a wildfire event occurring, such as during exceptionally high fire risk conditions.
- Added a discussion regarding steps the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is taking to diversify their water supply sources.
- Added two policies to encourage a reduction in water demand for residential landscaping.

### **Updated Implementation Chapter – Summary of Key Amendments**

- Added water availability and climate projections to the list of topics that require new data as part of Calabasas' Resource Inventory

### **REVIEW OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

Planning staff and Rincon Consultants have prepared an Addendum to the *City of Calabasas General Plan Update Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* (State Clearinghouse #2021020150), which was certified by the City of Calabasas City Council on October 13, 2021. The General Plan Update EIR analyzed updates to the Land Use, Housing, Safety, and Circulation Elements. However, after the General Plan Update EIR was approved and certified, further updates to the Safety and Circulation Elements of the General Plan were made.

In accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15000 et seq. of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations), a lead agency must prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred. Under Section 15162(a), where an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for the project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, that there are substantial changes in the project or circumstances or substantially important new information that will cause the project to have significant new impacts or substantially increase previously identified significant impacts. The EIR addendum does not need to be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR (Section 15164(c)). The decision-making body must consider the addendum with the final EIR prior to making a decision on the project (Section 15164(d)). An explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162, supported by substantial evidence, is included in Section 4 of the EIR Addendum. The analysis in the EIR Addendum demonstrates that the proposed project does not require the preparation of a subsequent EIR.

Therefore, in conjunction with the previously certified EIR, the EIR Addendum addresses the proposed updates to the Calabasas General Plan Circulation Element and Safety Element. The EIR Addendum was attached to the July 21, 2022 staff report (as Exhibit F), and is hereby incorporated by reference.

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

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 this report.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Exhibit A: Planning Commission Resolution No. 2022-746

Exhibit B: Matrix of Planning Commissioners' Comments and Questions

Exhibit C: Proposed Update of the General Plan Circulation Element – Mark-up Copy

Exhibit D: Proposed Update of the General Plan Safety Element – Mark-up Copy

Exhibit E: Appendices to the Proposed Safety Element Update

Exhibit F: Proposed Update of General Plan Chapter XIII (Implementation)