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**To:** info <[info@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:info@cityofcalabasas.com)>  
**Subject:** Planning Commission 1-19-23 agenda item #4 – Public Comments

To the Planning Commissioners:

With regard to agenda item #4, please consider the following recommendations and comments:

I ask that the Planning Commission include a recommendation to the City Council for the hiring of a full-time Public Safety Director/Manager.

The City's designation as a very high fire hazard severity zone and the high number of its communities with limited ingress/egress in emergency situations warrant a full-time Director or Manager dedicated to Public Safety. It is a mitigation measure the City can implement that will have a significant impact on public safety issues of great concern to all residents that the City acknowledges exist.

In general, dissemination of information and communications related to emergency procedures should be distributed to all residents of the City, not just those with HOAs. There are a significant number of City residents, homeowners and renters, who are not represented by an HOA. This information is critical to effectively and safely evacuate residents should the need arise. However, there are several instances throughout the Safety Element that specifically state HOAs involvement in a process and by omission, exclude other residents. These should be modified to include all City residents.

In general, the language used in the General Plan should be sufficiently specific to ensure the intended interpretation.

For example, Policy VII-1 states, "Incorporate adequate mitigation measures into proposed development projects to achieve *an acceptable level of risk*...". There is no definition of what constitutes "an acceptable level of risk". This makes this determination somewhat subjective. It should include an objective means to make this determination, and what, if any, source is referenced.

There are several instances in the Public Safety Element Updates where information is not included.

For example, in section VII.B Stormwater Management and Flooding - General Plan Approach, it states, "A small portion of western Calabasas is within the 100-year floodplain..". This is not shown on Figure VII -3 FEMA FLOOD HAZARD ZONES. Specific information on the exact location should be otherwise provided in this text.

In Disaster Response, it states, “The Malibu/Lost Hills Station is responsible for preparing comprehensive Fire, Flood and Earthquake Evacuation Plans. ...These plans are updated on an annual basis.” The most-recent version of this plan is not included. It should be incorporated by reference.

Policies VII-64 to VII-67 include policies that seek to alleviate evacuation challenges associated with single access neighborhoods. Information indicating the responsible party for providing these services should be included.

In the following Disaster Response planning policies it states, “VII-50 - Update and regularly maintain the City of Calabasas’ Emergency Operations Plan ..., and VII-53 - Maintain and update an Evacuation Plan, in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Management, every eight years at a minimum to account for all types of emergencies.” These should be done annually and whenever a residential development adds residents to the City population.

Finally, there is one instance of a policy that requires specific action: “VII-56 Require that all homes and businesses have visible street addressing and signage.” With the “Dark Skies Ordinance” in place, there are locations in the City where the street addressing and signage are not visible at times of darkness. “Visible” should be defined as “clearly visible from a passing vehicle.”

Thank you for your consideration of all of the above.

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Calabasas resident  
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