



**City of Calabasas**

# **Updates to the General Plan Circulation and Safety Elements**

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**City Council Meeting | April 26, 2023**





# Project Team

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





## Circulation and Safety Elements

- Under California law 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 (RHNA Cycle 6) 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 traffic and transportation impact reviews and determinations, prompting associated updates to the Circulation Element.**
  - Shift from Levels of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for CEQA
  - The Traffic and Transportation Commission has already reviewed, and recommends approval of, updated Traffic Study (TS) Guidelines based on VMT approach
  - Circulation Element policies are updated to similarly reflect VMT approach
- **Local drivers**
  - Emergency evacuation and wildfire risk
  - Updating transportation improvements in the Circulation Element
  - Greater focus on alternative modes of travel (mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian modes)



# Update Process

## Technical Analyses

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

## Engagement with Appointed Officials, Agency Representatives, and the Public

- Los Angeles County Sheriff
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Public Works Department and the Traffic & Transportation Commission
- CAL FIRE
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Las Virgenes Unified School District
- Public Safety Department and the Public Safety Commission
- Planning Commission

## Informing and Engaging the Public

- Draft updates posted and available since Aug. 2021, and revised drafts posted as they were developed
- Public input provided at the various Commission hearings

## Planning Commission Recommendation to the City Council

- Planning Commission approved P. C. Resolution No. 2023-746 on 1/19/2023 recommending to the City Council approval of the proposed General Plan updates

## California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

- After Planning Commission action, CAL FIRE again reviewed final draft Safety Element, and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approved the final draft Safety Element on April 4, 2023, with no further changes.



## What is the Circulation Element?

The Circulation Element of the General Plan provides the goals and policies regarding how people and goods move within and through the community. In general, the stated goals focus 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; and,
- Preserve a sense of comfort and well-being throughout the community by minimizing the intrusiveness of commercial/business park and regional traffic on neighborhood streets and quality of life.



# What Changes are Proposed for the Circulation Element?

- Updated and added language and terminology regarding vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and complete street concepts, as necessary to comply with Senate Bill 743
- Added an explanation of how the City intends to continue using Level of Service (LOS) for evaluation of potential traffic impacts, in addition to the State-mandated VMT traffic impact review thresholds and process
- Added a discussion that the City plans to prepare a new fee study that could result in new and/or updated traffic and transportation impact mitigation fee
- Updated Figures VI-1 Calabasas Roadway System and VI-2 Existing and Planned Bicycle Facility System to better reflect existing conditions
- Added Agoura Road and Mureau Road as roadway segments affected by freeway diversion, along with the Parkway Calabasas freeway interchange
- Updated Table VI-1 with planned circulation system enhancement projects
- Added new emergency evacuation analyses and associated policies
- Added language that directs future updates to the Bicycle Master Plan to consider Class I and Class IV bike lanes



# What is the Safety Element?

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

Hazards addressed in the Safety Element include:

- Geology and seismicity
- Flooding and stormwater management
- Fire Hazards
- Radon Gas
- Hazardous Materials
- Disaster Response





# What Changes are Proposed for the Safety Element?

- Updated figures which depict seismic risk, liquefaction risk, flood risk, wildfire risk, and radon risk based on the latest available data;
- Added new figures that depict historic wildfire burn areas and perimeters, and single-access route residential neighborhoods;
- To comply with Senate Bill 379, added a discussion on climate change, potential impacts, and vulnerable populations; and,
- Added new policies that address:
  - Geology and seismic risk (4 new policies)
  - Wildfire risk (25 new policies)
  - Disaster response, preparedness and community awareness (17 new policies)
  - Single-Access Residential Communities (4 new policies)
  - Emergency evacuation (22 new policies)
  - Climate change adaptation (20 new policies)



# New Appendices to the Safety Element

## **D-1: Wildfire Appendix (Prepared based on TSS Consultants Analysis)**

- 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

## **D-2: Emergency Evacuation Assessment Appendix (Prepared by Fehr and Peers)**

- 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 regional (SCAG) land use data
- Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA) Model



# Implementation Chapter Updates

A handful of updates were necessary within the **Implementation** chapter of the 2030 General Plan (Chapter XIII) due to statutory requirements to maintain internal plan consistency.

- 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;
- Added water availability and climate projections to the list of topics that require new data as part of Calabasas' Resource Inventory;
- Removed outdated information regarding the Oak Tree Reforestation Fund; and,
- Added a provision stating that Safety Element policies take priority over other General Element policies in situations where policy conflicts occur.



## CEQA Review – EIR Addendum

- The General Plan Update EIR analyzed updates to the Land Use, Housing, Safety and Circulation Elements, and was approved by the City Council in September 2021.
- Since that time, further updates to the Safety and Circulation Elements have been accomplished, which are analyzed in the EIR Addendum (Attachment H to the written staff report).
- There are no substantial changes or substantially important new information that cause the project to have significant new impacts or substantially increase previously identified significant impacts.





# Recommended City Council Action

**Staff recommends that the City Council approve and adopt via Resolution Number 2023-1850 (Attachment A to the written report):**

- The proposed updates to the Calabasas 2030 General Plan Circulation Element (Attachment B)
- The proposed updates to the Calabasas 2030 General Plan Safety Element (Attachments C and D)
- The proposed updates to the Calabasas 2030 General Plan “Implementation” chapter (Attachment E)



**Questions or  
Comments?**



**Thank you!**



## Links to Bills

### **Climate Change (Senate Bill 379)**

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB379](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/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB99)

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1409](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](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](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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB743)