

To: The Calabasas City Council

**Cc: Kindon Meik, City Manager
Michael Klein, Community Development Director**

From: The Calabasas Coalition

Re: Item #3 – Public Hearing

April 25, 2023

We wanted to express our appreciation for all the hard work the Planning Commission did in refining the updates to the Safety and Circulation Elements of the General Plan.

The Planning Commission took into consideration input from the public and the Traffic and Safety Commissions to forge these documents.

In particular, Commissioners Michael Harrison, Robert Lia and Greg Byrne are to be commended for standing strong making sure that what you are considering reflects the concerns of the residents and presents realistic paths forward toward improvement.

We support these updates and urge you to pass them.

Thank you.

**Joanne Suwara for
The Calabasas Coalition**

Maricela Hernandez

Subject: FW: General Plan Safety/Circulation Updates

From: Luresa Byrne <luresab@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 4:59 PM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: General Plan Safety/Circulation Updates

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Dear City Council of Calabasas,

I have lived in Calabasas, in the Las Virgenes Valley, for 25 years and appreciate the beauty and rural character of this area immensely. I have also lived through several wildfires, evacuations, and emergency events over those 25 years. Something that frightens me tremendously is the urgency that arises during one of these events.

Each time we are faced with the Sheriff's calls to evacuate, we Las Virgenes Valley residents understand that it could be a very bad decision to jump in our vehicles and go. This is because we have been "trapped" in our neighborhood because there is only one way out. That one way out is also an emergency evacuation route and a designated disaster route and bottlenecks very quickly during these events. The maps I viewed in the updated Safety Element are nearly identical to the map that has been used for many years which has arrows pointing north or south on the 101 Freeway to be our official evacuation route/plan.

After all of the analyses and discussions regarding the Safety Element, it is clear that there is nothing that can be done to improve or ensure the resident's safe egress during an emergency event. More maps pointing north or south on the 101 freeway, with new percentages in the arrows, shows that there is no fix or mitigation for our evacuation problem. After living through the Woolsey Fire, I no longer feel that it is safe for the residents in the Las Virgenes Valley side of Calabasas. We are living in a creek bed where fires burn hottest and fastest, Malibu Canyon. When the emergency event happens, those of us living north of the 101 freeway cannot get out. It has happened over and over and I am disappointed that it has been 5 years since the deadly Woolsey Fire and I cannot see anything which addresses the frightening scenario that ensues with every tragic event that happens on this west side of town. Because 2 of the 3 deaths from the Woolsey Fire were people trying to evacuate...I am now likely NOT to leave my home in an emergency event because I do not believe there is a safe way to leave the area.

While I understand the complexity of these issues, I sincerely hope that more will be done to ensure the safety of the current residents of Calabasas, especially those of us living in the Las Virgenes Valley.

Sincerely,
Luresa Poe Byrne