

MEMORANDUM

This memorandum summarizes the virtual community workshops held as part of the initial phase of outreach for the Peninsula Resilience Planning (PREP) project. It includes a description of the events and a summary of the feedback received from attendees, which is meant to support the development of the vulnerability assessment and Safety Element goals, policies, and actions. The results for both workshops are combined in this summary.

Community Workshops Summary

WORKSHOP PURPOSE AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

The purpose of the community workshops is to create community-wide and county-wide opportunities for the public to provide input and engage with the PREP project, which includes a vulnerability assessment and updates to jurisdictions' Safety Elements. This workshop series occurred following the assessment of existing conditions and in preparation for the vulnerability assessment. This series focused on discussing hazards of concern, attendees' experiences with hazards, and identifying vulnerable populations and assets to the community. The goal of the workshop series for the PREP project team was to receive input on how community members have prepared for, responded to, and recovered from past climate hazard events. It also served as an opportunity to begin envisioning adaptation strategies and policies. The goal for community members was to gain a better understanding of the Safety Element update process and other aspects of the PREP project, what PREP will accomplish, why the participating jurisdictions have chosen to be involved, and to share their personal experience with hazards to inform adaptation goals and strategies.

AGENDA AND FORMAT

The PREP project consultant team, with the support of agency staff from the participating jurisdictions¹, hosted two virtual community events via Zoom on March 13th and April 3rd, 2024, from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Both workshops followed the same agenda. The workshops included thirty minutes of presentation, a poll, a brief question and answer period, and thirty-five minutes of small group discussion. The presentation provided an overview of the PREP project, including descriptions of the various project components (including outreach, Safety Element updates, and vulnerability assessment), how PREP benefits the participating communities, and the proposed schedule of the project. Participants were able to ask clarifying questions before separating into small groups for a moderated discussion on their experience with natural hazards and priorities for safety-related efforts in their communities. A total of 138 individuals registered for the two workshops and 70 attended, not including the project team and facilitation staff.

While the workshop materials focused on the jurisdictions participating in the PREP project, community members from throughout the county and neighboring jurisdictions were invited to participate. The project team provided simultaneous interpretation to Spanish during the workshop and provided a

¹ Participating jurisdictions are the Town of Atherton, the cities of Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Palo Alto, San Bruno, and San Mateo County.

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dedicated discussion group for Spanish speakers. The project team provided a Spanish version of the presentation in advance on the project website. This workshop series is one of two series to be completed over the span of the project.

WORKSHOP PROMOTION

Participating jurisdictions promoted the workshops through their various City-controlled communication channels. This included posting the event on community event calendars on City websites, sharing event details via e-news distribution lists, and posting on social media sites like NextDoor and Facebook. Participating jurisdictions also shared the event details with community-based organizations to share with their audiences.

INTRODUCTORY POLL

Each workshop began with an introductory poll. The goal of the poll was to gauge which communities were represented in the workshop, what hazards are of most concern, and whether participants are familiar with their community's General Plan.

Participants were asked the following questions in English and Spanish (all multiple choice):

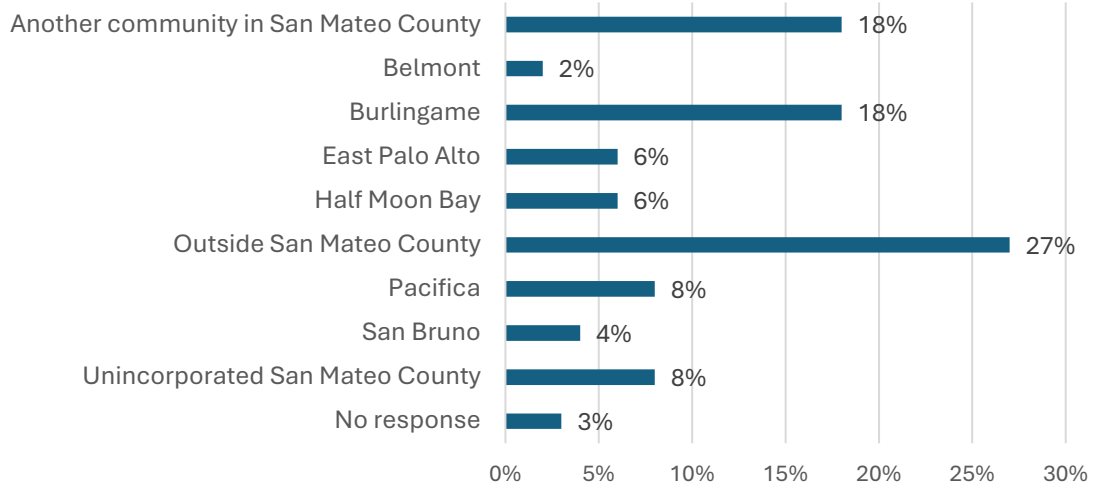
1. Where do you live?
2. Where do you work or attend school?
3. What climate hazard is of most concern to you?
4. Are you familiar with your community's General Plan?

Key takeaways from the participant poll:

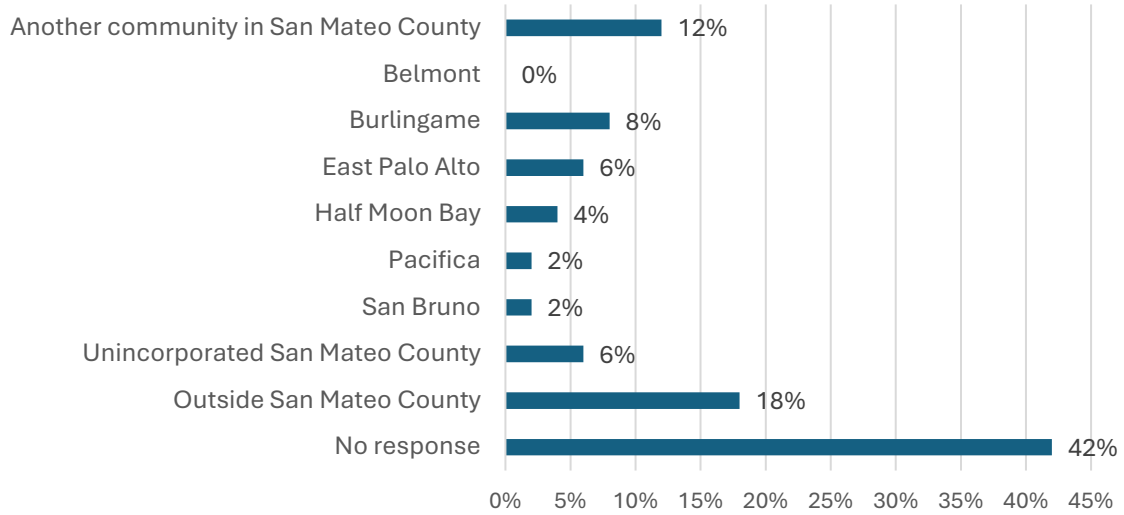
- Fifty-two percent of respondents are from a community participating in the PREP project. The remaining respondents live in another, nearby community in San Mateo County (18 percent) or outside of San Mateo County (27 percent).
- Respondents are most concerned about flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires.
- Most respondents were familiar with their community's General Plan.

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Question 1: Where do you live?

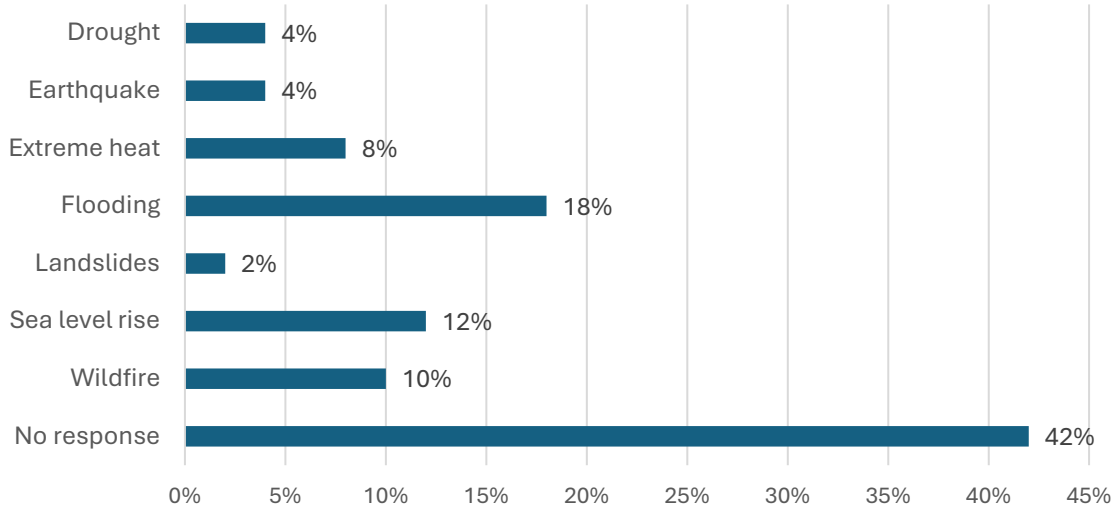


Question 2: Where do you work or attend school?

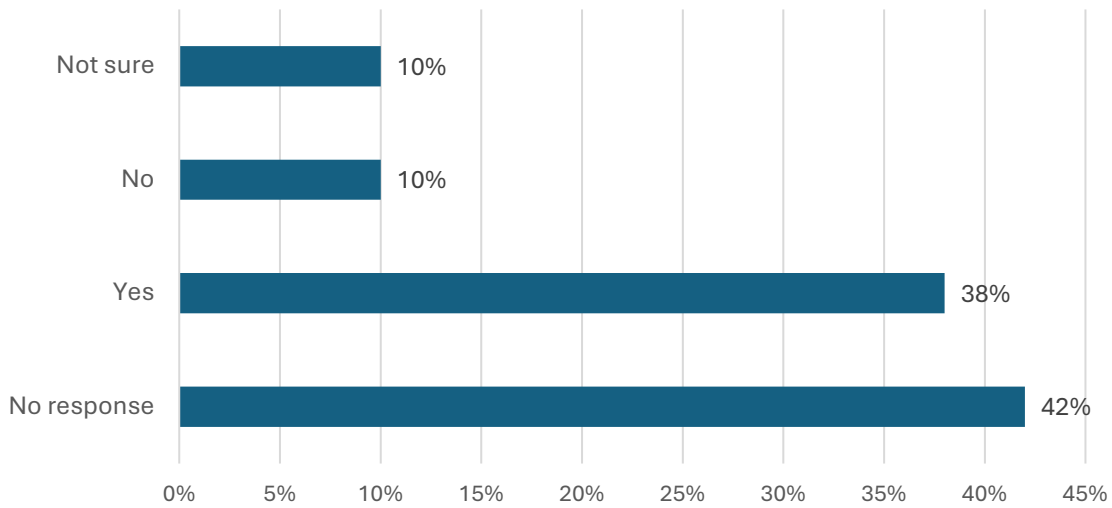


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Question 3: Hazards of most concern



Question 4: Familiarity with General Plan



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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation. Below are the key themes that emerged. A full list of questions received and the provided answers are included in Appendix B to this memo.

- Participants asked about the relationship between the PREP project and subsequent Safety Element updates and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Participants were concerned about hazardous materials and potential environmental contamination in the event of flooding.
- Participants asked about environmental justice issues and how frontline communities will be prioritized in PREP.
- Participants were interested in how countywide solutions would be created and implemented.
- Participants asked about the tension between the need for more housing and the increasing risk of natural hazards.

DISCUSSION GROUP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

For the remainder of the workshop, attendees participated in facilitated small group discussions in Zoom breakout rooms. The project team randomly assigned participants to small groups of five to eight people to discuss their experiences with hazards in their communities. Participating agency staff served as small group facilitators and notetakers. Notetakers shared their computer screens during the discussion so that participants could confirm their comments were being noted correctly. The complete notes from the discussion groups are included in Appendix A. Below are the discussion questions followed by a summary of the key themes that emerged from the discussion groups.

1. **Impacts of hazards:** *What hazards (wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, etc.) or impacts of hazards (such as Public Safety Power Shutoff events) have you experienced in your community?*
2. **Preparation and recovery:** *How have you responded to past hazards in your area? What are some barriers you have faced in responding to hazards?*
3. **Vulnerable populations:** *Who and what do you feel are most at risk from hazards, and why? Are there additional populations or community assets who should be considered?*
4. **Resilience visioning:** *What would you like to see your community do to improve safety and resilience to natural hazards?*

Impacts of Hazards

Workshop participants identified several hazards of concern and their potential impacts. The key themes from the discussions are noted below.

- » Flooding is a major concern for all communities. Participants are concerned about flooding from storms like those from the winters of 2022 and 2023, which had cascading effects of power shut-offs, downed trees, and landslides. Aging utility and stormwater infrastructure pose a risk to resilience of the area in the event of a storm.
- » Participants are concerned about the impacts of power shut-offs, whether for public safety reasons or due to a hazardous event, as they shut down communication channels and

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therefore impact access to resources. This is especially an issue with vulnerable populations, such as seniors or people with disabilities.

- » There is concern regarding the risk of floodwaters spreading hazardous materials in the soil to previously-uncontaminated areas.
- » For participants that live in coastal communities, erosion is a concern due to flooding from heavy rain and sea level rise, which impacts utilities located along the coast. The feasibility of safe evacuations is also a concern for coastal communities as they have limited ingress/egress routes.
- » Wildfire is a concern for all communities represented. Large eucalyptus groves in coastal areas pose a risk for fire and poor air quality following a local or regional fire affects inland and coastal communities.
- » Extended heatwaves are a concern as many older homes in the area do not have air conditioning.

Preparation and Recovery

Participants discussed the various strategies they use to prepare for or recover from a hazardous event. They also discussed what barriers may exist to prevent adequate preparation or recovery. The key themes are outlined below.

- » To prepare for flooding in the event of a major storm or extended rainfall, workshop participants often clean out their rain gutters and drains and purchase sandbags. However, these actions can be difficult for potentially vulnerable populations, such as seniors or people with disabilities, without help.
- » Workshop participants are also relying on various forms of hazard insurance to protect their homes, such as flood insurance, but rates are increasing with the increase in hazard frequency.
- » Workshop participants note financial costs as a main barrier for individual emergency and hazard preparedness. Purchasing sandbags, insurance, tools for home hardening, and solar panel and battery power systems is usually the responsibility of the homeowner, at least partially if supplemented by a rebate or tax credit, and this is not a feasible expense for all residents.
- » To prepare for wildfires, workshop participants in high-risk wildfire areas with dense vegetation or steep slopes are clearing vegetation and implementing other home hardening techniques. However, a perceived lack of coordinated community-wide or neighborhood-wide vegetation management reduces the effectiveness of individual efforts.
- » Lack of air conditioning is a barrier in the event of a heatwave. Many homes in the region were built without air conditioning, meaning that installing air conditioning comes at a financial cost to property owners.
- » Participants noted a lack of public education as a barrier to preparedness suggesting that residents are not aware of the potential hazards and how to prepare for them. Residents may not be aware of the various public programs to assist with preparation, or in the event of a hazardous event, to assist with recovery and response.

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- » Participants noted that some jurisdictions, including San Carlos and Burlingame, have adopted zoning code amendments, such as establishing special districts or revising setback requirements in high-risk areas, to mitigate damage from hazards. A perceived lack of ongoing funding is a barrier to the completion or maintenance of citywide preparedness programs, including storm drain improvements and removal of hazardous trees.

Vulnerable Populations

Participants identified several groups that may be at higher risk of exposure to climate-change related hazards and their effects. Below are the key categories and populations that emerged.

- » Respondents felt that older adults are vulnerable to all hazards for several reasons, including declining physical health, potential lack of mobility and independence, or a reliance on electricity for medical devices like Life Alert.
- » Low-income community members are also potentially vulnerable to hazards like flooding and wildfire, according to participants, as they may live in older buildings that have not been well-maintained or have had unpermitted work done. Low-income areas are also often in an area of higher risk for natural hazards or environmental contamination. People living in these areas are already experiencing many impacts of these hazards.
- » Respondents felt that farmworkers and other outdoor workers are especially vulnerable to extreme heat and poor air quality due to wildfires.
- » Respondents noted that people experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to the effects of all hazards and may not be able to access resources in the event of a hazardous event, such as getting to a cooling center or receiving emergency notifications.
- » Participants identified children as a vulnerable population, especially to poor air quality following a wildfire. Schools and daycare centers are critical in supporting children and therefore a priority community asset in preparing for hazards.
- » Respondents felt that renters are uniquely vulnerable as they are often not in control of the structures they live in and therefore unable to make necessary improvements to prepare for hazards. Renters may also have smaller dwelling units, limiting the amount of supplies they can store in case of an emergency.
- » Respondents identified non-English speaking community members as potentially vulnerable in the event of an emergency if resources are not available in their native language. They may also struggle to be aware of the risks in their community and how best to prepare if educational resources are not available in their native language.

Resilience Visioning

Participants raised an array of potential strategies that their local communities and the region can take to mitigate risk from natural hazards. Below are the key themes.

- » Local jurisdictions should improve evacuation planning, especially in coastal communities with limited evacuation routes.

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- » Communities need consistent funding for infrastructure upgrades, including for the storm drain system, utility lines, and wastewater treatment plants located at or below sea level.
- » More granular, local-level data and hazard modeling should inform development decisions. Future development should be sited outside of high-risk areas.
- » Participants support nature-based solutions to mitigate risk, including restoring wetlands, increasing permeability of surfaces, reducing hazardous vegetation like highly flammable trees or shrubs, and improving soil structure and vegetation to prevent erosion.
- » Neighborhood and community cohesion are necessary for adequate risk mitigation as the impacts of hazards do not follow property lines. Local governments can support programs to connect neighbors for community-wide adaptation projects to improve social resilience.

Next Steps

This memo provides the summary of the first round of virtual community workshops for PREP. The project team will use the feedback gathered from community members to inform the completion of the vulnerability assessment and the development of the goals, policies, and actions of the Safety Elements.

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Appendix A: PREP Virtual Community Workshop Discussion Notes

During each community workshop attendees participated in facilitated small group discussions in Zoom breakout rooms. The PREP project team randomly assigned participants to small groups of five to eight people to discuss their experiences with hazards in their communities. Participating agency staff served as small group facilitators and notetakers. Below are the unedited comments received from each group's notetaker. Responses from both workshops are combined under each question.

QUESTION 1: IMPACTS OF HAZARDS

What hazards (wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, etc.) or impacts of hazards (such as Public Safety Power Shutoff events) have you experienced in your community?

- San Bruno
 - Flooding on the east side of San Bruno (undeveloped area near 101) in recent storms
 - Power shutoffs in San Bruno, especially in areas next to the valley where the PG&E gas explosion was several years ago.
- El Granada
 - Wildfires in El Granada (concern for eucalyptus grove)
 - Increased flooding in streets in El Granada and along the coast; Mid Coast Community Council trying to address flooding issues especially along northern coast.
 - Also experienced power outages, some lasting multiple days (e.g. in Moss Beach and Montara)
 - AT&T considering removing landlines, but cell service along the coast is spotty.
 - Only one highway into coast so access is limited.
 - County developing an evacuation plan.
- Storm inundation and sea level rise
- Find ways we can better adapt to and plan for foreseeable issues
- Power shutoff events and internet outages
- Wildfires and the impacts of smoke
- Mass shooting events
- Getting basic necessities can be difficult during hazardous events
- How are people from vulnerable communities being affected by these issues?
- Infrastructure (internet and power) resiliency
- How to protect property
- Monterra, El Granada, and Half Moon Bay utility providers infrastructure is being damaged by erosion
- We need to consider infrastructure issues when developing in these areas

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- Brisbane | In January, side of the mountain gave way with several rocks coming into the city streets. As such, the rock debris blocked the storm drain and impacted the ability to drain from floods. Concerned with the potential costs in the future. Flooding levels are increasing, and ground water intrusions are impacting vegetation. Furthermore, wildfires are becoming more prevalent. 1000% increase in home insurance for wildfires. Sea level rise in nearby communities.
 - Power Outages prevented the ability to communicate with/locate with the elderly and/or vulnerable communities
 - Groundwater Intrusions within existing structures/infrastructure
- Also concerned regarding increasing insurance fees. Reiterates how climate change is impacting their community.
 - Quality of Water and impacts from existing infrastructure during earthquakes
- Burlingame | Power shutoff concerns for vulnerable communities. Extreme flooding has occurred more prevalently especially noted in January 2023. Wind damage during the January 2023 storm events were noted. Specifically mentioned was that several trees have fallen. Concerns for wildfire in nearby residential locations and their canyon regions.
- San Carlos | Noted several locations severely impacted by flooding (Creeks and notable streets). Concern for current Pump System infrastructure. Concern for biosafety impacts during flooding season.
 - Concern from historical landfill presence and potential biohazards that may be currently existing within said fill areas.
 - Life Alert Users were impacted when unable to communicate during power outages
- Belmont has experienced flooding and landslides as a result of flooding, and the Belmont Ridge is a wildland urban interface
- Burlingame has experienced flooding and landslides, air quality is an issue during wildfires, and we need to be ready for earthquakes
- Burlingame also had trees come down during the flooding, which makes it hard to get around the City
- East Palo Alto & North Fair Oaks experience flooding, delays in communications about how to get resources,
- Sea level rise is an issue with EPA being close to the San Francisco Bay
- Heat is an issue, are we prepared enough for the next extreme heat event?
- Burlingame
 - Flooding on roads such as El Camino
 - Public Safety Power Shutoff events
 - Droughts
- Montara

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- Wildfires... One time the sky was dark until 11:30
- One time there was a wildfire that had to be put out by helicopters
- Highly flammable Eucalyptus trees in Montara
- Highly susceptible wildfire area
- 6-8 inch storm every year according to FEMA since 2017
 - Used to be classified as 100 year storms
 - Variability in storms increasing
 - No stormwater management plan for the County
 - Trees falling all over which have caused power shutoffs... At least 6 this year. Worse for people in the back of Montara because more trees fell there... Not to mention public safety power shutoffs
- Water supply from Montara Mountain, not from Hetch Hetchy
- Montara water supply more precarious...
- No tsunami in a while
- One earthquake fault goes through Seal Cove and Moss Beach
- Sea level rise: Hwy 1 being eroded at Montara State Beach, etc.
 - These areas do not have adequate enough protection to handle the rainfall
 - Caltrans trying to rebuild that area but they are basing protective measures off of 20th century data... Not adequate enough
 - Sewer plant has flooded beyond capacity several times
- Like Paradise on steroids
- No feasible evacuation plan
- Rated by PC Magazine as area with worst cell phone reception
- Nitrates polluting
- Granada
 - More concerned about stormwater management and flooding and erosion
 - We do not have a stormwater management plan or the budget for it
 - Predicted rainfall is increasing
 - If there is no management plan (e.g. trees, marshes, vegetation) for mitigating flooding, we could be destroying what is meant to protect us
 - Wildfire study done by County several years ago identified wildfire zones... But no wildfire prevention plan... Not following best practices followed by SoCal or Colorado for instance (e.g. only covered trees surrounding homes not homes themselves)
- Brisbane
 - Biggest concern is wildfire since located in the foothills of the mountains
 - There are few ways to get into town, so those routes could be easily compromised
 - Kinder Morgan tanks that sit along tunnel 1?
 - Evacuation point along Sierra Point which requires you to go through that tunnel... Simulation of evacuation has not been done

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- There is a difference between mitigation and preparation for climate change
 - Lots of eucalyptus trees which is a big risk. Must plan around them
 - Concern about scale
 - Recently, the flooding has been at a manageable scale but what happens when flooding surpasses that scale?
 - Fitzgerald Marine Reserve tree health
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- EPA: Flooding, power shutoff recently; Coastside: sea level rise, intense rains and high tides, effects that contribute to erosion. HWY 1 impacts recently, ongoing threat. San Carlos, wildlife urban interface– wildfire concerns. Approach is good but still an issue. Earthquakes always a concern. Sierra Club is concerned about increase of biotech along the peninsula, potential of bio accidents, hazards. Working with San Carlos, which has banned higher risk/safety levels; RWC also. Also on health issues: sewer, stormwater impacts and risks– coastside has consistent sewer overflows. Also landslides. Impact of development on steep hillsides, risk of impacts. Pacifica: development is still on the radar within parts of city that are clearly hazard zones; climate crisis will worsen hazards. Prioritization of private land rights over what will become public nuisances.
 - Coastside, numerous power shutoffs, some planned, but many unplanned, serious problem
 - Pacifica has some power outages, a few hours usually. Also had some power major issues with flooding, downed trees, storm damage near pier, storm surge affecting roads and infrastructure
 - Burlingame, some downed trees, 20+ in one park, various groups help clean. Also some flooding due to poor drainage. Wildfires, poor air quality even from fires that are not local
 - East Palo Alto, there is a contaminated site less than 400 ft from the Bay, managed by EPA but cleanup time is 10-20 years but we don't have that long
 - Pacifica, a few wildfires, near homes. A big landslide back of the valley. Landslides a big concern after lots of rain
 - Groundwater rise, table being pushed, increasing flooding on streets in the Bay area, low-lying areas b/c groundwater table is already so close to surface
 - Addressing SLR could impact groundwater rise because there's no outlet to drain the water could lead to increased flooding.
 - All of the above. San Mateo coast side - flooding and sea level rise, also wildfires; all big issues. Eucalyptus groves and areas susceptible to wildfire.
 - Earthquakes - liquefaction zones in our communities.
 - Increased storms due to climate change - stormwater runoff issues due to utilities. Runoff into ocean. Electrical outages, utility infrastructure maintained and/or upgraded.
 - Climate change and severe weather impacts us every year.
 - Wildfire has no seasons, year round.

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- Coast side similar to Maui topography - significant impacts from offshore winds; power outages, downed trees, utility poles; isolated communities - one way in, one way out.
- Sea level rise, liquefaction around airport and county bay line, El Camino area. Severe earthquake could see even if Hayward Fault erupts.
- Main goal - get residents to subscribe to emergency alerts; develop a safety plan. Get involved and engaged. Community Emergency Response training. Each jurisdiction has some type of program and is free to community.
- Evacuation an issue - don't have a good evacuation plan although there are designated routes.
- New platform Genasys Protect - evacuation plan. System helps saves lives.
- Zone Haven - what status of these programs are.
- Protecting parks and open space, and wildlife gets lost in hazard protection plans.
- Community Response Emergency trainings - are they available in multiple languages? Is there a plan for this? (Offered in Mandarin and Spanish; looking to expand to more languages)
- Heatwaves - how to respond to? Not enough resources available currently.
- Burlingame: The city experienced urban flooding issues and power outage in 2023. The ground was hard and had a lot of rain which caused trees to fall. Air pollution and smoke (2020) from wildfire made the sky turn red.
- Foster City: Flooding and sea level rise. Foster City completed a levee project recently this year from Foster City to Belmont to prevent flooding and to tackle sea level rise, which helped the issue a lot.
- San Bruno: Sea level rise.
- Half Moon Bay: wildfire, sea level rise, flooding
- Burlingame: Residents are being more careful to clean out drains and gutters ahead of time and be on the lookout for where/when the urban flooding would happen.
- Burlingame did a lot of preventive work like tree trimming, San Mateo to Millbrae - major drainage upgrades and tree planting, pg&e 2.2-mile underground utility wires, bayfront seawall increase to prepare for and prevent hazards.
- A lot of cities are being proactive on these unexpected events. Any citywide emergency plans that are available to the residents?
- San Mateo County has a hazard emergency dept that coordinates with residents on emergency preparation.
- Foster City: Foster City installed underground utility lines since the 70s. Big liabilities: Since the City is not on El Camino Blvd, it only has three routes to exit the City if any hazards happen. Foster City would be vulnerable to liquefaction from earthquakes.
- CERT is at the forefront helping the residents and residents can rely on CERT.
- Half Moon Bay: Preparation is the key. Have more knowledge as a community on hazards.

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- San Bruno: The city is investing in stormwater systems that help with water collection and reduce events like flooding, such as creating urban forests, creating fire barriers next to homes (which can be expensive)
- Would need more grants to maintain and continue these measures along. Concern: These preventative measures can be costly and hard to maintain without more funding.
- San Gregorio Earthquake fault/earthquakes, in a tsunami zone, fallen trees / vegetation management, wildfire (forest proximity due to park), flooding, landslide. Living on coastside, it feels like there is not much you can do at a personal level (just prep). Wish for more support from govt agencies on evacuation planning. Power outages are a challenge.
- San Mateo Creek proximity. King tide + storms, flooding along the creek. City turned one of the parks (Gateway) into a detention basin so flooding stays contained within the park. Supported peace of mind with defensible infrastructure.
- Heat waves. 2022 Labor Day. Atmospheric river storms in 2022 and flooding.
- Sea level rise. Surrounded by levy in Redwood Shores. Wildfire threat. Heat waves. Comfortable in the summer, homes not built with air conditioning. Lots of people are unprepared for long heatwaves.

QUESTION 2: PREPARATION AND RECOVERY

How have you responded to past hazards in your area? What are some barriers you have faced in responding to hazards?

- El Granada
 - Only until 2017 that flooding started to get into people's homes and driveways (lived there for about 50 years)
 - Had to use sandbags as a precaution - property owners have had to bear the brunt themselves
 - Supervisor working with MCC
 - No one coming forth with how to pay for mitigation measures
 - Funding is big concern
- Morgan Hill
 - Anderson Dam Project, etc.
 - Tunnel built underneath downtown area to protect against floods
 - Morgan Hill has a lot of history of flooding, but a lot of projects recently have helped mitigate against flooding
- San Bruno
 - Only recently got FEMA designations → some property owners obtained flood insurance, but some upset about this new expense

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- Proposed standard municipal bond for stormwater projects two years ago that did not garner enough votes to pass
 - Hillside on west side of San Bruno Avenue with erosion issue threatening stormwater infrastructure and San Bruno Avenue → project aimed to mitigate that completed but took expenses from other projects
 - Urgency to move utility lines
 - Cut some eucalyptus groves to make room for new recreation center... While beautiful, they are invasive species that are easily flammable
 - Personally have had to sandbag home back in Palo Alto
 - There are services proposed but also people reluctant to pay the taxes necessary to fund them
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- Sandbagging to prepare for flooding
 - Clearing drains before major storm events
 - Using updated data sets (coastal erosion zones)
 - Difficulty in preparing for unknown hazards
 - Finding the correct resources in your community
 - Cell phone coverage is an issue in certain communities
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- Town Hall meetings. Policies regarding affordability seem to be in the making however will be implemented later down the line. Affordability especially concerning insurance concerns.
 - Drill education/outreach. Asserting the importance of practice to responding to disasters as a community/group and how best to address those issues. Also provide radio for alerts.
 - Burlingame Neighborhood Network - encourage neighborhood gatherings and interconnect neighbors for support groups and provide communication.
 - San Carlos has implemented zoning requirements for further setback requirements. Noted that sandbag acquisition has been difficult for senior/elderly populations. Storm Drain plan has been implemented to be more responsive in clearing out said drains whether by public comment/concern or by their own inspections.
 - Burlingame adopted Sea Level Zoning Requirements to address sea level rising concerns on coastal regions within their city.
 - Community Outreach with relevant city officials to solicit input and educate the public on areas of concern.
 - Potentially can inform emergency personnel to enlist/inform vulnerable communities. E.g. elderly/life alert individuals being checked on during emergency response.
 - Promote community togetherness to identify and check vulnerable individuals within their reach
 - Peninsula Clean Energy has programs to help those with life-saving equipment to stay online

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- City of Belmont hasn't responded well, wildfire risk, vegetation clearing was ineffective, instead need to clear around structures and harden homes, the city policies are outdated
- Burlingame Neighborhood Network gives out information about what you can do, and holds a yearly drill that involves neighborhoods, to get folks involved with preparation
- Removal of trees would be helpful, Burlingame has removed a significant number of trees recently
- Preparation includes air filters for the house, emergency preparation kits
- North Fair Oaks preparation & recovery: residents have confusion about how to be prepared, resources need to be translated, or residents just need a person to talk to to help them understand. Waiting to prepare and recover is a problem for flooding, for example, waiting can mean roads are flooded and blocked when residents need to get sandbags. Also concerned about tree removal leading to more extreme heat.
- Montara
 - Telecommunications: study on lack of adequate mobile coverage and internet
 - Trying to get funding to build own fiber connections
 - No proactive plans for stormwater or wildfire management
- Brisbane
 - Have alternative sources of power in the event that power goes out e.g. Jackery
- Granada
 - Has satellite phone in order to communicate if phone batteries die
- San Carlos- wildfires. Working with State wildfire authorities. Multiple canyons, undeveloped— cut out underbrush, cut back trees to mitigate wildfires vs. clear-cutting, trenching. Managed mitigation of risk. Coastside: mostly reaction. Sewer, erosion— response is to add riprap, armor against sea level rise. Those promoting more environmentally aware response face a hard sell. EPA: Dealing w/ PG&E w/ downed powerlines; only respond in emergencies, non-responsive otherwise.
- There's just so much; huge barrier in responding is cost. Identifying sources of funding to plan design and implement solutions is top priority.
- Balance: vis a vis Environmental Justice and Housing— there's a real tension between goals, impacts. Tough conflict.
- But, many environmental justice groups and housing advocates agree that housing shouldn't be built in environmentally sensitive, hazard areas— build in infill areas. But legislation isn't taking this into account. Also— should be concerned about building in sea level rise areas.
- Some disagree that housing advocates take environmental sensitivity/hazard sufficiently into account. Scott Weiner as example— limiting authority of Coastal Commission. Coastal zone development should be limited due to climate impacts. Should prioritize managed retreat.

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- Contacted PG&E to be more sensible about how they have routed their power lines. They agreed to set up relocation or recovery setup. Not happy with their performance for city or coastside
- On an individual level have to be ready to wait, be prepared to wait, earthquake preparedness with food, candles, flashlights, etc...Long-term repairs more concerning
- During heat waves open libraries as cooling facility, not a lot a/c around County, elderly in particular are vulnerable
- Climate Resilience Centers designed to be cooling facilities or offer some other form of assistance, before and during natural disasters
- Some communities have CERT groups that have formed, this does help communities and individuals prepare

- Midcoast community council have worked on several of these issues. Informational sessions, regularly communicate with County Supervisor to be aware of needs.
- Some members have become CERT- certified.
- Barriers: education issue, people don't often know enough, emotions run high - difficult to get to solutions.
- Public education and outreach. Community not aware of programs available. Low percentage of subscribers to alert system.
- Heatwave impacts air quality and wildfire; changes in humidity - red flag warnings. Will increase with climate change.
- Vegetation management
- Increase outreach and education
- Keep up with severe weather and winterstorms. King Tides influencing flooding and runoff.
- Resource Conservation District of San Mateo - have been proactive with these issues.
- More prepared we can be, more enables us to support one another in the long run.
- Funding for projects an important factor.
- Have more agencies to provide programs in training and education.
- All CERTs standardized - take advantage of nonprofit status and get funding beyond government grants.
- Make sure nonprofits get funding support. Subgrants to nonprofits for resiliency work.
- Need increased personnel to spread awareness. (e.g. Thrive)

- Burlingame: Residents are being more careful to clean out drains and gutters ahead of time and be on the lookout for where/when the urban flooding would happen.
 - Burlingame did a lot of preventive work like tree trimming, San Mateo to Millbrae - major drainage upgrades and tree planting, pg&e 2.2-mile underground utility wires, bayfront seawall increase to prepare and prevent to hazards

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- A lot of cities are being proactive on these unexpected events. Any citywide emergency plans and are available to the residents?
 - San Mateo County has a hazard emergency dept that coordinates with residents on emergency preparation
- Foster City: Foster City installed underground utility lines since the 70s. Big liabilities: Since the City is not on El Camino Blvd, it only has three routes to exit the City if any hazards happen. Foster City would be vulnerable to liquefaction from earthquakes.
 - CERT is at the forefront helping the residents and residents can rely on CERT.
- Half Moon Bay: Preparation is the key. Have more knowledge as a community on hazards.
- San Bruno: The city is investing in stormwater systems that help with water collection and reduce events like flooding, such as creating urban forests, creating fire barriers next to homes (which can be expensive)
 - Would need more grants to maintain and continue these measures along. Concern: These preventative measures can be costly and hard to maintain without more funding.
- Long term goal is to electrify home and recent power outages feel like a barrier to electrification. Barrier - outages. Gas stove allows continued cooking and gas water heater = hot showers. With 3+ day outages - it's been important to have access to gas, in spite of methane, etc.
- Habitat restoration and fuel restoration near Pillar Point Bluff. At perimeter of park, addressing fallen tree branches.
- Solar panels and battery back-up for home, air conditioning installed (after 20 years of no A/C). During smoke events, can close up home and recirculate which improves indoor air quality.
- Use of sandbags with flooding and early prep. Barrier - air conditioning for extreme heat. Cooling centers can be challenging to use (disruptive to go to one in the middle of the day). Library was closed on labor day, which was a cooling center close by. Bay Area homes often do not have A/C.
- Wildfire: Focused on home hardening over time. If neighbors are not doing it also, it might not matter. Barrier - lack of community focus on wildfire preparedness - neighbors actions impact you. In the event of a wildfire, don't know defined evacuation routes, where to go for shelter, medical services. A lot of work to be done before we are prepared, and citizens understand/engaged and have a plan of action for wildfire.
- Recommend looking into Genasys / Zonehaven app. Defines what areas need to be evacuated and the areas. <https://www.smcgov.org/dem/genasys-zonehaven>
- Community readiness/CERT is part of job at Menlo Park Fire. Important role of individuals is realizing that in large disasters, first responders aren't going to be able to get to everyone

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right away. Getting to know your neighbors and their needs (e.g., mobility issues of a neighbor) can help with outcomes in a disaster.

QUESTION 3: VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: *Who and what do you feel are most at risk from hazards, and why? Are there additional populations or community assets who should be considered?*

- San Bruno
 - West side - serious fire hazards, may even have a slice along the valley that is considered high fire risk area on US maps; lots of power outages due to concern of power lines potentially snapping during high winds → reinforces need to make power lines underground
 - East side economic segregation - more working class communities and more older buildings, many are not well maintained and unpermitted work has been done; homes closer together so fire concern... Also more prone to flooding.
 - Immigrant communities simultaneously more self sufficient in terms of performing tasks on their own homes (though may not be up to Code)
 - Dilemma: home improvements costly but also people need homes large enough to fit their families
- El Granada
 - Whole hillside above Quarry Park full of Eucalyptus
 - Mid coast above Half Moon Bay does not necessarily have a lot of the benefits that Half Moon Bay has e.g. senior center which are among some of the most vulnerable... Where to go when there is a power outage?
 - Somewhat of an emergency room near El Granada that is now closing... Where to go if you have an emergency and receive immediate care? Lack of adequate medical care
 - Trees falling down
- Homeless or unhoused individuals
- Individuals living in cars or RV's
- First responders and essential workers who make long commutes to their workplaces
- Small businesses
- Non profits
- Senior/Elderly populations were noted within the capability to receive resources. See comment on sandbag acquisitions.
- Lowground/Susceptible to Flooding Areas
- Areas nearby Landfill areas

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- Lower-Income Areas - tend to be located to industrial uses and tend to be in flood susceptible areas
- Children in long-term development/exposure from potential environmental impacts and pollution
- Sewage Treatment Areas - E.g. Redwood Shores (susceptible to flooding and nearby residential areas)
- Life Alert Users impacted during power outages

- Concern about biohazards and the development of bioresearch labs. Cities need to be aware of what is happening inside of these research buildings. Need to consider if these uses should be allowed near residents, schools, etc. Should these uses be allowed in hazard areas such as liquefaction zones? Emergency responders need to know the biohazard level of the building to respond safely.
- Soft story buildings (apartments that are built over garages without enough support for the upper stories), but this is a tricky issue because it would require retrofits from landlords.
- Frontline communities that are already experiencing hazard impacts. Renters specifically are at high risk, because they don't have a lot of autonomy over preparation and recovery. For example, renters need landlords to address mold caused by flooding and water damage, install air conditioning to keep a residence cool during extreme heat, and seal windows to regulate temperatures. Also, because rents are so high, multiple families sometimes share spaces, which can add to the stress and increase the need to make those spaces safe.
- Elderly populations are at risk from hazards, we need to support people safely age in their homes.
- San Bruno has areas that flood consistently, and other areas in the County flood consistently as well. For example, the manufactured home park in the Harbor Industrial area floods all the time. The County/Cities need to know where these areas are.

- Sewer plant on Hwy 1
- Electricity
- Telecommunications
- Elderly are more difficult to notify
- Apartment dwellers: ownership of property is elsewhere which can lead to discrepancy in preparing to respond and what capabilities they have to respond.
- Homeless: hotel designated for homeless on the coast.
 - Area under the highway that got flooded where some resided.
- Farmworkers
- People who live in RVs parked on airport road which is in a tsunami zone
- Businesses that have to close down during climate events
- Children who can't get to school during climate events. Someone needs to take care of them.

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- Daycare centers
- Communities without financial resources to respond to disasters, damage to property/housing; those at risk from extreme heat: elderly, those without air conditioning, etc.
- In San Mateo County, farmworkers. Re half moon bay, moss beach, pescadero. Those like farmworkers who work outdoors in extreme weather conditions.
- Mental health is also a concern. Part of climate change impacts is on those more vulnerable because of other socioeconomic factors. Harder to be resilient when under stress from housing risk, job risk, etc.
- Communities of color, underrepresented populations.
- Non-human populations. At risk from development in general; wetland, marshland impacts, etc.
- Underserved communities, poorer communities. Foster City \$200 million bond; other communities don't have that possibility, have to rely on State, other resources. Across the board, we're potentially sacrificing the environment, endangered species, etc. In Pacifica, the City has expressed willingness to sacrifice beaches for individual property owner rights, risking endangered species.
- Senior communities
- Lower income community members especially those who are working and have to rely on public transportation that may not be available during a natural disaster like flooding
- Disabled people, people with mobility impairments are often asked to wait behind if there's an evacuation. Plans should include those people.
- People who don't speak or speak little English. Immigrant communities who often have multiple identities. People impacted by flooding in 2023 who lost their cars & apartments had no support
- Unhoused communities, people w/o shelter during heat waves, storms, creeks flooding etc...
- Speak to people from these communities to understand what they need as part of this process
- Farm worker community can easily be affected by flooding and other hazards
- Assets - fire, police stations, hospitals, water treatment plants, critical infrastructure, schools could serve as emergency shelter, public facilities should be prioritized
- Natural features could also be considered assets. Wetlands filter out pollutants, tree canopy is an asset for communities
- Coast side - aging population, homeless/homeless veterans, handicapped, families, and farmworkers
- East Palo Alto - working community members (multiple jobs), not being able to access resources available to them; language barriers; education levels; special needs
- San Mateo - large area below sea level, at risk from sea level rise and flooding from Bay

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- Health - people with chronic diseases - more susceptible to changes in heat and air quality; people reliant on electricity for medicine keeping cold or other equipment; pregnant persons
- Non-english speaking folks, persons with disabilities, aging adults,
- Limited to non-visible communities
- Have to be accessible within our communities - ensure continual access
- Cultural competency very important. How does a community want to be helped?

- Big income gap/disparity: lower income population
- Foster City/Burlingame: senior/retirees population
- (Burlingame) The increase of more housing units/densities and the relaxation of the development standards from the State would cause a reduction in urban forest and canopy coverage
 - Is there a reporting mechanism to let the State know about these conflicts that are potentially harming and reducing the urban canopy?

- Farmworkers. Half Moon Bay murders revealed hardships and climate disasters that affect them disproportionately. Work outdoors, effects of extreme heat events.
- Elderly. Mobility, cognitive dysfunction. Liked the comments on “knowing your neighbors” – if you know that someone elderly or in need lives next door, you can support them. Creating community is important in helping each other in these situations.
- Children. Wildfire smoke - childhood asthma exacerbation. Climate change impacts on reproductive health/child in gestation (poor air quality). Anyone experiencing direct exposure - Farmworkers, People experiencing homelessness.
- Undocumented persons throughout the community. Language barriers. May not know what to do in a hazard situation. May be afraid to be known/visible because of status.
- Areas that have overcrowded housing. May be less able to respond when disaster/climate events occur.
- Socioeconomic factors - low-income persons, communities of color, impacts of redlining.
- Renters. Need to be prepared for 72 hours. It takes a lot of space to have disaster kits (water, food, other resources), many apartments do not have space for all the materials. Single family homes have more space (like garage). Or apartment may not have water due to building water pump issue; now relying solely on disaster kit. Issue is exacerbated with overcrowded housing.
- Pillar Ridge resident - people own homes but not land under it. No garages, language barriers (like where to go if there is a tsunami warning). Maps don't show that this is an area with hazards (looped in with Moss Beach); this does not align with experience.

QUESTION 4: RESILIENCE VISIONING: *What would you like to see your community do to improve safety and resilience to natural hazards?*

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- El Granada
 - Eucalyptus groves essentially matches ready to be lit... What if they were taken down and more native plants be planted (more fire resilient)?
 - Recognize the unique issues that coastal communities face
 - No city here so taxes go to County
 - Create an evacuation plan in the event of major disasters (e.g. Maui fire)
 - Where to go
- Eucalyptus trees lining the streets in Oakland hills were a huge factor in the Oakland fire back around 1998
- San Bruno
 - Ballot measure to lower the threshold from ⅔ to 55% may be pending on fall ballot... Might help with going back to ballot to get the funding needed
 - Must improve stormwater infrastructure
 - Major flooding incident several years ago where intersection below Caltrain station was several feet deep in water
 - Must manage key waterways
 - Lots of new single family unit development on the west side...
 - In the fires that took out Paradise California, there were a few communities that were built in clusters like townhomes with a defensible space surrounding them → much higher chance of home damaged in fire versus if home was a single family detached unit and not shared defensible space... But latter is not as affordable
 - Impose higher fire standards for new single family development and development in general
- Increased funding for infrastructure improvements
- Disaster preparedness education centers should be available in all communities
- Hazard preparedness outreach
- Sms alerts
- What is one hazard that worries you the most?
 - Earthquakes
 - Mudslides during heavy rainstorms
 - Ambulance availability
 - First responder response times
 - How will emergency responders get to their deployment area?
- Task Forces and further education and input from the public commentary and outreach
- Zoning Amendments/Propositions - Increase setbacks from creeks. Prohibit underground parking in areas prone to sea level rise/flooding prone locations.

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- Greater promotion of “firewise communities”. Reduction of brush and knowing that neighbors impact each other regarding safety and insurance rates
- More entry and exit points for new developments
- Emphasize and educate on basic emergency response and methods during natural disasters
- Re-establish county wide Community Emergency Response Training cert-coordinator to best collaborate inter-city development/outreach/safety

- Look at the soft-story buildings, monitor trees that might fall, upgrade the sewer system to mitigate the risk of flooding, and educate residents about how to prepare and what resources are available.
- Power outages, the City of Belmont is getting more questions about generators for private property, maybe cities and the County can review their regulations.
- Sierra Club has a list of policies to employ nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetlands, avoiding hardscapes and gray infrastructure, harden homes to wildfire, no astro turf, encourage tree planting, and encourage microgrids.
- Hyperlocal resilience hub: everyone gets a prep kit with info on where to go during a hazard event. Include a workshop center at the resilience hub. Encourage building relationships, and knowing what supplies you need.
- Tension between need for more housing and natural hazards, leading to creating more density in flood zones. FEMA flood requirements are generic and nationwide, we need to refine them for local areas. How do we build smart for local conditions? Example of a development that is proposed in Burlingame is in the 100-year flood zone.
- Planning for the 500-year flood zone should be the same as the 100-year flood zone.
- Make it place-based, and more nature-based, for example we can't rely on just FEMA national standards that might not fit a local area.
- Community connections, people knowing who to ask in their neighborhood in case there is no power and internet.
- Don't want to have to talk to 8 different cities, want to get these policies in Countywide recommendations.
- The storm drain system is inadequate. Foster City being built on the wetlands has created a plug for stormwater for the cities above, such as Belmont and San Carlos. The creeks on the peninsula don't have the capacity to outflow, so how do we address these problems?
- The 5-city water treatment plant is soon to be below sea level. The water treatment plants in South San Francisco and Redwood City are at sea level. The sewer system pump stations are at risk. Overflow wastewater contaminates the floodwaters, which can be a risk for people who are exposed to the floodwaters.
- Neighbors getting to know neighbors helps with resilience following disasters, more ability to communicate with each other.
- FEMA flood maps are notoriously bad, but First Street has come out with an alternative.

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- Making the environment more resilient. We need to protect the environment so that it can protect us.
- Creating healthy soil, creating more space for plants and trees to prevent erosion and flooding.
- Eucalyptus do absorb water on flipside.
- Possibly build reef offshore to address sea level rise.
- What is resiliency?
- Along Old County Road there is a line of old Eucalyptus trees. Could block one of the only ways to get out of town in Brisbane.
- Finding balance for vegetation... Where should it be planted?
- PG&E Infrastructure like electrical wires need to be improved.
- Trees near the wires need to be maintained.
- Gas pipeline along the coast poses hazard.
- Create a plan for flood control in all the portions of each city that face that risk. Almost all cities' low-lying areas face this risk and need flood control measures.
- Managed retreat. Not building further in areas that we know are hazard areas, likely to flood or erode, be covered by sea level rise.
- Making sure any new development that could require mitigation that creates additional impacts on other properties, must prevent that (i.e. armoring one property creates more erosion elsewhere); this should be regulated.
- New development should offset the costs of the necessary mitigations it creates. Also don't misrepresent data—a 100-year model doesn't mean impacts only in 100 years, but will happen gradually over time. Some is happening now. New development in these areas should be prohibited; must address managed retreat honestly, and in terms of collective impacts.
- Heat: cities should address heat impacts. 1) rebuild urban forest, especially in low income areas. 2) revise building & planning codes to include cool construction techniques. Materials, design, etc, to mitigate heat. 3) possibly introduce water elements in cities to prevent heat buildup.
- A lot more nature-based solutions, wherever feasible. In some areas (Pacifica), many large, flat, apparently developable properties are former wetlands— should be used for mitigation, protection, rebuilt as wetlands, buffers, protecting homes and businesses.
- Would like clarification of when Safety Elements must be updated— when, how is this required by law? And what are consequences of non-compliance?
- Community broadband to exist on the coast, subsidize for low-income people.
- Importance of using nature-based solutions in stormwater infrastructure, update gray infrastructure, address pollution and runoff, adds more nature to our communities.

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- Pacifica, there's a lot of debate about what to do with Beach Blvd. b/c it does need to be repaired, but community members clash w/ coastal commission, a very complicated solution is needed to a complicated project. Would like to see a solution.
- Sea Level rise is a big issue on the coastside and bayside, so many critical facilities on the bayside are in the current flood zone if nothing is done. Continued work regionally to address this.
- Save the Bay focused on SLR and flooding. Plan for and create policies. SLR overlay zones w/ building standards to make them flood resilient. Burlingame has an example, see other cities do that.
- Nature-based solutions to buffer SLR and storm surges.
- Make sure new development is outside flood zones or climate hazard zones in general. Away from wildfires, SLR. Prioritize transit-oriented areas.
- Clean up or identify which contaminated sites are at greatest risk of flooding from storm surge, rain events, should be prioritized to prevent wider communities from being contaminated.

- Have more funding or grants to further maintain the hazard prevention/preparation methods. More grants for smaller communities to maintain/support.

- Educating the community on the hazards. Building resilience in the community and promoting resiliency during hazards to the community by educating what causes some of the natural hazards to bring more awareness and actions.
- Community leaders through newsletters, trying to engage people in webinars, and discuss at local jurisdiction meetings. Stress importance of shared need (we're all in this together). Calling forth our basic humanity.
- CERT: Community Emergency Response Team. Most county communities have one. Need to continue building these. Red Cross Ready, other classes (also some available in Spanish), CPR. Want to see these built out more robustly countywide. Increasing participation.
- Investment in public transportation. Peninsula doesn't connect well to East Bay, South Bay. Promotion of walkability. Covid road closures to create open space for restaurants/businesses have become permanent. More community walking around, kids out. Supports community building.
- Transportation on coastside and rural areas, which tend to be underserved by public transportation. Challenge to take care of non-car solutions. Investment in community building. "We're in it together" approach starts at the neighborhood level. CRISP initiative via Supervisor Mueller could support efforts.

Appendix B: Questions Received During Workshop Q&A Period

Question: What is the difference between the Safety Element versus the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)?

Answer: The Safety Element is part of the community's General Plan, and as such is meant to inform how the community will prepare for and protect itself against natural hazards as it grows and develops over the next 20-25 years. It provides policy direction to decision makers, agency staff, and community members, and is governed by State laws. The LHMP is a more specific, technical document that describes in greater detail how the City will mitigate the risk from natural hazards. While the General Plan regulates land use and directs the use of resources across a community and topic areas, the LHMP directs public agency action and applies mainly to infrastructure. It has a shorter horizon of 5 years and is largely governed by federal laws. There is some overlap between the topics covered and the policies addressed in the Safety Element and LHMP, and they should be consistent with and inform each other.

Question/Comment: Hazardous materials should be discussed in terms of locating potential pandemic pathogens in biosafety labs near creeks and areas prone to flooding, for example. San Carlos bans Biosafety level 3 and 4 labs.

Answer: Yes, this is something that PREP can discuss and explore in the Safety Elements and related documents. We are aware that this is an issue of concern for many community members.

Question: How can we develop consistent sea level rise mitigations among all Peninsula cities? Some cities have sea walls, etc.

Answer: We agree it is important to have a regionally-consistent approach to hazards such as sea level rise while providing enough flexibility so that communities can effectively respond to their specific threats and opportunities. Groups such as OneShoreline have already been working with the coastal and shoreline communities in San Mateo County to identify the risks posed by sea level rise, develop strategies to reducing the risk across the county, and provide opportunities for communities to coordinate on addressing this issue. PREP will build on this work to foster greater regional connections on adaptation and resilience.

Question: The concept of "safety" often comes into conflict with the state mandate to build more housing. How is that addressed?

Answer: The State mandate to build more housing is addressed in each community's Housing Element, another component of the General Plan, and other regulations. Most Housing Elements in San Mateo County have been adopted within the past year or are in the process of being finalized. The Safety Elements and other aspects of the PREP project will include goals, policies, and implementation actions to direct new development in areas of lower risk, or to help make sure that existing or proposed development in higher-risk areas is adequately protected. PREP does not modify or influence the Housing Elements or make other land use decisions.

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Question: I live in a frontline community. I was wondering how this will work to reimburse people who are affected by flooding/natural disasters in the near future? What are some resources that you have prepared since past flooding in frontline communities?

Answer: The policies created through PREP will help communities to better prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as flooding so that they are less harmful, and to recover from such disasters in a way that strengthens the community's resilience to future hazards. Many communities have recently prepared resources such as improved disaster awareness materials and more robust emergency notification systems. Safety Elements that integrate LHMPs also increase a community's eligibility for state and federal funding of disaster relief through AB 2140, as well as hazard preparation and mitigation projects, which often benefit frontline communities. PREP will also assist in identifying collaborations and partnerships that could expand resources to frontline communities.

Question: With escalating insurance costs and companies dropping property owners, is this being considered in resilience planning?

Answer: The PREP team is aware that rising home insurance costs and the loss of coverage creates serious risks and financial hardships for many property owners throughout California, including in San Mateo County. Insurance is predominately regulated at the State and federal level, and the ability of San Mateo County communities to directly influence insurance rates and availability is limited. The PREP team is exploring local policy options to address this ongoing challenge.

Question: Will hazardous materials be addressed in the assessment insofar as they're at risk of climate hazards (such as inundation from sea level rise)?

Answer: Yes, PREP will look at how natural disasters may affect hazardous materials, including how disasters may result in hazardous material released, or how they may spread existing hazardous material contamination across a wider area. Additionally, the plans for some communities will consider and help protect against the risks posed by hazardous materials independent of any natural disaster.

Question: How do the environmental justice issues overlap with new required densities of housing that unfortunately reduce the urban canopy by default?

Answer: Increasing the availability of housing (particularly affordable and high-quality housing), locating housing in denser areas that minimize car dependence, and increasing the urban tree canopy and other greenery are all important to addressing environmental justice and reducing inequities. These priorities are not mutually exclusive, and communities can successfully enact all three. PREP does not directly make land use decisions, although it will be touching on these and similar topics to the extent they affect safety and hazard issues. Additionally, three of the communities participating in PREP (Burlingame, East Palo Alto, and San Mateo County) are currently preparing Environmental Justice elements of their General Plans, which will more directly address environmental justice topics.

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Question: How is the County building ecological and environmental resilience to protect us from flooding/erosion and manage storm water?

Answer: The County and other local communities are installing green infrastructure, which includes the use of natural spaces and managed green areas, to protect against flooding and similar issues. For example, rain gardens and bioswales, which are channels in an urban environment lined with plants, help capture and slow down rainwater, filtering it and allowing it to percolate into the ground rather than running onto streets and causing flooding. We expect that policies in PREP will promote greater installation of green infrastructure throughout San Mateo County.

Question: Further on bio levels, with so many cities promoting life science projects, I'm curious if the County will develop a county-wide set of regulations regarding biohazards that will apply and be enforceable at the planning level?

Answer: It would be up to each individual jurisdiction to adopt and enforce regulations for new life science hazard development projects. The County does not have land use authority in incorporated communities (cities). PREP may include language to develop such regulations or to promote greater coordination between communities on this topic.

Question: Are you using CalEnviroScreen data in your mapping? It would be good to be consistent with popular datasets.

Answer: Yes. PREP is using CalEnviroScreen data, among many other sources, in its mapping. CalEnviroScreen data helps identify frontline communities and other locations where people are more likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change hazards, based on environmental risks and socio-economic factors. The Cities of Burlingame and East Palo Alto and San Mateo County are also updating their General Plan Environmental Justice Elements, which includes the identification of communities heavily impacted by pollution burdens. This analysis will also use CalEnviroScreen data in conjunction with data from the California Healthy Places Index and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Equity Priority Communities. The project teams are working together to ensure consistency across the data and mapping for these two parallel General Plan updates. More information on the Environmental Justice elements is available at <https://envirojusticeplanning.com/>.