

## APPENDIX C: VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 3 SUMMARY REPORT

## MEMORANDUM

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the virtual community workshop held as part of the second phase of outreach for the Peninsula Resilience Planning (PREP) project. It includes a description of the event and a summary of the feedback received from attendees, which is meant to support the development of the Safety Element goals, policies, and actions. The unedited notes from the small group discussion of the event are included as Appendix A.

### Community Workshops Summary

#### WORKSHOP PURPOSE AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

The purpose of the virtual community workshop was for members of the public to receive an update on the PREP project and to provide input on current efforts. During the workshop, project staff shared high-level results of the vulnerability assessments and a set of draft policy concepts to address the hazards that pose the greatest risk to San Mateo County community members, infrastructure, and assets. The project staff also shared information about how participants; feedback would be incorporated into the draft Safety Elements. The intent of the workshop was to receive community feedback on the draft policy concepts to improve resilience to the hazards and associated vulnerabilities present in the participating communities, including those identified in the vulnerability assessments. As a part of the feedback, community members were able to provide input on the potential effectiveness and implementation of the policy concepts. This workshop occurred following completion of the vulnerability assessments and draft Safety Element policy concepts.

#### WORKSHOP PROMOTION

Participating jurisdictions promoted the workshops through their various County- and City-controlled communication channels. This included posting the event on community event calendars on agency 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. Promotional materials were available in English and Spanish. PlaceWorks also advertised the workshop to the project's mailing list via email. Community members from East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, San Bruno, Belmont, and other parts of the County that are not participating in PREP attended.

#### AGENDA AND FORMAT

The PREP project team, including agency staff from the participating jurisdictions<sup>1</sup>, hosted a virtual community event via Zoom on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, from 6:00-7:30 PM. After welcoming attendees, the

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<sup>1</sup> Participating jurisdictions are the Town of Atherton, the cities of Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, San Bruno, and San Mateo County. Of these nine jurisdictions,

project staff gave a 20-minute presentation followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. The presentation provided an overview of the PREP project, the results of vulnerability assessments, and the schedule of the project. After this period, the project staff split attendees into small groups for a 45-minute discussion period about a set of draft Safety Element policy concepts. A total of 80 individuals registered for the workshop and 28 attended, not including members of the project team and facilitation staff.

While the workshop materials focused on the jurisdictions participating in the PREP project, the workshop was open to all community members. The project team provided simultaneous interpretation to Spanish during the workshop and provided a dedicated discussion group for Spanish speakers.

### QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

A brief question-and-answer period followed the presentation. Below are the key topics of the questions. Appendix B provides a full list of questions received, and the provided answers.

- Interaction of sea level rise, and resulting emergent groundwater, with hazardous materials and cleanup sites.
- Impact of climate change on wind.
- The regional Vulnerable Communities Platform and how it differs and overlaps with the analysis of the PREP Vulnerability Assessments.
- Multi-language outreach via radio broadcasts.
- Renters' ability to hold landlords accountable for hardening properties to mitigate the risk of damage from hazards.

### DISCUSSION GROUP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

For the remainder of the workshop, attendees participated in facilitated small group discussions in four Zoom breakout rooms, each with a group facilitator and a separate note taker, made up of members of the project staff. One breakout group was conducted in Spanish for those who indicated that they would prefer a Spanish-language discussion. The project team randomly assigned the remaining participants to one of three small groups of five to eight people to discuss their feedback on the draft policy concepts. For the discussion period, the project team provided a list of draft policy concepts for six categories of hazards and other related issues, which are wildfire; sea level rise, flooding, and emergent groundwater; earthquakes and landslides; extreme heat; evacuation and emergency preparedness. Facilitators had six general questions to help guide the discussion, along with access to several resources to help illustrate important concepts, such as maps of hazard zones. Notetakers shared their computer screens during the discussion so that participants could confirm their comments were being noted correctly. Appendix A provides the complete notes from the discussion groups. Below are the discussion questions, the draft policy concepts, and a summary of the key themes that emerged from the discussion groups.

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six (Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, San Bruno, and San Mateo County) are working together on community engagement for their Safety Element updates.

## General Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any suggestions or considerations for your community to help make these concepts more effective policies? This can include local and regional partnerships, funding and resources, community education programs, and more.
2. Do the draft policy concepts help address your concerns or priorities associated with the hazard or issue, including improving resilience of priority vulnerabilities in your community? If not, what concerns or priorities do these policies not address?
3. Do you have any opposition to your community enacting these as policies? If so, why?
4. Should any policy concepts be strengthened or made stricter? Should any be made more flexible or less stringent?
5. Which policy concepts would you prioritize? Why?
6. Do you have any other edits, considerations, or other comments related to these draft policy concepts?

## Wildfire

### *Policy Concepts*

1. Require all new development in fire hazard severity zones to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection. These measures and policies include but are not limited to the use of fire-resistant structural designs, use of fire-resistant landscaping, home hardening, defensible space, and vegetation management around the perimeter of structures.
2. To the greatest extent possible, locate new public and critical facilities outside of Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
3. Educate property owners, residents (with special attention to at risk populations), and business owners on vegetation management practices, including fire safety, landscape installation and maintenance, defensible space, and other fire hazard reduction strategies. Coordinate with Firewise Communities to increase landscape-scale resilience.
4. Develop retrofit guidelines for existing non-conforming properties in the fire hazard severity zones to understand what improvements may be necessary to comply with the California Fire Code, local ordinances, and best management practices.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the wildfire policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants supported requirements for new developments in fire hazard severity zones to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection, including home hardening and vegetation management.
- » Participants urged public agencies to ensure there is adequate water and supporting infrastructure to fight fires if needed.
- » Participants supported the development of retrofit guidelines for existing properties in fire hazard severity zones.
- » Participants recommended considering the impacts of fires outside the county, which contribute to poor air quality, and the implementation of fire breaks to prevent the spread of fire.
- » Participants supported collaboration with other jurisdictions, regional organizations, and local Fire Safe Councils.
- » Participants expressed concern about rising insurance costs or the inability to get insurance for properties in fire hazard severity zones.

## Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Emergent Groundwater

### *Policy Concepts*

1. Partner with community-based organizations to provide financial assistance to low-resourced households to harden homes against flooding. To the greatest extent possible, locate new public and critical facilities outside of Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
2. Integrate drainage and flood control systems to enhance ecosystems through the use of green infrastructure.
3. Explore educational and cost-share methods of increasing uptake in flood insurance in households that are not required to purchase insurance, but that reside in areas with increasing flood risk.
4. Develop a Buffer Zone of at least 100 feet from the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean shoreline. Limit new development in this Buffer Zone to provide space to accommodate and maintain built and natural infrastructure for flood protection, habitat restoration, and public access.
5. Use Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs, tax credits, and other strategies to encourage the transition of development away from the shoreline in areas identified as high opportunity for nature-based adaptation. These high opportunity zones should be areas outside of mapped hazard zones to the greatest extent possible, within or adjacent to existing development, with little or no environmental constraints, and otherwise be suited for development.
6. Prioritize the remediation of hazardous materials sites in areas identified as vulnerable to emergent groundwater and within environmental justice communities or neighborhoods.

7. Work with OneShoreline and adjacent jurisdictions as appropriate to incorporate regionally coordinated comprehensive adaptation strategies for shallow groundwater rise into the community's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, General Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Municipal Code.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the sea level rise, flooding, and emergency groundwater policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants asked about the criteria used to classify households as “low-resourced”.<sup>2</sup>
- » Participants supported retrofitting or hardening drainage and flood control infrastructure, including sewage infrastructure in coastside communities.
- » Participants supported developing a Buffer Zone from the Bay and Pacific shorelines where development would be limited to accommodate nature-based infrastructure for flood protection and, potentially, recreation.
- » Participants supported the remediation of hazardous materials sites in areas subject to future flooding.

### **Earthquakes and Landslides**

#### *Policy Concepts:*

1. Prohibit high-density or high-development potential in areas of increased landslide potential.
2. Prohibit structures used for involuntary occupancy (including schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities) and high voluntary occupancy (including offices, theaters, and religious facilities) in areas of high geologic or seismic hazard risk.
3. Coordinate with water providers to ensure adequate emergency water supplies are available on both sides of active fault traces in the event of water line failure due to earthquake.

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<sup>2</sup> As defined in the Vulnerability Assessment, low-resourced households include households that are cost-burdened (those that pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs), low-income, overcrowded (households that have more than one person per room of the home), on fixed incomes, persons without access to lifelines such as personal vehicles and internet, and households in poverty. Low-resourced households typically lack sufficient resources to invest in home repairs and weatherization improvements, air conditioning and efficient appliances, health care, and other means to prepare for and recover from hazardous events. Evacuations pose significant concerns for these households, as they may lack access to reliable transportation or the financial means to leave during emergencies, making it difficult to comply with evacuation orders during severe weather events.

4. Design and construct new City and County facilities and utility infrastructure (either public or private) that cross active fault traces to accommodate horizontal and/or vertical displacement.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the earthquakes and landslides policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants supported limiting development in areas at risk of geologic hazards and suggested these areas be excluded from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment site selection process. If development needs to occur there, they recommended using innovative design techniques to mitigate risk of damage.
- » Participants recommended that buildings in hazardous areas have adequate resources to prepare for an emergency and more than one point of entry in the event of an evacuation. Renters are at a disadvantage due to less physical space to store supplies.
- » Participants recommended assisting those who can't afford to bring structures up to code.

## **Extreme Heat**

### *Policy Concepts:*

1. Install shade structures and trees, both green and built infrastructure, at parks, transit stops, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces to reduce ground surface temperatures.
2. Prioritize installation of green infrastructure and tree plantings in areas most vulnerable to heat and environmental justice communities.
3. Explore opportunities to develop mobile providers of water, backup power, air conditioning, and medical supplies that can be deployed to vulnerable communities during high heat events, power outages, and other emergencies.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the extreme heat policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants supported increasing the tree canopy coverage throughout their communities, and especially at bus stops and Caltrain stations. They also recommended the use of cool roofs and solar shade canopies in parking lots.
- » Participants supported mobile stations for water, backup power, air conditioning, and medical supplies for vulnerable communities, especially those that are geographically isolated. They also supported the establishment of microgrids for energy resilience.

## Policy Concepts: Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness

### *Policy Concepts:*

1. Install shade structures and trees, both green and built infrastructure, at parks, transit stops, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces to reduce ground surface temperatures.
2. Prioritize installation of green infrastructure and tree plantings in areas most vulnerable to heat and environmental justice communities.
3. Explore opportunities to develop mobile providers of water, backup power, air conditioning, and medical supplies that can be deployed to vulnerable communities during high heat events, power outages, and other emergencies.
4. Designate corridors where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained.
5. Require new development in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and in mapped floodplains to have access to at least two emergency evacuation routes.
6. Support and encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.
7. Conduct educational campaigns in multiple languages and formats; and offer residents information on ways to protect their property and preserve personal health and safety from various hazards, and on available incentives and other financial resources.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the evacuation and emergency preparedness policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants noted that many people don't know what to do in an emergency and therefore supported increasing outreach efforts to educate community members on emergency preparedness and response.
- » Participants supported the identification, maintenance, and hardening of evacuation routes that will not be compromised in a hazardous event. They also noted that evacuation planning should include attention to people who rely on transit.
- » Participants supported the establishment of resilience centers at public facilities and schools. They noted the need for adequate water and food supplies during emergencies.
- » Participants wanted local governments to continue to support the CERT programs in their jurisdictions and expand training opportunities to different times, mediums, and groups.
- » Participants supported broad educational and outreach programs to residents on emergency preparedness, including to younger people through schools and in different languages.

## Other Issues

### *Policy Concepts:*

1. Encourage the installation of water efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.
2. Expand participation in the Bay Area Air District's Clean Air Filtration Program by supporting residential filter installation and maintenance. Partner with community-based organizations for program implementation, prioritizing environmental justice communities and vulnerable populations.
3. Develop standards for healthy building design that address indoor air quality, natural ventilation, and protection from outdoor air pollution.
4. Collaborate with state agencies, regional land managers like Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and neighboring local agencies to align invasive species management efforts across jurisdictions.
5. Collaborate with state agencies, regional land managers like Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and neighboring local agencies to align invasive species management efforts across jurisdictions.
6. Implement land use planning and management practices that anticipate and accommodate ecosystem changes caused by climate change, ensuring long-term ecological health, community safety, and climate resilience.

### *Feedback*

The key themes from the discussions on the other policy concepts are noted below.

- » Participants supported policies to improve water efficiency and indoor air quality in private development.
- » Participants supported the removal of invasive species and suggested combining these efforts with vegetation management to mitigate risk of other hazards like wildfire.

## Next Steps

The project team will use the feedback gathered from community members to inform the development of the draft goals, policies, and actions of the draft Safety Elements, which will be completed in summer/early fall of 2025. Community members will be able to review and provide feedback on the draft Safety Elements prior to the release of the final draft and adoption hearings by the end of 2025.

## **Appendix A: PREP Virtual Community Workshop Discussion Notes**

Below are the combined, unedited notes from the group discussion portion of the virtual community workshop. The facilitators of each discussion group asked participants to review six categories of policy concepts and provide input. Facilitators used the provided questions to help guide discussions, although facilitators were also free to ask other questions to help encourage a productive conversation. Notes from all groups are combined under the policy concept they reference. In addition to feedback on specific policy concepts, some groups provided input on the topics at a more general level.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you have any suggestions or considerations for your community to help make these concepts more effective policies? This can include local and regional partnerships, funding and resources, community education programs, and more.
2. Do the draft policy concepts help address your concerns or priorities associated with the hazard or issue, including improving resilience of priority vulnerabilities in your community? If not, what concerns or priorities do these policies not address?
3. Do you have any opposition to your community enacting these as policies? If so, why?
4. Should any policy concepts be strengthened or made stricter? Should any be made more flexible or less stringent?
5. Which ones would you prioritize? Why?
6. Do you have any other edits, considerations, or other comments related to these draft policy concepts?

### **POLICY CONCEPTS: WILDFIRE**

1. Require all new development in fire hazard severity zones to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection. These measures and policies include but are not limited to the use of fire-resistant structural designs, use of fire-resistant landscaping, home hardening, defensible space, and vegetation management around the perimeter of structures.

Notes:

- Already being done. Grant funds redirected to home hardening, for new and existing homes. Don't fund vegetation/habitat removal.
- General support for policy.
- Agree with this policy to help reduce wildfires/spread of wildfires.
- Concerned with use of fire retardant sprayed on homes to put out fires. There should be a green way to put out fires.

2. To the greatest extent possible, locate new public and critical facilities outside of Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Notes:

- Don't limit just to public infrastructure.

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- Agencies need to address water infrastructure, need enough water and pressure to be able to fight fires.
- 3. Educate property owners, residents (with special attention to at risk populations), and business owners on vegetation management practices, including fire safety, landscape installation and maintenance, defensible space, and other fire hazard reduction strategies. Coordinate with Firewise Communities to increase landscape-scale resilience.
- 4. Develop retrofit guidelines for existing non-conforming properties in the fire hazard severity zones to understand what improvements may be necessary to comply with the California Fire Code, local ordinances, and best management practices.

#### Notes:

- Include Fire Safe councils. Include with property taxes as a means of communicating risks from fire.
- Comment: we should also address impacts of fires from outside of the County, such as smoke.

#### General topic notes:

- Having people understand the evacuation levels, where to find info, where to evacuate to, just as urgent and disorganized as tsunami warning from last year.
- Interested in fire breaks and other bigger efforts to prevent spread of wildfire – big picture “uber defensible space” ex. Prevent fire from getting from one community to another.
- Collaboration: Are cities learning from other jurisdictions? How are partnerships being incorporated into policies in context of wildfire, WUI, tapping organizations that are focused on wildfire mitigation projects?
  - Regional organizations, not just city-based, interjurisdictional efforts.
- Competing interests ex. Homes requiring landscaping, vegetation vs. defensible space requirements from CalFire.
  - How to design for some elements of nature, but be safe as possible for built environment?
  - Retrofits for existing houses are very expensive.
- Insurance issue: Looking at fire risk maps, what are the major issues that put communities into a very high or high and how to address so that can be downgraded?

#### **POLICY CONCEPTS: SEA LEVEL RISE, FLOODING, AND EMERGENCY GROUNDWATER**

1. Partner with community-based organizations to provide financial assistance to low-resourced households to harden homes against flooding.

#### Notes:

- What CBOs are already partners on the project?
- How are low-resourced households being identified?
  - Not only low-resourced households are affected
  - What numbers, criteria is being used by the CBOs?

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- Threshold for low resourced?
- CBOs could provide assistance to those first impacted regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Retrofit homes if near a contaminated site
  - Contaminants might be vaporized and get into people's homes that way.
  - Upgrade seals on sewer pipes to make sure vapors don't get into buildings.
- Sea level rise - how it could change energy of the creeks or change course and the effects of that on upstream communities.
- Yes, and you could say the same thing about wildfire.

2. Integrate drainage and flood control systems to enhance ecosystems through the use of green infrastructure.

Notes:

- OneShoreline funded by measure K but doesn't exist on coastside.
  - Dam, creek, and ocean in coastside community with a sewer plant nearby that needs to move - who will pay for that?
  - Redo every sewage infrastructure that we have some still use very outdated materials.
  - Differences in the state of infrastructure between bayside and coastside.
  - OneShoreline doing a great job on the bayside.
- Note, groundbreaking project in Sharon Heights points out that we can do these projects in upper watersheds to enhance.

3. Explore educational and cost-share methods of increasing uptake in flood insurance in households that are not required to purchase insurance, but that reside in areas with increasing flood risk.

Notes:

- Some have no choice, forced to pay for flood insurance
  - Costs between \$1200 and sometimes over \$2k annually.
  - SMC undergrounded all the creeks so OneShoreline trying to back in time and bring creeks back up to the surface.

4. Develop a Buffer Zone of at least 100 feet from the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean shoreline. Limit new development in this Buffer Zone to provide space to accommodate and maintain built and natural infrastructure for flood protection, habitat restoration, and public access.

Notes:

- Good idea (2 people thought so)
  - Opportunity to build nature-based infrastructure to create new recreational opportunities and habitat.
- Yes

5. Use Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs, tax credits, and other strategies to encourage the transition of development away from the shoreline in areas identified as high opportunity for

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nature-based adaptation. These high opportunity zones should be areas outside of mapped hazard zones to the greatest extent possible, within or adjacent to existing development, with little or no environmental constraints, and otherwise be suited for development.

Notes:

- Nature Conservancy is doing a lot of work around TDR programs. Receiving sites could be PDAs.
- Could there be a way to prohibit cities from allowing high intensity development in areas subject to future flooding? Redwood City example.

6. Prioritize the remediation of hazardous materials sites in areas identified as vulnerable to emergent groundwater and within environmental justice communities or neighborhoods.

Notes:

- Good idea (2 people thought so)
  - Opportunities for community health studies exposed to groundwater rise and SLR concern from members that health is already being impacted
  - Elementary students grow up with more health concerns
  - Clean up can be a long process - is that normal?
- Yes

7. Work with OneShoreline and adjacent jurisdictions as appropriate to incorporate regionally coordinated comprehensive adaptation strategies for shallow groundwater rise into the community's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, General Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Municipal Code.

Notes:

- Reach One project and OneShoreline's work on that
- Encourage adaptation strategies be nature based before considering hardened sea walls.
  - Ecotone levies, wetlands, only if not possible then move towards hardened infrastructure
- Coastal commission land use plan in Pacifica
  - Encourage Pacifica to go with natural accommodations and adaptations, but no plan yet.

General Topic Notes

- Not seeing anything on larger/interjurisdictional shared resources.

### **POLICY CONCEPTS: EARTHQUAKES AND LANDSLIDES**

1. Prohibit high-density or high-development potential in areas of increased landslide potential.

Notes:

- Should be excluded from RHNA site selection process.
- Use innovative technology like Geosystem (interlocking blocks) when building structures on hillsides to help prevent landslides.

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2. Prohibit structures used for involuntary occupancy (including schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities) and high voluntary occupancy (including offices, theaters, and religious facilities) in areas of high geologic or seismic hazard risk.

Notes:

- And same for flood zones. How adequately retrofitted is Crystal Springs dam?
- Need to ensure these buildings have multiple ingress and egress points in case of emergencies, for personnel to get into buildings and screen persons.
- Use innovative products to advance the resilience of these spaces like polymere for schools, are a clean space for germs and mats that are solar chargers.

3. Coordinate with water providers to ensure adequate emergency water supplies are available on both sides of active fault traces in the event of water line failure due to earthquake.

Notes:

- Renters or those with less space have a more difficult time storing large amounts of water in case of emergency .
- Power and sewer too, all critical infrastructure requirements.
- How to teach people to be actually prepared, have supplies, ready to shelter in place? There have been education efforts, but most people aren't prepared, not paying attention.

4. Design and construct new City and County facilities and utility infrastructure (either public or private) that cross active fault traces to accommodate horizontal and/or vertical displacement.

Notes:

- Should we avoid locating facilities here or is this really a design/engineering question?

General Topic Notes:

- Should have assistance to help those that can't afford to bring structures into code.
- Getting emergency responders out to more rural areas.

### **POLICY CONCEPTS: EXTREME HEAT**

1. Install shade structures and trees, both green and built infrastructure, at parks, transit stops, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces to reduce ground surface temperatures.

Notes:

- Yes, the more green the better. Look at reflective roofs. Bus stops/Caltrain structures with inadequate shading. Need benches at bus stops too! Large parking lots should have solar shade structures. Zoning should require a percentage of vegetation just as they do a percentage of development per lot. Need tall crowning trees.
- In conflict with wildfire safety requirements of defensible space; what's the right answer?

2. Prioritize installation of green infrastructure and tree plantings in areas most vulnerable to heat and environmental justice communities.

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Notes:

- Ban use of eucalyptus trees. Tall crowning trees create shade and capture more carbon.
3. Explore opportunities to develop mobile providers of water, backup power, air conditioning, and medical supplies that can be deployed to vulnerable communities during high heat events, power outages, and other emergencies.

Notes:

- PSPS have highlighted that vulnerability. Now that 2-stroke engines are phasing out battery back-ups are key. Another opportunity for a grant program for at risk residents, like BayREN but should be funded by PG&E.
- Especially helpful to communities that might be isolated for long periods ex. Half Moon Bay, La Honda.
- PG&E had mobile unit staged in HMB, need appropriate sites for when power is down, should have a process for where and how to help people.
- Microgrids as helpful tool to addressing power outages.

#### POLICY CONCEPTS: EVACUATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

1. Coordinate with transit agencies, school districts, community service organizations, and faith-based organizations to assist with evacuation efforts, ensuring evacuation services are available to vulnerable populations, including those with limited English proficiency, limited mobility, or limited access to transportation, communication, and other lifeline resources and services.

Notes:

- Not everyone knows what to do in an emergency.
- One comment that they haven't heard anything recently about where to go in an evacuation.
  - Identify evacuation sites and let people know.
  - If sites get flooded where would people go, choose sites that are least likely to be impacted.
  - Sign up for SMC alert.
    - Does it send alerts in different languages?
    - But only used for big emergencies.
  - Have residents get CERT certified.
- Should look at identifying evacuation routes and identifying alternatives, or armoring routes to make them resistant to various failures due to hazards. Plan evacuations to places that will still be usable after an event. Road widening for two CalFire trucks to pass.
- Data from CZU Complex Fire evacuation? How well was it enacted? What worked/didn't work? Could we pull learnings from it?
  - SMC Office of Emergency Management should be involved in forming these policies, CalFire, need community forums where people from the communities who really know the area and can speak to it.

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- Many people don't evacuate when they can't take their animals with them, especially those with large livestock.
    - Include/involve animal rescues in thinking through these issues; locations for animal holding for evacuated animals.
  - Issue of many EV owners, how will these people evacuate when they don't have access to electricity?
  - Evacuation plans need to be simple so that it is clear to everyone how to evacuate in case of an emergency.
2. Work with neighboring jurisdictions, districts, and agencies to establish and maintain equitably located community resilience centers throughout the community and throughout San Mateo County; conduct outreach to educate and inform the community about the resilience hubs. These facilities shall offer refuge from extreme heat, poor air quality, and power outages, in addition to other hazards such as floods and wildfires, and provide important community services during both hazardous and normal conditions. They shall be equipped with renewable energy generation and backup power supplies. Such facilities should be located in areas with minimal exposure to hazards.

### Notes:

- New Cesar Chavez school in EPA would be a good site.
  - Are there any public facilities to be used as hubs in EPA?
    - City Hall for hot days
    - Library
  - Can Core service agencies be bolstered to serve as resilience hubs? Should be proactively supported to handle those events.
  - Especially helpful to communities that might be isolated for long periods ex. Half Moon Bay, La Honda
    - PG&E had mobile unit staged in HMB, need appropriate sites for when power is down, should have a process for where and how to help people
  - Microgrids as helpful tool to addressing power outages
  - Designated facilities should be set up properly to handle the population in case of emergencies. What is each organization supposed to do?
  - Should be able to provide water in emergencies. Schools and similar facilities need to be prepared to provide services in emergencies - that's where people go to meet in case of emergencies.
  - Need to make sure we have enough food vendors during emergencies.
3. Designate corridors where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained.

### Notes:

- Big challenge in EPA with commuters from 84, roads are already congested.
  - So many people passing through city it's too congested now.
  - Only a few ways to leave the city.

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- Local residents might not be able to go anywhere.
  - Many residents take public transit
  - Does Zonehaven (new name) provide evacuation routes? Should it? When do you think about evacuation for those without cars? How do those people get out with their things?
4. Require new development in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and in mapped floodplains to have access to at least two emergency evacuation routes.

Notes:

- Mapped floodplains should apply to areas that will be in a floodplain in the future due to SLR and extreme storms.
  - Yes
5. Support and encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.

Notes:

- Definitely
  - CERT day, materials
  - Where to store medical equipment for most vulnerable residents?
    - Trainings for community members with scenarios, more hands on not just a training but a total physical response experience.
  - Individuals working from 3-11 may not be able to complete program.
  - Coastside CERT got adopted and then got money from the state.
    - Constant training, year-round
    - Everyone very motivated
  - Create video trainings for people who cannot attend, people can complete at their own pace.
  - Partner with other communities.
  - Go a step further. Getting to know your neighbors is also helpful. Small grants to hold a BBQ and know your neighbors. City sponsored neighborhood events.
  - Consider the military/veteran population to be put into these roles in their neighborhoods.
  - Form a nonprofit with military veterans to meet this need. They have skills in emergency services that would be useful.
6. Conduct educational campaigns in multiple languages and formats; and offer residents information on ways to protect their property and preserve personal health and safety from various hazards, and on available incentives and other financial resources.

Notes:

- Create videos, do them in multiple languages
- Engage younger generations to get involved, use social media
- Look at teen cert in high schools
- Yes

## PENINSULA RESILIENCE PLANNING

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- Important to provide information in multiple languages; people need to be aware of evacuations and emergency preparedness.

#### POLICY CONCEPTS: OTHER ISSUES

1. Encourage the installation of water efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.

Notes:

- Already happening
- Concerned that we don't have technology to address cleaning our water. Or perhaps the innovation is out there, we just don't know how/where to access it.

2. Expand participation in the Bay Area Air District's Clean Air Filtration Program by supporting residential filter installation and maintenance. Partner with community-based organizations for program implementation, prioritizing environmental justice communities and vulnerable populations.

Notes:

- And use Cal EnviroScreen

3. Develop standards for healthy building design that address indoor air quality, natural ventilation, and protection from outdoor air pollution.

Notes:

- Yes
- Should explore green products to reduce effects on health.
- Should have and ensure that compliance checklists are used.

4. Collaborate with state agencies, regional land managers like Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and neighboring local agencies to align invasive species management efforts across jurisdictions.

Notes:

- Yes. Use of Integrated Pest Management
- How do invasive species impact emergency situations ex. Eucalyptus, very flammable in wildfire situation, but also habitat for monarch butterflies
- Could expand from Wildfire comments – big tracks of land and land owners.
  - MidPen as large landowner, tap them to collaborate on this policy.

5. Implement land use planning and management practices that anticipate and accommodate ecosystem changes caused by climate change, ensuring long-term ecological health, community safety, and climate resilience.

## **Appendix B: PREP Virtual Community Workshop Q&A**

Below is a list of the questions received during the question-and-answer portion of the PREP virtual community workshop. The answers provided by the presenters at the event are summarized below each question.

1. Is the team looking at the new Vulnerable Communities Platform that the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation has created?  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/652c6def7040429bafe23c38966f8f73/page/Welcome-%26-Regions>

Answer: The Vulnerable Communities Platform is more of a regional tool, and we are seeking to get more specific to cities, the County, maybe even neighborhood level. More granular. That tool is higher-level, but is good to know some of the larger trends across the region.

2. Does climate change affect the windiness of SFO?

Answer: The science is uncertain on the exact link between climate change and wind. The rough consensus is that we can expect more wind in the future due to climate change, but this is not well-studied. The State is currently updating the California Climate Change Assessment, and they will be looking at wind. The anticipated release of the latest version of the assessment is in the next few years. More information on the California Climate Change Assessment can be found [here](#).

3. Was the vulnerability from groundwater infiltrating hazardous waste sites included?

Answer: Yes, the Vulnerability Assessments included analysis of how sea level rise, and resulting emergent groundwater, will affect toxins stored in soils and potentially cause them to spread.

4. Was the vulnerability of derelict and abandoned properties, which may also be superfund sites, included in the Vulnerability Assessments?

Answer: Yes, the Vulnerability Assessments include an analysis and mapping of known contaminated and clean-up sites and their relation to the hazard zones. The project team looked at potential leaching and the need to remediate any contaminated sites due to changing hazard conditions from climate change.

5. Several radio stations in SMC participate in Emergency Alert Broadcast (EAS). Would each station broadcast updates about a disaster in both English and Spanish? Would any stations broadcast in Spanish?

Answer: Emergency alerts can go out in several languages. The local Department of Emergency Management is responsible for choosing which languages these alerts are broadcast in. This is helpful feedback for potential policies in the updated Safety Elements.

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6. Insofar as preparation measures happen on residential property, such as fire breaks, how do tenants hold landlords responsible for taking necessary measures, and how do landlords hold tenants responsible for their end of necessary measures?

Answer: There are certain steps that property owners must take to harden properties against wildfire if they are in a fire hazard severity zone. Tenants can work with their landlords to ensure they complete these precautions. Tenants can also contact their local fire department to ensure that those rules are enforced. For hardening measures that are not required, it is more difficult for tenants to hold landlords accountable. The project team is seeking to remedy that with policies in the updated Safety Elements and is happy to accept feedback from community members if they have ideas on how to achieve that accountability.