

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[General Plan - Adopting the 2022 Safety & Resiliency Element]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco General Plan by repealing the 2012 Community Safety Element and adopting the 2022 Safety & Resilience Element; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of public necessity, convenience, and general welfare under Planning Code, Section 340, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

The San Francisco General Plan includes the 2012 Community Safety Element.

Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Legislation would repeal the 2012 Community Safety Element and replace it with the 2022 Safety & Resiliency Element ("SRE"). The SRE integrates planning and policy principles across various City departments to protect community safety and promote resiliency from multiple hazards while minimizing San Francisco's contribution to the climate crisis.

In addition to integrating climate adaptation into the City's hazard mitigation planning, the SRE promotes consideration of racial and social equity and environmental justice in addressing the disproportionate burdens suffered by vulnerable people and neighborhoods that are often hurt first and worst and struggle more to recover from disasters.

Background Information

The San Francisco General Plan's Community Safety Element was last updated in October 2012 and is particularly focused on seismic issues with four main goals: mitigation, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery and reconstruction.

Since 2012, there has been progress in the policies, approaches, and tools for ensuring community safety from natural, climate-induced, and human-made hazards. There have also been California Senate Bills that create new requirements and warrant updating the City's safety element. Specifically, the SRE would ensure consistency between the City's hazards plans and climate resiliency plans, as required by Senate Bill 379, and would coordinate the City's Climate Action Plan with environmental justice directives, as required by Senate Bill 1000.

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