



Published June 22nd, 2022

Draft safety element available for public review

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The city of Orinda has made available for public review its draft Safety Element and Vulnerability Assessment Report. The draft, which was reviewed by the planning commission on June 14, will be reviewed by the city council at its July 5 meeting. The planning commission's views will be presented to the city council at that meeting.

The purpose of a Safety Element is to include safety considerations in the planning and decision-making process by establishing policies related to future development. Part of the general plan, the safety element identifies natural and man-made hazards that may result in personal injury, loss of life, property damage, or environmental damage. All local jurisdictions are required by state law to update their safety elements every eight years. Orinda's safety element update will occur concurrently with the housing element update. Orinda's current safety element provides a brief discussion of risks (including seismic activity, landslides, flood hazard, fire protection, hazardous materials and evacuation routes) and identifies guiding and implementing policies. It has not been substantially updated since the city's general plan was adopted in 1987, but was last amended in 2011 to incorporate policies related to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Components of the safety element address risks such as wildland and urban fires, climate change adaptation and resilience, flooding, earthquakes. The draft is available for review at: www.planorinda.com/safety-element

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