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City Council to discuss the draft Safety Element, staff seeks public input

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda staff have invited the public to submit comments about the draft Safety Element and Vulnerability Assessment. The draft Safety Element, which will be submitted to the state along with the Housing Element, was prepared by the city's consultant, Placeworks.

In the draft, Placeworks explains that the Safety Element is a state-mandated element of the city's General Plan that must identify potential natural and human-created hazards that could affect the city's residents, businesses, and services. It identifies the natural and human-caused hazards that affect existing and future development, describes present and expected future conditions, and sets policies and standards for improved public safety.

In addition, the city is working on a newly required component of the Housing Element: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), that requires the city to examine existing and future policies, plans, programs, rules, practices and related activities to promote a more inclusive community. The downtown planning and housing element subcommittee hosted a workshop on AFFH on June 27, and residents are encouraged to complete a fair housing survey. That survey, and others, are available from the Plan Orinda website, www.planorinda.com/involve

The draft Safety Element is available for review at:

<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/DraftSafetyElement/file/968200724142>

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