



City of Etna

April 16, 2020

State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: City of Etna Minor Safety Element Update

Dear State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection,

Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 65302.5, the City of Etna is submitting its minor Safety Element update to the Board for review prior to adoption. However, please note that the sole purpose of the minor Safety Element update is to incorporate by reference the recently completed Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Incorporation of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) into the Safety Element is required for the City to be eligible for hazard mitigation funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Without FEMA mitigation funds, the City's resources and infrastructure are at elevated risk.

Other than incorporating the LHMP by reference, no other changes are proposed to the Safety Element, and the Safety Element would remain substantially as adopted by the City in September 2005. The City of Etna is aware that the Safety Element must be further revised to address the safety concerns of the City and State, including those revisions described in Government Code sections 65302.15 and 65302(g)(1) through 65302(g)(5).

The City of Etna is a small, economically disadvantaged community (pop. 720) and without grant funding, the City is unable to update its General Plan as needed. However, in the next few months, the City will be submitting an application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a non-competitive Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant to update the City's General Plan, including its Safety Element, consistent with State law.

Because the sole purpose of the proposed Safety Element update is to incorporate the LHMP by reference and not place resources and infrastructure at elevated risk, and because the City anticipates a comprehensive update of the Safety Element utilizing LEAP funding in the near future, the City requests that the Board consider a more limited review of the City's Safety Element update at this time.

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Tinsman
Etna City Planner