General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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October 2019

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# Purpose and Background

Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3).)

The safety element is required to include:

* Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
* Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
* Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
* The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.
* The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(A).)

Based on that information, the safety element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B).) To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the safety element, which include but are not limited to:

* Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
* Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in the SRA or VHFHSZ.
* Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
* Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(C).)

The safety element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the city or county that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(D).) This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

There are several reference documents developed by state agencies to assist local jurisdictions in updating their safety elements to include wildfire safety. The Fire Hazard Planning, General Plan Technical Advice Series from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), referenced in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and available at

1400 Tenth Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 322-2318

The Technical Advice Series is also available from the OPR website ([Technical Advice Series link](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf)).\*

The Technical Advice Series provides policy guidance, information resources, and fire hazard planning examples from around California that shall be considered by local jurisdictions when reviewing the safety element of its general plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) utilizes this Safety Element Assessment in the Board’s review of safety elements under Government Code section 65302.5. At least 90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of their safety element, counties that contain SRAs and cities or counties that contain VHFHSZs shall submit their safety element to the Board. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b).) The Board shall review the safety element and respond to the city or county with its findings regarding the uses of land and policies in SRAs or VHFHSZs that will protect life, property, and natural resources from

unreasonable risks associated with wildfires, and the methods and strategies for wildfire risk reduction and prevention within SRAs or VHFHSZs. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3).)

The CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team provides expert fire protection assistance to local jurisdictions statewide. Fire captains are available to work with cities and counties to revise their safety elements and enhance their strategic fire protection planning.

# Methodology for Review and Recommendations

Utilizing stafffrom the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team, the Board has established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes

1. reviewing the safety element for the requirements in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3)(A),
2. examining the safety element for goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk in the planning area (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B) & (C)), and
3. making recommendations for methods and strategies that would reduce the risk of wildfires (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3)(B)).

The safety element will be evaluated against the attached Assessment, which contains questions to determine if a safety element meets the fire safety planning requirements outlined in Government Code, section 65302. The reviewer will answer whether or not a submitted safety element addresses the required information, and will recommend changes to the safety element that will reduce the wildfire risk in the planning area. These recommended changes may come from the list of sample goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that is included in this document after the Assessment, or may be based on the reviewer’s knowledge of the jurisdiction in question and their specific wildfire risk. By answering the questions in the Assessment, the reviewer will determine if the jurisdiction’s safety element has adequately addressed and mitigated their wildfire risk. If it hasn’t, any specific recommendations from the reviewer will assist the jurisdiction in revising the safety element so that it does.

Once completed, the Assessment should provide clear guidance to a city or county regarding any areas of deficiency in the safety element as well as specific goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures the Board recommends adopting in order to mitigate or reduce the wildfire threat in the planning area.

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction: Corona | Notes:  | CAL FIRE Unit: RRU | Date Received: 12/30/2019 |
| County: Riverside | LUPP Reviewer: M. Curtis | UNIT CONTACT: | Date Reviewed: 12/31/2019 |

## Background Information Summary

The safety element must contain specific background information about fire hazards in each jurisdiction.

*Instructions for this table: Indicate whether the safety element includes the specified information. If YES, indicate in the comments where that information can be found; if NO, provide recommendations to the jurisdiction regarding how best to include that information in their revised safety element.*

| Required Information | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified?*CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps* | Yes |

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| --- |
| The Corona City Council adopted CAL FIRE Determination by Ord. 3034 June 3, 2010. CMC Chapter 15.16, entitled Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Maps are included in the General Plan, Technical Background Report, and EIR.TBR: Figure 5-12 (pp 5-61) Public Safety Element: Figure PS-11(pp PS-43)  |

 |
| Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included? | Yes | The General Plan Technical Background Report (TBR) contains significant information on historical wildfire information, including fire perimeter mapping dating back 100 years. (pp. 38) TBR: Table 5-7 (pp. 5-55) and Figure 5-13 (pp. 5-57) Public Safety Element: Figure PS-10 (pp PS-41) |
| Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified? | Yes | Technical Background ReportContains a description of existing land uses in the SRA and LRA's (Table 5-8; pg.5-59). Planned land uses are shown on the Land Use Map for the City and SOI. Update to the safety element in 2020 will include emergency facilities and other land uses overlaid with defined hazard zones (e.g., flood, fire, earthquake, etc.) |
| Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified? | Yes | Technical Background ReportOpening discussion in the TBR lays out the relevant federal, state, and local agencies and legislation affecting fire suppression and prevention efforts in California. The City of Corona maintains nearly a dozen cooperative, mutual aid, and automatic aid agreements with adjacent jurisdictions. Discussion (pp 5-68) and Table 5-10Safety ElementPolicy PS-8.3: Maintain mutual aid, automatic aid, and other multi-agency cooperative agreements to ensure that urban fire, wildfire, tactical response, hazmat, and other services are available at all times. pg.47 |
| Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element? | Yes | Technical Background Report (pp. 5-49-50)Corona FIRE participates in the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and prepares its LHMP as required by the General Plan and in accordance with state and federal regulations. Cal OES and FEMA approved the City’s 2017/2018 LHMP; City Council adopted on May 5, 2018. Council will incorporate by reference the updated approved LHMP in to the updated General Plan and Public Safety Element by resolution in 2020.Corona FIRE references and uses the Cal FIRE Riverside Unit Strategic Plan (2018) as a framework for planning/coordinating fire protection priorities and services in the City of Corona and its sphere of influence. Corona FIRE is working with a consultant on a Wildfire Risk Assessment that will cover the VHFHSZ's in Corona and its SOI. The results will support the initiation and development of a grant-funded CWPP to be undertaken in 2020.Corona FIRE has a detailed Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that provides the basis for the City’s emergency management planning. The EOP is scheduled for updating in2020 per the updated Fire Services Strategic Plan.Safety ElementPolicy PS-8.8: Adhere to and periodically update fire department strategic plans, policies and procedures, and other internal standards to continuously meet service level requirements and priorities, including department response times.Policy PS-11.3: Ensure that the Emergency Operations Plan and Standard Operating Procedures provide for efficient and orderly notification and evacuation on a city-wide basis. Ensure they address accessibility issues and mass notification capabilities utilizing our city, county, state, and federal communication systems.Policy PS-11.6: Improve continuity of operations capabilities to include the development of a City of Corona Continuity of Operations Plan, in addition to enhancing the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) readiness, the EOC responder training and exercises and continuously testing and improving upon the effectiveness of the Emergency Operation Plan.Policy PS-11.10: Participate in the review and update of the Riverside County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years in coordination with all participating jurisdictions and Riverside County Emergency Management Department; implement goals and objectives contained therein to reduce risks from hazards and guide decision making. |

| Is there any other information in the Safety Element regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs? |
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## Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures

The safety element must contain a set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the above information to protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire and implementation measures to accomplish those stated goals, policies, and objectives.

*Instructions for this table: Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction’s unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction’s fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and**Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan**below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.*

### Section 1 Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land

| Questions | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (**SRA Fire Safe Regulations**) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (**Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations**) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs? | Yes | Technical Background Report Table 5-11 (pp. 5-70) The Corona Municipal Code (CMC) 15.12 states that the City has adopted the 2019 California Building and Fire Code, which includes the following:1)Chapter 4 and more restrictive amendments2)Appendices B, C, E, F, G & O3)Chapter 49: Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Areas4)Chapter 7A: Building standards5) CMC 15.12: Eave protection, fire roads, two points of access, fuel modification requirements. Safety ElementPolicy PS-10-7: Condition approval of parcel and tentative maps in VHFHSZ's based on meeting or exceeding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the fire hazard reduction around buildings and structures regulations |
| Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Technical Background Report Corona allows existing and new residential developments to be located in the VHFHSZ, provided the development adheres to additional standards, such as:construction features See TBR Table 5-11site planning/design See TBR Table 5-11water/sprinklers See TBR Table 5-11 fuel mod standards See TBR Table 5-11 Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.2: Require all improved and new homes, structures, and facilities in the very high fire hazard severity zones to adhere to additional fire safe design standards consistent with state law and local practice. |
| Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements? | Yes | Technical Background ReportThe City requires development proposals to incorporate fire safe designs by adherence to the CFC and local amendments (which exceed minimum SRA Fire Safe regulations) and appropriate City Fire Prevention Guidelines (pp. 5-68; Table 5-10) Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.2: Require all improved and new homes, structures, and facilities in the very high fire hazard severity zones to adhere to additional fire safe design standards consistent with state law and local practice.Policy PS-10.7: Condition approval of parcel and tentative maps in VHFHSZ's based on meeting or exceeding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the fire hazard reduction around buildings and structures regulations. |
| Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible? | Yes | Technical Background Report The City allows certain essential public facilities in the VHFHSZ's that are required for fire-fighting purposes (stations, reservoirs, radio towers, etc.). No high occupancy land uses (hospitals and schools) are located in VHFHSZ's. (pp. 5-59 and Table 5-8)Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.1: Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas; if not feasible, require construction and other methods to harden existing and planned facilities in such areas.Policy PS-8.7: Provide appropriate security measures around sensitive essential public facilities, such as water, reclaimed water, radio towers, and other facilities required for use for public health and safety purposes. |
| Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard? | Yes | Technical Background ReportCorona has multiple local amendments that exceed minimum fire code requirements and meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Standards. As part of the 2019 CFC, the City made amendments to require adequate clearance of vegetation along public and private roadways. As part of the 2019 CFC, the City made amendments to require two points ofa ccess for all new developments and existing developments that increase density. As part of the 2019 CFC, the City made amendments to address and strengthen fuel modification requirements for developments in the VHFHSZ areas. In 2020, the City will initiate a CWPP and examine ways to mitigate existing nonconforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, to the extent feasible.Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.2: Require all improved and new homes, structures, and facilities in the very high fire hazard severity zones to adhere to additional fire safe design standards consistent with state law and local practice.Policy PS-9.7: Condition approval of parcel and tentative maps in VHFHSZs based on meeting or exceeding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the fire hazard reduction around buildings and structures regulations. |
| Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire? | No | (Recommend to include polices to address development after a large fire.)The City generally facilitates the rebuilding of properties following fire to the extent feasible. The types of improvements required (e.g., sprinklers, boxed eaves, etc.) will depend on the location of the property, condition, and vintage of home. Consultations with third parties (such as architects) are generally sought to determine needed changes. The CMC 17.90 has provisions to address situations where the property is nonconforming with respect to zoning and land uses, although these situations are rare |
| Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes  | Technical Background ReportCity adopted CFC 4906, which requires that fuel modification plans be submitted for all developments in the VHFSZ (pp. 5-74) City’s new Fire Hazard Abatement Program conducts inspections annually to reduce vegetation hazards. (pp. 5-74) City requires the preparation of extensive fuel modifications plans and enforces regulations for all developments in VHFHSZ's (pp. 5-74)Safety ElementPolicy PS-10-6: Require fuel mod plans and vegetation clearance standards for development in VHFHSZ's to protect structures from wildfire, protect wildlands from structure fires, and provide safe access routes for the community and firefighters. |
| Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Technical Background ReportFire sprinkler plans required in all new homes per CBC. Fuel mod plans required for all development in the VHFHSZ (5-74)Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.4: Require new and rehabilitated homes and structures to meet or exceed City fire prevention standards and state law, including building access, construction design, sprinklers, and others as required by Corona FIRE.Policy PS-11.4: Maintain Structure Protection Plans and other pre-planning activities and plans to remain prepared for emergencies throughout the community. |
| Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance? | Yes | Technical Background ReportCity requires all projects in the VHFHSZ to submit a Fuel Mod Plan and those requirements were updated with the adoption of 2019 CFC (5-74) City conducts weed and fire hazard abatement annually (5-74) City supports USFS and CALFIRE effort to maintain fuel breaks (5-75)City awarded a grant to create a CWPP and prepare Wildfire Assessment City amended 2019 CFC to require vegetation clearance adjacent to private roads and public roads used by fire apparatus vehicles (5-74)•City amended 2019 CFC to require hazardous vegetation and fuels around all applicable buildings and structures to be maintained in accordance with (5-73):Public Resources Code, Section 4291.oCCR, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Section 1299 (see guidance for implementation “General Guideline to Create Defensible Space”).California Government Code, Section 51182.oCCR, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1, Section 3.07.City of Corona Vegetation Management Guidelines.”Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.5: Work cooperatively with city departments, community groups, and individual homeowners to ensure that vegetation management is being maintained in the designated fuel modification areas.Policy PS-9.6: Work cooperatively with CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, Department of Corrections, and other agency stakeholder to advocate for the installation and maintenance of fire breaks in wildland areas surrounding Corona.Policy PS-10.6: Require fuel mod plans and vegetation clearance standards for development in VHFHSZ's to protect structures from wildfire, protect wildlands from structure fires, and provide safe access routes for the community and firefighters. |
| Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs? | Yes | Technical Background Report Corona ensures adequate access (ingress and egress) to new development in the VHFHSZ's through adherence to and/or exceed of SRA and CFC road standards.Fire roads are built to standards (width, turning radius, grade, slope, surface, etc.) that meet or exceed SRA Fire Safe Standards (Table 5-13, pp. 5-72) Bridges in Corona are required and designed to meet state “load” standards to accommodate the weight of fire apparatus vehicles as well. City amended 2019 CFC to require two points of access for new development and where existing development density is increased (CMC 15.12.210)•City requires adherence to vegetation clearance and maintenance standards for all public and private fire access roads (CMC 15.12.160)•City prepares and maintains structure protection plans, evacuation routes, and associated maps for areas within the VHFHSZ (pp. 5-67)•City maintains emergency evacuation routes as part of the Riverside County Strategic Contingency Plan. City will update safety element for Resilient IE evacuation route maps and AB 99requirements concurrent with 2021-2029 Housing Element updateSafety ElementPolicy PS-9.4 Maintain safe and accessible evacuation routes throughout the community; take precautions and ensure backup or mitigations for routes crossing high hazard areas (e.g., flood, seismic, high fire, etc.)Policy PS-9.3 Ensure that roadway, bridge and driveway standards are adequate and appropriately maintained to allow safe access to premises where emergencies take place and safe evacuations wherever needed. |
| Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined? | Yes | Technical Background Report Corona FIRE a range of programs to address the evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZ's to reduce property damage, injury, and loss of life. These are:City prepares and maintains structure protection plans and evacuation routes for approximately a dozen areas within the VHFHSZ. Each map contains critical infrastructure, evacuation routes, and fire infrastructure (pp. 5-67) City maintains emergency evacuation routes as part of the Riverside County Strategic Contingency Plan. The SCP identifies communities in the VHFHSZ and outlines evacuation and re-entry plans and routes (pp. 5-76) City participates in the regional Resilient IE, a multi-jurisdictional effort to outline and coordinate evacuation route planning, emergency response, and climate resilient transportation infrastructure. (pp. 5-76) The City, along with Cascadian Communications, offers a service that sends telephone, email, or cell phone notifications to residents and businesses about wildland fires and debris flow. (pp. 5-69) Corona maintains a CERT program to inform residents of hazards they are most susceptible to, preparedness methods, mitigation efforts, and evacuation procedures. (pp. 5-69)Safety ElementPolicy PS-11.4: Maintain Structure Protection Plans and other pre-planning activities and plans to remain prepared for emergencies throughout the community.Policy PS-11.5: Ensure that the Emergency Operations Plan and Standard Operating Procedures provide for efficient and orderly notification and evacuation on a citywide basis. Ensure they address accessibility issues and mass notification capabilities utilizing our city, county, state, and federal communication systems. |
| If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified? | Yes | Technical Background ReportThe City a limited number of inadequate access/evacuation routes (one-way ingress/egress) and will complete the survey as required by AB 99 in 2020.Corona FIRE has secured a grant that will result in the preparation of a CWPP in 2020to address access/evacuation issues in those areas. City has amended CDC requiring specific clearance of vegetation from public and private roads, which will help ensure that such roadways do not become blocked. The City has a robust Traffic Management Center where they can monitor and adjust timing to over 70 traffic signals, monitoring cameras and video/data link capabilities with CalTrans District 8 TMC in San Bernardino.Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.3: Ensure that roadway, bridge and driveway standards are adequate and appropriately maintained to allow safe access to premises where emergencies take place and safe evacuations wherever needed.Policy PS-9.4: Maintain safe and accessible evacuation routes throughout the community; take precautions and ensure backup or mitigations for routes crossing high hazard areas (e.g., flood, seismic, high fire, etc.). |
| Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations? | Yes | Technical Background ReportCorona FIRE publishes Ready Set Go education efforts on-line This year partners with CAL FIRE to enhance social media and website content. (pp.5-69) City’s CERT program teaches members about local hazards, preparedness methods, mitigation measures, and evacuation. (pp.5-69) Preparedness/Prevention presentations are made at functions such as HOA, safety fairs, schools, businesses, care facilities, etcetera. (pp.5-69) City will develop a CWPP for the wildland-urban interface area along Corona’s periphery addressing at risk population in the upcoming year. (pp.5-69)Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.5: Work cooperatively with city departments, community groups, and individual homeowners to ensure that vegetation management is being maintained in the designated fuel modification areas.Policy PS-9.7: Encourage and provide fire safety education and support programs for residents of all ages to promote participation, fire prevention, voluntary compliance, and community awareness/preparedness |
| Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs? | Yes | Technical Background Report City implements number of programs to ensure ongoing maintenance and integrity of existing and planning water supply infrastructure. (pp.5-71)Integrity of the water supply is handled through DWP. City fire flow and hydrant spacing standards are codified in CMC 15.12. City standards for fire flow and hydrant spacing meet and exceed required SRA regulations and NFPA standards (pp. 5-71 and Table 5-12) City updates a series of water plans on periodic basis as required by law, including Water System Master Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, etc.Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.8: Coordinate with the Department of Water and Power to ensure that adequate water supply and flows are available for firefighting; where inadequate, ensure provision of off-site water supply and transport. |
| Does new development have adequate fire protection? | Yes | Technical Background Report The TBR provides an exhaustive set of legal requirements, building and fire codes, municipal codes, fire prevention guidelines, mutual aid agreements, department strategic plans, and a range of other implementation programs to ensure that new development has adequate fire protection. These include:1.Coordination of multiple planning efforts (5-47 through 5-51)2.Corona FIRE provides integrated all-risk services (5-63 to 5-65)3.Adherence to fire pre-planning program (5-67)4.Multiple automatic and mutual aid agreement (5-68)5.Extensive outreach program (5-69)6.Adherence/exceedance of fire codes (5-70)7.Adherence/exceedance of water supply codes (5-71)8.Adherence/exceedance of roadway access and egress standards (5-72)9.Extensive fuel modification and vegetation programs (5-73)10.Fire Break and Fuel Treatment coordination (p-74)11.Evacuation route planning (5-75)12.Corona FIRE has achieved ranking of ISO 2 (5-76)Safety ElementGeneral Plan safety element has three goals followed by numerous policies that support excellent fire protection for new development. Goals are:Goal PS-8 Ensure an adequate service level of fire protection and suppression services provided for all residents, visitors, and businesses throughout the City of Corona to meet community expectations and budgetary resources for safety.Goal PS-9. Through fire prevention and educational efforts, promote participation, voluntary compliance and community awareness of fire safety issues to reduce the incidence and severity of fire and related emergencies and loss.Goal PS-10. Reduce fire risk to life and property through effective land use planning and compliance with federal, state, local laws, ordinances, and standards. |

### Section 2 Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.

| Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to: | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water supply and fire flow? | Yes | Technical Background Report City implements number of programs to ensure ongoing maintenance and integrity of existing and planning water supply infrastructure.City water supply, fire flow, and hydrant spacing are regulated and maintained by Corona DWP and are coordinated with Corona FIRE requirements. City standards in CMC 15.12 for fire flow and hydrant spacing meet and exceed required SRA regulations and NFPA standards (pp. 5-71 and Table 5-12)•City updates a series of water plans on periodic basis as required by law, including Water System Master Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, etc. Corona DWP implements a water master plan and schedules improvements as part of the City’s CIP to maintain, extend, and ensure the long-term integrity of the City’s existing and planned water infrastructure and anticipated water supply.Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.8: Coordinate with the Department of Water and Power to ensure that adequate water supply and flows are available for firefighting; where inadequate, ensure provision of off-site water supply and transport. |
| Location of anticipated water supply? | Yes | Infrastructure and Utilities ElementPolicy-IU-1.2 Evaluate adequacy of water infrastructure in areas where intensification of land use is anticipated; coordinate capital improvements planning for municipal water service infrastructure with the direction, extent, timing of growth.Policy-IU-1.5 As a condition of permit approval, require adequate water supply, distribution, pumping, storage, and treatment facilities to be operational prior to the issuance of building permits. |
| Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies? | Yes | Technical Background Report Corona DWP implements a water master plan and improvements and schedules improvements as part of the City’s annual capital improvement plan to maintain, extend, and ensure the long-term integrity of the City’s existing and planned water infrastructure and anticipated water supply. Infrastructure and Utilities Element Water policies are included as part of the Infrastructure and Utilities Element.Goal IU-1: Secure water supply, water treatment, distribution, pumping, and storage systems that meet the current and projected future daily and peak water demands of Corona in an equitable, efficient, and sustainable manner.Policy IU-1.1: Review, evaluate, and update the City’s Urban Water Management Plan and related capital improvement programs on a regular basis to maintain plans for expansion and improvement of distribution and storage facilities.Policy IU-1.2: Evaluate adequacy of water infrastructure in areas where intensification of land use is anticipated; coordinate capital improvements planning for municipal water service infrastructure with the direction, extent, timing of growth.Policy IU-1.3: Construct, upgrade, maintain, and expand water supply, distribution, pumping, storage, and treatment facilities in the Urban Water Management Plan and/or as required to meet state and federal standards.Policy IU-1.4: Designate, preserve, and acquire land, if necessary, for siting future water supply, storage, and distribution facilities in conformity with the goals and policies of the Land Use Element.Policy IU-1.5: As a condition of permit approval, require adequate water supply, distribution, pumping, storage, and treatment facilities to be operational prior to the issuance of building permits. |
| Evacuation and emergency vehicle access? | Yes | Technical Background ReportThe Riverside County Strategic Contingency Plan that coincides with the Corona Structure Protection Plan identifies communities in these VHFHSZ's and outlines evacuation and re-entry plans and routes (pp. 5-76) City has 12 structure protection plans for areas situated in the WUI and VHFHSZ. These plans provide emergency responders with a map of critical infrastructure, evacuation routes, and other information for emergencies. (pp.5-67) The City has an Emergency Notification System with capabilities to notify residents via landline or cell of emergencies and evacuations. The City partners with the County for use of the EAS and WEA system (pp. 5-69) City participates in the regional Resilient IE, a multi-jurisdictional effort to outline and coordinate evacuation route planning, emergency response, and climate resilient transportation infrastructure. (pp. 5-76)Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.3: Ensure that roadway, bridge and driveway standards are adequate and appropriately maintained to allow safe access to premises where emergencies take place and safe evacuations wherever needed.Policy PS-9.4: Maintain safe and accessible evacuation routes throughout the community; take precautions and ensure backup or mitigations for routes crossing high hazard areas (e.g., flood, seismic, high fire, etc.).Policy PS-11.4: Maintain Structure Protection Plans and other pre-planning activities and plans to remain prepared for emergencies throughout the city.Policy PS-11.5: Ensure that the Emergency Operations Plan and Standard Operating Procedures provide for efficient and orderly notification and evacuation on a citywide basis. Ensure they address accessibility issues and mass notification capabilities using city, county, state, federal communication systems. |
| Fuel modification and defensible space? | Yes | Technical Background ReportCity amended 2019 CFC to require hazardous vegetation and fuels around all applicable buildings and structures to be maintained in accordance with (5-74):a. Public Resources Code, Section 4291.b. CCR, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Sub-chapter 3, Section 1299 (see guidance for implementation “General Guideline to Create Defensible Space”).c. California Government Code, Section 51182.d. CCR, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 7, Sub-chapter 1, Section 3.07.e. City of Corona Vegetation Management Guidelines.”f. Section 4908 Fuel Modification for New DevelopmentSafety ElementPolicy PS-9.5: Work cooperatively with city departments, community groups, and individual homeowners to ensure that vegetation management is being maintained in the designated fuel modification areas.Policy PS-10.6: Require fuel mod plans and vegetation clearance standards for development in VHFHSZ's to protect structures from wildfire, protect wildlands from structure fires, and provide safe access routes for the community and firefighters. |
| Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads? | Yes | City adopted 2019 CFC and amended it per CMC 15.12.160. The fire code official is authorized to cause areas within 10 feet on each side of portions of highways and private streets which are improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, to be cleared of flammable vegetation and other combustible growth. (5-74)Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.5: Work cooperatively with city departments, community groups, and individual homeowners to ensure that vegetation management is being maintained in the designated fuel modification areas. |
| Visible home and street addressing and signage? | Yes | Safety ElementPolicy PS-10.9: Continue to require visible premise identification and sign-age per Corona’s Premise Identification Guideline that meet or exceed SRA and CFC requirements. |
| Community fire breaks? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained? | Yes | Technical Background Report City is surrounded by open spaces, however, there are no established fuel breaks within the community. Fuel breaks are in either the SRA and FRA lands surrounding Corona, and fuel treatments have been applied inconsistently over time due to funding. The City does not have a fuel break plan.Safety ElementPolicy PS-9.6: Work cooperatively with CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, Department of Corrections, and other agency stakeholder to advocate for the installation and maintenance of fire breaks in wildland areas surrounding Corona. |

### Section 3Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.

| Question | Yes or No | Comments and Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs? | Yes  | Technical Background ReportTBR describes City fire facilities (including addresses, equipment, and staffing complement) designed to have primary responsibility for handling fire and emergency calls from a corresponding service zone (Table 5-9, Figure 5-15 ) Corona FIRE has formal mutual and automatic aid agreements, standards for services, and maps that identify areas in the City’s SOI or county where they are responsible for secondary response (Table 5-10 pp. 5-68).The City’s GIS maintains a Standard of Cover layer with stations, response zones, population and response times. As part of the Standards of Coverage update, consultant modeled areas served within “NFPA-standard” drive times. |
| Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs? | Yes | Safety ElementPolicy PS-8.1: Provide needed fire stations and maintain them in good condition to enable timely and effective response to emergencies in keeping with city standards, community service expectations, and city financial resources.Policy PS-8.2: Ensure that fire staff at all levels are sufficient in number and appropriately trained to effectively plan and respond to all types of fire and related emergencies in the community.Policy PS-8.4: Regular maintain, upgrade, and replace fire apparatus and support vehicles and needed equipment to be prepared and effectively respond to fire, traffic, medical, and related emergencies. |
| Are goals or standards for emergency services training described? | Yes | Technical Background ReportFor emergency operations, the City’s training plan that outlines compliance with California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) training standards. Corona FIRE participates in the SOLAR cooperative plan, which encompasses all agencies with fire protection responsibility where four counties join at the WIU intersection along the 91, 71, 55, 57, and 241 highways. Each firefighter completes over 240 hours of annual training in fire suppression, ladder technique and safety, wildland firefighting, auto extrication, EMS, hazardous materials, swift water rescue, trench rescue, active shooter, and fire ground survival. Corona Firefighters collaboratively train with other departments to address agency protocols, inter-agency communication, mutual/automatic aid agreements, operational plans and unified command.Safety ElementPolicy PS-8.5: Conduct periodic fire-related exercises with City public safety personnel and those of nearby jurisdictions, and the state to remain prepared for situations requiring multi-jurisdictional coordinated response. Policy PS-8.6: Participate in and conduct regular training of all fire and related personnel to ensure that staff are prepared to address emergency medical, fire, and other related emergencies in the community. |
| Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements? | Yes | Technical Background ReportCorona FIRE maintains nearly a dozen cooperative, mutual aid, and automatic aid agreements with adjacent jurisdictions. Discussion (pp 5-68) and Table 5-10•Corona FIRE participates in a unique multi-jurisdictional SOLAR agreement that covers all the cities that meet at the intersection of the SR-71, SR-91, SR-241, etc.Safety ElementPolicy PS-11.3 Conduct periodic emergency management exercises with city personnel and nearby jurisdictions to remain prepared for situations requiring multi-jurisdictional coordinated response.Policy PS-8.3: Maintain mutual aid, automatic aid, and other multi-agency cooperative agreements to ensure that urban fire, wildfire, tactical response, hazmat, and other services are available at all times. |

# Sample Safety Element Recommendations

These are examples of specific policies, objectives, or implementation measures that may be used to meet the intent of Government Code sections 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and 65302.5, subdivision (b). Safety element reviewers may make recommendations that are not included here.

## A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information

1. Include or reference CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps or locally adopted wildfire hazard zones.
2. Include or reference the location of historical information on wildfires in the planning area.
3. Include a map or description of the location of existing and planned land uses in SRAs and VHFHSZs, particularly habitable structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
4. Identify or reference a fire plan that is relevant to the geographic scope of the general plan, including the Unit/Contract County Fire Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
5. Align the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for fire hazard mitigation in the safety element with those in existing fire plans, or make plans to update fire plans to match the safety element.
6. Create a fire plan for the planning area.

## B. Land Use

1. Develop fire safe development codes to use as standards for fire protection for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs that meet or exceed the statewide minimums in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
2. Adopt and have certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection local ordinances which meet or exceed the minimum statewide standards in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
3. Identify existing development that do not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances.
4. Develop mitigation measures for existing development that does not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances or identify a policy to do so.

## C. Fuel Modification

1. Develop a policy to communicate vegetation clearance requirements to seasonal, absent, or vacation rental owners.
2. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation clearance on public and private roads.
3. Include fuel breaks in the layout/siting of subdivisions.
4. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of existing or proposed fuel breaks.
5. Identify and/or map existing development that does not conform to current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance in SRAs or VHFHSZs.

6. Identify plans and actions for existing non-conforming development to be improved or mitigated to meet current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance.

## D. Access

1. Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps in SRAs or VHFHSZs is conditional based on meeting the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access. (See Gov. Code, § 66474.02.)

2. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with an adequate road network and associated infrastructure.

3. Identify multi-family housing, group homes, or other community housing in SRAs or VHFHSZs and develop a policy to create evacuation or shelter in place plans.

4. Include a policy to develop pre-plans for fire risk areas that address civilian evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans.

5. Identify road networks in SRAs or VHFHSZs that do not meet title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00) or certified local ordinance and develop a policy to examine possible mitigations.

## E. Fire Protection

1. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with adequate water supply infrastructure.
2. Plan for the ongoing maintenance and long-term integrity of planned and existing water supply infrastructure.
3. Map existing emergency service facilities and note any areas lacking service, especially in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
4. Project future emergency service needs for the planned land uses.
5. Include information about emergency service trainings or standards and plans to meet or maintain them.
6. Include information about inter-agency preparedness coordination or mutual aid agreements.

# Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan

When updating the General Plan, here are some ways to incorporate fire hazard planning into other elements. Wildfire safety is best accomplished by holistic, strategic fire planning that takes advantage of opportunities to align priorities and implementation measures within and across plans.

## Land Use Element

Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development or limit development in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Disclose wildland urban-interface hazards, including fire hazard severity zones, and/or other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or local fire agency.

Design and locate new development to provide adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allow citizen egress during emergencies.

Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other fire safe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organization.

## Housing Element

Incorporation of current fire safe building codes.

Identify and mitigate substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Consider diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection (group housing, seasonal populations, transit-dependent, etc).

## Open Space and Conservation Elements

Identify critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard severity zones.

Include resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.

Integrate open space into fire safety planning and effectiveness.

Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.

## Circulation Element

Provide adequate access to very high fire hazard severity zones.

Develop standards for evacuation of residential areas in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel reduction maintenance program along roadways.