

SAFETY AND RESILIENCE ELEMENT 2021 UPDATE

POLICY FRAMEWORK:

Categories, Topics, and Key Ideas

User Guide

This framework is organized by four tiers: categories (goals), topics (objectives), and key ideas (policies), as explained:

1. **Category (goal).** The 2012 Community Safety Element did not have specific “goals,” but in consistency with other element updates, the 2021 Update proposes six aspirational, end-state outcomes. #1-3 are new and #4-7 were inspired by the 2012 “objectives.”
 - a. **Topic (objective).** These proposed objectives establish clear directives for achieving the goals and organize the key ideas.
 - i. **Key Idea (for outreach).** These proposed key ideas distill the essence of the policies needed to support the objectives—they are statements that would be expanded into more formal policies.
 1. **Policies (for amendment).** *These proposed policies aren’t developed yet, as the project team is still gathering public input through community outreach and engagement to incorporate during the policy development phase. These policies would guide actions and decisions to minimize San Francisco’s contribution to the climate crisis and ensuring local resilience to multiple hazards.*

The Safety and Resilience Element will provide a long-range policy foundation that is consistent with the Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan, Climate Action Plan, and other nearer-term implementation efforts.

Share Your Feedback

1. **General Plan Survey:** Please take a few moments to complete [the General Plan Survey](#), which includes a section on resilience. The survey is also available in Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino. After you complete the survey, you can choose to provide your contact information to be entered to win one of five \$50.00 Visa gift cards!
2. **In-Language Workshops:** Please visit [the General Plan webpage](#) to learn about upcoming in-language workshops for Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino speakers.
3. **Request a Briefing:** Would you like us to visit your community? You are welcome to request a briefing to discuss the Safety and Resilience Element as it relates to your community’s needs and priorities. If you have ideas for deepening outreach and engagement with your community, please contact Danielle.Ngo@sfgov.org to set up a time.
4. **Share Directly:** You are always welcome to email feedback on the Policy Framework directly to the project team. You can reach out to Danielle.Ngo@sfgov.org, and your feedback will be recorded alongside other public input.

Categories, Topics, and Key Ideas

1. **Equitable Community Safety.** Eliminate current disparities and remedy past injustices experienced by disadvantaged communities from risk, vulnerability, and consequence to all hazards.
 - a. **Prioritize Vulnerable Communities.** In all stages of community safety (mitigation, emergency preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction), prioritize the needs and perspectives of populations and communities affected disproportionately by hazards and disasters.
 - i. **Racial and Social Equity.** Conduct community safety activities with an explicit focus on racial and social equity, from design, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
 - ii. **Remedy Existing Disparities.** Use community safety activities as a way of remediating existing disparities and redressing past systems-level harms for all types of socio-economic factors.
 - iii. **Targeted Outreach and Engagement.** Conduct robust and targeted outreach and engagement activities to identify the values and needs of vulnerable communities.
 - b. **Just Empowerment.** Provide resources, services, and opportunities equitably to ensure all San Franciscans are empowered and resilient before, during, and after hazard events.
 - i. **Partnerships with Community Organizations and Institutions.** Partner with community organizations, institutions, and individuals during the planning and implementation of community safety activities across all phases of disaster.
 - ii. **Capacity Building and Resources.** Provide resources, services, and opportunities to community organizations and institutions to provide essential services, share information among their network, and strengthen the reach of community safety activities.
 - c. **Community Benefits.** Leverage public and private investments for safety to maximize other community benefits in public health, environmental quality, and economic opportunity.
 - i. **Maximize Co-Benefits in Community Safety.** Leverage community safety activities to increase community benefits across intersections in public health, environmental quality, quality of life, economic opportunity, and other public interests.
 - ii. **Environmental Justice.** In community safety activities, fairly treat and meaningfully involve all San Franciscans in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental and health laws, regulations, implementation, and monitoring and work to remedy past injustices.
2. **Climate Resilience.** Achieve net-zero emissions while preparing and protecting people, buildings, and infrastructure from the unavoidable impacts of climate change and thrive amidst hazard shocks and stresses.
 - a. **Climate Mitigation.** Minimize local contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and sequester existing ones.
 - i. **Emissions Reduction.** Minimize greenhouse gas emissions and make San Francisco a low carbon city through green building practices active

- transportation, energy, and waste practices per the SF Climate Action Plan and associated targets.
 - ii. **Carbon Sequestration.** Maximize the preservation and maintenance of carbon sinks in the city and advance the rate of carbon sequestration.
 - iii. **Ecosystem Services.** Leverage ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for climate mitigation.
 - b. **Climate Adaptation.** Modify buildings, infrastructure, and services and enhance community capacity to reduce the scale and severity of unavoidable climate change impacts.
 - i. **Resilient Communities.** Build resilience in communities across environmental, social, and economic factors for climate adaptation.
 - ii. **Community Hubs.** Develop and utilize community facilities such as libraries and recreation centers to act as shared resources during disaster response and recovery.
 - iii. **Buildings and Infrastructure.** Adapt buildings and infrastructure to expand overall climate resilience and protect people, jobs, and the environment.
 - iv. **Multi-Hazard Resilience.** Maximize the efficiency and efficacy of every community safety investment through solutions that build resilience against the shared threats and vulnerabilities of multiple hazards.
 - v. **Nature-Based Solutions.** Leverage ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for climate adaptation.
3. **Governance, Accountability, and Implementation.** Pursue shared decision-making and financing strategies between City agencies and external partners.
- a. **Coordination Across City Agencies.** Develop strategies for improved City department coordination, decision-making, funding, cost-sharing, and risk allocation for public infrastructure efforts affecting multiple agencies.
 - b. **Coordination Across Government Bodies.** Work with regional, state, federal, and tribal government bodies to expand the reach and strength of community safety activities in the face of all hazards.
 - c. **Partnerships With Non-Government Bodies.** Work in partnership with non-government bodies, such as community organizations, institutions, and development partners to reach all San Franciscans.
 - d. **Advance Capital Planning and Funding.** Coordinate capital projects beginning early on in the planning and policy-setting stage to align investments to maximize benefits and minimize costs
 - e. **Research.** Support research about the nature of all hazards in the Bay Area, including changing climate patterns, experience with past hazards, vulnerability and consequence assessments, equity assessments, and best practices for community safety and climate resilience.
 - f. **Monitoring.** Support monitoring and coordinated data tracking of all hazards in the Bay Area, and their interactions with one another, including prediction, warning, and communication systems and impacts on population characteristics and vulnerable communities.
4. **Hazard Mitigation.** Reduce the likelihood, scale, and severity of impacts from all disasters to communities, the economy, and the environment.

- a. **Existing Buildings.** Ensure retrofits and renovations to existing structures increase their longevity and meet current best practices to protect occupants and structures.
 - i. **Risk Reduction.** Reduce risks of existing vulnerable structures to all hazards.
 - ii. **Historic Preservation.** Inventory and safeguard culturally and historically significant buildings, structures, objects, and sites against the physical and economic threats resulting from disasters, especially earthquakes.
 - iii. **Resilient Retrofits.** Provide guidance and assistance to existing buildings for performing retrofits that are resilient to earthquakes, extreme heat, wildfire, poor air quality, flooding, and other hazards.
- b. **New Buildings.** Maximize the safety, environmental performance, and adaptability of all new development.
 - i. **Structural and Life Safety.** Regularly review and amend all relevant codes to ensure new construction are resilient and meets the latest structural and life safety standards based on best practices, including emerging hazards and updated understanding of known hazards.
 - ii. **Hazard Information in Decision Making.** During project review, consider hazard information such as site soils conditions, foundation issues, flood plain, and geotechnical issues, especially against liquefaction and slope instability.
 - iii. **Coordination Across Property Lines.** Take advantage of opportunities to coordinate new construction with adjacent properties and infrastructure to maximize hazard mitigation.
- c. **Infrastructure and Public Realm.** Ensure San Francisco’s lifeline systems, transportation and emergency response facilities, utilities, streets, public spaces, and coastal protection can withstand and adapt to all hazards.
 - i. **Public Assets and Awareness.** Increase understanding of potential threats and consequences to public assets and infrastructure from all hazards.
 - ii. **Resilience to Future Hazards.** Design codes, buildings, and infrastructure to provide resilience benefits to future projections of climate and other hazards.
 - iii. **Multi Use of Open Space.** Design and utilize open spaces considering their use as emergency gathering spaces, floodable spaces, and ecosystem services, per the Recreation and Open Space Element.
- d. **Specific Hazards.** Identify and pursue projects and programs that mitigate and safeguard against multiple hazards across multiple assets.
 - i. **Sea Level Rise and Flooding.** Assess, mitigate, and provide holistic information about sea level rise and flood hazards to the built environment, including coastal and inland flooding, groundwater, and sea level rise and especially along the waterfront.
 - ii. **Seismic.** Assess, mitigate, and provide holistic information about seismic hazards to the built environment.
 - iii. **Hazardous Materials.** Protect against the risks of using, storing, and transporting hazardous materials and increase public awareness, particularly in areas prone to seismic and flooding risks.
 - iv. **Pandemic/Biological Hazards.** Support research, monitoring, and mitigation against public health emergencies and pandemic, especially for vulnerable communities.
 - v. **Extreme Heat and Wildfire.** Protect against extreme heat, wildfire, and poor air quality, especially for communities most at risk.

5. **Emergency Preparedness.** Ensure San Francisco’s residents, workers, and visitors have the knowledge, capacity, and government support they need to be safe in the face of disasters.
 - a. **Awareness and Capacity Building.** Increase the understanding and training of emergency preparedness to all hazards among all government, private, and public sectors.
 - i. **Public Awareness.** Promote greater public awareness of all hazards to create a "culture of preparedness," including risks, vulnerabilities, and consequences and what to do to "get ready and stay ready."
 - ii. **Training City Employees.** Provide ongoing disaster preparedness and hazard awareness training to all City employees, particularly for the Disaster Service Worker system.
 - iii. **Centralized Information.** Create a central online portal for all disaster-related information for the general public, with offline outreach opportunities, accessibility, and resources to reach all San Franciscans.
 - iv. *[placeholder for pandemic policies]*
 - b. **City Agency Capabilities.** Plan ahead for the operations, data, and logistics needed to ensure community safety during the response, recovery, and reconstruction phases of all hazards.
 - i. **Water and Energy.** Ensure redundant water and energy supplies in case of an emergency, especially potable water and renewable energy.
 - ii. **Disaster Response Agencies.** Support the roles of City departments in providing preparedness activities in the event of an emergency.
 - iii. *[placeholder for hazard-specific policies]*
 - iv. **Vulnerable Populations / Populations with Access and Functional Needs.** Ensure planning for support and safety of vulnerable populations and people with Accessible and Functional Needs, such as people experiencing homelessness, older adults, children, and people with disabilities.
 - c. **Citywide Cooperation.** Create proactive plans and programs to ensure readiness and coordination for all disasters.
 - i. **Role of DEM.** Strengthen the role and support of DEM as the City's provider of emergency preparedness activities and primary contact with neighboring, regional, and state jurisdictions.
 - ii. **Communications.** Use multiple communications modalities to enhance the capabilities of connecting with all San Franciscans during all phases of disaster, including shared communications with nearby jurisdictions.
 - iii. **Public Safety.** Prioritize public safety during all phases of disaster response (mitigation, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery and reconstruction) and anticipate any security issues that may arise post-disaster.
 - iv. **Partnerships.** Work in partnership with other government entities, private businesses, public service organizations, and community-based organizations to maximize the capacity of coordinated emergency preparedness and reach.
 - v. *[placeholder for pandemic policies]*
6. **Response.** Provide San Francisco residents, workers, and visitors with the essential support and services needed immediately following a disaster for life safety.

- a. **Lifelines.** Provide critical information and services to prevent further loss of life and establish community safety during the immediate aftermath of disasters.
 - i. **Restore Lifelines.** Activate lifeline restoration activities immediately following a disaster and prioritize services to the most vulnerable.
 - ii. **Communications.** Activate communications capabilities immediately following a disaster to convey current events and sources, as well as personalized information.
 - iii. **Emergency Protocols.** Follow the mandates from regional, state, and other levels of government to notify and coordinate all stages of disaster response.
 - iv. *[placeholder for sea level rise policies]*
 - b. **Community Partnerships.** Work together with neighborhood-based organizations and trusted partners to expand disaster response activities across San Francisco.
 - i. **Response Workforce.** Activate all plans to utilize and organize workers responding to all disasters, including convergence workers, private vendors and contractors, nonprofit partners, and the media.
 - c. **Hazard-Specific Response.** Address any specific, shared, or compounding needs for community safety in the immediate aftermath of a particular disaster.
 - i. **Initiate Repairs.** Facilitate rapid initiation of inspection, repairs, recovery, and reconstruction activities by setting up the infrastructure to intake permits and requests.
 - ii. *[placeholder for pandemic policies]*
- 7. Recovery and Reconstruction.** Rebuild San Francisco’s built, natural, and social assets and communities towards a more equitable and resilient future.
- a. **Buildings and Infrastructure.** Maximize the opportunities to restore and rebuild the built environment with resilience to all hazards.
 - i. **Housing Security and Justice.** Provide emergency housing and interim accommodations for everyone in need, while structures and neighborhoods become repaired to safety and re-stabilization.
 - ii. **Reinforce Mitigation.** Take the opportunities from recovery and reconstruction to build back to highest climate mitigation standards.
 - iii. *[placeholder for hazard-specific policies]*
 - b. **Advance Recovery Planning.** Comprehensively plan for the restoration of city function and economic activity with flexibility to known and unknown hazards.
 - i. **Advance Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning.** Support ORCP and other agencies in creating and maintaining a pre-disaster recovery framework to build capacity and guide recovery and reconstruction activities.
 - ii. *[placeholder for pandemic policies]*
 - c. **Equitable Investment.** Pursue plans and strategies that equitably build back San Francisco better for everyone.
 - i. **Responsible Financing.** Support responsible financing to continue services, fund post-disaster activities, and respond to emergency needs.
 - ii. *[placeholder for pandemic policies]*

The team is currently proposing to remove these policies in efforts to streamline (e.g., redundancies, unnecessary, outdated, work already accomplished without the Safety Element):

- 1.4 Use best practices to review and amend at regular intervals all relevant public codes to incorporate the most current knowledge of structural engineering regarding existing buildings.*
- 2.19 Seek funding for preparedness projects to minimize need for response and recovery from all hazards.*
- 1.19 Mitigate against damage to City systems and infrastructure through awareness of threats posed by new forms of hazards such as terrorism and communication failures.*
- 4.7 Ensure the recovery and reconstruction plan is comprehensive and consistent with already established City programs and policies.*
- 4.8 Where necessary, use public authority to expedite repair, reconstruction and rebuilding.*
- 4.12 Rebuild after a major disaster consistent with established General Plan objectives and policies.*

DRAFT