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# Memorandum

**TO:** Steering Committee Members

**FROM:** Winston Rhodes, AICP, Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Draft Health & Safety Element

**DATE:** October 26, 2009

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Attached is the draft Health & Safety Element for your review and discussion prior to completion for study in the Environmental Impact Report. The Health & Safety Subcommittee reviewed an earlier draft on September 10, 2009. This draft reflects input received. During this meeting, no changes were suggested to the listed Goals, Policies, and Actions and the Subcommittee asked that staff forward comments to PMC for inclusion of policy edits and changes. This draft reflects subsequent staff input but further changes are recommended below based on additional discussion among City departments.

The Health and Safety Element addresses both natural and manmade disasters and ongoing safety topics. Natural hazards include earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. Manmade hazards include noise, violent crime, air pollution, and water pollution. The Health & Safety Element includes topics also addressed within other General Plan elements including Land Use & Economic Development, Community Services & Facilities, Natural Resources & Open Space Circulation, and Sustainability.

## Health Care

The element also includes information about provision of health care. Access to health care was an issue raised by the public as an issue of concern. The policy topic can be addressed in several ways including encouraging the provision of medical services available within the City and through efforts to complement the work of existing health care providers. Delivery of health care is not a core service cities normally provide. However, many actions cities take directly affect public health. Supporting public health efforts by working with the medical community and schools to improve eating habits, encourage exercise, and decrease smoking is increasingly becoming an important concern for cities based on current land use patterns and behavior changes. For example, efforts to improve infrastructure that supports multi-modal transportation options encourage healthy physical activity. Efforts to reduce the incidence of violent crime helps combat the fear that can lead to more sedentary lifestyle choices such as driving rather than walking or biking. In addition, City sponsored recreation programs include components that help support illness prevention, improve mental health, and provide opportunities for fun for all ages.

Emergency Preparedness

Attached is a memo dated 5/28/08 that discusses fire station relocation. This issue relates to the Land Use Element, Community Services & Facilities Element as well as the Health & Safety Element. As noted repeatedly by the City's Fire Chief, the current fire service delivery approach used in Pinole is financially unsustainable. City staff, in conjunction with other regional partners, are exploring options to restructure how fire protection and emergency medical services are delivered. Potential relocation of Station #73 to a more centralized location may be part of a new more economically sustainable approach as outlined in the 5/28/09 memo. Staff recommends that this potential strategy be included as a possibility in the General Plan including identifying future fire station relocation sites on the Land Use Map with notation that describes the General vicinity of a key facility to support improved and more cost-effective Health and Safety in the future.

Outreach and education efforts are a critical strategy in the Health & Safety Element based on lessons learned from recent large scale natural disasters. Education efforts help prepare the public for likely natural disasters, build self-reliance, and recognize the reality that daily public services and conveniences will not be available for long periods in the event of a probable large scale disaster.

Additional Recommended Policy Changes

1. Replace Policy HS.1.2 with the following language:

Require appropriate studies as part of the development review process to assess identified hazards and assure that impacts are disclosed and mitigated.

2. Replace Action HS.1.2.1 with the following language:

Require new developments to screen, protect, or underground all utilities and provide underground connections to improve public safety as well as the City's appearance.

3. Add Action HS. 2.4.3 with the following language:

Establish a sewer lateral/rehabilitation program that requires property owners to inspect, repair, or replace sewer lines prior to time of sale.

4. Add Action HS.2.4.4 with the following language:

Make needed improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to eliminate blending and eliminate use of a shallow water outfall that discharges into San Pablo Bay.

5. Replace Action HS. 3.5.1 with the following language:

Work with Contra Costa County and other regional partners to implement the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan and notify the public about locations and opportunities to properly dispose of household hazardous materials.

6. Add Action HS. 4.1.5 with the following language:  
Provide an emergency warning/notification system within Pinole to alert the public during a natural or manmade hazard event.
  
7. Add Action HS. 4.2.3 with the following language:  
  
Provide ongoing education and training to encourage self-reliance during and after a natural or manmade hazard event.
  
8. Replace Action HS. 5.2.1 with the following language:  
  
Encourage compact transit-oriented development within one-quarter to one-half mile of transit stations and transit service stops along transit corridors.
  
9. Add Action HS. 5.2.3 with the following language:  
  
Continue to work cooperatively with transit service providers to improve transit service and encourage greater transit ridership.

Staff is seeking input from the Steering Committee regarding the additional recommended policy changes above and any other edits/changes needed to refine the attached draft document for further study and environmental analysis.

Attachments:

- A. Draft Health & Safety Element (with changes noted)
- B. Draft Health & Safety Element (clean version without changes shown)
- C. 5/28/08 Fire Station Relocation Memo