

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to evacuation routes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Bonin - Koretz):

1. DIRECT the Department of City Planning (CPD), with assistance from the Emergency Management Department (EMD), Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and relevant departments, to report back on the capacity, safety, and viability of existing and potential evacuation routes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and identify the policies and development standards, including land use and building restrictions, necessary to support these evacuation routes.
2. DIRECT the CPD, with assistance from the EMD, LAFD, and relevant departments, to amend the General Plan by incorporating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Office of Planning and Research's "Fire Hazard Planning" provisions into the Safety Element concurrent with the ongoing update of the Housing Element.
3. DIRECT the City Planning Commission, after reviewing the update to the Safety Element of the General Plan, to its report and recommendations to the City Council.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Also referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee)

Summary:

On October 13, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Bonin - Koretz) relative to routes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. According to the Motion, on October 27, 2019, a hillside fire broke out in Brentwood by Mountaingate and the Getty, burning over 600 acres, prompting the evacuation of thousands and putting approximately 10,000 structures at risk. The fast-moving fire burned at least eight homes on Tigertail Road and forced frightened residents to flee in the middle of the night. Such fires illustrate the urgent and increasing threat of wildfires that has been exacerbated by climate change.

On January 24, 2018, Council approved the 2018 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP; Council File No. 17-1399). The LHMP reduces risks from disasters to people, property, economy, and environment by identifying the extent of local natural hazards, analyzing vulnerability to these hazards, and describing a mitigation strategy to reduce potential losses. Additionally, the city's General Plan can provide a blueprint and tools to promote responsible development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. To address the challenges of developing in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, SB1241 (2012) requires jurisdictions to update the Safety Element upon the next revision of the Housing Element. As part of this update, AB2140 (2006) and AB747 (2019) require the Safety Element to incorporate the goals, objectives, and policies of the LHMP to protect communities from unreasonable risks associated with geologic hazards, flooding, and

wildland and urban fires; as well as unlock additional funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act in the event of a natural disaster. Linking the update of the Safety Element to the update of the Housing Element of the General Plan will allow the City to balance its housing needs in a way that protects communities in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, while bolstering our resilience to wildfires and other natural disasters. It will also encourage the regular maintenance of the City's Safety Element to prepare Los Angeles for potentially more intense and frequent wildfires as a result of climate change. After consideration and after having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
RYU:	YES
LEE:	YES

ARL
10/13/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-