

Safety Element Update

State law requires that the City update its Safety Element as a companion to the updated Housing Element. As a part of this work, the City is preparing a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and an analysis of Stockton's evacuation routes.

Safety Element

The City of Stockton Safety Element is a long-range plan that helps identify and protect against natural hazards in Stockton, including flooding, earthquakes, and extreme heat. Stockton's Safety Element was last updated in 2018 as current work focuses on:

- new state requirements;
- the findings from the vulnerability assessment; and
- evacuation route review.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

A communitywide climate change vulnerability assessment will be prepared that analyzes how climate change will affect natural hazards in Stockton and how this may affect our community. The vulnerability assessment will include the following:

- analyze threats such as drought, flooding, and extreme weather;
- what populations and assets may be affected by these threats and climate change;
- buildings and infrastructure, economic drivers, important community services, and ecosystems impacted by the threats; and
- recommendations on how to respond to these threats.

Review of Evacuation Routes

Recent changes to state law require that Safety Elements identify evacuation routes in the community, as well as their capacity, safety, and ability support effective evacuations under emergency conditions. The City will assess evacuation conditions and will include goals, policies, and implementation programs in the updated Safety Element.

Supportive Documents

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

Next year, San Joaquin County will begin the process of updating the County's LHMP, which was last updated in 2017. This is a county-wide planning effort that helps to reduce the short-term risk of natural hazards in the county. Having a current LHMP keeps us up-to-date on the threats to Stockton and the surrounding community, and also allows Stockton to receive increased grant and disaster relief funding from the federal and state government. The LHMP addresses many of the same issues as the Safety Element, including flooding and drought, and proposes strategies to mitigate the effects of these hazards.

Emergency Operation Plan (EOP)

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the City of Stockton describes the City's organizational approach for responding to an emergency. The EOP allows the City to integrate and coordinate its resources with other departments and agencies to respond more effectively to and recover from major emergencies. The EOP is not being updated as part of the Safety

Element, but the Safety Element team will include relevant information from the EOP into the Safety Element. The City will look at updating the EOP in the future as needed.