

Agenda Item: File ID 20-00622 (10:10 A.M.)

Agenda Date: 05/21/2020

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – File ID 20-00622 (10:10 A.M.)

ITEM(S)

File ID 20-00622 (10:10 A.M.) - Hearing to consider General Plan Text Amendment Application No. P20-01529 and related Environmental Finding which proposes, in the Local Hazard Mitigation section of the Noise and Safety Element of the General Plan, to delete an outdated adoption date of the Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Fresno Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex consistent with the requirements of Federal and State law, and General Plan Policy NS-6-a.

Contents of Supplement: Letter from Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.



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CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

May 19, 2020

Council President Miguel Arias
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Agenda Item ID 20-00622 and Government Code § 65302 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning Requirements

Dear Council President Arias and fellow Councilmembers,

On May 21, 2020, the Council will consider approving the agenda item ID 20-00622 to revise the Local Hazard Mitigation section of the Noise and Safety Element in the General Plan. With this revision, the City is responsible to also develop and adopt climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in accordance with Government Code § 65302(g). Enacted in 2015, this law requires that cities and counties update their general plan safety elements to address climate change impacts, adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable upon the next revision of the local government's local hazard mitigation plan on or after January 1, 2017. § 65302(g)(4).

Some of the specific requirements of this update to the safety element include the incorporation of:

- A vulnerability assessment that identifies the risks that climate change poses to the local jurisdiction and the geographic areas at risk from climate change impacts.
- Relevant information available from federal, state, regional, and local agencies, including among other things, the assets, resources, and populations that will be sensitive to various climate change exposures.
- adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives for the protection of the community.
- feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives, including but not limited to feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change impacts associated with new uses of land and the designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure located in an at-risk area.

In revising the safety element to comply with § 65302(g), a local government must consider the advice provided in the Office of Planning and Research's General Plan Guidelines. The City's



present revision of its Local Hazard Mitigation plan, therefore, presents the City of Fresno the tremendous opportunity, and obligation, to update and develop an innovative community-driven plan to comprehensively address current and future climate change threats.

For decades we have seen the impacts of climate change on communities and neighborhoods in Fresno. Longer summers, extreme heat, and prolonged droughts have hit Fresno hard and will only worsen. Furthermore, we know climate change impacts affect low-income communities the most severely¹. As a result, a failure by the City to comply with Section 65302(g) will disproportionately adversely impact residents of protected classes based on race, national origin, and primary language in conflict with state and federal civil rights and fair housing laws. *E.g.*, Gov Code §§ 12955(l); 8899.50, 2 C.C.R. § 12162(b). These same populations experience disproportionate impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Complying with section 65302's requirements will assist the City in appropriately responding to future disasters and emergencies associated with climate change in a manner that ensures the protection and safety of all Fresno residents.

We ask that the City of Fresno respond to this letter to state how it intends to ensure its timely compliance with Section 65302(g). Please contact me if you have any questions about or would like to find a time to discuss its contents.

Sincerely,

Grecia Elenes

Cc: Jennifer Clark, Director, DARM, City of Fresno
Drew Wilson, Supervising Planner, City of Fresno
Bureau of Environmental Justice, Office of the Attorney General

¹ <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/1/>