

Attachment to the MWAMAC 9/11/24 Agenda
Item B.1.

The County's General Plan is the blueprint for land use, development, and public action in the unincorporated County. It provides policies for balancing change and preservation within our communities, fostering healthy communities, and protecting environmental resources. At a July 23, 2024 meeting, the Board of Supervisors held a workshop on the General Plan 2020 [Safety Element Update and New Environmental Justice Element](#). The workshop presented the status of the update process, identified communities of focus for the elements, and included a discussion on policy approaches for prioritizing improvements in disadvantaged communities (known as Environmental Justice Communities) and how best to incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into the General Plan. The agenda materials for the Board of Supervisors workshop included Policy Frameworks that outline potential policy strategies to address hazard safety and environmental justice issues in Sonoma County. The Policy Frameworks were developed from community input obtained throughout the planning process thus far and are intended to facilitate the policy development process. The Board workshop agenda materials can be found [here](#) and a video of the workshop can be found [here](#).

On the September 11, 2024, meeting of the MWAMAC, Planning staff from Permit Sonoma will 1) present an overview of the requirements for the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements, and 2) seek input from the Mark West Area MAC and members of the public on policy priorities and ideas to protect the public from hazards and prioritize the needs of environmentally-burdened and under-resourced communities. Permit Sonoma staff will facilitate a discussion with MAC members and listen to comments from members of the public in attendance. Feedback from the meeting will inform the draft Safety and Environmental Justice Elements, which will be released for a public review period prior to adoption. Staff will also provide information on next steps and how to continue to be involved.

These two element updates will be completed in advance of a comprehensive General Plan update process, which has recently begun, in order to comply with State mandates. The Board of Supervisors will hear an update from Permit Sonoma staff on the status of the comprehensive General Plan update process at their October 15th meeting in advance of the General Plan 2020 Safety and Environmental Justice Elements going before the Board for adoption.