

Mayor
Carolyn Wysinger
Mayor Pro Tem
Gabe Quinto



Councilmembers
William Ktsanes
Lisa Motoyama
Rebecca Saltzman

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (6:00 PM)
City Council Chambers - 10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

Closed Captions available Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83401463040?pwd=HfvAhl5pIHavXD2nkshSBbrWv3FnOv.1>

Meeting ID: 834 0146 3040 **Passcode:** 076754 **Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968

View:

1. Cable T.V. Broadcast on KCRT Channel 28
2. Livestream Online at www.elcerrito.gov/CouncilMeetingMaterials

Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 510-215-4305. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations. Closed Captions available via zoom.

Conduct: This meeting shall be conducted pursuant to the El Cerrito [City Council Rules of Order and Procedure](#), including adjourning by 11:00 PM unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Council.

Public Comments:

1. *In-person* by submitting a request to speak to the City Clerk.
2. *By Email* to cityclerk@elcerrito.gov identified in the subject line as **Public Comments – Agenda Item #.**

Written comments received by **2:00 p.m. the day of the meeting** will be provided to the City Council and posted [online](#) in advance of the meeting. Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and will be posted **after the meeting**.

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6:00 PM ROLL CALL – CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON ANY REQUEST FROM A COUNCILMEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING REMOTELY DUE TO EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES PURSUANT TO AB 2449**

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

- 3. TELECONFERENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

- 4. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Reports of closed session, commission appointments and informational reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the City Council and staff.

- 5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person. The Mayor may reduce the time limit per speaker depending upon the number of speakers and may limit the total time for public comment to facilitate the completion of business on the agenda. Comments regarding non-agenda, presentation and consent calendar items will be heard first. Comments related to items appearing on the Public Hearing or Policy Matter portions of the Agenda will be heard prior to the City Council taking action on each item.

- 6. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. State of the District Presentation - Contra Costa Community Collage**

Action Proposed: Receive and file a presentation from the Contra Costa Community College regarding the State of the District

Contact: Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College

- 7. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

All items on the consent calendar shall be acted upon in one motion, unless a member of the City Council or staff request separate consideration.

- A. Urban Forest Committee Appointment**

Action Proposed: Approve an Urban Forest Committee recommendation to appoint Valerie Mih to the Urban Forest Committee effective December 2, 2025.

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Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/City Arborist; Amelia Timbers, Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager, Public Works Department

B. Financial Advisory Board Recommendations

Action Proposed: Receive and file recommendations from the Financial Advisory Board.

Contact: David Carvel, Chair, Financial Advisory Board; Crystal Reams, Finance Director/Staff Liaison, Finance Department

C. Monthly Disbursement and Check Register Report for October 2025

Action Proposed: Receive and file the Monthly Disbursement and Check Register Report for the month of October 2025.

Contact: Crystal Reams, Finance Director/City Treasurer, Finance Department

D. Spending Authority and Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Albany to Implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project Funded by a Joint California Coastal Conservancy Grant

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Albany to implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project as funded by a joint California Coastal Conservancy grant; and approve a budget amendment to increase revenues by \$200,000 and expenditures by \$200,000 in Capital Improvement Program Fund 304 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager; Karineh Samkian, Senior Program Manager; Public Works Department; Chase Beckman, Battalion Chief, Fire Department

E. Cooperative Agreement between the City of El Cerrito and Caltrans for the Caltrans State Route 123 Pavement Rehabilitation Project in El Cerrito, Caltrans Project ID: 0419000452

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Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement No. 04-3069 between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of El Cerrito (City) for street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements along State Route 123 with a contribution amount by the City of \$141,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26, and authorizing the City Manager to execute a future amendment to the agreement for an additional contribution amount of \$259,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-27, for a total not to exceed amount of \$400,000.

Contact: Jarrett Mullen, Sustainable Transportation Program Manager, Community Development Department; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer; James Mizutani, Associate Engineer, Public Works Department

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Proposed East Bay Sanitary Garbage & Organic Waste Collection and Post-Collection Rates and Integrated Waste Management Fees – Effective January 1, 2026

Notice published on 11/22/2025 and 11/28/2025

Action Proposed: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion 1) Adopt a Resolution establishing maximum allowable East Bay Sanitary (EBS) garbage and organic waste collection and post-collection rates, effective January 1, 2026, and 2) Adopt a Resolution setting Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fees, effective January 1, 2026, and appropriating an allocation from the Integrated Waste Management Fund in the amount of \$218,507 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Contact: Amelia Timbers, Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager, Christina Leard, Management Analyst III, Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Public Works Department

B. Adoption of an amendment to the Safety Element of the El Cerrito General Plan

Notice Published 11/22/2025. The Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an Addendum has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

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Action Proposed: Conduct a public hearing, and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution finding that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that an Addendum has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, and amending the El Cerrito General Plan and adopting an update to the Safety Element.

Contact: Sean Moss, Planning Manager, Community Development Department

9. POLICY MATTERS

A. Award of Construction Contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution awarding the contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9 to Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$228,103 and to approve potential change orders in an amount not to exceed \$34,215, for the construction of the Project; and appropriating a one-time allocation from the General Fund in the amount of \$183,300 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Contact: Roland Lambert, Associate Engineer, Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department; Christopher Jones, Recreation Director, Recreation Department

10. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments, committee reports, and any required reporting under AB 1234 for meetings (as defined by the Brown Act) attended at the public's expense.

11. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The City of El Cerrito serves our diverse community by providing exceptional services that create a safe and resilient future for all.

State of the Contra Costa Community College District



Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh
Dr. Kimberly Rogers, President, Contra Costa College

Dec. 2, 2025

A few facts about us...



Created in December **1948**, the first countywide junior college district in the state
(county population: 249,000)



Celebrated our 75-year anniversary in **2024**
(county population: 1.16 million)



Currently serve nearly 50,000 students annually



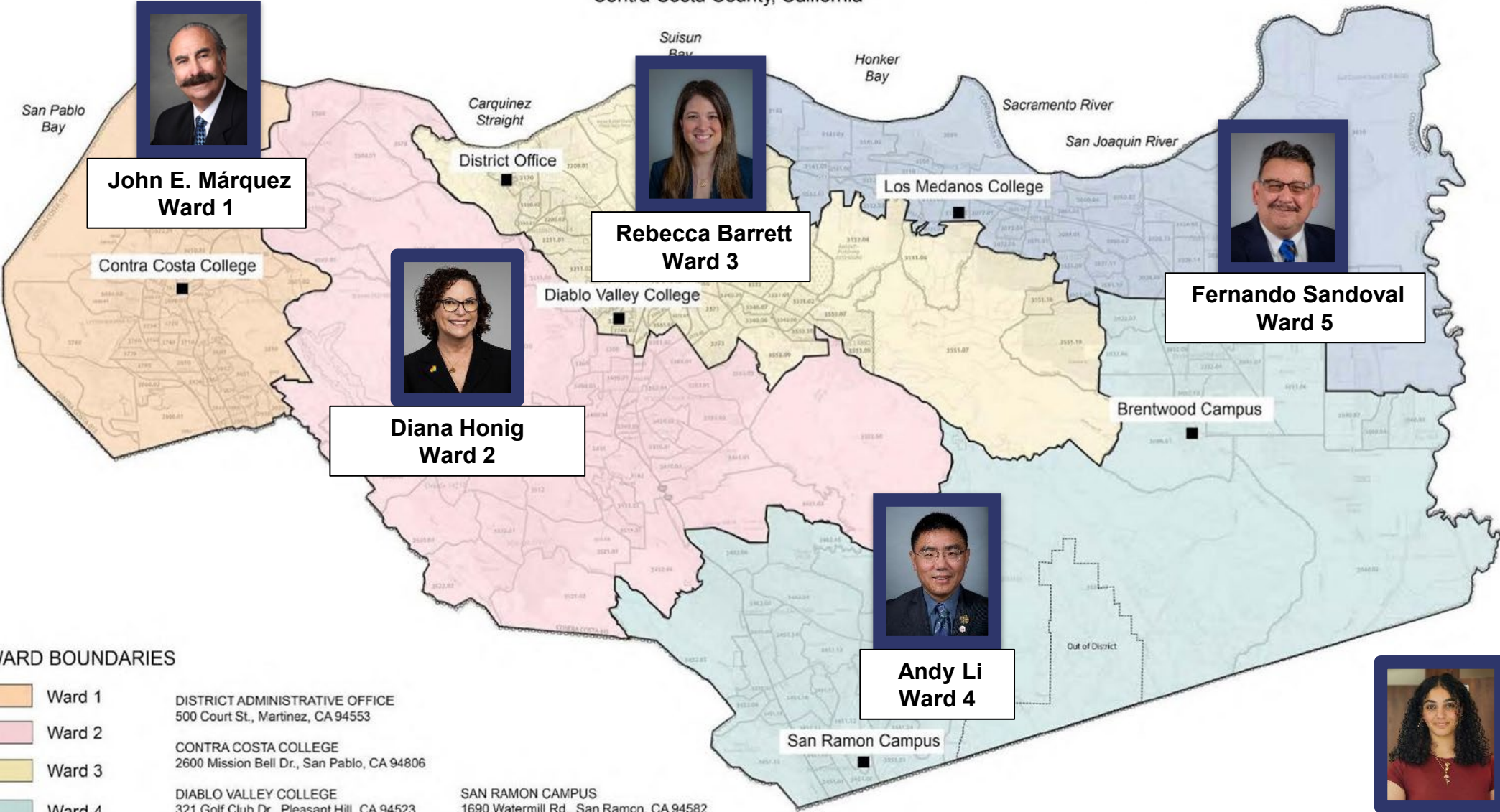
Currently employ nearly 3,400 people

- 2.1 million students
- 116 colleges
- Largest system of higher education in the U.S.



CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT WARD BOUNDARIES

Contra Costa County, California



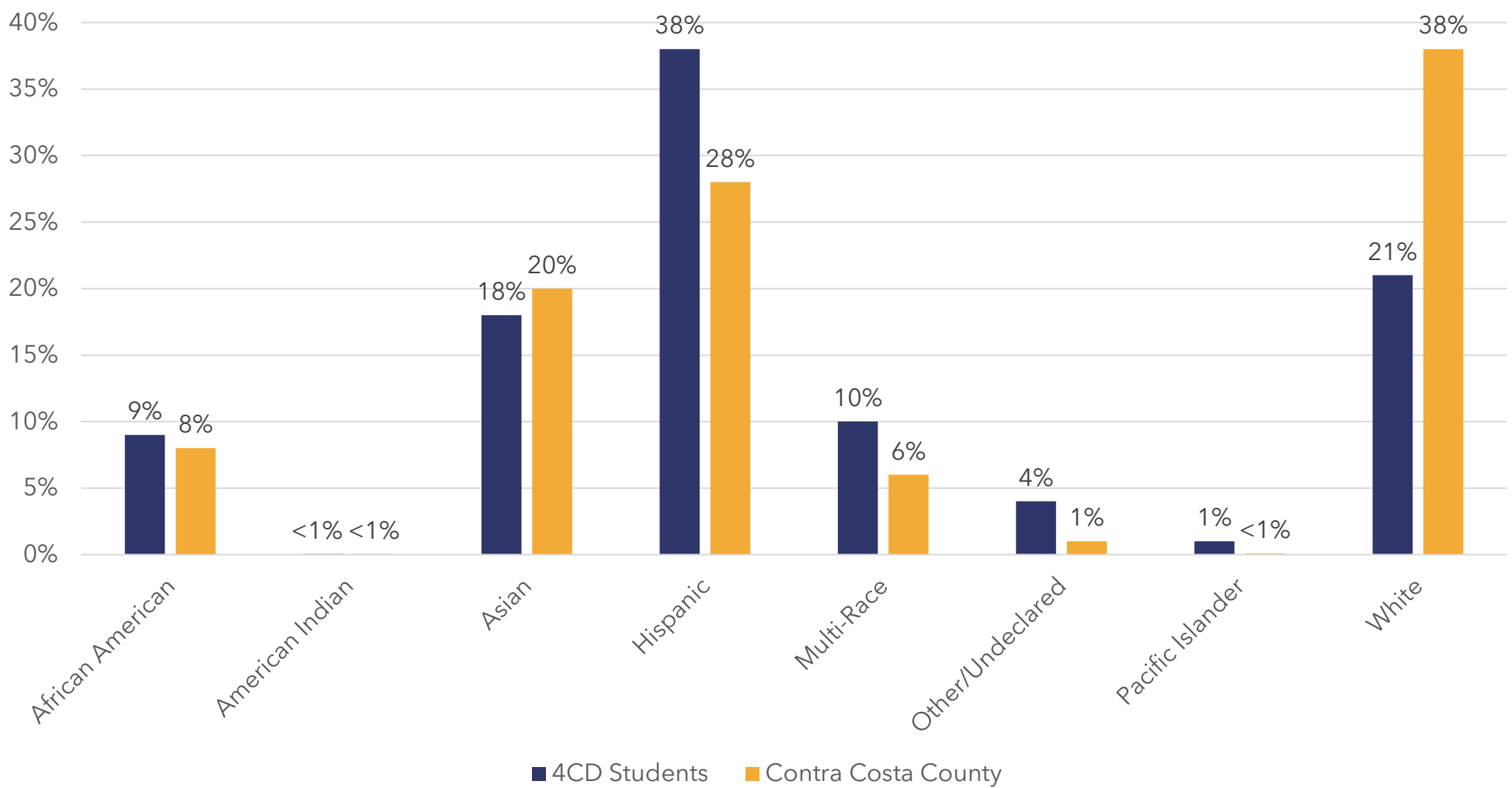
WARD BOUNDARIES

	Ward 1	DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 500 Court St., Martinez, CA 94553
	Ward 2	CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo, CA 94806
	Ward 3	DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE 321 Golf Club Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
	Ward 4	SAN RAMON CAMPUS 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon, CA 94582
	Ward 5	LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE 2700 E. Leland Rd., Pittsburg, CA 94565
		BRENTWOOD CAMPUS 1351 Pioneer Square, Brentwood, CA 94513

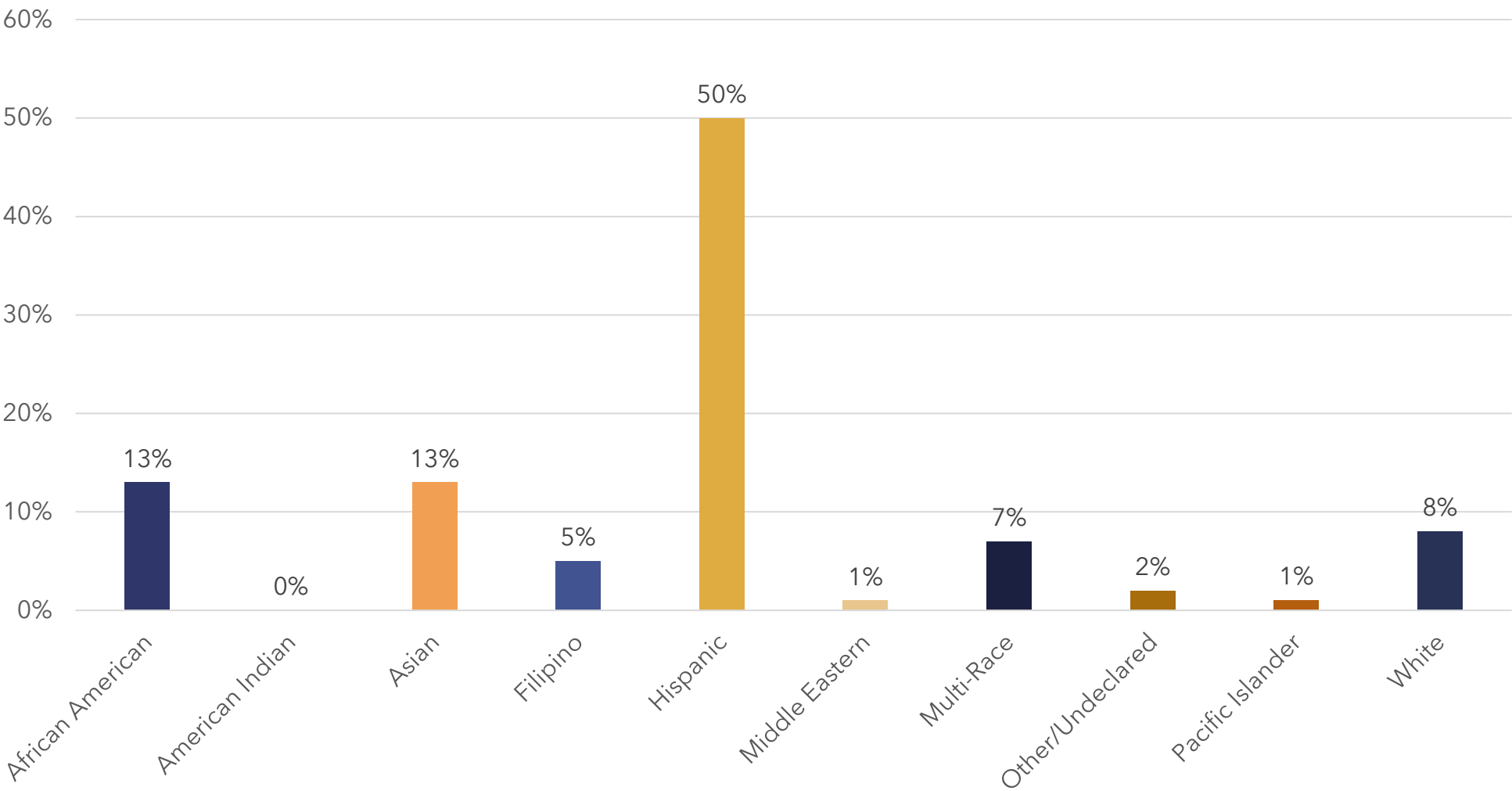


Sophie Khouri
Student Trustee

Who We Serve: 4CD Demographics



Who We Serve: CCC Demographics



What We Offer

- More than **220 associate degrees** and **330 certificates**
- **81 transfer pathways** with guaranteed admission into CSUs
- Career training and industry-recognized credentials
- Flexible schedules with day, evening, and weekend classes
- Online, in-person, and hybrid classes and programs



Our Commitment: Affordability and Access



FREE Tuition Programs

22,740 students received FREE tuition in 2024-2025
Classes with Reduced or No-Cost Textbooks



Wellness Centers to Meet Basic Needs

- Food Pantries
- Online Mental and Health Services
- Technology Loan Programs

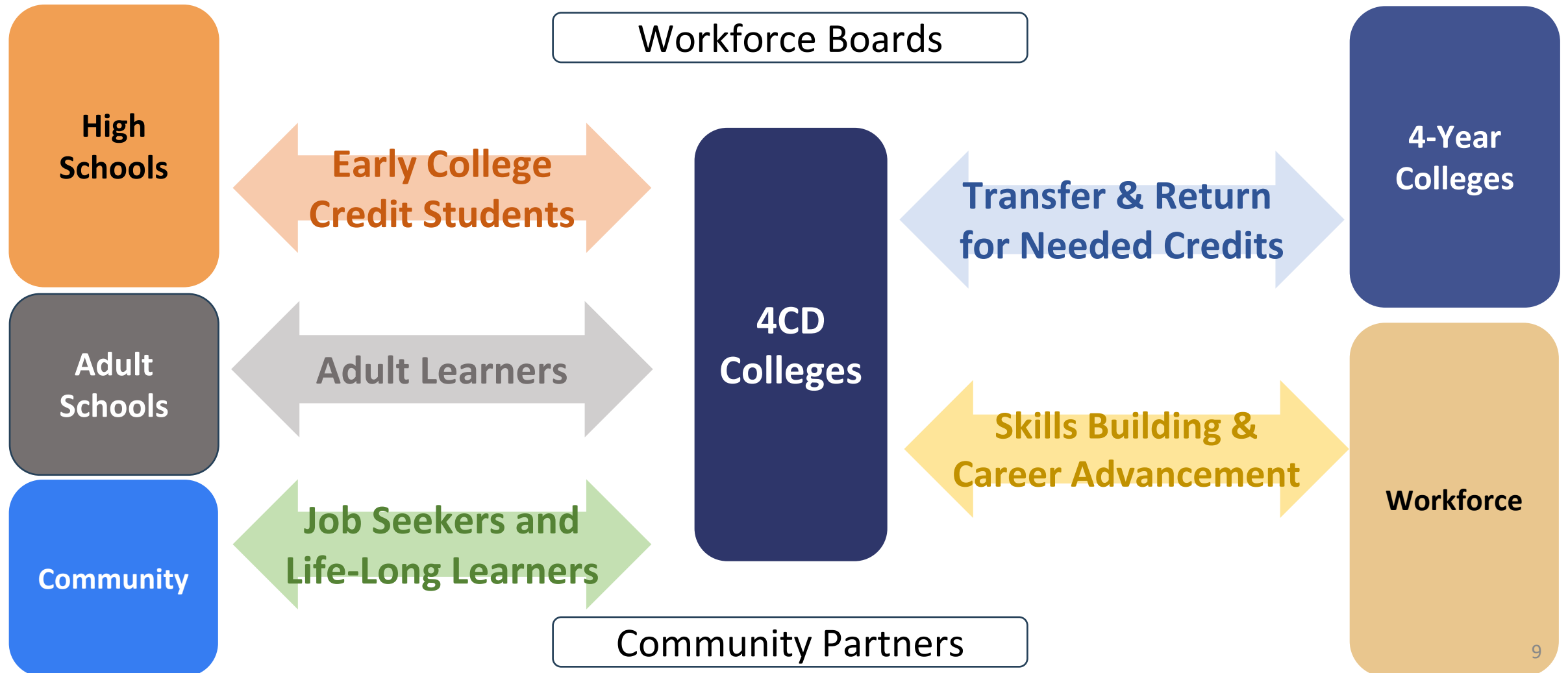


Three Foundations: \$3.2M since 2020

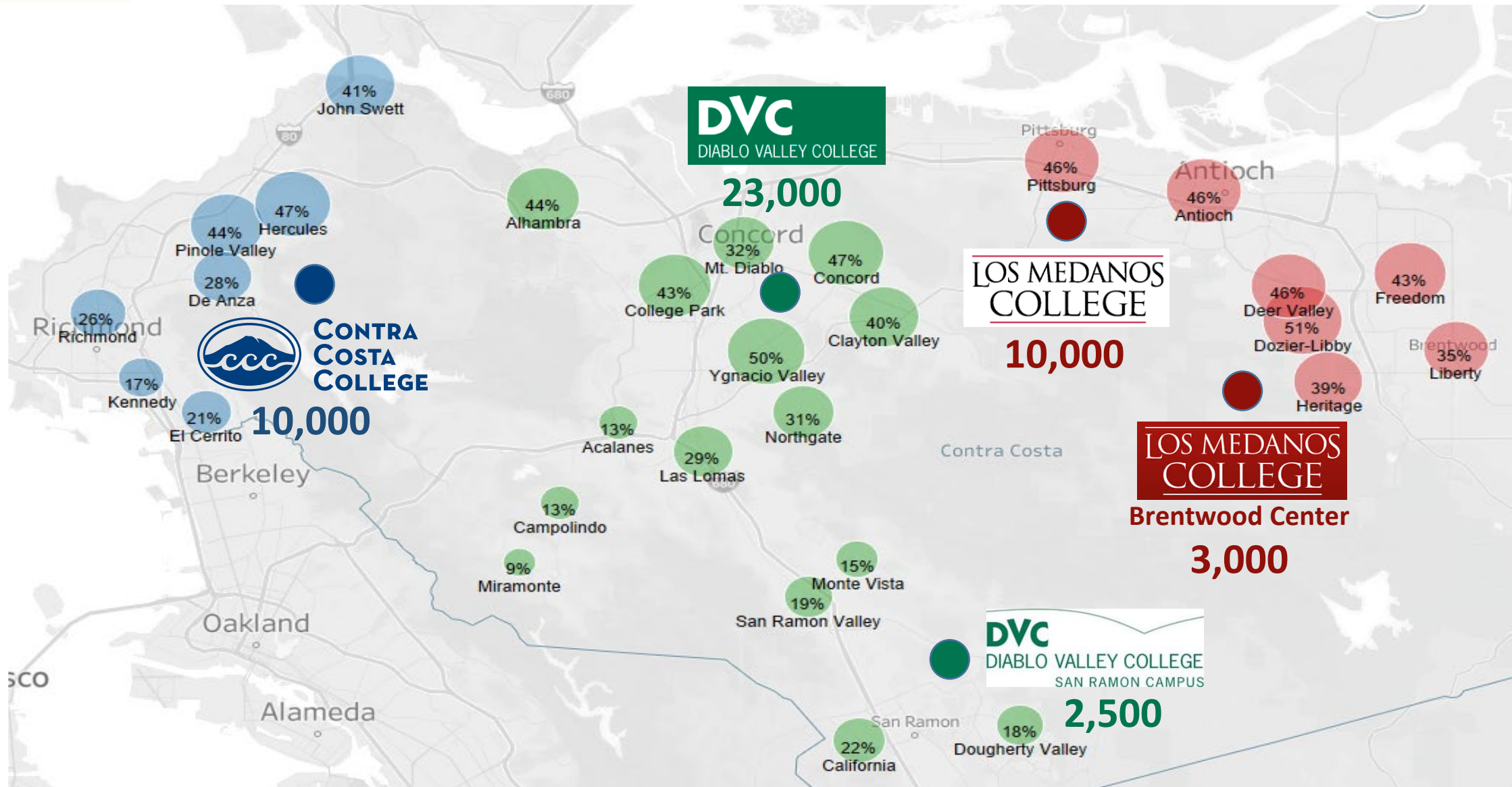
- Scholarships
- Emergency funds
- Program support

4CD Colleges as the Educational Hub

Students access 4CD colleges from multiple entry points with a range of goals



HS Graduates Who Attend 4CD



Partnership Highlight: Transfer Institutions

51% of CSU graduates and **29%** of UC graduates
started at a community college



CAL STATE
EAST BAY



UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



SDSU | San Diego State
University

SJSU | SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

UC SANTA CRUZ

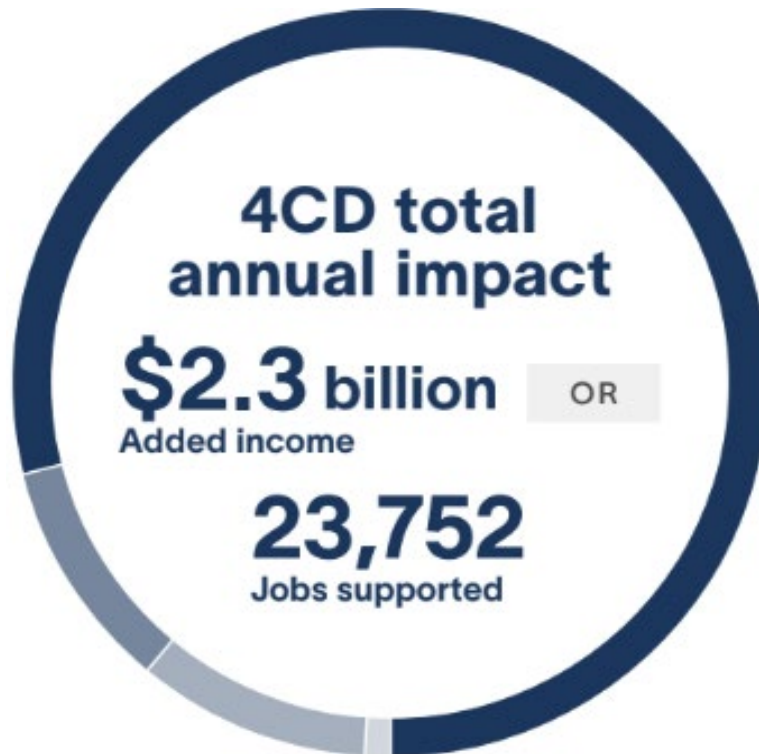
CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

Strong Fiscal Health: Financial Highlights

- \$267.5 million annual budget
- Board required reserve of at least two months of operating expenses
 - 2025-26 unrestricted reserves of \$52.3 million or 19.5% of expenditure budget
 - Continued clean audit findings for District operations and bond measures



4CD Economic Impact



For every \$1...



Students gain in lifetime earnings

\$8.40



Taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings

\$2.00



Society gains in added income and social savings

\$14.40

Funding Per Full-Time Equivalent Student

	22-23	23-24	24-25
K-12	\$18,665	\$19,573	\$20,269
CCC	\$12,605	\$12,631	\$13,244
CSU	\$20,385	\$22,151	\$22,645
UC	\$34,485	\$35,589	\$36,662

Bond Issuance & Financial Stewardship

- 2014 Measure E is approximately 90% spent
- Final \$110 million authorization was sold in 2022
- Strong Bond Rating of AA+ (S&P) and Aa1 (Moody's)
- The District refinanced prior bond sales (\$402M) as a measure of fiscal stewardship, successfully saving taxpayers \$44 million



Aging Facilities, Continued Need

- Infrastructure and buildings are 50+ years old
- Facilities need repairs or replacement
- Technology is insufficient to meet evolving needs
- Flexible spaces and state-of-the-art equipment are required to help students prepare for in-demand careers



Potential Future Bond

- Reviewing facilities plans for each college
- Prioritizing projects
- Seeking community input
- Governing Board considering general obligation bond for 2026



Q & A





AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7.A.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/City Arborist; Amelia Timbers, Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager, Public Works Department
Subject: Urban Forest Committee Appointment

ACTION PROPOSED

Approve an Urban Forest Committee recommendation to appoint Valerie Mih to the Urban Forest Committee effective December 2, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Valerie Mih submitted her application for appointment to the Urban Forest Committee (UFC), on July 13, 2025. During the November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting, the UFC approved a motion to recommend to the City Council that Ms. Mih be appointed to the Committee.

ANALYSIS

Ms. Mih, a resident of El Cerrito for over 20 years, has attended three UFC meetings. She has expressed a strong interest in public service at the city level. She has a passion for supporting ecosystem maintenance and restoration with a particular focus on education and communication. Ms. Mih previously volunteered for national and regional environmental organizations and is now shifting her focus to serve the local community through the UFC. She recognizes the value of the El Cerrito urban forest, and the Hillside Natural Area (HNA) as ecological treasures and recreational gems. She intends to contribute to the advisory process of implementing the HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (HNA Plan), and communicating with the El Cerrito community, as well as providing additional support for the urban forest in other areas of the City. Ms. Mih received a B.A. in American Studies from Stanford University and an M.F.A. in Film, Video and Computer Animation from U.C.S.C. School of Cinematic Arts. She has over 20 years experience teaching media production and communication. She has expert experience producing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) content, and is an experienced volunteer for the Sierra Club, the Urban Wildlife Research Project, and the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. She participated in the Bioregioning in Practice Certificate Program, and Gaia Education programs in 2025.

If the City Council approves the recommendation of Valerie Mih to the Urban Forest Committee, the number of Committee members will be six (6) out of the possible membership total of fifteen (15).

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *Livability and Belonging*
- *Infrastructure and Amenities*
- *Environmental Sustainability*

The work of the Urban Forest Committee is instrumental in helping the City achieve the El Cerrito Strategic Plan goals to "Promote a high quality of life and sense of community for current and future generations", "Advance climate-focused, sustainable infrastructure efforts that have community benefit", and to "Promote environmental sustainability and stewardship by engaging in initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and foster a culture of environmental responsibility".

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

As stated in its enabling Resolution 2007-96, the Urban Forest Committee was established to assist the City in the "stewardship of its urban forest, including establishing a citywide commitment to a healthy, growing forest, and creating a coordinated, high quality forest management program." The Urban Forest Committee supports the City in developing programs and policies that help protect the local environment, while also engaging in activities that have a direct impact on trees and environmental quality.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Pinkos', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

Application(s) on file with the City Clerk



Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Financial Advisory Board
Subject: Receive and File Board Recommendation

ACTION PROPOSED

Receive and file the following recommendations from the Financial Advisory Board.

POLICY

Pursuant to City Council [Resolution 2024-16](#), Section 4, Advisory Body Recommendations shall be provided to the City Council on the consent calendar as a “receive and file” and if a member of the City Council wishes to further discuss any recommendation received, it may be requested as an agenda item at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On October 28, 2025, the Financial Advisory Board voted on the following recommendation(s) to the City Council:

1. The Financial Advisory Board (FAB) recommends the City Council take action in the next budget cycle (26/27 – 27/28) to meet the 17% unassigned reserve goal.

Moved/Second: Chair Carvel/Member Szlatenyi. **Ayes:** Chair Carvel; Vice-Chair McDougall; Member Szlatenyi and White; **Noes:** None **Absent:** None
Youth Member: Watson-Lamprey Singer expressed support for the action.

2. The Financial Advisory Board (FAB) recommends, prior to Council acting on any actionable recommendations from the service delivery study, that the FAB would like the opportunity to evaluate and advise on the recommendation.

Moved/Second: Chair Carvel/Member White. **Ayes:** Chair Carvel; Vice-Chair McDougall; Member Szlatenyi and White; **Noes:** None **Absent:** None
Youth Member: Watson-Lamprey Singer expressed support for the action.

ASSOCIATED WORKPLAN GOAL(S)/AREA(S) OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. [Work Plan Goals](#)
2. [El Cerrito Municipal Code 2.04.300 Financial Advisory Board](#)

There shall be a financial advisory board consisting of five members who reside in

the city and have demonstrated expertise in financial management, accounting, fiscal analysis, computer applications, economic analysis or related skills. The financial advisory board shall have the powers and duties stated below, and such other duties and the council shall decide:

1. To conduct a review and make recommendations on the proposed annual budget and long -term financial plan for the city and all component units to assist the city council in making decisions on major expenditures and revenue sources, and to include a review of city council compensation consistent with county-wide recommendations included in Contra Costa Grand Jury Report No. 1104.

Attachment(s):

1. Rationale for Recommendations

Re: October 28, 2025 (6:30) PM) Financial Advisory Board Meeting - Response Requested

From David Carvel [REDACTED]
Date Sun 11/9/2025 10:07 AM
To Crystal Reams <CReams@elcerrito.gov>

This sender is trusted.

Here are a few sentences about our recommendations:

The 17% Unassigned Reserve Goal: We see that the General Fund Long-Term Forecast projects the City to go below the 17% unassigned reserve threshold. This threshold was established by the FAB based on recommendations from GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) and provides a cushion of 2 months of operating expenses for the City. We do not think that the current expenditures, while serving worthwhile purposes, are worth the City falling below the 17% threshold. We are also concerned that the City does not have specific plans to get the reserve balance back to 17%. With major economic uncertainties in the near-term (next few years), we think it prudent to maintain the unassigned reserve balance at 17%. We recommend that the City take action in the next budget cycle (2026-2027 and 2027-2028) to develop specific plans to get the unassigned fund balance back to 17%.

The Service Delivery Study: The FAB is very interested in the results of the Service Delivery Study. We would like the option to review it and make recommendations ahead of the Council taking action on the results of the study. Our request is that the public receive the study when it is complete and then the FAB gets a chance to review the study and make a recommendation at its next board meeting. The timing of when the FAB and the City Council meet often makes it difficult for the FAB to weigh in on relevant financial matters in a timely manner. We are asking the Council to delay action until the FAB meets and produces a recommendation, which may be a delay of a few weeks.

David

On Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 3:23 PM Crystal Reams <CReams@elcerrito.gov> wrote:

Hello Chair Carvel and FAB Members,

Please find attached the agenda and material for the regular meeting of the Financial Advisory Board for Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Please confirm your attendance by not later than Monday, October 27, at 5PM. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Crystal
Crystal Reams, CPA, CPFO
Finance Director / City Treasurer

Email: creams@elcerrito.gov

Phone: (510) 215-4312

City of El Cerrito

10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Find us online at: elcerrito.gov



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7.C.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Crystal Reams, Finance Director/City Treasurer, Finance Department
Subject: Monthly Disbursement and Check Register Report for October 2025

ACTION PROPOSED

Receive and file the Monthly Disbursement and Check Register Report for the month of October 2025.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

California Government Code, Title 4. Government of Cities, Division 3, Part 3, Chapter 3, Section 41004 states, "Regularly, at least once each month, the city treasurer shall submit to the city clerk a written report and accounting of all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances. The city treasurer shall file a copy with the legislative body." In addition, the City's Comprehensive Financial Policy, Item 5.1 Accounting Standards indicates the City's accounting and financial reporting systems shall be maintained in conformance with all state and federal laws.

- Month ending October 31, 2025, reflecting 268 Accounts Payable General Warrant Nos. 94433 through 94700, 46 Automated Clearing House/Electronic Funds Transfer (ACH/EFT) transactions, and 935 payroll-related checks and EFTs for a grand total of \$6,937,933.52.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The City's Comprehensive Financial Policy, which includes ensuring policies, procedures, and systems represent best practices in financial management, is aligned with requirements referenced in California Government Code, Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 41004.

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *High Performing Organization* by ensuring the City maintains a strong financial position and a high-performing organization where employees feel a sense of inclusion and belonging.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no fiscal impact associated with acceptance of the Monthly Disbursement and Check Register Report.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Pinkos".

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Monthly Payment Register October 2025

City of El Cerrito

Payment Register

From Payment Date: 10/1/2025 - To Payment Date: 10/31/2025

Number	Date	Status	Void Reason	Reconciled/ Voided Date	Source	Payee Name	Description	Transaction Amount
AP-AP Check - Accounts Payable Checking Accoun								
<u>Check</u>								
94433	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	Supplies - Business cards	\$ 312.60
94434	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	BLAISDELL'S BUSINESS PRODUCTS	general office supplies	267.40
94435	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/06/2025	Accounts Payable	PREMIER GRAPHICS	general office supplies	599.76
94436	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	4LEAF, INC.	PLAN CHECK ARCH/ENGINEERING AUG 2025	5,349.00
94437	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/06/2025	Accounts Payable	ASBURY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	USED MOTOR OIL RECYCLING 9/17/2025	153.00
94438	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	ATCO Pest Control	HARDING CLUBHOUSE PEST CONTROL SVCS SEPT 2025	85.00
94439	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	BAY AREA NEWS GROUP EAST BAY	LEGAL ADVERTISING 2025 OHLONE GREENWAY 8/1/25-8/31/25	862.92
94440	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	BOUNDTREE MEDICAL LLC	MEDICAL GLOVES	511.35
94441	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	BPX PRINTING & GRAPHICS	PRINTING AND BINDING	179.92
94442	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	CCCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING	ACADEMY TRAINING	20,800.00
94443	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	CELLEBRITE INC.	INV SOFTWARE 8/22/25-8/21/26	22,564.65
94444	10/02/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	Chaumette Consulting	MLK CELEBRATION, PANEL DISCUSSION	500.00
94445	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	CHILDCARE CAREERS, LLC	MADERA CHILDCARE TEMPS	458.25
94446	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	CINTAS CORPORATION #054 UNIFORMS	CORP YARD WEEKLY UNIFORM RENTALS	700.19
94447	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	CONCORD UNIFORMS	UNIFORMS	900.72
94448	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	DANA SAFETY SUPPLY	SIMS MASKS	362.17
94449	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	Dixon Resources Unlimited	PARKING MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN AUG 2025	1,105.00
94450	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	EBMUD	EBMUD 7/1/25-8/30/25	116.00
94451	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/06/2025	Accounts Payable	GHILOTTI BROS, INC	DEL NORTE TOD COMPLETE STREETS IMPROV 7/21/25-8/20/25	718,411.68
94452	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	GOLDEN BEAR TRANSFER STATION	STREET SWEEPING SPOILS ON 9/5/25 & 9/9/25	969.12
94453	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/10/2025	Accounts Payable	GOLDFARB & LIPMAN LLP	HOUSING LEGAL SVCS SEPT 2025	292.00
94454	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	HONEY BUCKET	CENTRAL PARK SERVICE 9/16/25-10/13/25	241.05
94455	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/09/2025	Accounts Payable	LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.	DEL NORTE TOD AUG 2025	686.00
94456	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	MIRACLE PLAYSYSTEMS INC.	CERRITO VISTA PARK SLIDE PROJ 25-6729	8,383.96
94457	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	MORTON'S URBAN PEST MANAGEMENT	FAIRMOUNT CLUBHOUSE PEST CONTROL SVC AUG 2025	515.00
94458	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/10/2025	Accounts Payable	MUNICIPAL POOLING AUTHORITY	UNMET LIABILITY DEDUCTIBLE 7/2025	934.79
94459	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/09/2025	Accounts Payable	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	SUPPLIES FOR PD	4.62
94460	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	OLIVER'S TOW INC.	E55 TOW	1,694.01
94461	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/10/2025	Accounts Payable	OLIVERO PLUMBING	CITY HALL SVCS CALL FOR KITCHEN SINK 9/8/25	195.00
94462	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEES AUG 2025	3,526.06
94463	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	PLACEWORKS	SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE SVC 03/01-03/31/25	1,447.13
94464	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/08/2025	Accounts Payable	ROTO ROOTER SERVICES COMPANY	RECYCLING OFFICE PUBLIC BATHROOM SVCS	710.53
94465	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	SSD ALARM	COMMUNITY CENTER ALARM AUG 2025	1,069.32
94466	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	ST. FRANCIS ELECTRIC	SAN PABLO & LINCOLN XWALK REPAIRS	1,950.00
94467	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	FERREIRA-CLIFTON, JOEL	REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRENCH RESCUE TECH CLASS SEPT 15-18 2025	929.81
94468	10/02/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	VAN WYCK, JAMES	REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMPANY OFFICER 2C CLASS	449.00
94469	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	HE, YULEI	REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR 3421 BELMONT AVE	1,700.00
94470	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/10/2025	Accounts Payable	MANANDHAR, ASHIK	REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR 1708 MANOR DR	1,042.00
94471	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/07/2025	Accounts Payable	PELTON, ANTONIO	REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR 7800 EUREKA AVE	2,350.00
94472	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	CABLECOM	RELEASE OF BONDS -SEPT 2 2025	823.00
94473	10/02/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PG&E	RELEASE OF BONDS -SEPT 2 2025	2,663.00
94474	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	SEWER CONNECTION INC	RELEASE OF BONDS -SEPT 2 2025	6,089.89
94475	10/02/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	SEWER WORKS, INC	RELEASE OF BONDS -SEPT 2 2025	8,935.24
94476	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	4LEAF, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - CE SUPPORT AUG 2025	1,424.00
94477	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	A PLUS TREE, LLC	PUBLIC TREE MAINTENANCE SVCS	22,927.80
94478	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	PARK SUPPLIES - TENNIS AND BASKETBALL NETS, STRAPS	994.29
94479	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MGMT DIST	COM CNTR GENERATOR PERMIT	564.00
94480	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	BAY AREA ICE CREAM CATERING	ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR EMPLOYEE EVENT	595.00
94481	10/09/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BERKHEIMER LABOR RELATIONS, LLC	MOU AND LABOR CONTRACT 4TH QTR 2025	10,000.00
94482	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	BLAISDELL'S BUSINESS PRODUCTS	COPY PAPER FOR RECYCL	112.43

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94483	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	BLUECOSMO	FD SATELLITE PHONES	154.50
94484	10/09/2025	Voided/Reissued	Check was Lost	10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	BORDI, CRAIG		2,731.00
94485	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	CINTAS CORPORATION #054 UNIFORMS	BRANDED JACKET + SHIRTS FOR C.LEARD	493.11
94486	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	CITYGATE ASSOCIATES, LLC	SERVICE DELIVERY STUDY DEVELOPMENT SEPT 2025	27,511.00
94487	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CENTERS, INC.	MIXED PAPER + HDPE PLASTIC RECYCLING AUG 2025	416.34
94488	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES	IN0319925/IN0320071/IN0320168 TIPPING WALL INSP + RPRT	1,786.00
94489	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	COOKE, JOANNE	FLAMENCO DANCE SEPT 2025	192.00
94490	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	CUMMINS WEST, INC.	E55 REPAIRS	13,433.79
94491	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	DUNNIGAN PSYCHOLOGICAL & THREAT ASSESSMENTS	PSYCH EVAL	750.00
94492	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	EBMUD	EBMUD 8/1/25-10/1/25	4,568.07
94493	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	ENTENMANN-ROVIN CO.	FD UNIFORM	1,875.62
94494	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	FLEET MANAGEMENTHOLDINGS, LLC	RECYCLING TRUCK R4: PEDAL ASSEMBLY	5,540.61
94495	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	FOLGERGRAPHICS, INC.	CITYWIDE NEWSLETTER	6,135.72
94496	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	FRASER & ASSOCIATES	PREPARE PPA FOR 23-24	1,200.00
94497	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	GABRIEL, BARBARA, A.	ADULT BALLET SEPT 2025	686.40
94498	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	GRAND PRIX CAR WASH	CAR WASH	18.99
94499	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	J & O'S COMMERCIAL TIRE CENTER	C4: FLAT REPAIR	283.72
94500	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	KEL-AIRE	RECYCL HVAC 9/19/25	595.00
94501	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	KI RESEARCH INSTITUTE	AIKIDO SEPT 2025	312.00
94502	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	KINSEY, KATHRYNE ANN	BRIDGE SEPT 2025	458.40
94503	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	KNORR SYSTEMS, INC.	QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE	6,825.14
94504	10/09/2025	Voided	Duplicate Payment	11/05/2025	Accounts Payable	LANER ELECTRIC SUPPLY		237.61
94505	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	MUNICIPAL POOLING AUTHORITY	EAP 7/25-9/25	1,784.85
94506	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	NAPA RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES, LLC	CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROCESSING JUL 2025	30,023.95
94507	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	NBS	PROFESSIONAL SVCS 10/1/25-12/25	3,047.93
94508	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	NORGE CLEANERS	DRY CLEANING SEPT 2025	473.30
94509	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	SUPPLIES FOR PD	187.98
94510	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	OLIVERO PLUMBING	STA 52 SVCS CALL	1,067.50
94511	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	PINNACLE PETROLEUM INC	UNLEADED FUEL	14,339.47
94512	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	REVEL ENVIRONMENTAL MANUFACTURING, INC.	SERVICE PROGRAM 2X YEAR CATCH BASIN FILTER INSERTS	6,984.00
94513	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	RUBICON ENTERPRISES INC	MONTHLY LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AUG 2025	40,665.36
94514	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	SEWER WORKS, INC	RELEASE OF BONDS - JUN 2025	1,871.00
94515	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	SPEAKWRITE LLC	TRANSCRIPTION	298.06
94516	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/14/2025	Accounts Payable	STERICYCLE, INC.	MEDICAL WASTE	1,046.53
94517	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	TWO BROTHERS POOL & SPA, INC	SEPT SVCS + VALVES AIR RELIEF	4,374.08
94518	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	UNIVERSAL BUILDING SERVICE	CREDMIT MEMO CM20996 \$606.99 APPLIED	1,503.97
94519	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	WESTERN STATES OIL COMPANY	RENEWABLE DIESEL 9/25/25	16,133.06
94520	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/17/2025	Accounts Payable	HERNANDEZ, CARLOS	PER DIEM FOR CRRA CONFERENCE 8/5/25	293.25
94521	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	LEARD, CHRISTINA	REIMBURSEMENT FOR PER DIEM + MILEAGE CRRA CONFERENCE 8/3-8/5/25	219.40
94522	10/09/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BALTZ, LEONARD	KARATE ADULT JULY 2025	270.00
94523	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	GARDA CL WEST,INC.	CREDIT MEMO FOR EXCESS PREMISE TIME ORIG INV20637982	273.16
94524	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/15/2025	Accounts Payable	L.N. CURTIS & SONS	FD HELMET	7,944.75
94525	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/16/2025	Accounts Payable	NBS	PROFESSIONAL SVCS 10/1/25-12/25	2,916.24
94526	10/09/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	USTICK, JARED	ACADEMY PER DIEM 9/15-9/26	500.00
94527	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	CALPERS LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM	PER3 - CALPERS Longterm Care Ins	43.62
94528	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	FRANCHISE TAX BOARD	Franchise Tax Board Payroll Deduction	1,361.87
94529	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	HEALTH CARE DENTAL TRUST	DEN1 - Dental 1*	17,638.75
94530	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	IAFF LOCAL 1230	DUE4 - UNION LOCAL 1230	5,929.76
94531	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	KAISER FOUNDATION HEALTH PLAN	K1 - Kaiser 1*	263,929.60
94532	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	LEGALSHIELD	LEGL - PRE-PAID LEGAL SRVC	153.50
94533	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	MUNICIPAL POOLING AUTHORITY	LIFE - Supp Life Ins.*	12,954.92
94534	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	NATIONWIDE TRUST COMPANY, FSB	FHEA - Fire Health Savings Acct	18,175.00

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94535	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	SEIU LOCAL 1021	COPE - VOLUNTARY COPE DEDUCTION*	1,918.80
94536	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	U.S. BANK - INSTITUTIONAL TRUST - W REGION	PAR - PARS - ARS 457*	3,898.52
94537	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	CORODATA SHREDDING INC.	shredding services	108.76
94538	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	4LEAF, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - STAFFING AUG 2025	28,054.44
94539	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	OFFICE SUPPLIES PW	14.88
94540	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	AMERIGAS PROPANE INC	PROPANE FOR FORKLIFTS	1,247.06
94541	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	ASBURY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	USED MOTOR OIL RECYCLING 10/1/25	153.00
94542	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	AVILA PROJECT MANAGEMENT	2025 ACCESS MODIFICATION DESIGN AUG 2025	4,349.25
94543	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	BOLT STAFFING SERVICE, INC.	TEMPORARY CLERICAL HELP	439.00
94544	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY GROUP INC.	GRANT WRITING & ADVOCACY SVCS SEPT 2025	6,500.00
94545	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	California State Firefighters Association	MEMBERSHIP DUES 2025	425.00
94546	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	CHILDCARE CAREERS, LLC	MADERA TEMPS	156.00
94547	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	CINTAS CORPORATION #054 UNIFORMS	BRANDED SHIRT FOR C.LEARD	362.52
94548	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CONSTABLE, MARIANNE	FELDENKRAIS ATM SEPT 2025	130.50
94549	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	DATA TICKET, INC.	BUILDING & SAGETY AUG 2025	400.00
94550	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	DIVISION OF STATE ARCHITECT	DISABILITY ACCESS & EDU FEE FOR Q3 2025	872.90
94551	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	EBMUD	EBMUD 8/4/25-10/2/25	19,356.28
94552	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FUJIWARA, PATTY	OPEN CERAMICS MON SEPT 2025	1,030.20
94553	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	GOLDEN BEAR TRANSFER STATION	STREET SWEEPING SPOILS ON 9/29/25	740.23
94554	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	Green Halo Systems Inc,	HOSTING & MAINTENANCE MAY 2025	1,026.00
94555	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	GYMDOC INC	GYM EQUIPMENT REPAIR	324.69
94556	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	HILLYARD	CITYWIDE CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES 9/26/25	2,683.41
94557	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	IMAGETREND LLC	FIRST WATCH ANNUAL FEE 8/26/25-8/25/26	2,750.00
94558	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	J & O'S COMMERCIAL TIRE CENTER	FD16 TIRES	1,470.42
94559	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	JONES, HIROMI	HATHA YOGA SEPT 2025	1,236.00
94560	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	KISTER, SAVIO & REI INC	CONSULTING SVCS PL24-0088 MAP REVIEW FOR SEPT 2025	1,125.00
94561	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	KNORR SYSTEMS, INC.	CHLORINE 9/17/25	4,987.04
94562	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	L.N. CURTIS & SONS	OC SPRAY	3,814.73
94563	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	LACK, CHRIS	OPEN CERAMICS WED EVENING AUG 2025	1,233.60
94564	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	MERCURIO BROS. PRINTING, INC,	FD FORMS	145.75
94565	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	NAPA RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES, LLC	CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROCESSING SEPT 2025	14,482.60
94566	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPELMANSLAG	SCANDINAVIAN FOLK DANCING SEPT 2025	168.00
94567	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	OFFICE SUPPLIES REC	139.68
94568	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	OLIVERO PLUMBING	CITYHALL WATER DISPENSER REPAIR	1,685.00
94569	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	PLAZA AUTO SERVICE INC	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	325.06
94570	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	RILE, KATHRYN	OPEN CERAMICS MON AFTERNOON SEPT 2025	538.20
94571	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	RUIZ, JOE	XFIT BOOT CAMP SEPT 2025	921.60
94572	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	SEWER CONNECTION INC	REFUND ENCROACHMENT FEE FOR PW23-0542	346.00
94573	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	SHAHKAR, MEHRAN	STRENGTH & BALANCE SEPT 2025	1,482.00
94574	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	ST. FRANCIS ELECTRIC	TS & SL MAINTENANCE & RESPONSE SEPT 2025	11,838.30
94575	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	STAPLES	INV-6043366125 & INV-6043366126 OFFICE SUPPLIES	152.04
94576	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	SUPERION, LLC	ALP & COMMDEV MIGRATION PROJECT	3,375.00
94577	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/20/2025	Accounts Payable	The Construction Zone, LLC	CITY STREET SIGNS 20 QTY	1,004.38
94578	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	THE FLOOR STORE INC.	STATION 52 ORDER & LABOR INSTALLATION 9/18/25	3,950.93
94579	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	THEIS ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES	RICHMOND ST & DEL NORTE TOD PROJ AUG 2025	25,799.00
94580	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	THREE O'CLOCK ROCK LLC	HASEP 3 O' CLOCK ROCK 9/2-10/7 2025 S1	1,638.00
94581	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	TRB AND ASSOCIATES, INC.	PLAN REVIEW ARCH/ENGINEERING 8/1/25-8/31/25	10,097.35
94582	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	U.S. SECURITY SUPPLY, INC.	THROW MEMBER	670.41
94583	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	UNIVERSAL BUILDING SERVICE	JANITORIAL SERVICES -RECYCLE CENTER SEPT 2025	7,368.00
94584	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	VERIZON WIRELESS	WIRELESS PHONE BILL 7/20-8/19/25	2,880.23
94585	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	VERMONT SYSTEMS, INC.	VSI COULD HOSTING OCT 2025	1,318.40
94586	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	WASTEQUIP MANUFACTURING CO LLC	PARTS FOR BIN REPAIR	346.70

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94587	10/16/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	West Contra Costa Transportation (WCCTC)	WCCTAC PAYMENT FY25-26 MEMBER DUE	57,420.00
94588	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	WOODREEVE CONSULTING, LLC	330 RAMONA CITY TREE PROJ	865.75
94589	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/22/2025	Accounts Payable	DEMATHIEU, JEAN-GEORGES	REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR 1345 BREWSTER DR	6,400.00
94590	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/23/2025	Accounts Payable	HO, FUJIAN	REFUND ENCROACHMENT BOND & FEE FOR PW24-0455	1,154.00
94591	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/21/2025	Accounts Payable	HUEBL, AXEL	REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR 407 SEA VIEW DR	5,760.00
94592	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	MILLER, DAVID	REFUND -BUILDING INTAKE & PLAN REVIEW	195.00
94593	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	LEUNG, STEVEN	REFUND FOR APPLICATION PL25-0073	1,292.00
94594	10/16/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	TRIEPEI SMITH AND ASSOCIATES, INC.	Communication support	3,750.00
94595	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	IRON MOUNTAIN	Off site records storage	2,796.48
94596	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	24 HOUR FITNESS USA, LLC	GYM MEMBERSHIPS SEP 2025	395.89
94597	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	4LEAF, INC.	FIRE PLAN REVIEW SEPT 2025	800.00
94598	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	RADAR TRAINING	1,880.00
94599	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	AT&T	COPPER LAND PHONE LINE FOR CITY STAFFS 8/12/25-9/11/25	26,307.58
94600	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	BAY AREA NEWS GROUP EAST BAY	PUBLIC HEARINGS SEPT 2025	385.56
94601	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION	CBSC FEES FY2026 Q1	621.00
94602	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION	STRONG MOTION INSTRUM. FEE W/PERMIT FY26 Q1	1,693.33
94603	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	CHILDCARE CAREERS, LLC	FAIRMONT TEMP	780.00
94604	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	COMCAST	COMCAST BUSINESS INTERNET 10/11/25-11/10/25	1,968.22
94605	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	CONCENTRA MEDICAL CENTERS	PRE EMPLOYMENT PHYSICALS	1,340.00
94606	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	CONCORD UNIFORMS	CLASS A UNIFORM -BLUEFORD	911.69
94607	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	COUNTY TREASURER	ANIMAL CONTROL SVCS JUL-SEPT 2025	135,102.00
94608	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	CPS HR CONSULTING	MARKETING AUG 2025	97.50
94609	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CRIME SCENE CLEANERS, INC.	BIOHAZARD REMOVAL	260.00
94610	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	DELL MARKETING L.P.	2 KIOSK COMPUTERS FOR CITY CLERK & COMM DEV	2,098.59
94611	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	EBMUD	EBMUD 8/13/25-10/11/25	12,829.35
94612	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	EHSD-CC SENIOR NUTRITION	CAFE COSTA SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION REIMB SEPT 2025	636.45
94613	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	FEDEX	POSTAGE & DELIVERY LATE FEE	17.03
94614	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	FORENSIC SERVICES DIVISION	FORENSICS 8/1/25-8/31/25	4,264.70
94615	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	GILMAN PRESS	LETTERHEAD	243.65
94616	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	Griffin Structures, Inc.	LIBRARY OWNER'S REP SERVICES SEPT 2025	3,247.16
94617	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	HILLTOP FORD KIA	VEH REPAIR	155.82
94618	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	HILLYARD	CITYWIDE CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	749.96
94619	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	HONEY BUCKET	PORTA POTTY SERVICE 9/26/25	60.00
94620	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	KENNEDY, GREG, C	EMS CALL REVIEW SEPT 2025	2,100.00
94621	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	KNORR SYSTEMS, INC.	CHLORINE 9/24/25	1,131.78
94622	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	LEVY, MIRI	DOG TRAINING SEPT & OCT 2025	360.00
94623	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	OFFICE SUPPLIES PD	62.06
94624	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	OLIVER'S TOW INC.	E52 TOW 10/6/25	943.26
94625	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	PASTIME HARDWARE	MAINT SUPPLIES	24.77
94626	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	R&S ERECTION OF RICHMOND	STA 51 APP DOORS	1,367.07
94627	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	RAMOS, STEPHANIE, R	ZUMBA SEPT 2025	3,052.35
94628	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	RINGCENTRAL, INC.	VOLP PHONE SERVICE FOR CITY STAFFS 9/14/25-10/13/25	4,158.55
94629	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	Rogers Stringer & McClelland, Inc.	CONSTRUCTION DOC DEVELOPMENT 9/1/25-9/30/25	13,500.00
94630	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	ROMERO, DIEGO	PER DIEM & REIMB FOR APA PLANNING CONF.	1,411.37
94631	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	Serological Research Institute	LAB FEES	1,417.50
94632	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	SHABABO, TRACEY, ELISE	FALL 2025 SEWING & TEXTILE CLASSES 9/8-10/10	3,168.00
94633	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	SSD ALARM	COMMUNITY CENTER ALARM NOV 2025	205.22
94634	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	STATE OF CA DEPT OF JUSTICE	FINGERPRINTING SEPT 2025	2,072.00
94635	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	STERICYCLE, INC.	WASTE DISPOSAL	90.17
94636	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	THE ED JONES COMPANY	BADGE	182.55
94637	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	THE FLYING LOCKSMITHS - SAN JOSE	REPAIR DOOR TO HISTORICAL ROOM	2,058.56
94638	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	TRB AND ASSOCIATES, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - STAFFING AUG 2025	73,483.00

City of El Cerrito

Payment Register

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Number	Date	Status	Void Reason	Reconciled/ Voided Date	Source	Payee Name	Description	Transaction Amount
94639	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	Urban37, Inc.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES -FEE ENTRY	1,920.00
94640	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	VERIZON WIRELESS	VERIZON WIRELESS 07/24-08/23/25	5,341.32
94641	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	West Contra Costa Transportation (WCCTC)	WCCTAC PAYMENT FY25-26 STMP FEES JUL-SEPT 2025	6,010.00
94642	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	BASSI, SHANNON	REIMB -SUPPLIES PURCHSED FOR THE CITY'S ANNUAL BENEFIT FAIR	162.32
94643	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	ELLIOTT, MARIELLE	LUNCH - RADER/LIDAR TRAINING COURSE 10/6-10/9/25	32.00
94644	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	FRAZER, ELIZABETH	PUMPKINS FOR PUMPKIN SPLASH EVENT	2,265.00
94645	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	GHILOTTI BROS, INC	DEL NORTE TOD COMPLETE STREETS IMPROV 8/21/25-9/20/25	517,675.70
94646	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	HUBBS, SIDNEY	LUNCH -ARMORER TRAINING 9/9/25-9/11/25	24.00
94647	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	KATANSKI, ALEXANDER	LUNCH - RADER/LIDAR TRAINING COURSE 10/6-10/9/25	32.00
94648	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	PORTILLO, JOANNA	LUNCH - RADER/LIDAR TRAINING COURSE 10/6-10/9/25	32.00
94649	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	USTICK, JARED	ACADEMY PER DIEM 9/29-10/10	500.00
94650	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	ZHAO, ZITIAN	LUNCH - RADER/LIDAR TRAINING COURSE 10/6-10/9/25	32.00
94651	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	WEI, RAN	CANCEL PERMIT REFUND BD25-1042	158.17
94652	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TAX COLLECTORS OFFICE	SECURED PROP TAX BILL FY25-26 1ST	34,380.85
94653	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	CALPERS LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM	PER3 - CALPERS Longterm Care Ins	43.62
94654	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EL CERRITO FIRE DEPT MGMT GRP	MGT1 - FIRE DEPT MGMT GROUP	50.00
94655	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EL CERRITO PUBLIC SFTY EE MGMT	MGT2 - SAFETY EMPLOYEE MGMT GROUP	436.00
94656	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRE ASSOCIATION	DUE2 - FIRE ASSN DUES CK	695.00
94657	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FRANCHISE TAX BOARD	Franchise Tax Board Payroll Deduction	1,366.72
94658	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	LIFE INSURANCE OF NORTH AMERICA	ACCD - Accidental Death & Dismembermt	52.50
94659	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/27/2025	Accounts Payable	POLICE ASSN.	DUE1 - POLICE ASSN DUES	1,241.49
94660	10/23/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PRO FIREFIGHTERS ASSN DUES	DUE3 - EC PRO FIREFIGHTERS DUES	300.00
94661	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/28/2025	Accounts Payable	SEIU LOCAL 1021	COPE - VOLUNTARY COPE DEDUCTION*	1,984.11
94662	10/23/2025	Reconciled		10/29/2025	Accounts Payable	U.S. BANK - INSTITUTIONAL TRUST - W REGION	PAR - PARS - ARS 457*	3,572.04
94663	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	AVILA PROJECT MANAGEMENT	2025 SURFACE SEAL PROJ -CONSTRUCTION PHASE	34,551.00
94664	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BOLT STAFFING SERVICE, INC.	TEMPORARY CLERICAL HELP OCT 2025	1,550.99
94665	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	California Municipal Statistics, Inc.	ACFR STATISTICAL REPORT 2025	750.00
94666	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CANN, COLETTE	OPEN CERAMICS - FRIDAYS JUL,AUG & SEPT 2025	134.40
94667	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CHAVAN & ASSOCIATES, LLP	2024/25 FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT	16,600.00
94668	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CITY OF RICHMOND	CAD SEPT 2025	141,154.34
94669	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TAX COLLECTORS OFFICE	SECURED PROP TAX BILL FY25-26 1ST	1,771.26
94670	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	Convey, Inc.	CIP WEBSITE DESIGN JUL-SEPT 2025	9,550.00
94671	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	COSTCO WHOLESALE MEMBERSHIP	FD MEMBERSHIP DEC 2025	65.00
94672	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRE ASIDE, INC.	DSI SET UP & USAGE FEES 2025	11,000.00
94673	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	GHIRARDELLI ASSOCIATES	DEL NORTE TOD AUG 2025	111,903.22
94674	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM, INC.	GOVERNMENTJOBS SUBSCRIPTION FY2025-2026	39,167.47
94675	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	HdL Companies	CONTRACT SERVICES TRANSACTION TAX JUL-SEPT 2025	2,253.81
94676	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	JADSON SOUZA DE JESUS	YOUTH CAPOEIRA AUG 2025 8/7-8/31	847.20
94677	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	KNORR SYSTEMS, INC.	CHLORINE 10/1/25	947.10
94678	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MAJA FRANKLIN YOGA	MOMMY & ME YOGA SEPT-OCT 2025	532.20
94679	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MUNICIPAL POOLING AUTHORITY	UNMET LIABILITY DEDUCTIBLE 9/2025	3,068.40
94680	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PRENUVO	FD WHOLE BODY SCANS	13,993.00
94681	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	REDWOOD PUBLIC LAW, LLP	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (LABOR) 9/3/25-9/30/25	31,993.03
94682	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	RILE, KATHRYN	OPEN CERAMICS MON AFTERNOON OCT 2025	1,276.80
94683	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	SWINERTON MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING	SWIM CENTER DESIGN SUPPORT AUG 2025	6,920.00
94684	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	ZOON ENGINEERING, INC.	2025 SURFACE SEAL PROJECT 9/1/25-9/30/25	52,389.00
94685	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	Baca, Marco	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 7/1/25-10/10/25	4,017.18
94686	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BLUEFORD, EMILE	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 8/4/25-10/3/25	2,508.00
94687	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BRIDGET COONEY - SENIOR SERVICES PETTY CASH	SENIOR SERVICES PETTY CASH REIMB	350.00
94688	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BRIONES, ELROND	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 8/4/25-10/3/25	2,043.80
94689	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	COLEMAN, CLAIRE	MMANC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCT 14-17 2025	1,552.67
94690	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	DADUL, JIGME	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 7/1/25-10/10/25	4,407.00

Payment Register

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Number	Date	Status	Void Reason	Reconciled/ Voided Date	Source	Payee Name	Description	Transaction Amount
94691	10/30/2025	Reconciled		10/30/2025	Accounts Payable	JAFFE, SCOT	OPEN CERMAICS THRU SEPT 2025	319.80
94692	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	KIM, DANIEL	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 7/1/25-10/10/25	4,047.00
94693	10/30/2025	Reconciled		10/31/2025	Accounts Payable	RIVERA, NICOLE	WOMENS FBW SEPT 2025	1,476.00
94694	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	SAEPHAN, MATTHEW	MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT 7/1/25-10/10/25	4,047.00
94695	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	WIEGMANN, WENDY	BI-ANNUAL FINGERPRINTING	18.00
94696	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MOTOYAMA, LISA	travel reimbursement	345.21
94697	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	General Pacific, Inc.	DRONE FOR PD	2,552.29
94698	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	RAYBIN, AURORA JADE , B.	BEAUTY AND BOUNTY SEPT 2025	212.40
94699	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	COLEMAN, A'SHANTI	MMANC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 10/16/25	404.87
94700	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	BORDI, CRAIG	FIRE STATION #52 AIR FILTRATION & FILTER & WATER &	2,731.00
Type Check Totals:					268 Transactions			\$ 3,051,572.60
EFT								
3455	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	Medicare - Medicare*	\$ 5.78
3456	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	California State Disbursement Unit	California State Disbursement Unit Payroll Deduction	105.57
3457	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EDD - PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT	CA - CA Tax	66,165.04
3458	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	FED - Fed Tax*	249,273.06
3459	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MissionSquare (name chg 03-2021 formerly ICMA)	ICM1 - ICMA-457 #300530 FLAT DOLLAR*	60,037.90
3460	10/03/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	P E R S	PE1% - PERS SEIU*	208,413.15
3461	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EDD - PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT	CA - CA Tax	270.64
3462	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	FED - Fed Tax*	393.48
3463	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	P E R S	PERS SAFETY MGMT - PERS SAFETY MGMT*	1,814.17
3464	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	California State Disbursement Unit	California State Disbursement Unit Payroll Deduction	105.57
3465	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EDD - PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT	CA - CA Tax	48,993.79
3466	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	FED - Fed Tax*	195,000.33
3467	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MissionSquare (name chg 03-2021 formerly ICMA)	ICM1 - ICMA-457 #300530 FLAT DOLLAR*	55,956.75
3468	10/17/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	P E R S	PE CM PEPRA - PERS CM PEPRA*	208,802.70
3469	10/02/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PG&E	PGE 08/6/25-9/4/25	13.94
3470	10/21/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PG&E	PGE 09/03/25-10/01/25	22,350.67
3471	10/21/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PG&E	PG&E 09/01/25-9/30/25	35,608.24
3472	10/07/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER	PURCHASE POWER PASTAGE CL PYMT SEPT25	1,000.00
3473	10/27/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	SUTTER HEALTH PLUS	SUTTER HEALTH PLAN - NOV PAYMENT	32,703.80
3474	10/27/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	U.S. BANK	2017 REVENUE BOND DEBT SVC OCT 2025	146,067.96
3475	10/27/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	STRYKER CORPORATION	STRYKER EQUIPMENT/ SVC LEASE AGRMNT OCT 2025	6,308.59
3476	10/27/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	KS STATEBANK	2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE SPECIAL SERVICE VEHICLES WITH UPFITTING OCT	4,907.41
3477	10/28/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	U.S. BANK - CORPORATE PAYMENT SYS	CALCARD OCT 2025 PAYMENT	73,580.18
3478	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	California State Disbursement Unit	California State Disbursement Unit Payroll Deduction	105.57
3479	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EDD - PAYROLL TAX DEPOSIT	CA - CA Tax	46,809.70
3480	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	FED - Fed Tax*	185,291.13
3481	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MissionSquare (name chg 03-2021 formerly ICMA)	ICM1 - ICMA-457 #300530 FLAT DOLLAR*	56,558.91
3482	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	P E R S	PE1% - PERS SEIU*	216,353.71
3483	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	EDD - CA Employment Development Dept	EDD UI BENEFIT CHARGE 7/1/25-9/30/25	1,916.00
3484	10/30/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	IRS	FORM 941X INTEREST PAYMENTS	200.92
3485	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	831.86
3486	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	103.11
3487	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	997.48
3488	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	187.25
3489	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	731.11
3490	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	38.38
3491	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	38.37
3492	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	FIRST DATA MERCHANT SERVICES INC	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	38.40
3493	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	AMEX/AMERICAN EXPRESS	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	59.08
3494	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CLOVER	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	23.90

Payment Register

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Number	Date	Status	Void Reason	Reconciled/ Voided Date	Source	Payee Name	Description	Transaction Amount
3495	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	AUTHORIZE.NET	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	37.90
3496	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	AUTHORIZE.NET	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	20.00
3497	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CARDCONNECT	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	8,115.13
3498	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CARDCONNECT	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	3,458.40
3499	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	CARDCONNECT	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	5,231.21
3500	10/31/2025	Open			Accounts Payable	MECHANICS BANK	MERCHANT FEE EXPENSE - SEPT2025	779.73
Type EFT Totals:					46 Transactions			\$ 1,945,805.97

AP-AP Check - Accounts Payable Checking Accoun Totals

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			Checks & EFT's	Status	Count	Transaction Amount
				Open	119	2,695,437.94
				Reconciled	193	2,298,972.02
				Voided	2	2,968.61
				Stopped	0	-
				Total	314	4,997,378.57
PAYROLL			All	Status	Count	Transaction Amount
				Open	49	\$43,162.48
				Reconciled	886	\$1,897,392.47
				Voided	0	\$0.00
				Stopped	0	\$0.00
				Total	935	\$1,940,554.95
GRAND TOTAL					1249	\$6,937,933.52



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7.D.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager; Karineh Samkian, Senior Program Manager; Public Works Department; Chase Beckman, Battalion Chief, Fire Department
Subject: Spending Authority and Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Albany to Implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project Funded by a Joint California Coastal Conservancy Grant

ACTION PROPOSED

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Albany to implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project as funded by a joint California Coastal Conservancy grant; and approve a budget amendment to increase revenues by \$200,000 and expenditures by \$200,000 in Capital Improvement Program Fund 304 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BACKGROUND

Over several years, concerns regarding fire risk in the City of El Cerrito's Hillside Natural Area (HNA) and surrounding residential communities have significantly increased. The City has responded with ongoing and increased vegetation maintenance activities in the approximately 107-acre open space area by completing work largely based on planning efforts that were completed many years ago.

The need for more robust, comprehensive, and current vegetation management practices that balance fuel reduction with native forest conservation became increasingly evident and was recognized in the City's [2015 Urban Greening Plan](#) and 2019 [Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan](#). Therefore, with the help of the Urban Forest Committee (UFC), the City applied for a State of California Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Capacity Building Grant to develop the HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and determination. The Conservancy awarded a grant of \$145,000 to the City in 2022.

Between 2023 and 2025, City staff and consultants developed the Plan to guide future fire fuel and forest conservation management activities and better position the City to seek grant funding for phased implementation. The Plan development process involved:

- Reviewing existing City plans and policies.

- Assessing the conditions and constraints of the HNA which culminated in Biological Resources Report, Cultural Resources Evaluation, Fuel and Fire Hazard Assessment, and Hillside Natural Area Trails Report.
- Soliciting community input via a Stakeholder Advisory Group, consultation with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation, Public Survey, Public Workshops, Public Comment Period, and presentations to the Park and Recreation Commission, UFC, and Environmental Quality Committee.

These efforts informed the prioritization of actions to minimize wildfire threats while protecting the ecological value of the HNA and include:

- Highest Priority
 - Create a defensible space within 100-feet of dwelling structures immediately adjacent to the HNA
- High Priority
 - Establish shaded fuel breaks
- High-Medium Priority
 - Remove eucalyptus and non-native conifer
 - Manage a sustainable system of fire roads and trails
 - Actively manage threats to native oak species
- Medium Priority
 - Remove invasives shrubs and herbaceous species
 - Restore and re-establish native species
 - Monitor key performance indicators

On June 3, 2025, the City Council adopted the HNA Plan ([Resolution 2025-35](#)) with the intent that the projects outlined in the Plan would be undertaken if the City secured grant funding. At about the same time that the Plan was adopted, Conservancy staff reached out to the City and the City of Albany and suggested that the agencies jointly submit a pre-application for the Conservancy's demonstration grant to implement our respective management plans. The City of Albany had also recently adopted their fire resilience plan for Albany Hill. After reviewing the pre-application, the Conservancy invited the agencies to submit a full application which was completed in July 2025. The State Conservancy Board awarded a \$850,000 joint grant for the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project (Project) at their September 18, 2025 meeting.

ANALYSIS

Project

As part of the contract with the Conservancy, the agencies developed a Work Program (Attachment 2) detailing the scope of work, deliverables, and budget. In El Cerrito, the Project will consist of:

Project Management: Submit progress reports and invoices to the City of Albany.

- Milling & Community Engagement (\$30,000):

1. In coordination with Bay Area Redwood, a milling demonstration will be hosted in the HNA to educate the public about milled wood reuse and give away suitable lumber for reuse. A second milling demonstration will be hosted on Albany Hill and residents from both cities are invited to attend any of the events.
2. The City will host a community workday in the HNA to discuss native plants, habitat restoration, and fire risk. A second workday will be hosted on Albany Hill and residents from both cities are invited to attend any of the events. The City will engage Friends of the HNA, El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, and Trail Trekkers in developing the community workday activities.

- Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration (\$480,000):

1. The City will contract with a company to remove pervasive, flammable eucalyptus and invasive trees from 3.5 acres in and around Quarry Hill (Attachment 3), which is listed in the HNA Plan under High-Medium Priority. This location was selected to match the work scope and scale with the available grant funds and it will achieve, in part, creation of the 100-foot shaded fuel break (High Priority). The contractor's work will include treatment of eucalyptus tree stumps to prevent regrowth, mastication of smaller trees, and removal of invasive shrubs while protecting native trees and shrubs.
2. The City will engage an ecological restoration design consultant to develop scope and plans and then engage a company to perform native plant restoration in consultation with stakeholders.

MOU

Upon awarding the grant, the Conservancy requested that one agency serve as the lead and hold the agreement with the Conservancy. The City of Albany agreed to serve as the lead agency and developed a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 4) that clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency. The City of Albany will contract with the Conservancy and receive funds from the Conservancy. The City of El Cerrito will work closely with Albany staff to prepare reports and reimbursement requests. Upon receiving funding from the Conservancy, the City of Albany will reimburse El Cerrito's share of the costs. The Project must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Next Steps

If the MOU is approved by the City Council, City staff will develop request for proposals for the tree removal and the habitat restoration work (staff will return to the City Council for contract award as needed) and meet with Albany staff to schedule the milling demonstrations and workdays.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This item supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *Community Safety* by implementing effective fire resilience work; and
- *Livability and Belonging* by restoring one of the City's most treasured and unique natural assets; and
- *Environmental Sustainability* by receiving funding to implement projects included in the HNA Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

On June 3, 2025, the City Council adopted the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation and Reporting Program for the HNA Plan ([Resolution 2025-34](#)) which evaluated the impacts of the Plan to allow for streamlined implementation in the future.

All future projects and actions that are consistent with the HNA Plan and the analysis in the IS/MND will not require additional CEQA review. Since this Project was included in the HNA Plan and is consistent with the IS/MND, it is covered by the existing CEQA documents and no further evaluation is warranted.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The grant award amount of \$510,000 will pay for the milling contractor, tree removal contractor, and habitat restoration design and planting consultant/contractor.

The City of El Cerrito will invoice the City of Albany on the 15th of January, April, July, and October for actual costs. The City of Albany will include El Cerrito's invoices in the quarterly reimbursement request to the Conservancy and will reimburse the City 30 days after they receive reimbursement from the Conservancy. The Conservancy grant has no "local match" requirement. The Public Works Department will be able to manage the planning effort with existing staff.

The project is included in the 5-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). However, funding was identified as unsecured. Because this project is not specifically listed in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget and the current year CIP, staff recommends appropriating \$200,000 in expenditures and \$200,000 in revenues in CIP Fund 304 in Fiscal Year 2025-26. The net impact on the budget is zero, but this allows the City to ensure sufficient spending authority for the project. City staff will include the remaining amount for Fiscal Year 2026-27 during the upcoming biennial budget process.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City Attorney has reviewed the MOU and found that legal considerations have been addressed. The final MOU will be in substantially the form attached, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Pinkos".

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Grant Work Program
3. Approximate Project Area Map
4. MOU

RESOLUTION 2025 - XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF ALBANY TO IMPLEMENT THE ALBANY-EL CERRITO WILDFIRE RESILIENCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AS FUNDED BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY AND APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCREASE REVENUES BY \$200,000 AND EXPENDITURES BY \$200,000 IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND 304 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

WHEREAS, the City has responded to concerns regarding fire risk in the Hillside Natural Area (HNA) with ongoing and increased vegetation maintenance activities by completing work based largely on past planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, the need for more robust, comprehensive, and current vegetation management practices, that balance fuel reduction with native forest conservation, prompted the City to apply for and be awarded a \$145,000 State of California Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Capacity Building Grant to develop the Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents; and

WHEREAS, the HNA Plan was developed through extensive studies and community engagement and includes a prioritized list of eight actions; and

WHEREAS, as part of the CEQA review, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Plan was also developed, and future projects that are contained in the Plan will not require additional CEQA review; and

WHEREAS, the HNA Plan and the CEQA documents were adopted by the City Council on June 3, 2025 per Resolutions 2025-34 and 2025-35; and

WHEREAS, the City partnered with the City of Albany and jointly applied for and was awarded a \$850,000 Coastal Conservancy demonstration grant to implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project which includes a Project from the HNA Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Project will include removing hazardous trees from 3.5 acres in and around Quarry Hill, restoring the area, hosting milling demonstrations, and hosting community workdays; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed to outline the roles and responsibilities for each agency with the City of Albany being the lead agency to contract and receive reimbursement from the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, funding for all contractor and consultant expenses for the Project is reimbursable by the State Coastal Conservancy in a no-match grant in an amount not to exceed \$510,000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and made part of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it authorizes the City Manager to execute an Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Albany to implement the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project as funded by the California Coastal Conservancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget to increase revenues by \$200,000 and expenditures by \$200,000 in Capital Improvement Program Fund 304 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on _____.

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

WORK PROGRAM

City of Albany, CA

Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project

SCC Grant Agreement # xx-xxx

11/18/2025

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to implement forest management activities included in State Coastal Conservancy-funded wildfire resilience plans for Albany Hill and the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area (HNA), invest in continuing partnerships for workforce development in line with these activities, and demonstrate for public benefit useful practices for milling, native species planting, and fire hazard management. The City of Albany (Grantee) and the City of El Cerrito will perform eucalyptus tree removals (in addition to dead trees and invasive pine trees in El Cerrito) and habitat restoration in the respective areas and co-host milling demonstrations and community workdays. The Grantee will also invest in equipment and additional training for Albany's vegetation management and habitat restoration service provider, Urban Tilth. Different phases of the project will leverage partnerships with Bay Area Redwood, Urban Tilth, and volunteer organization in both Cities to carry out grant activities and strengthen community relationships.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1 Project Management

The Grantee will coordinate with the Conservancy Project Manager to keep them informed about the status of the project. Grantee will be responsible for managing the budget and schedule, submitting requests for disbursement, and other project management activities. Before hiring subcontractors for work under this grant agreement, Grantee will submit subcontractor qualifications to perform specified tasks for the review and approval of the Conservancy Project Manager. In the progress reports, the Grantee shall document all subcontractor activities, deliverables completed, progress, issues and proposed resolutions.

Task Deliverable(s): progress reports, invoices, and subcontract documentation

Task 2 Milling & Community Engagement

This task comprises all tasks related to hosting hands-on community events in Albany and El Cerrito, specifically two milling demonstrations hosted on-site at Albany Hill and in Hillside Natural Area by Bay Area Redwood, and at least one community workday in each City for

native plant and wildfire resilience education. Costs include lumber milling and demonstration fees, event planning, outreach and publicity materials including graphic design and translation, work tools and supplies, refreshments, minor consulting fees for liability coverage for lumber giveaways, and event staff. Staff plan to engage local partners such as Friends of the HNA, El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, and Trail Trekkers to leverage networks for event attendance and publicity. Task 2 is a relatively low-cost task but is the highest-touch element of the project in terms of staff time.

Subtask 2.1

Plan and partner with Bay Area Redwood to host a minimum of 1 public milling demonstration/workshop each in Albany and El Cerrito to educate the public about milled wood reuse and give away suitable lumber as available for reuse. (Albany/El Cerrito)

Subtask 2.2

Plan and host a minimum of 1 community workday each in Albany and El Cerrito to educate the public about native plants, habitat restoration, and fire risk. (Albany/El Cerrito)

Task Deliverable(s): Event flyers, newsletter/website announcements, photos, videos if available, written summaries, milling & lumber giveaway metrics as available.

Task 3 Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration

This project phase comprises professional removal of hazardous eucalyptus and invasive trees in both cities—up to 50 trees in Albany and ~190 stems on 3.5 acres in El Cerrito—including stump treatment, invasive understory removal, erosion control, and disposal. Due to steep terrain and dense vegetation, this work requires skilled contractors and may include specialized equipment for safety and efficiency. Funds will also support restoration of native habitat at both sites, including a monarch butterfly overwintering pilot project on Albany Hill and native plant restoration on Quarry Hill. Costs cover native plant materials, soil amendments, irrigation supplies, and professional design or ecological consultation as needed.

Subtask 3.1

Develop an RFP, engage a contractor, and perform up to 50 high-priority tree removals on Albany Hill on the Taft Ave side. (Albany)

Subtask 3.2

Develop an RFP, engage a contractor, and perform up to 190 tree removals in and around Quarry Hill in the HNA. The selected contractor will also treat the stumps of the cut trees, masticate smaller trees, and remove invasive shrubs while protecting native trees and shrubs. (El Cerrito)

Subtask 3.3

Partner with Urban Tilth to perform a pilot tree planting project in the monarch area on Albany Hill (see trial tree schedule of Phase 1 of the Albany Hill Forest Management and Habitat Restoration Plan). (Albany)

Subtask 3.4

Develop an RFP, engage a restoration design consultant, and perform native plant restoration. (El Cerrito)

Task Deliverable(s): Contractor reports and invoices, before/after photos, planting plan/species list.

Task 4 Workforce Development

This task comprises support for the Grantee's Habitat Restoration Internship Program, including participation in sustainable land management and wood reuse projects. Additional activities under this task include chainsaw certification, electric tool acquisition, and general annual costs for Urban Tilth's Watershed Restoration Crew, who deliver vegetation management services to the Grantee and train local youth in building skills in forestry, restoration, and sustainable construction.

Subtask 4.1

Work with Urban Tilth to purchase electric chainsaws and confirm completed certification in chainsaw use.

Subtask 4.2

Hire two interns per year within the established Habitat Restoration Internship Program and report on project/program activities to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Commission.

Subtask 4.3

Perform ongoing vegetation management work in the Grantee's natural areas, specifically Albany Hill, to mitigate wildfire danger and improve safe access for residents.

Task Deliverable(s): Intern logs, Urban Tilth certification & maintenance records, equipment purchase summary, intern reports to advisory bodies.

III. SCHEDULE

Work Completion Date:

June 30, 2027

Final Request for Disbursement and Final Progress Report:

July 31, 2027

Grant Termination Date:

December 31, 2027

The Grantee will submit project deliverables as listed in the schedule below. In the event the Grantee anticipates a delay in the project schedule, the Grantee shall inform the Conservancy Project Manager by email prior to the scheduled due date of that task or deliverable.

In the event the project cannot be completed prior to the completion date of the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall request an extension by email, providing justification for the extension and a revised schedule of completion. There is no guarantee that the grant agreement will be extended.

Task Number	Task Title	Deliverable	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
1	Project Management	Requests for Disbursement Copies of Subcontracts	Not Applicable	Monthly throughout the contract term
2	Milling & Community Engagement	Event flyers, newsletter/website announcements, photos, videos if available, written summaries, milling & lumber giveaway metrics as available	October 2026	June 2027
3	Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration	Contractor reports and invoices, before/after photos, planting plan/species list	July 2026	October 2026
4	Workforce Development	Intern logs, Urban Tilth certification & maintenance records, equipment purchase summary, intern reports to advisory bodies	October 2025	June 2027

IV. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Task Number	Task Title	Coastal Conservancy Grant	Required Grantee Match *	Estimated Other Funding	Total Budget
1	Project Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	Milling & Community Engagement	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
3	Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration	\$610,000	\$0	\$0	\$610,000
4	Workforce Development	\$180,000	\$0	\$0	\$180,000
	Indirect Costs (0%)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL		\$850,000	\$0	\$0	\$850,000

*No match is required.

V. BUDGET DETAIL

5.1 Direct Costs

1. Project Management - \$0

City staff will coordinate with SCC staff on project management, including progress reports, requests for reimbursement, work program development and amendment (as needed), subcontractor reporting, publicity, and other project management tasks. No funding is needed from the SCC on this task.

2. Milling & Community Engagement – \$60,000

Funds will support hands-on community events in Albany and El Cerrito, specifically two milling demonstrations hosted on-site at Albany Hill and in Hillside Natural Area by Bay Area Redwood, and at least one community workday in each City for native plant and wildfire resilience education. Costs include lumber milling and demonstration fees, event planning, outreach and publicity materials including graphic design and translation, work tools and supplies, refreshments, minor consulting fees for liability coverage for lumber giveaways, and event staff. Staff plan to engage local partners such as Friends of the HNA, El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, and Trail Trekkers to leverage networks for event attendance and publicity. Task 2 is a relatively low-cost task but is

the highest-touch element of the project in terms of staff time.

3. Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration – \$ 610,000

Task 3 covers professional removal of hazardous eucalyptus and invasive trees in both cities—up to 50 trees in Albany and 190 in El Cerrito—including stump treatment, invasive understory removal, erosion control, and disposal. Due to steep terrain and dense vegetation, this work requires skilled contractors and may include specialized equipment for safety and efficiency. Funds will also support restoration of native habitat at both sites, including a monarch butterfly overwintering pilot project on Albany Hill and native plant restoration on Quarry Hill. Costs cover native plant materials, soil amendments, irrigation supplies, and professional design or ecological consultation as needed.

4. Workforce Development – \$ 180,000

Funds will support wages, training, and tools for Grantee’s Habitat Restoration Internship Program, including participation in sustainable land management and wood reuse projects. Funds will additionally support chainsaw certification, electric tool acquisition, and annual Albany Hill vegetation management costs for Urban Tilth’s Watershed Restoration Crew, building skills in forestry, restoration, and sustainable construction.

5.2 Travel Costs

Travel costs for the grantee and any subcontractors must be billed at State rates which can be found [at this link](#).

5.3 Indirect Costs

N/A

VI. SUBCONTRACTORS

Grantee may award subcontracts, as necessary, to qualified consultants or other agencies. Prior to subcontractor initiating work under this agreement, the Grantee shall submit subcontractor qualifications along with a summary of tasks and deliverables to be completed by the subcontractor to Project Manager for approval. These will be reviewed for approval by the Conservancy Project Manager.

City of El Cerrito, CA: Tree removals, cohost milling demonstrations & workshops, project management for El Cerrito tasks. MOU to be executed and attached to this work program.
<https://www.elcerrito.gov/1650/Hillside-Natural-Area-Plan>

SCC Grant Agreement # XX-XXX
Work Program, Date

Bay Area Redwood: Milling demonstrations & eucalyptus milling.
<https://www.bayarearedwood.com/>

Urban Tilth: Vegetation management, pilot planting, chainsaw purchase & certification.
<https://urbantilth.org/>
<https://urbantilth.org/learn/basinsofrelations/>

VII. PLAN FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Grantee and the City of El Cerrito will post details of the funding award and ongoing project activities on a dedicated project page on each City's website.

Grantee and the City of El Cerrito will include announcements for key project phases in each City's eNewsletter or equivalent.

Grantee and the City of El Cerrito will include the Coastal Conservancy's logo on all promotional materials for workshops and demonstrations, including flyers, signage, etc.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CITY OF ALBANY AND
THE CITY OF EL CERRITO FOR REIMBURSEMENT
FOR THE ALBANY-EL CERRITO
WILDFIRE RESILIENCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into this [REDACTED] day of [REDACTED] 2025, by and between the City of Albany, a California municipal corporation and charter city (“Albany”), and the City of El Cerrito, a California municipal corporation and charter city (“El Cerrito”). Albany and El Cerrito are sometimes individually referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties” in this MOU.

RECITALS

A. **WHEREAS**, the Parties have been jointly planning the Albany-El Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project (the “Project”), which is intended to implement forest management activities included in State Coastal Conservancy-funded wildfire resilience plans for Albany Hill and the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area (HNA), invest in continuing partnerships for workforce development in line with these activities, and demonstrate for public benefit useful practices for milling, native species planting, and fire hazard management, and is located within their respective jurisdictions; and

B. **WHEREAS**, Albany has applied for discretionary funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (the “Conservancy”) to support the Project, which has been awarded in the total amount of \$850,000, which will cover costs for tree removals, habitat restoration, community workdays, milling demonstrations, and workforce development (Albany only) associated with the Project; and

C. **WHEREAS**, Albany will serve as the primary recipient of the Conservancy funds and will be responsible for contracting, invoicing, and financial reporting to the Conservancy; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to set forth their respective responsibilities, coordination procedures, and reimbursement mechanisms for the Project, and to establish a clear framework through which El Cerrito may invoice Albany for eligible costs, as set forth in the terms and conditions of this MOU.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of these recitals and the mutual covenants contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the understanding between the Parties regarding the reimbursement of eligible Project costs and delineation of roles, responsibilities, and invoicing procedures, as further described in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2. Albany’s Responsibilities:

A. Serve as the lead agency for purposes of contracting with and receiving funds from the Conservancy.

B. Administer the grant agreement with the Conservancy, including the preparation and submittal of all required invoices and reports.

C. Reimburse El Cerrito for eligible, approved costs incurred for Project tasks, subject to the prior receipt of funds from the Conservancy.

D. Provide El Cerrito with a copy of the executed grant agreement and any material amendments or relevant guidance from the Conservancy.

E. Perform such other tasks as may be assigned to Albany in Exhibit "A."

3. El Cerrito's Responsibilities:

A. Maintain proper documentation of all costs incurred and submit itemized invoices, with supporting documentation, to Albany in a timely manner.

B. Comply with all applicable terms, conditions, and requirements of the Conservancy's grant agreement, as provided by Albany.

C. Cooperate with Albany in the preparation of all reports or documentation required by the Conservancy.

D. Perform such other tasks as may be assigned to El Cerrito in Exhibit "A."

4. Term:

This MOU shall become effective upon execution by both Parties and shall remain in effect until the earlier of: (i) the completion of the Project; (ii) expiration or termination of the Conservancy grant, or (iii) termination under Section 7.2 below.

5. Invoicing and Payment:

El Cerrito shall submit invoices to Albany at the close of every quarter, accompanied by receipts, time records, or other documentation reasonably required. Albany shall review the invoices for completeness and consistency with the Conservancy's requirements. Albany shall reimburse El Cerrito only from funds actually received from Conservancy, and shall have no independent obligation to reimburse El Cerrito in the absence of Conservancy disbursements. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days following Albany's receipt of the corresponding funds from the Conservancy.

6. Delivery of Notices:

A. All notices, invoices, and other communication pertaining to this MOU must be directed to the following representatives:

If to Albany:

City of Albany
1000 San Pablo Ave.
Albany, CA 94706
Attn: Devora Zauderer, Program Manager

Email: dzauderer@albanyca.org, cc: mcunningham@albanyca.org

If to El Cerrito:

City of El Cerrito
10890 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Attn: Karineh Samkian, Senior Program Manager
Email: KSamkian@elcerrito.gov, cc: spre@elcerrito.gov

B. Any notice required under this MOU must be sent in writing via email or posted mail.

7. General Provisions

7.1 Amendments. This MOU may only be amended in writing and such amendment must be executed by both parties.

7.2 Termination. Either Party may terminate this MOU upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other. Termination shall not relieve the other Party of responsibility for obligations incurred prior to the effective date of termination.

7.3 Authority. Each person executing this MOU on behalf of a Party warrants that the person is duly authorized to execute this MOU on behalf of that Party and that by doing so, that Party is formally bound to the provisions of this MOU.

7.4 Severability. If any part of this MOU is held to be invalid, void, or otherwise unenforceable to any extent by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this MOU is not affected thereby, and all other parts of this MOU remain valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

7.5 Counterparts. This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which is deemed an original. All counterparts are construed together and constitute one single MOU. A Party may sign this MOU electronically.

7.6 Governing Law. This MOU must be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California. If any action is brought to interpret or enforce any term of this MOU, the action must be brought in a state or federal court in the County of Alameda, State of California.

7.7 Relationship of the Parties. Except as otherwise provided herein, nothing contained herein may be construed to create an association, trust, or partnership or to impose a trust or partnership obligation on or with regard to either of the Parties. Each Party is individually responsible for its own obligations as herein provided.

7.8 Indemnification. Each Party shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party, its elected and appointed officials, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or relating to the negligent acts, errors, or intentional misconduct of the indemnifying Party, its officers, employees, contractors, or agents in connection with this MOU. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to obligate either Party to indemnify the other for that Party's sole negligence or willful misconduct.

7.9 Waiver. The delay or failure of either Party at any time to require performance or compliance by the other Party of any of its obligations or agreements does not waive a right to require such performance or compliance. No waiver of any provision of this MOU is effective unless in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of the Party against whom enforcement of a waiver is sought. The waiver of any right or remedy with respect to any occurrence or event may not be deemed a waiver of any right or remedy with respect to any other occurrence or event, nor does any waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

7.10 Records and Audit. Each Party shall maintain accurate records of all costs charged to the Project for a period of not less than three (3) years following final reimbursement. Records shall be made available for audit by the Conservancy or other Party, as applicable.

7.11 Entire Agreement. This MOU represents the entire understanding of the Parties as to those matters contained herein, and supersedes and cancels any prior or contemporaneous oral or written understanding, promises or representations with respect to those matters covered hereunder. Each Party acknowledges that no representation, inducement, promise, or agreement has been made by any person that has not been incorporated herein, and that any other agreement is void. This MOU may not be modified or altered except in writing signed by both Parties hereto.

[Signature Page on Following Page]

**SIGNATURE PAGE FOR MOU
BETWEEN THE CITY OF ALBANY AND
THE CITY OF EL CERRITO FOR REIMBURSEMENT
FOR THE ALBANY-EL CERRITO
WILDFIRE RESILIENCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOU as of the date first written above.

CITY OF ALBANY

CITY OF EL CERRITO

By: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTESTED TO:

ATTESTED TO:

By: _____
City Clerk

By: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
City Attorney

By: _____
City Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”

Budget

The funding award from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Albany El-Cerrito Wildfire Resilience Demonstration Project totals \$850,000. All funds must be expended by the agreement expiration date, as outlined in the Grantee Work Program.

The budget for this project is allocated between Albany and El Cerrito as follows.

Project Tasks	Albany	El Cerrito	Grant Total
Project Management	\$0	\$0	\$0
Milling & Community Engagement	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Tree Removal & Habitat Restoration	\$130,000	\$480,000	\$610,000
Workforce Development	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
Totals	\$340,000	\$510,000	\$850,000

Invoices are to be sent to Albany in pdf format to dzauderer@albanyca.org, cc: mcunningham@albanyca.org, including copies of supporting documents such as subcontractor invoices, photos, etc.

Conservancy Work Program Compliance

Albany will include El Cerrito as a subcontractor in the Grant Agreement/Work Program signed with the Coastal Conservancy for the project. As per the grant terms, El Cerrito must notify Albany and the Coastal Conservancy of any additional subcontractors so that the Work Program may be amended.



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7.E.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Jarrett Mullen, Sustainable Transportation Program Manager, Community Development Department; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer; James Mizutani, Associate Engineer, Public Works Department
Subject: Cooperative Agreement between the City of El Cerrito and Caltrans for the Caltrans State Route 123 Pavement Rehabilitation Project in El Cerrito, Caltrans Project ID: 0419000452

ACTION PROPOSED

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement No. 04-3069 between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of El Cerrito (City) for street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements along State Route 123 with a contribution amount by the City of \$141,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26, and authorizing the City Manager to execute a future amendment to the agreement for an additional contribution amount of \$259,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-27, for a total not to exceed amount of \$400,000.

BACKGROUND

Project Overview

In 2022, Caltrans initiated the development of Project ID 0419000452 (Project), an approximately \$14 million pavement rehabilitation project for the section of State Route 123 (SR-123) in El Cerrito, spanning 2.2 miles along San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard between the southern City limit at Cerrito Creek and the Interstate 80/Cutting Boulevard interchange.

Named San Pablo Avenue for almost its entire length except for the northernmost section along Cutting Boulevard, SR-123 is a 7.4-mile-long north-south state highway owned by Caltrans. Running between I-80/Cutting Boulevard in El Cerrito/Richmond and I-580 and San Pablo Avenue in Oakland, SR-123 serves established neighborhoods and planned growth areas in the inner East Bay. In El Cerrito, SR-123 encompasses about 80% of the San Pablo Avenue corridor, the City's "main street," making the Project an important opportunity to implement City goals where possible.

The Project is part of the 2024 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and applies Caltrans' Capital Preventative Maintenance (CAPM) strategy. SHOPP funds different types of "fix-it-first" projects on the state highway network, while CAPM is a type of Caltrans maintenance project that focuses on repairs to existing roadways in fair condition with considerable remaining service life (15–30 years) and does not alter existing roadway geometry. Caltrans anticipates completing the design phase in December 2025, with a Summer 2026 to Summer 2027 construction period.

The Project includes:

- **Pavement Rehabilitation:** Mill and install new asphalt pavement between both curbs in both directions of travel along the entire Project corridor.
- **Curb & Gutter:** Remove and replace damaged sections of curb and gutter at multiple locations along the Project corridor.
- **Sidewalk & Street Trees:** Remove and replace severely damaged sidewalk at three locations. Remove and replace street trees at 16 locations.
- **Road Safety & Complete Streets:**
 - New rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB's) at San Pablo Ave/Carlos Ave and San Pablo Ave/Sacramento Ave
 - High-visibility signage and / or pavement markings at crosswalks
 - New safety lighting

City Role & Policy Framework

Caltrans engaged City staff in the fall of 2023 to provide Project information and seek feedback on the preliminary design. Since SR-123 is owned by Caltrans, City staff engaged the Caltrans team in a collaborative role, seeking to shape the project based on the following key policies, agreements, and constraints:

1. **2016 Active Transportation Plan (ATP):** Identifies goals and policies that guide the City's bicycle and pedestrian programs and infrastructure investments. Key goals include: supporting bicycling and walking as being practical, healthy, and convenient in El Cerrito; and implementing a well-connected active transportation system to attract users of all ages and abilities.
2. **2016 Complete Streets Policy:** All project types, including maintenance projects, are subject to this policy, which calls for creating and maintaining complete streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for all modes of travel.
3. **2014 San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (Updated 2022):** The City's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan focuses on economic development anchored by a strong public realm and sense of place, emphasizing pedestrian safety and connectivity.
4. **City/Caltrans Ownership, Operations, & Maintenance Responsibilities:** The City owns the sidewalk frontages along both sides of SR-123, while Caltrans owns the roadway. City/Caltrans agreements govern the operations, maintenance, and ownership of common features such as traffic signals, utilities, and landscaping. These responsibilities are generally summarized in **Table 1**.
5. **Program & Resource Constraints:** The CAPM project strategy focuses on pavement maintenance and does not include roadway geometry changes. Roadway geometry refers to the design and layout of a road, which often requires additional approvals, public outreach, and engineering to change. State and City funding also constrains the project scope, with City funding a relevant variable for work that addresses a City-controlled feature, such as sidewalk pavement or landscaping.

Table 1: SR-123 Operations & Maintenance Responsibilities

Roadway Element	Caltrans	City
ELECTRICAL		
Traffic Signals*	X	X
Crosswalk Beacons**	X	X
Street Lights		X
PAVEMENT		
Vehicle Lanes	X	
Bicycle Lanes		X
Sidewalk		X
DRAINAGE		
Curb & Gutter	X	X
Storm Drain Inlets & Pipes		X
LANDSCAPING		
Sidewalk Trees		X
Median Trees & Plantings		X
Street Furniture		X
SIGNAGE & PAVEMENT MARKINGS		
Parking Signage & Curb Markings		X
Traffic Control Signage	X	
Pavement Markings	X	
<i>*Caltrans and the City share responsibility for traffic signal operations and maintenance based on the number of legs at the intersection.</i> <i>**Caltrans is responsible for crosswalk beacon operations and maintenance (Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons), except for systems installed by the City, which currently include flashing warning systems at Madison Avenue and at Lincoln Avenue.</i>		

ANALYSIS

City Input & Outcomes

Since roadway geometry may not be altered with CAPM projects, City staff requested pedestrian safety and connectivity upgrades to implement San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and ATP priorities, focusing on two areas: uncontrolled crosswalk enhancements

and curb and sidewalk repairs. Staff requested enhanced safety features at all existing marked, uncontrolled crosswalks; and, new mid-block crosswalks at six of the 17 locations identified in the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan's Complete Streets Chapter, prioritizing locations with the greatest equity, safety, and connectivity needs. Working closely with Caltrans staff, City staff identified nine high-priority sidewalk locations to repair damage from street tree roots. During this evaluation, City staff found that up to 16 street trees would need to be removed and replaced to complete the adjacent sidewalk and curb work.

The 16 street trees to be removed have had a direct impact on the condition of the curb and sidewalks. Tree removal is the option of last resort, and City staff, including the City Arborist, considered alternatives to removal, such as root trimming and shaving, to promote a healthy urban forest along with maintain infrastructure in a safe condition over the long term. Many of the trees being removed are Liquidambar, commonly called Sweetgum trees. Trees of this species have shallow root systems that would likely cause future curb and sidewalk damage if they are not replaced with a species better suited for the planting sites located along San Pablo Ave.

Along SR-123, the City owns the sidewalks and Caltrans/City maintenance agreements define responsibilities for common features, including landscaping. Consistent with California state law, the El Cerrito Municipal Code (13.20.090) requires property owners to maintain fronting City sidewalks in a safe condition, but the City may provide sidewalk maintenance and repair if it is determined that the damage is caused by City street trees or related to other City-owned facilities. The sidewalk work listed as part of this Project is directly related to damage caused by City-owned street trees, while the street tree removal and replacement sites are necessary because the root pruning and soil compaction related to adjacent sidewalk and curb work would affect the tree's health and structure, exceeding the tree's ability to survive post-construction.

Caltrans evaluated the City's crosswalk and curb and sidewalk repair requests. For the sidewalk repair requests, Caltrans staff determined that the City would be responsible for the cost of all requested sidewalk and street tree work, in accordance with City/Caltrans maintenance agreements. Through an iterative design and cost estimating process, City and Caltrans staff advanced three of the nine originally requested sidewalk repair locations. These areas have the greatest and most complex sidewalk repair needs and will benefit from Caltrans project delivery and the economies of scale associated with a larger project. Sidewalk and street tree removal and replacement locations are listed in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Sidewalk & Street Tree Work

Location	Type of Work
10621 San Pablo Ave	Sidewalk & Street Tree Removal and Replacement (2 Trees)
10585 San Pablo Ave	Sidewalk & Street Tree Removal and Replacement

10478 San Pablo Ave	Sidewalk & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10936 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10770 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement (3 Trees)
10749 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10731 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement (2 Trees)
10609 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10585 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10567 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10551 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10531 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement
10361 San Pablo Ave	Curb & Street Tree Removal and Replacement

For the crosswalk upgrades, Caltrans staff currently propose a two-phase approach with upgrades included as part of the current Project and a future safety project. The locations, features, and timing are listed in **Table 3**. RRFB refers to a "[Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon](#)," a type of pedestrian-activated warning device, while PHB refers to "[Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon](#)," a type of pedestrian-activated signal that requires drivers to stop. The future safety project is currently unfunded, and City and Caltrans staff will continue to collaborate to advance these upgrades.

Table 3: Marked Uncontrolled Crosswalk Upgrades

Location	Current Caltrans CAPM Project	Future Caltrans Safety Project**
EXISTING CROSSWALK UPGRADES		
San Pablo Ave / Carlos Ave	RRFB	-
San Pablo Ave / Madison	High-Visibility Signs /	PHB / RRFB

Ave*	Markings	
San Pablo Ave / Portola Dr	High-Visibility Signs / Markings	-
San Pablo Ave / Waldo Ave	High-Visibility Signs / Markings	-
San Pablo Ave / Sacramento Ave	RRFB	-
San Pablo Ave / Lincoln Ave*	High-Visibility Signs / Markings	PHB / RRFB
NEW MID-BLOCK CROSSWALKS		
San Pablo Ave / Blake St	-	PHB / RRFB
San Pablo Ave / Cypress Ave	-	PHB / RRFB
San Pablo Ave / Jefferson Ave	-	PHB / RRFB
San Pablo Ave / Plumas Ave	-	PHB / RRFB
San Pablo Ave / Huntington Ave	-	PHB / RRFB
San Pablo Ave / Avila St	-	PHB / RRFB
* The existing City-owned flashing warning systems would be replaced with a PHB or RRFB as part of the future safety project. ** Beacon system selection (RRFB or PHB) would occur during the engineering design process.		

Funding for the City's contribution to this Project would come from the SB 1 — Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Account Fund. City staff initially proposed a maximum contribution of \$141,000 to support the sidewalk and street tree work, with Caltrans and the City working to adjust the scope of work to this amount. However, the additional street tree removal and replacement that was identified by staff would exceed the City's \$141,000 contribution. Caltrans and City staff are currently developing revised estimates, but do not anticipate the costs to exceed \$400,000.

At this time, City staff request authorization to execute the Cooperative Agreement for \$141,000 for design, construction, and construction support costs and to execute a future amendment in the amount of \$259,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$400,000. Caltrans staff will provide City staff with updates to the cost estimate, bid amounts, and actual construction costs as the Project progresses and will coordinate with City staff to implement options to reduce the scope the project if needed to meet available funding.

Caltrans will be the lead in all phases of project delivery. The delivery phases include design including preparation of plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E), right-of-way (ROW) work including utility relocations, and construction support services including coordination with neighboring agencies, execution of various project agreements, procurement of required consultants and contractors to complete all phases, and oversight of all work. The proposed agreement requires Caltrans to provide invoices for the scope of work requested by the City during the construction phase.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *Livability and Belonging; and*
- *Infrastructure and Amenities; and*
- *Environmental Sustainability.*

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the Project is a repair to an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that presently existing.

More specifically, restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as an earthquake, landslide, or flood, is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

City contributions to the Project are to cover the cost of sidewalk and street tree replacement. These contributions in an amount not-to-exceed a total of \$400,000 will be funded by the SB 1 — Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Account Fund. The funding will be split between two fiscal years. The first portion in the amount of \$141,000 is already appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Capital Improvement Program under the Access Modifications – Streets & Sidewalks Program. This was initially reported at the [August 19, 2025, City Council Meeting](#). For the remaining \$259,000, City staff will request a Fiscal Year 2026-27 appropriation during the upcoming biennial budget process.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed cooperative agreement is in draft final form. The City Attorney has reviewed the agreement, provided comments, and found that legal considerations have been addressed. Minor revisions are pending. The final agreement will be in substantially the form attached, which, along with the future amendment, will be subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Pinkos".

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A to Resolution

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO. 04-3069 BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) AND THE CITY OF EL CERRITO (CITY) FOR STREET, SIDEWALK, AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS AS PART OF CALTRANS PROJECT ID 0419000452 (PROJECT) ALONG STATE ROUTE 123 WITH A CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT BY THE CITY OF \$141,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A FUTURE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT OF \$259,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.

WHEREAS, State Route 123 (SR-123) is a 7.4-mile-long State Highway owned and operated by Caltrans that runs along San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard between the Interstate 80 / Cutting Boulevard interchange in the Cities of El Cerrito and Richmond and the San Pablo Avenue/Interstate 580 overcrossing in the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans is responsible for the operations, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of the State Highway System (SHS). Along SR-123 in El Cerrito, the City owns the sidewalks, while City/Caltrans maintenance agreements govern the operations, maintenance, and ownership of common features such as traffic signals, utilities, and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the Project is primarily a maintenance project. The Project is part of the 2024 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and applies Caltrans' Capital Preventative Maintenance (CAPM) strategy. SHOPP funds SHS maintenance projects, while CAPM is a project type that focuses on repairs to existing roadways in fair condition and does not alter existing roadway geometry; and

WHEREAS, in El Cerrito, the Project spans 2.2 miles along SR-123 between the Interstate 80/Cutting Boulevard interchange and the southern City limit at Cerrito Creek. The Project includes pavement rehabilitation, replacement of damaged sidewalk, curb, and gutter, crosswalk safety upgrades, new street lighting, and street tree removal and replacement; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans engaged City staff in the fall of 2023 to provide Project information and seek feedback on the preliminary design; and

WHEREAS, the Project will be removing and replacing damaged curb and gutter at approximately 60 locations located in Caltrans right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Project, City staff requested that Caltrans include sidewalk repair and replacement at three (3) sites which have been damaged by City-owned street trees; and

WHEREAS, the sidewalk repair locations were prioritized based on damage severity, location on a street identified as a major pedestrian route, proximity to schools or other key destinations, requests by people with disabilities, and type of repair; and

WHEREAS, 16 street trees will be removed and replaced. These trees are adjacent to the Project's sidewalk, curb, and gutter work, which would otherwise significantly affect tree health and stability; and

WHEREAS, the sidewalk work aligns with the City's plans and policies, including the 2016 Activated Transportation Plan, the 2016 Complete Streets Policy, and the 2022 San Pablo Ave Specific Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City will provide funds for the costs incurred for the sidewalk repair and street tree removal and replacement work that has been requested under the proposed Cooperative Agreement No. 04-3069 from the SB 1 — Road Maintenance & Rehabilitation Account Fund; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cooperative Agreement No. 04-3069 outlines the responsibilities of Caltrans and the City through the construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the project is a repair to an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that presently existing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that it hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute Cooperative Agreement 04-3069 between Caltrans and the City, for street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements along State Route 123 with a contribution amount by the City of \$141,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26, and authorizes the City Manager to execute a future amendment to the agreement for an additional contribution amount of \$259,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-27, for a total not to exceed amount of \$400,000, which shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, including any minor amendments and subject to final review by the City Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on _____.

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

This AGREEMENT, executed on and effective from _____, is between the State of California, acting through its Department of Transportation, referred to as CALTRANS, and:

City of El Cerrito, a body politic and municipal corporation or chartered city of the State of California, referred to hereinafter as CITY.

RECITALS

1. CALTRANS and CITY, collectively referred to as PARTIES, pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code Sections 114, 130 and 131 are authorized to enter into a Cooperative Agreement for improvements on State highways within the City of El Cerrito.
2. For this AGREEMENT, *pavement rehabilitation to preserve and extend the life of the existing pavement, replacement of loop detectors impacted by cold planing, replacement of damaged curbs and gutters, and upgrade/installation of safety lighting* on Route 123 in the City of El Cerrito, will be referred to hereinafter as CALTRANS PROJECT.
3. CITY has requested, or CALTRANS needs, to incorporate the work described in the Scope Summary as part of the CALTRANS PROJECT, referred to herein as IMPROVEMENTS and CITY has agreed to contribute an amount not to exceed \$141,000 to the IMPROVEMENTS, as documented in the Funding Summary. The Scope Summary and Funding Summary are attached to and made an express part of this AGREEMENT.
4. All obligations and responsibilities assigned in this AGREEMENT to complete the IMPROVEMENTS will be referred to hereinafter as WORK.
5. PARTIES intend to define herein the terms and conditions under which WORK for IMPROVEMENTS are performed and financed.

SECTION I**CALTRANS AGREES:**

1. To administer the construction contract for the CALTRANS PROJECT and have the contractor complete the IMPROVEMENTS as a part of the CALTRANS PROJECT.
2. To segregate accumulated charges for all costs to be paid by CITY towards IMPROVEMENTS pursuant to this AGREEMENT.
3. If CALTRANS anticipates that funding will be insufficient to complete WORK, CALTRANS will promptly notify CITY. CALTRANS may be required to stop WORK until additional funding is secured, pursuant to an amendment to this AGREEMENT signed by both PARTIES.

4. After PARTIES agree that WORK is complete for the IMPROVEMENTS, CALTRANS will submit a final accounting for all costs. Based on the final accounting, CALTRANS will refund or invoice as necessary in order to satisfy the financial commitments of this AGREEMENT.

SECTION II

CITY AGREES:

1. To be responsible for establishing the scope of the IMPROVEMENTS, as defined in the Scope Summary.
2. To fund IMPROVEMENTS as provided in the Funding Summary of this AGREEMENT.
3. To grant CALTRANS and its contractors access to perform CALTRANS PROJECT's work within the CITY's operational right-of-way without the need for an Encroachment Permit.

SECTION III

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

1. All portions of this AGREEMENT, including the Recitals section, are enforceable.
2. All CALTRANS' obligations and commitments under this AGREEMENT are subject to the appropriation of resources by the Legislature, State Budget Act authority, programming, and allocation of funds by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).
3. Notwithstanding the terms of this AGREEMENT, PARTIES agree to abide by the funding guidelines for all contributed funds that are programmed and allocated by the CTC.
4. The cost of IMPROVEMENTS performed by CALTRANS includes all direct and applicable indirect costs. CALTRANS calculates indirect costs based solely on the type of funds used to pay support costs. State and federal funds administered by CALTRANS are subject to the current Program Functional Rate. All other funds are subject to the current Program Functional Rate and the current Administration Rate. The Program Functional Rate and Administration Rate are adjusted periodically.
5. CITY's total obligation for IMPROVEMENTS is estimated in the amount of \$141,000.
6. IMPROVEMENTS costs shall not be increased unless it is a result of:
 - Material modifications based on approved plans and specifications by CITY.
 - The failure by CITY to perform its obligations under this AGREEMENT following written notice from CALTRANS to CITY.

- Unforeseen conditions that are discovered during the performance of the IMPROVEMENTS.
 - If all responsible bids come over the engineer's estimate and CALTRANS chooses to award the contract.
7. CALTRANS will invoice CITY for a deposit (single payment) of \$141,000 after execution of this AGREEMENT and forty-five (45) working days prior to the commencement of WORK. This deposit is the estimated cost of WORK.
8. ~~CALTRANS will invoice CITY for a lump sum payment of \$84,500 for Construction Capital after execution of this AGREEMENT and forty-five (45) working days prior to the commencement of WORK. This deposit is the estimated cost of WORK.~~

~~Thereafter, CALTRANS will invoice and CITY will reimburse for actual costs incurred, but not more frequently than once month.~~

9. CITY will pay invoices within forty-five (45) calendar days of receipt of invoice when not paying with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). When paying with EFT, CITY will pay invoices within five (5) calendar days of receipt of invoice.

In the event the costs of IMPROVEMENTS exceed the estimate per the terms of AGREEMENT, PARTIES agree to a revised and reduced scope of work as defined in the SCOPE SUMMARY. CALTRANS reserves the right to stop WORK on IMPROVEMENTS until additional funding is secured.

10. CITY will accept operation, maintenance and ownership or title to all materials or equipment installed as part of IMPROVEMENTS. CITY agrees to be responsible for all required tree establishment activities during the tree establishment period, upon completion of IMPROVEMENTS. CITY will defend, indemnify, and save harmless CALTRANS and all of its officers and employees from all claims, suits, or actions of every name, kind and description brought forth under, including, but not limited to, tortuous, contractual, inverse condemnation, or other theories or assertions of liability occurring by reason of the operation and maintenance of IMPROVEMENTS, except to the extent that such liabilities arise wholly from the negligence or willful misconduct of CALTRANS or its officers, employees, subcontractors, agents or volunteers.
11. HM-1 is hazardous material (including, but not limited to, hazardous waste) that may require removal and disposal pursuant to federal or state law, whether it is disturbed by the CALTRANS PROJECT or not.

HM-2 is hazardous material (including, but not limited to, hazardous waste) that may require removal and disposal pursuant to federal or state law only if disturbed by the CALTRANS PROJECT.

The management activities related to HM-1 and HM-2, including and without limitation, any necessary manifest requirements and disposal facility designations are referred to herein as HM-1 MANAGEMENT and HM-2 MANAGEMENT respectively.

13. If HM-1 or HM-2 is found the discovering PARTY will immediately notify all other PARTIES.
14. CALTRANS, independent of the CALTRANS PROJECT, is responsible for any HM-1 found within the existing State Highway System right-of-way. CALTRANS will undertake, or cause to be undertaken, HM-1 MANAGEMENT with minimum impact to the CALTRANS PROJECT schedule.

CALTRANS will pay, or cause to be paid, the cost of HM-1 MANAGEMENT for HM-1 found within the existing State Highway System right-of-way with funds that are independent of the funds obligated in this AGREEMENT.

15. CALTRANS is responsible for HM-2 MANAGEMENT within the CALTRANS PROJECT limits.

CITY and CALTRANS will comply with the Soil Management Agreement for Aerially Deposited Lead Contaminated Soils (Soil Management Agreement) executed between CALTRANS and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Under Section 3.2 of the Soil Management Agreement, CALTRANS and CITY each retain joint and severable liability for noncompliance with the provisions of the Soil Management Agreement. CITY will assume all responsibilities assigned to CALTRANS in the Soil Management Agreement during CALTRANS PROJECT COMPONENTS for which they are the IMPLEMENTING AGENCY except for final placement and burial of soil within the State right-of-way, per Section 4.5 of the Soil Management Agreement, which is subject to CALTRANS concurrence and reporting to DTSC which will be performed by CALTRANS.

16. CALTRANS' acquisition or acceptance of title to any property on which any HM-1 or HM-2 is found will proceed in accordance with CALTRANS' policy on such acquisition.
17. CITY, independent of the CALTRANS PROJECT, is responsible for any HM-1 found within the CALTRANS PROJECT limits and outside the existing State Highway System right-of-way. CITY will undertake, or cause to be undertaken, HM-1 MANAGEMENT with minimum impact to the CALTRANS PROJECT schedule.

CITY will pay, or cause to be paid, the cost of HM-1 MANAGEMENT for HM-1 found within the CALTRANS PROJECT limits and outside of the existing State Highway System right-of-way with funds that are independent of the funds obligated in this AGREEMENT.

18. Neither CALTRANS nor any officer or employee thereof is responsible for any injury, damage, or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by CITY, its contractors, sub-contractors and/or its agents under or in connection with any work, authority, or jurisdiction conferred upon CITY or under this AGREEMENT. It is understood and agreed that CITY, to the extent permitted by law, will defend, indemnify, and save

harmless CALTRANS and all of its officers and employees from all claims, suits, or actions of every name, kind and description brought forth under, but not limited to, tortious, contractual, inverse condemnation, or other theories or assertions of liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by CITY, its contractors, sub-contractors and/or its agents under this AGREEMENT.

19. Neither CITY nor any officer or employee thereof is responsible for any injury, damage, or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by CALTRANS, its contractors, sub-contractors and/or its agents under or in connection with any work, authority, or jurisdiction conferred upon CALTRANS or under this AGREEMENT. It is understood and agreed that CALTRANS, to the extent permitted by law, will defend, indemnify, and save harmless CITY and all of its officers and employees from all claims, suits, or actions of every name, kind and description brought forth under, but not limited to, tortious, contractual, inverse condemnation, or other theories or assertions of liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by CALTRANS, its contractors, sub-contractors and/or its agents under this AGREEMENT.
20. This AGREEMENT will terminate upon completion of the IMPROVEMENTS and all parties have met all scope, cost, and schedule commitments included in this AGREEMENT and have signed a Cooperative Agreement Closure Statement, which is a document signed by parties that verifies the completion of WORK for IMPROVEMENTS.

However, all indemnification, document, retention, audit, claims, environmental commitment, legal challenge, hazardous material, operation, maintenance and ownership articles will remain in effect until terminated or modified in writing by mutual agreement.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The information provided below indicates the primary contact information for each PARTY to this AGREEMENT. PARTIES will notify each other in writing of any personnel or location changes. Contact information changes do not require an amendment to this AGREEMENT.

CITY OF EL CERRITO

Yvetteh Ortiz, Director of Public Works
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Office Phone: (510) 215-4345
Email: yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

CALTRANS

Haleh Hakimi, Project Manager
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
Office Phone: (510) 421-9728
Email: haleh.hakimi@dot.ca.gov

SIGNATURES

PARTIES are authorized to enter into this AGREEMENT and have delegated to the undersigned the authority to execute this AGREEMENT on behalf of the respective agencies and hereby

covenants to have followed all the necessary legal requirements to validly execute this AGREEMENT. By signing below, the PARTIES each expressly agree to execute this AGREEMENT electronically.

The PARTIES acknowledge that executed copies of this AGREEMENT may be exchanged by facsimile or email, and that such copies shall be deemed to be effective as originals.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Attest:

By: _____
Wajahat Nyaz
Deputy District Director, Design

By: _____
Holly Charléty
City Clerk

By: _____
Attorney
Department of Transportation

By: _____
Sky Woodruff
City Attorney

VERIFIED OF FUNDS & AUTHORITY:

By: _____
Jeffrey Kuehnel
District Budget Manager

CERTIFIED AS TO FINANCIAL TERMS & POLICIES:

By: _____
Percy Ramil
HQ Accounting Supervisor

CITY OF EL CERRITO

By: _____
Karen Pinkos
City Manager

SCOPE SUMMARY

Project Location: District 4, Contra Costa County, Route 123, PM 0.0/2.198

Scope of Work: Improvements include localized sidewalk repairs and associated tree treatments including tree removal/replacement/root pruning within the City of El Cerrito's right of way to be constructed together with the adjacent curbs and gutters that were damaged by tree roots. The sidewalk repair locations will be per the approved project Plans, Specifications and Estimate, and are subject to change pending the actual bidder's costs and/or cost overruns during the construction period.

Deliverables: The deliverable includes the repair of broken sidewalks and tree removal/replacement/root pruning.

FUNDING SUMMARY FOR IMPROVEMENTS No. 1

FUNDING TABLE FOR IMPROVEMENTS No. 1

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:		CALTRANS	CALTRANS	CALTRANS	Total
Source	Fund Type	PS&E	Construction Support	Construction Capital	
LOCAL	Local	\$28,000	\$28,500	\$84,500	\$141,000
	Totals	\$28,000	\$28,500	\$84,500	\$141,000



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 8.A.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Amelia Timbers, Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager, Christina Leard, Management Analyst III, Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Public Works Department
Subject: Proposed East Bay Sanitary Garbage & Organic Waste Collection and Post-Collection Rates and Integrated Waste Management Fees – Effective January 1, 2026

ACTION PROPOSED

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion 1) Adopt a Resolution establishing maximum allowable East Bay Sanitary (EBS) garbage and organic waste collection and post-collection rates, effective January 1, 2026, and 2) Adopt a Resolution setting Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fees, effective January 1, 2026, and appropriating an allocation from the Integrated Waste Management Fund in the amount of \$218,507 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BACKGROUND

Each year the City Council establishes the maximum rates and fees charged to City of El Cerrito residents and businesses for solid waste collection and post-collection (meaning transfer, transport, processing, and disposal) services. These rates and fees consist of three components:

1. A per-service rate for the collection of garbage and organic waste by the City's waste hauler, East Bay Sanitary Company (EBS);
2. A per-ton rate (also called the "Blended Per Ton Rate") charged by Republic Services for post-collection of solid waste and organic waste delivered by EBS, household hazardous waste (HHW), and other waste types through the services and facilities of the Golden Bear Transfer Station, Keller Canyon Landfill, West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, and West County Resource Recovery. The Blended Per Ton Rate also pays for El Cerrito's participation in the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA), also known as RecycleMore, a joint powers agency that is responsible for ensuring that its member agencies in West Contra Costa County are in compliance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) and subsequent related regulations and managing regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs, outreach and education programs, and post-collection services; and

3. An Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fee that funds the City-operated curbside recycling collection for El Cerrito residents and businesses, contracted processing of curbside recyclable materials, the daily operations and waste reduction and recycling services of the El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center (RERC), and other solid waste collection, source reduction and integrated waste management services, managed by the City's Operations and Environmental Services Division.

Component one, the EBS rate, is based on the annual revenue required to run the operations that provide these services, as defined in the [2022 Solid Waste Collection Services Agreement](#) between the City and EBS (Franchise Agreement). Component three, IWM Fees, are based on the City's biennial budget and fund forecast for the IWM Fund.

Component two, the Blended Per Ton rate, is set per the new Post-Collection Agreement between RecycleMore and West County Resource Recovery, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic Services, as authorized by the RecycleMore Board of Directors at their November 17, 2025, Meeting ([Agenda Item 8.1](#)).

Residential and commercial customers pay these rates on either a per cart (based on the size of their garbage container) or per bin (based on the cubic yards of a weekly service) basis. Commercial customers (those using debris boxes or customer-owned compactors) pay on a per service plus a per-ton basis.

ANALYSIS

East Bay Sanitary Rate Components

East Bay Sanitary Garbage and Organic Waste Collection Rates

EBS sets and charges the rates for garbage and organic waste collection (EBS Collection Rates) based upon rates authorized by the terms of the Franchise Agreement. The Franchise Agreement allows for an annual adjustment to EBS's compensation via a Refuse Rate Index (RRI). The RRI is based upon a prescribed formula in which inflation indices for seven operational cost categories (e.g., fuel and labor) are weighted and calculated to provide an annual percentage adjustment to the revenue requirement. The City Council reviews EBS's proposed annual rate adjustments for consistency with the RRI. EBS has calculated and proposed a 2026 RRI revenue adjustment of 6.29% over their 2025 revenue requirement. City staff, with the assistance of R3 Consulting Group, a consulting firm that specializes in solid waste management, reviewed the RRI adjustment figures and the proposed 2026 collection revenue requirement and found them to be accurate, consistent, and reasonable. Additionally, as part of the EBS Collection Rates, there will be an adjustment to ancillary service charges contained in Exhibit 3 of the Franchise Agreement, which are allowed to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), annually. This year, the CPI adjustment is 2.12%.

East Bay Sanitary Post-Collection Rates

The City Council also determines that the proposed EBS Post-Collection Rates are consistent with the maximum allowable Post-Collection Rates necessary to cover expenses for processing and disposal of waste. In September 2013, the City Council approved a Post-Collection Agreement (PCA) between the City and Republic Services for processing and disposal services ([Resolution 2013-54](#)) through the services and facilities of the Golden Bear Transfer Station, Keller Canyon Landfill, West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, and West County Resource Recovery. The City's existing agreement with Republic Services, which previously established the Blended Per Ton Rate, expires on December 31, 2025. As a member agency in RecycleMore, the City opted to participate in RecycleMore's competitive request for proposals (RFP) process for a new regional PCA in October 2024. Via that process, RecycleMore received one proposal from the incumbent provider, Republic Services. In April 2025, the City Council authorized RecycleMore to negotiate and enter into a new regional PCA the City's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with RecycleMore ([Resolution 2025-20](#)).

RecycleMore proceeded to negotiate the terms and conditions of a final PCA through June 30, 2040. The PCA established a 2026 Blended Per Ton Rate of \$195.82 per ton of garbage, organic waste, recyclables, construction and demolition debris, and commercial dry waste delivered by EBS and the City to Republic's facilities in West Contra Costa County. This rate also includes funding of El Cerrito's participation in RecycleMore, and is incorporated into EBS Post-Collection Rates paid by El Cerrito residents and businesses. The Blended Per Ton rate will also now apply to the City's curbside recyclable materials, as discussed in the following section.

It should be noted that the City evaluated alternatives to participating in the new RecycleMore post-collection agreement, including the potential for EBS and the City to haul wastes to other post-collection facilities operating in Contra Costa County, Marin County, and Alameda County. It was ultimately determined that such alternatives were infeasible or impractical given the additional costs for capital improvements, and increased travel distance that these alternatives would require.

Integrated Waste Management Fees

Component three of the rates and fees paid by El Cerrito residents and businesses for Solid waste management and recycling services is the Integrated Waste Management Fee. In 1990, the City of El Cerrito established IWM Fees to fund integrated waste management services provided by the City. The IWM Fee covers services including curbside collection of recyclable materials, contracted processing of curbside recyclable materials, operations of the RERC, and other waste collection, reduction, recycling, and related environmental programs operated by the City (such as illegal dumping abatement, technical assistance for businesses that must comply with state mandated recycling and composting laws, regulatory compliance, and collection of materials banned from landfills such as electronics, batteries, and medical sharps). The budget for the IWM Fund is approved as part of the City's budget-setting process for each fiscal year, while the IWM Fees are usually approved as part of the solid waste rates on a calendar year basis.

The proposed fee adjustment is higher than that included in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget, as well as the 10-year fund forecast. This is due to the new \$195.82 per ton rate for processing of curbside recyclable materials delivered to Republic Services facilities in West Contra Costa County. This represents an expense of approximately \$658,000 in 2026, an increase of approximately \$473,000 compared to estimated 2025 expenses of approximately \$185,000. The reason for the increase is due to a change in the per ton rate from \$55.00 per ton (delivered to recycling facilities in Napa) to the new \$195.82 (delivered to facilities in West Contra Costa County). This increase will be partially offset by decreases in bridge tolls (approximately \$11,000 annually) and fuel usage (approximately \$25,000 annually). City staff anticipate additional benefits of reduced travel distances – these benefits have not yet been quantified but include reduced vehicle emissions and wear and tear on the truck fleet.

Zero Emission Vehicle Funding Strategy

Prior to 2024, EBS rates and the IWM Fee did not incorporate funding for future zero emission vehicle (ZEV) purchases. The costs of purchasing ZEV are significantly greater than internal combustion collection vehicles. The 2024 and 2025 EBS rates and IWM Fees were authorized to generate approximately \$167,500 each year in funding, for a total of approximately \$335,000 in new funding generated in each year (2024 and 2025). This \$335,000 figure is approximately a third of today's cost for one electric collection vehicle. Following this approach, the City and EBS would be able to purchase one (1) ZEV in 2028, once the three-year funding approach has been completed. However, for EBS, the timing of a ZEV purchase is also governed by the terms and conditions of the Agreement and may be affected by other considerations depending on EBS' financial performance and the availability of ZEV technology.

An achievable funding plan for ZEV implementation will be contingent on several factors, including: stable solid waste subscription levels (which may fluctuate especially if a recession were to occur); rate-setting calculations and adoption in 2027 that continue to include additional funding for all costs to be identified in the forthcoming ZEV transition plan; and barring unexpected, unforeseen significant expenses. The proposed 2026 rates continue the funding strategy for a future ZEV for IWM, as the revenue projection for ZEV is built into the IWM 10-year plan. The proposed 2026 rates do not include additional ZEV funding for EBS because existing revenues are projected to continue to generate a surplus of compensation. Additionally, given that the overall 2026 rate adjustment will be over 10%, this approach protects ratepayers from even higher rates in 2026.

The City and EBS will continue to evaluate the fiscal needs and opportunities for a ZEV purchase by EBS as per the terms and conditions of the Franchise Agreement.

Revenue Requirement and Rate Change Summary

Residential solid waste services are priced based on the garbage container size, regardless of how much a customer's reduction in garbage is shifted to recycling and organic waste. Commercial customers also receive unlimited recycling service based on the garbage container size.

As shown in the table below, the revenue requirement for the entire suite of solid waste services will increase by \$1,309,360 (compared to 2025) for a total 2026 rate revenue of \$13,143,303. Overall, as shown in Attachment 3, residential solid waste rates and fees are proposed to increase by 10.6% to 11.6%, primarily due to the increase in the Blended Per Ton rate in the new post-collection agreement between RecycleMore and Republic Services. Commercial solid waste rates and fees are proposed to increase by 10.2% to 11.2%.

Table 1: 2026 Revenue Requirements

Component	2025*	2026	\$ Change	% Change in Rates
EBS Collection Revenue	\$5,820,432	\$6,186,537	\$366,105	3.1%
EBS Balancing Account	(\$364,292)	(\$333,145)	\$31,147	0.3%
EBS Post-Collection Revenue	\$1,700,477	\$2,437,127	\$736,650	6.2%
IWM Collection and RERC Revenue	\$4,077,258	\$4,192,975	\$115,717	1.0%
IWM Post-Collection Revenue	\$184,745	\$657,759	\$473,014	4.0%
Additional Funding (Rate Stabilization/ ZEV Transition)	\$415,322	\$2,049	-\$413,272	-3.5%
Total Revenue Requirement	\$11,833,942	\$13,143,303	\$1,309,360	11.1%

*Estimated Revenues in November 2025

If the proposed adjustments are implemented, the combined fees will result in total monthly cost increases (over rates adopted January 1, 2025) for residential customers of \$5.49 for 20-gallon customers (49% of residential subscriptions), \$7.93 for 35-gallon customers (47% of residential subscriptions), and \$15.73 for 64-gallon customers (4% of residential subscriptions). Bulk commercial collection rates will increase by \$49.40 to \$98.80 for once weekly collection for a one cubic yard and two cubic yard container, respectively. The proposed EBS Collection and Post-Collection Rates, IWM Fees, and total solid waste rates, are included in Attachments 1, 2 and 3.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *High Performing Organization* by maintaining an emphasis on providing excellent customer service and ensuring the IWM Fund has a fund balance for cash flow and contingency purposes; and
- *Environmental Sustainability* by implementing the City's Climate Action and Adaption Plan, including reducing the amount of waste generated in El Cerrito, transitioning to a ZEV fleet, and providing for implementation of SB 1383, which aims to directly reduce the emissions of short-lived climate pollutants and subsequently help mitigate the effects of climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

All jurisdictions in California are required by law to provide recycling and organics recycling services for their residents and businesses through mandates established in AB 989, AB 341, and AB 1826. Recent legislation, SB 1383, mandated higher recycling and composting compliance rates starting in 2023.

Reliable and proper disposal, processing, and diversion of solid waste is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the community and the environment. The services being funded by the proposed 2026 EBS Collection Rates and Post-Collection Rates and IWM Fees not only ensure compliance with the State law and reliable solid waste collection, they also enable El Cerrito to reduce its environmental impact through robust solid waste diversion and HHW programs. The services funded by the rates and fees also contribute to implementation of the El Cerrito Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Authorization of the maximum 2025 EBS Rates and setting of IWM Fees, as proposed, supports funding the revenue requirements of the entities, including the City, that provide solid waste services for the City.

The cost for processing of curbside recyclable materials is estimated to increase \$473,014 per year, offset by decreased costs of approximately \$36,000 at a minimum for decreased toll and full costs. For the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-26, City staff requests a budget authorization of \$218,507 from the IWM Fund. The additional expenditure will be funded by the proposed IWM Fee increase.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed actions and found that legal considerations have been addressed. The public hearing notice was published in the November 22 and 28, 2025 editions of the West County/East Bay Times.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Pinkos', is written over a light blue grid background.

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution (EBS)
2. Resolution (IWM)
3. 2026 Solid Waste Rate Schedule

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATES FOR THE COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND ORGANIC WASTE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito and East Bay Sanitary Company (“the Company”) have entered into a Solid Waste Collection Services Agreement dated June 1, 2022 (the “Franchise Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Company has submitted a request for rate increases to be effective January 1, 2026, and such request was submitted pursuant to the methodology established in the Franchise Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the rate adjustments submitted to the City have been reviewed for accuracy, consistency with the adjustment methodology, and reasonableness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that the maximum monthly rates, unless otherwise noted, that East Bay Sanitary Company may charge, effective January 1, 2026, are as follows:

Garbage Container Size	Collection Rate	Post-Collection Rate
Residential		
20 Gallon Cart	\$24.00	\$8.90
35 Gallon Cart	\$33.87	\$15.61
64 Gallon Cart	\$67.74	\$31.20
Additional 35 Gallon Organics	\$16.94	\$7.80
Additional 64 Gallon Organics	\$33.88	\$15.61
Commercial		
20 Gallon Cart	\$26.12	\$8.90
35 Gallon Cart	\$36.79	\$15.61
64 Gallon Cart	\$73.59	\$31.20
One Cubic Yard (Loose)	\$241.63	\$90.26
One Cubic Yard (Compacted)	\$418.99	\$180.44
Two Cubic Yards (Loose)	\$466.99	\$180.44
Two Cubic Yard (Compacted)	\$838.02	\$360.92
Additional 35 Gallon Organics	\$16.94	\$7.80
Additional 64 Gallon Organics	\$33.88	\$15.61
One Cubic Yard Organics	\$232.92	\$90.26
On-Call Compacted Rate (per yard)	\$96.69	\$41.64

Standard Service Charges	
Contaminated Container Charge	\$27.44
Overage Charge	\$27.44
Cart Cleaning	\$27.44
Bin Cleaning	\$54.87
Roll-off Cleaning	\$109.74
Cart / Bin Replacement Charge	\$71.33/ \$1,097.37
Additional Large Item Collection Charge	Per Extra Service Rates Below
Extra Service Charges (Services and Charges per Service Recipient Request)	
Extra Solid Waste Collection Services	
Return for Service Charge (if Container not set out)	\$27.44
Extra 15-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$6.96
Extra 20-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$9.27
Extra 30-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$13.88
Extra 64-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$29.57
Extra 1/2 CU YD (4 x 30-gal bags)	\$46.64
Extra CU YD (8 x 30-gal bags)	\$93.28
Extra Dump on 1 YD Container	\$121.26
Extra Dump on 2 YD Container	\$215.15
Additional Services	
Toilet (Seat & Water Tank)	\$82.31
Sofa up to 7FT / Sofa Bed	\$65.84 / \$87.79
Stuffed Chair / Lazy Boy / Recliner	\$65.84
Twin / Full – Mattress or Box Spring	\$65.84
Queen / King – Mattress or Box Spring	\$71.33
Baby Crib Mattress	\$21.95
TV / Computer Monitor	\$164.61
Dishwasher / Washer / Dryer / Stove	\$109.74
Water Heater	\$87.79 /+\$10.97 per gal
Refrigerator / Freezer / AC Unit	\$137.18
Area Rug 5ft and up	\$21.95 - \$43.90
Office Chair	\$21.95
Office Desk	\$21.95 - \$54.87
Patio Furniture (Tables/Chairs)	\$54.87 - \$98.76
Dining Table / Chairs	\$54.87 - \$98.76
L-Shape Sectional	\$65.84 - \$164.61
Bedframe (Head/Footrest + Railing)	\$54.87 - \$98.76
Bookshelves / End Tables / Nightstands	\$43.90 - \$98.76
Exercise Equipment	\$109.74 - \$164.61
Kitchen Cabinets / Sink / Windows	\$54.87- \$164.61
Lock and Key Set for Carts or Containers	\$32.92
Locking System Installation on Containers	\$164.61

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on _____.

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO FIXING AND SETTING THE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND APPROPRIATING AN ALLOCATION FROM THE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$218,507 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito has established Integrated Waste Management Fees (IWM Fees) for Integrated Waste Management Services provided by the City including operation of the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center, curbside collection of recyclable materials, and other waste collection, reduction, recycling and related environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito sets and charges the IWM Fees, and the Fees are collected by East Bay Sanitary Company as part of the garbage bills and transferred in whole to the City of El Cerrito's Integrated Waste Management Fund, unless the City directs otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the City has reviewed and considered financial information as a part of the regular budget process as well as more recent financial information to determine whether increases to IWM Fees are warranted and justified; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to adopt IWM Fees to be effective January 1, 2026, thus keeping the City's Integrated Waste Management Services as an on-going concern.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that the fees for each IWM service, which are monthly rates unless otherwise noted, shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2026:

Garbage Container Size	IWM Fee
Residential and Commercial	
20 Gallon Cart	\$24.38
35 Gallon Cart	\$26.66
64 Gallon Cart	\$52.25
One Cubic Yard (Loose & Compacted)	\$188.33
Two Cubic Yards (Loose & Compacted)	\$376.65
Additional 35 Gallon Organics	\$13.33
Additional 64 Gallon Organics	\$26.13
Additional One Cubic Yard Organics	\$43.46
On-Call Compacted Rate (per yard)	\$43.46
On-Call Roll-off (per load)	\$137.62

Service Charges (Per Service / Incident) (\$)	
Contaminated Container Charge (per incident after warnings)	\$27.44
Overage Charge	\$27.44
Cart Replacement / Bin Replacement	\$71.33/ \$1,097.37
Return for Service	\$27.44
Extra Dump on Recycling Cart	\$29.57
Cart Cleaning	\$27.44
Bin Cleaning	\$54.87
Extra Dump on 1 YD Container	\$121.26
Extra Dump on 2 YD Container	\$215.15
Lock and Key Set for Carts or Containers	\$32.92
Locking System Installation on Containers	\$164.61

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget to appropriate \$218,507 from the Integrated Waste Management Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
 NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
 ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:
 ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on _____.

Holly M. Charl  ty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

The City of El Cerrito

2026 Solid Waste Collection, Processing and Disposal Rates Effective January 1, 2026



Residential Rates | Single Family Homes and Multi-family Dwellings up to 4 units

Residential Solid Waste Services include weekly collection of recycling (grey), organics (green), garbage (blue); limited free on-call collection of larger quantities from your home; free access to the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, and free access to most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

Weekly Collection of Recycling, Organics, and Garbage						
<i>Monthly Cost based on garbage container size</i>						
Container Size	Collection	Post-Collection	IWM Fee	January 2026 Total Monthly Cost	January 2025 Total Monthly Cost	\$ Change in Monthly Cost
20 Gallon Cart	\$24.00	\$8.90	\$24.38	\$57.28	\$51.79	\$5.49
35 Gallon Cart	\$33.87	\$15.61	\$26.66	\$76.14	\$68.21	\$7.93
64 Gallon Cart	\$67.74	\$31.20	\$52.25	\$151.19	\$135.46	\$15.73
Weekly Collection of Additional Organics Containers (one 64 gallon organics container serviced weekly included in above rates)						
<i>Monthly Cost based on size of each additional organic waste container</i>						
Container Size	Collection	Post-Collection	IWM Fee	January 2026 Total Monthly Cost	January 2025 Total Monthly Cost	\$ Change in Monthly Cost
35 Gallon Cart	\$16.94	\$7.80	\$13.33	\$38.07	\$34.11	\$3.96
64 Gallon Cart	\$33.88	\$15.61	\$26.13	\$75.62	\$67.75	\$7.87

Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fee: The IWM Fee funds unlimited curbside recycling collection for El Cerrito residents and businesses, the daily operations of the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (RERC), and other waste collection, source reduction, and integrated waste management services. The IWM Fee is set and assessed on each trash container collected by East Bay Sanitary Company based on trash container size, and any extra organics container collected by East Bay Sanitary Company based on the size of the extra organic waste container.

The City of El Cerrito

2026 Solid Waste Collection, Processing and Disposal Rates Effective January 1, 2026



Commercial Rates | Businesses and Multi-family Dwellings over 4 units

Commercial Solid Waste Services include collection of recycling (grey), one 64 gallon organic waste (green) container collected once weekly, and garbage (blue). Commercial Solid Waste Services also include access to the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (in quantities equivalent to those of residential properties). Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

Once Weekly Collection of Garbage Containers						
Monthly rate based on garbage container size						
Container Size	Collection	Post-Collection	IWM Fee	January 2026 Total Monthly Cost	January 2025 Total Monthly Cost	\$ Change in Monthly Cost
20 Gallon Cart	\$26.12	\$8.90	\$24.38	\$59.40	\$53.91	\$5.49
35 Gallon Cart	\$36.79	\$15.61	\$26.66	\$79.06	\$71.13	\$7.93
64 Gallon Cart	\$73.59	\$31.20	\$52.25	\$157.04	\$141.31	\$15.73
One Cubic Yard (Loose)	\$241.63	\$90.26	\$188.33	\$520.22	\$470.82	\$49.40
One Cubic Yard (Compacted)	\$418.99	\$180.44	\$188.33	\$787.76	\$708.72	\$79.04
Two Cubic Yards (Loose)	\$466.99	\$180.44	\$376.65	\$1,024.08	\$925.28	\$98.80
Two Cubic Yards (Compacted)	\$838.02	\$360.92	\$376.65	\$1,575.59	\$1,417.61	\$157.98
Multiple Weekly Collections of Garbage Containers						
Monthly rate based on garbage container size and number of pickups per week						
Container Size	1	2	Pickups per week		5	6
			3	4		
20 Gallon Cart	\$ 59.40	\$ 118.80	\$ 178.20	\$ 237.60	\$ 297.00	\$ 356.40
35 Gallon Cart	\$ 79.06	\$ 158.12	\$ 237.18	\$ 316.24	\$ 395.30	\$ 474.36
64 Gallon Cart	\$ 157.04	\$ 314.08	\$ 471.12	\$ 628.16	\$ 785.20	\$ 942.24
One Cubic Yard (Loose)	\$ 520.22	\$ 1,008.32	\$ 1,496.43	\$ 1,984.54	\$ 2,472.64	\$ 2,960.75
One Cubic Yard (Compacted)	\$ 787.76	\$ 1,575.51	\$ 2,363.27	\$ 3,151.03	\$ 3,938.78	\$ 4,726.54
Two Cubic Yards (Loose)	\$ 1,024.08	\$ 2,000.17	\$ 2,976.25	\$ 3,952.33	\$ 4,928.42	\$ 5,904.50
Two Cubic Yards (Compacted)	\$ 1,575.60	\$ 3,151.20	\$ 4,726.80	\$ 6,302.40	\$ 7,878.00	\$ 9,453.60
Additional Weekly Collection of Universal Organic Waste Containers						
Monthly rate based on each additional collection of organic waste containers beyond those provided with base garbage rates						
Container Size	1	2	Pickups per week		5	
			3	4		
64 Gallon Cart (first weekly collection included in garbage rate)	INCLUDED	\$ 75.62	\$ 151.24	\$ 226.86	\$ 302.48	
Weekly Collection of Additional Organic Waste Containers						
Monthly rate for each additional organic waste container beyond the one provided with the base garbage rate, collected once weekly						
Container Size	Collection	Post-Collection	IWM Fee	January 2026 Total Monthly Cost	January 2025 Total Monthly Cost	\$ Change in Monthly Cost
35 Gallon Cart	\$ 16.94	\$ 7.80	\$ 13.33	\$ 38.07	\$ 34.11	\$ 3.96
64 Gallon Cart	\$ 33.88	\$ 15.61	\$ 26.13	\$ 75.62	\$ 67.75	\$ 7.87
One Cubic Yard	\$ 232.92	\$ 90.26	\$ 43.46	\$ 366.64	\$ 332.45	\$ 34.19
Multiple Weekly Collections of Additional Organic Waste Containers						
Monthly rate based on size and collection frequency for each additional organic waste container						
Container Size	1	2	Pickups per week		5	
			3	4		
35 Gallon Cart	\$ 38.07	\$ 76.14	\$ 114.21	\$ 152.28	\$ 190.35	
64 Gallon Cart	\$ 75.62	\$ 151.24	\$ 226.86	\$ 302.48	\$ 378.10	
One Cubic Yard	\$ 366.64	\$ 701.17	\$ 1,035.70	\$ 1,370.23	\$ 1,704.76	

The City of El Cerrito
2026 Solid Waste Collection, Processing and Disposal Rates
Effective January 1, 2026



EBS Exhibit 3
2025 Service Charges

Service Charge Type	2025 Charge Per Unit	CPI	2026 Charge Per Unit
Standard Service Charges			
Contaminated Container Charge (Per Article 3)	\$26.87	2.12%	\$27.44
Overage Charge (Per Article 3)	\$26.87	2.12%	\$27.44
Cart Cleaning (Per Article 3)	\$26.87	2.12%	\$27.44
Bin Cleaning (Per Article 3)	\$53.73	2.12%	\$54.87
Roll-off Cleaning (Per Article 3)	\$107.46	2.12%	\$109.74
Cart / Bin Replacement Charge (Per Articles 6 and 7)*	\$69.85 / \$1,074.59	2.12%	\$71.33/ \$1,097.37
Additional Large Item Collection Charge (Per Articles 6 and 7)	Per Extra Service Rates Below		
Back-up Recycling Collection Services Charges (Per Article 10) and Emergency Service Charges (Per Article 16)			
– Collection Vehicle per day*	\$386.85	2.12%	\$395.05
– Driver per Hour / Overtime*	\$163.34 / \$186.98	2.12%	\$166.80 / \$190.94
– Driver per Day / Overtime*	\$955.3 / \$1,144.43	2.12%	\$975.55 / \$1,168.69
Extra Service Charges (Services and Charges per Service Recipient Request)			
Extra Solid Waste Collection Services			
Return for Service Charge (if Container not set out)	\$26.87	2.12%	\$27.44
Extra 15-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$6.82	2.12%	\$6.96
Extra 20-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$9.08	2.12%	\$9.27
Extra 30-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$13.59	2.12%	\$13.88
Extra 64-gal bag of Garbage or Organic Waste	\$28.96	2.12%	\$29.57
Extra 1/2 CU YD (4 x 30-gal bags)	\$45.67	2.12%	\$46.64
Extra CU YD (8 x 30-gal bags)	\$91.34	2.12%	\$93.28
Extra Dump on 1 YD Container	\$118.74	2.12%	\$121.26
Extra Dump on 2 YD Container	\$210.68	2.12%	\$215.15
Additional Services			
Toilet (Seat & Water Tank)*	\$80.60	2.12%	\$82.31
Sofa up to 7FT / Sofa Bed*	\$64.47 / \$85.97	2.12%	\$65.84 / \$87.79
Stuffed Chair / Lazy Boy / Recliner*	\$64.47	2.12%	\$65.84
Twin / Full – Mattress or Box Spring*	\$64.47	2.12%	\$65.84
Queen / King – Mattress or Box Spring*	\$69.85	2.12%	\$71.33
Baby Crib Mattress*	\$21.49	2.12%	\$21.95
TV / Computer Monitor*	\$161.19	2.12%	\$164.61
Dishwasher / Washer / Dryer / Stove*	\$107.46	2.12%	\$109.74
Water Heater *	\$85.97 /+\$10.74 per gal	2.12%	\$87.79 /+\$10.97 per gal
Refrigerator / Freezer / AC Unit*	\$134.33	2.12%	\$137.18
Area Rug 5ft and up*	\$21.49 - \$42.99	2.12%	\$21.95 - \$43.90
Office Chair*	\$21.49	2.12%	\$21.95
Office Desk*	\$21.49 - \$53.73	2.12%	\$21.95 - \$54.87
Patio Furniture (Tables/Chairs)*	\$53.73 - \$96.71	2.12%	\$54.87 - \$98.76
Dining Table / Chairs*	\$53.73 - \$96.71	2.12%	\$54.87 - \$98.76
L-Shape Sectional*	\$64.47 - \$161.19	2.12%	\$65.84 - \$164.61
Bedframe (Head/Footrest + Railing)*	\$53.73 - \$96.71	2.12%	\$54.87 - \$98.76
Bookshelves / End Tables / Nightstands*	\$42.99- \$96.71	2.12%	\$43.90 - \$98.76
Exercise Equipment*	\$107.46 - \$161.19	2.12%	\$109.74 - \$164.61
Kitchen Cabinets / Sink / Windows*	\$53.73 - \$161.19	2.12%	\$54.87- \$164.61
Lock and Key Set for Carts or Containers	\$32.24	2.12%	\$32.92
Locking System Installation on Containers	\$161.19	2.12%	\$164.61

The City of El Cerrito

2026 Solid Waste Collection, Processing and Disposal Rates

Effective January 1, 2026



**Integrated Waste Management (IWM)
2026 Service Charges (Charged and Collected by EBS)**

Service Charge Type	2026 Charge Per Unit
Standard Service Charges	
Contaminated Container Charge	\$27.44
Overage Charge	\$27.44
Cart / Bin Replacement Charge	\$71.33/ \$1,097.37
Cart Cleaning	\$27.44
Bin Cleaning	\$54.87
Extra Service Charges (Services and Charges per Service Recipient Request)	
Extra Solid Waste Collection Services	
Return for Service Charge (if Container not set out)	\$27.44
Extra Dump on Recycling Cart	\$29.57
Extra Dump on 1 YD Container	\$121.26
Extra Dump on 2 YD Container	\$215.15
Additional Services	
Lock and Key Set for Carts or Containers	\$32.92
Locking System Installation on Containers	\$164.61



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 8.B.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Sean Moss, Planning Manager, Community Development Department
Subject: Adoption of an amendment to the Safety Element of the El Cerrito General Plan

ACTION PROPOSED

Conduct a public hearing, and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution finding that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that an Addendum has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, and amending the El Cerrito General Plan and adopting an update to the Safety Element.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to California Government Code, all cities and counties in California are required to adopt General Plans. The General Plan is a policy document that establishes a citywide vision and consistent direction for future development. It reflects community priorities and values, and includes supporting goals, policies, and implementation measures to achieve the community's vision. There are seven mandatory “elements” or topics that every jurisdiction must include in its General Plan. Safety is one of the mandatory elements.

The current El Cerrito General Plan was adopted in 1999. Rather than each element being organized into individual chapters, the required elements are woven throughout eight chapters. The introduction to each chapter explains which components of the required elements are contained in that chapter. El Cerrito’s existing Safety Element resides within portions of *Chapter 7: Resources and Hazards*. The General Plan has been amended strategically at various times, notably in 2014 to accommodate the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan. However, the Safety Element portion of the General Plan has not been substantively amended since its adoption.

Senate Bill 1035, adopted in 2018, requires cities and counties to update their Safety Elements upon each revision of the Housing Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, but not less than once every 8 years. El Cerrito’s updated Housing Element was adopted by the City Council on August 15, 2023 and City staff indicated to the state Department of Housing and Community Development that the Safety Element would be updated subsequently. The Governor’s Office Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) publishes General Plan Guidelines that describe the focus and requirements of the mandatory elements. The Safety Element generally addresses risks of injury, death, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from various hazards including fire, earthquake, flood, landslide, and climate change.

In 2023, the City selected PlaceWorks as the consultant for the Safety Element update ([Resolution 2023-83](#)) and commenced the Safety Element update project in early 2024. On May 30, 2024, the City held a community meeting to gather feedback on the Safety Element update. City staff and PlaceWorks provided an informational presentation on the update followed by an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments. The first part of the meeting was then followed by an open house with interactive stations covering various safety topics.

On November 20, 2024, City staff and PlaceWorks presented the draft policies to the Planning Commission and gathered feedback from the Commission and the public. Staff and the consultant utilized the feedback from the Commission and the public to develop a draft of the updated Safety Element.

The [public review draft](#) of the Safety Element was published on August 15, 2025. Comments were accepted through September 15, 2025.

On October 15, 2025, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and considered the draft of the updated Safety Element. The Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt the updated Safety Element without any modifications. The Commission also recommended that the City Council find that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that the Addendum to the General Plan EIR has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify natural and human-caused hazards that may result in personal injury, loss of life, property damage, or environmental damage, and to include safety considerations in planning and decision-making processes by establishing goals and policies that address potential hazards.

The draft Safety Element begins with an overview that describes the purpose of the Element and its relationship to other plans. The Element then identifies seven categories of hazards present in the community. For each category of hazard, the Element describes the hazard generally and how it could affect El Cerrito. The Element then identifies one broad goal to address that category of hazards and a more specific set of policies to implement the goal. The identified categories of hazards include seismic and geologic hazards, hazardous waste and materials, flood and inundation, fire hazards, extreme heat and severe weather, drought, and human health hazards. Additionally, the Element addresses emergency preparedness and response through the inclusion of an eighth goal and policies for this topic. The Element also contains a policy matrix which lists each policy, the entities responsible for leading and supporting the implementation of the policy, the relative timing and cost of the implementation, and potential funding sources.

The updated Safety Element is proposed as a new stand-alone section of the General Plan. This new document would replace portions of the existing *Chapter 7: Resources and Hazards*. A redlined version of Chapter 7, illustrating what is being replaced, has been provided in Attachment 3. This document shows the portions of the existing General Plan that constitute the existing Safety Element and that would be struck as part of this action and replaced by the updated Safety Element. Not all portions of the existing Safety Element would be completely eliminated. Some existing policies will be carried over to the new Safety Element in modified versions. However, since these policies are being included in the new Safety Element, they are proposed to be removed from Chapter 7, so as not to be redundant and confusing.

Input from the public has been accepted throughout the update process, including as part of the May 30, 2024 community meeting, the November 20, 2024 Planning Commission meeting, the review of the draft Safety Element, and the October 15, 2025 Planning Commission meeting. The input received at each stage has been incorporated into the draft Safety Element as appropriate.

Notable changes to the document that incorporate feedback from the public and the Planning Commission include:

- Expanded focus of the Safety Element policies to cover multiple hazards and long-term community resilience
- Strengthened communication, outreach, and equity considerations throughout the Safety Element policies
- Clarified department roles and timelines in the policy matrix
- Updated data and mapping references using current State and federal resources
- Refined organization and language for consistency and ease of use
- Integrated long-term resilience into City budgeting and CIP

The Safety Element update also responds to several recent applicable changes in state law. Senate Bill 379 (2015) requires that the local agencies address climate adaptation within General Plans. Climate adaptation in El Cerrito was addressed as part of the recent update to the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Accordingly, the CAAP Climate Risk Assessment is referenced in the draft Safety Element. Assembly Bill 747 (2019) requires identification of evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. This evacuation analysis is included as Appendix A to the draft Safety Element. This analysis has informed many of the policies contained under Goal 8 (Emergency Preparedness and Response). Senate Bill 99 (2019) requires identification of residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. A map identifying these areas is included in the draft Safety Element as Figure S-14 (Evacuation-Constrained Parcels).

Review by Other Agencies

During the update process, the draft element was circulated to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the California Geological Survey, as required. Jurisdictions containing either State Responsibility Areas for fire protection or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones must submit their draft Safety Elements to CAL FIRE's Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for review and comment prior to adoption, per California Government Code 65302.5. Prior to this formal process, CAL FIRE typically works with local government staff to conduct an informal review of the draft Safety Element. This process allows CAL FIRE staff to make recommendations for how the draft Safety Element may be improved before going to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, streamlining the review process. The draft Safety Element was submitted for informal review by CAL FIRE staff on August 20, 2025. CAL FIRE staff provided a limited set of recommended edits to the background information and policies related to wildfire and fire protection in the draft Safety Element. City staff incorporated these edits into the draft Safety Element, confirmed them with CAL FIRE staff, and then submitted the revised draft Safety Element for formal review by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on October 6, 2025. The Board conducted a formal hearing on the draft Safety Element on November 4, 2025. At this hearing, Board members praised the draft Safety Element and recommended only two minor technical edits, which have been addressed in the draft Safety Element. Staff from the Office of Emergency Services confirmed that the draft Safety Element appropriately integrates the Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, allowing the City to be eligible for additional disaster relief funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act, should such funding be necessary. Staff from the California Geological Survey did not provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Safety Element.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the City's Strategic Plan Goal of Public Safety by:

- Aligning public safety services with community needs based on a data-driven decision-making approach.
- Strengthening El Cerrito's overall disaster preparedness capabilities, resources, and tools and implement changes as needed to ensure the City is properly positioned to respond to emergencies and disasters; and
- Sustaining and enhancing climate-adapted resilience, forest conservation activities, and wildfire prevention in the Hillside Nature Area.

It also supports the Strategic Plan Goal of Livability and Belonging by:

- Updating the General Plan to reflect and address current community values.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), City staff analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the draft Safety Element and determined that an Addendum to the 1999 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the El Cerrito General Plan is the appropriate document under CEQA. The proposed update to the Safety Element is a policy-level planning effort. It does not result in or authorize physical changes to the environment and will not change the current land use designations or assumptions about future development made in the certified General Plan EIR. It is also not reasonably foreseeable that adoption of the update will cause new impacts or result in a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects, and will not require the preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR under the criteria in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162(a) and 15163(a). An addendum to the General Plan EIR was therefore prepared pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. The addendum to the General Plan EIR is included as Attachment 4.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The relative cost (low, medium, high) of the implementation of each policy in the Safety Element is identified in the Policy Matrix (Table 1 of the Safety Element). City staff will continue to pursue grant funding for Safety Element implementation tasks when possible. Funding for Safety Element implementation tasks will be considered through the biennial budget process and the CIP process.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report and the draft resolution have been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Pinkos', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Draft Safety Element
3. Amended El Cerrito General Plan Chapter 7
4. Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the El Cerrito General Plan

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO MAKING FINDINGS REQUIRED FINDINGS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND ADOPTING A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO INCORPORATE THE 2025 SAFETY ELEMENT INTO THE EL CERRITO GENERAL PLAN

WHEREAS, recent legislation, including SB 1035 and SB 379, requires that Safety Elements be updated every eight years, in conjunction with Housing Element updates; and

WHEREAS, the current El Cerrito Housing Element (2023-2031) was adopted by the City Council on August 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, the City Council approved a contract with Placeworks to prepare an update of the City's Safety Element (Resolution 2023-83); and

WHEREAS, as provided in Government Code Section 65350 et. Seq. and Public Resources Code adoption of the 2025 Safety Element Update constitutes a General Plan Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Safety Element incorporates by reference the current Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, as required by AB 2140; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Safety Element was reviewed by CAL FIRE, the California Geological Survey, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; and developed in consultation with emergency service providers and the public, and reflects best practices outlined in the State's General Plan Guidelines and Technical Advisories; and

WHEREAS, public meetings for the Safety Element update were held on May 30, 2024 and November 20, 2024, and a public review draft of the Element was published on August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as provided in Government Code Sections 65352 -- 65352.5 the City mailed a public notice to all California Native American tribes provided by the Native American Heritage Commission and other entities listed on June 23, 2025 and the City completed consultation with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation and the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan; and

WHEREAS, an addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the 1999 City of El Cerrito General Plan (SCH No. 99022058) has been prepared in conjunction with the Safety Element update pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2025, the El Cerrito Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and recommended that the City Council find that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that the Addendum to the General Plan EIR has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission further recommended that the City Council adopt a General Plan amendment to incorporate the 2025 Safety Element into the El Cerrito General Plan; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2025 the El Cerrito City Council conducted a duly noticed public hearing and carefully considered all maps, facts, exhibits, correspondence, and testimony, and other evidence submitted in this matter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that the City Council does find and determine the following:

1. The City Council has reviewed the Addendum to the City's certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 99022058) for the Safety Element General Plan Amendment, which determined that the 2025 Safety Element would not result in significant environmental impacts not previously studied in the EIR, and would not result in any conditions identified in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162 that would require additional environmental review, and thus the City Council finds that the Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 99022058) is complete and adequate for the consideration of the General Plan Amendment.
2. The 2025 Safety Element is in the public interest and furthers the City of El Cerrito's commitment to public safety, resilience, and emergency preparedness.
3. The 2025 Safety Element is internally consistent with the other elements of the El Cerrito General Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council finds that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that the Addendum to the General Plan EIR has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts a General Plan Amendment to revise Chapter 7: Resources and Hazards of the El Cerrito General Plan and incorporate the 2025 Safety Element into the El Cerrito General Plan.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

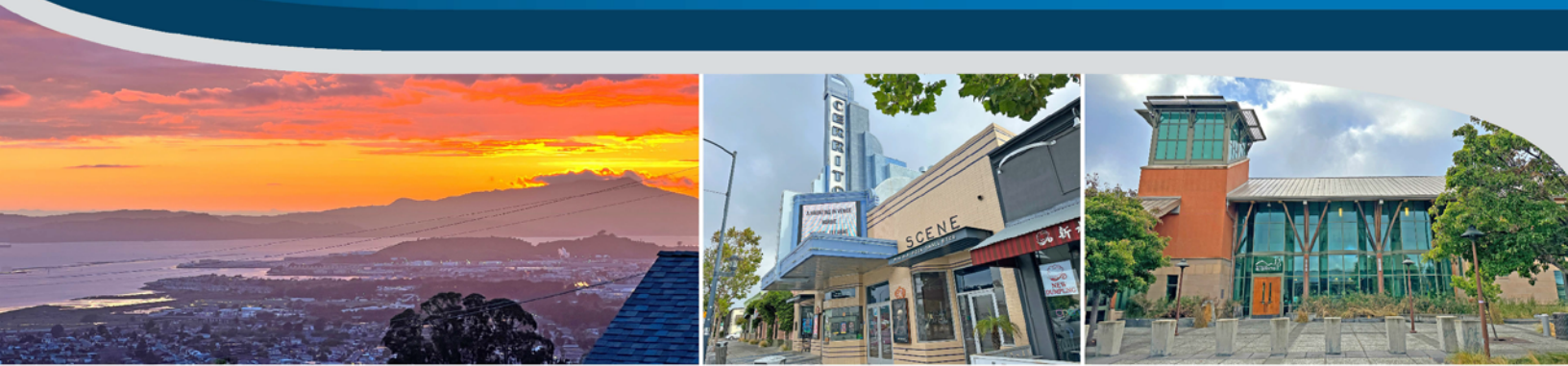
IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on_____.

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

Safety Element



Hearing Draft

November 2025

Prepared for:

City of El Cerrito
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510.215.4300

Prepared by:

PlaceWorks
2040 Bancroft Way, Suite 400,
Berkeley, CA 94704
510.848.3815

Safety Element

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Safety Element

OVERVIEW

The Safety Element is the section of the City's General Plan that helps to protect the community against natural disasters and other hazardous conditions. This Element identifies these hazards and contains goals, policies, and implementation measures to improve El Cerrito's resilience.

PURPOSE AND CONTENT

The Safety Element follows the requirements of Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code, which mandates that the Safety Element contain background information and policies to address multiple natural hazards, an analysis of vulnerabilities from climate change, policies to improve climate change resilience, and an assessment of residential areas with evacuation constraints. This Safety Element covers the following safety issues in El Cerrito:

- Seismic and geologic hazards
- Hazardous waste and materials
- Flood and inundation hazards
- Fire hazards
- Extreme heat and severe weather
- Drought
- Human health hazards
- Emergency preparedness and response

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LOCAL PLANS

The El Cerrito General Plan's Safety Element is one of several plans that address community safety and related topics. Other plans include the Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, El Cerrito Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, El Cerrito Emergency Operations Plan, and various local regulations. The Safety Element is consistent with these other plans and integrates them as appropriate to ensure that the City has a unified strategy to address public safety and resilience issues.

General Plan Elements

The Safety Element provides policy direction and designs safety improvements that complement the intent and policies of other General Plan elements/chapters. How land uses are determined in areas prone to natural hazards, what regulations limit development in these areas, and how hazards are mitigated for existing development are all issues that tie the elements together. For instance, the Public Facilities and Services chapter must consider how hazards will affect the park and recreation infrastructure and facilities in El Cerrito but also recognize that parks can provide strategies to reduce flood risks throughout the City. The Housing Element is closely tied to the Safety Element. Future potential development in the City must be protected from hazards and able to adapt to climate change hazards to ensure homes and the people living in them remain safe. Safety Element policies, especially those concerning evacuation routes and critical facilities, must also be consistent

with those of the Transportation and Circulation chapter.

Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) assesses the risk of hazards and vulnerabilities from natural and human-caused hazards, including risk to people and facilities, and identifies short-term (five-year) mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate hazard risks. The LHMP includes a dedicated annex for the City of El Cerrito, which discusses El Cerrito's characteristics and history, development trends, hazard mitigation capabilities, integration with other hazard mitigation planning efforts, and vulnerabilities of specific facilities and infrastructure. Contra Costa County led the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan in collaboration with the City and other local agencies and special districts, in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) hazard mitigation assistance guidance. The current LHMP and El Cerrito Annex, as certified by FEMA, is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6. It is available online at: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6415/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>.

City of El Cerrito Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

On July 16, 2024, the El Cerrito City Council adopted the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and community resilience in the face of climate

change-related hazards. The City developed the CAAP's focus areas and strategies based on results from community engagement, the vulnerability assessment, and GHG analysis. One of these focus areas is community resilience and empowerment, which includes efforts such as establishing climate resilience hubs, conducting equitable climate preparedness activities, and offering public education on climate risks and resources. The CAAP intends to serve as a roadmap toward achieving these goals: reaching aggressive emissions reduction targets, improving El Cerrito's resilience to climate change impacts, and guiding collaboration between the City and community of El Cerrito. The CAAP aims to distribute the benefits of climate action and adaptation equitably by prioritizing vulnerable communities in planning and implementation. The Safety Element incorporates the climate vulnerability assessment in the CAAP, as discussed in greater detail in the following section, and contains policies that support the adaptation and resilience efforts in the CAAP. The CAAP is available online at: <https://el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>.

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Under California law, the Safety Element is required to include a vulnerability assessment that looks at how people, buildings, infrastructure, and other key community assets may be affected by climate change. In 2024, the City conducted a vulnerability assessment to identify current and future climate change impacts and risks to different sectors and communities of El Cerrito. The Vulnerability Assessment includes an overview of climate trends, projections, and impacts for El Cerrito and the broader Bay Area region, and evaluates

the risks and vulnerabilities across four City sectors:

- **Infrastructure and the Built Environment.** El Cerrito's buildings, facilities, and transportation systems.
- **Natural Systems and Water.** El Cerrito's open space, tree canopy, water supply, and water-related (e.g., potable water, wastewater, stormwater) infrastructure.
- **Energy.** El Cerrito's energy delivery infrastructure, supply, and demand.
- **Community Health, Well-Being, and Public Safety.** El Cerrito's community mental and physical health and emergency response services.

El Cerrito faces increasing climate-related risks that threaten these four sectors. Climate change is expected to cause El Cerrito to experience warmer temperatures year-round, including higher maximum summer temperatures and more frequent and severe heat waves; greater precipitation fluctuations between wet and dry years, with higher risk of flooding during wet years and higher risk of drought during dry years; and increasing chance of wildfire and poor air quality due to wildfire smoke. El Cerrito's natural landscapes, urban forests, and water systems are highly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns will stress vegetation, increasing the risk of insect outbreaks, disease, tree mortality, and fire. Extreme weather events in the community, including droughts and floods, will lead to soil erosion, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline. Local water management will become more difficult as intensified rainfall strains aged stormwater infrastructure, increasing the risk of flooding, groundwater contamination, and untreated water entering homes and

waterways. The Bay Area's alternating wet and dry years are likely to create economic and environmental challenges, affecting water availability, agriculture, recreation, and public health.

El Cerrito's energy infrastructure faces growing risks from climate-driven floods, heavy rain, and strong winds, which could damage power lines, substations, and transmission towers, leading to outages. Wildfires pose an additional threat, disrupting energy distribution and impacting residents, businesses, and City operations. Rising temperatures will increase electricity demand, heightening the risk of brownouts and power failures. Climate hazards will also affect community health and safety. More frequent landslides, floods, and wildfires will raise the risk of injury, illness, and mental health challenges, especially for vulnerable populations like seniors and low-income residents. Displacement, property damage, and disruptions may worsen physical and mental health issues. Emergency response activities in the community will also be affected if flooding, landslides, and wildfires disrupt transportation routes, and energy blackouts impact communication systems, delaying critical services. The Vulnerability Assessment, included as Appendix F of the CAAP, is available online at: <https://el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>.

To increase community resilience and help lower vulnerability, the Safety Element includes goals, policies, and implementation measures to improve the resilience of the populations and assets identified as highly vulnerable in the Vulnerability Assessment.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Seismic and geologic hazards are risks caused by the movement of different parts of the earth's surface, known as the crust. Seismic hazards include earthquakes and hazardous events caused by them, such as liquefaction and tsunamis. Geologic hazards are other hazards involving land movements that are not linked to seismic activity, including landslides caused by heavy rains, and can inflict harm to people or property.

Seismic Hazards

Seismic activity occurs along boundaries in the earth's crust, called faults. Pressure along the faults builds over time and is ultimately released, resulting in ground shaking, commonly referred to as an earthquake. Earthquakes can also trigger other hazards, including tsunamis, surface rupture (cracks in the ground surface), liquefaction (causing loose soil to lose its strength), landslides, and subsidence (sinking of the ground surface).

Earthquakes

Though El Cerrito is at risk from many natural and human-caused hazards, the event with the greatest potential for loss of life or property and economic damage is an earthquake. This risk is true for most of the San Francisco Bay Area region, which has several active seismic faults. Earthquake risk is very high in Contra Costa County, including the City of El Cerrito, due to the presence of five major active faults in the region: the Hayward Fault, Calaveras (North Central) Fault, Concord-Green Valley Fault, Mount Diablo Fault, and Greenville Fault.

The Hayward fault, which is an approximately 45-mile-long fault that runs through densely populated areas on the East Bay, passes through eastern El Cerrito. The Hayward Fault is increasingly becoming a hazard of concern throughout the Bay Area because of its likelihood of activity and its intersection with highly populated areas and critical infrastructure. A significant earthquake on the Hayward Fault is predicted to result in catastrophic damage to buildings and infrastructure and substantial loss of life. The probability of experiencing a Magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake along the Hayward Fault in the next 30 years is 33 percent. An earthquake of this magnitude could cause widespread devastation across the Bay Area, with the potential for thousands of fatalities, mass displacement, and long-term disruption of essential services.

The U.S. Geological Survey developed the HayWired Earthquake Scenario, a scientifically realistic study of the likely impacts of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake and its aftershocks on the Hayward Fault, to evaluate these risks in greater detail.ⁱ The HayWired Scenario emphasizes the vulnerabilities and strengths posed by the Bay Area's interconnected infrastructure systems such as utilities, roads, communications, and the compounded effects these interdependencies create in communities and the regional economy. Because the Hayward Fault runs through heavily developed areas, the scenario anticipates widespread impacts, including injuries, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and significant displacement of residents. The Hayward Fault crosses critical infrastructure, including major highways, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) tracks, and water and gas pipelines, making the potential

consequences especially severe for local and regional transportation, utilities, and emergency response systems.

proximity and high potential to cause a severe earthquake.

In addition to direct ground shaking and structural damage, large earthquakes can rupture water and gas mains, down power lines, and topple trees. These secondary impacts increase the risk of fires, reduce the City's ability to fight fires due to water system disruption, and can obstruct evacuation routes and delay first responder access. Such cascading hazards further illustrate the interconnected risks facing El Cerrito during a major seismic event.

The Calaveras (North Central) Fault, a major branch of the San Andreas Fault, extends 76 miles from Hollister to Danville, east of the Hayward Fault. The Concord-Green Valley Fault beneath Concord runs 11 miles from Mount Diablo to the Carquinez Strait and connects to the Green Valley Fault. The Mount Diablo thrust fault lies between the Calaveras, Greenville, and Concord Faults in Contra Costa County. The Greenville Fault, also part of the San Andreas Fault system, runs through Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, bordering Livermore Valley and extending northwest along the Marsh Creek and Clayton faults toward Clayton Valley. **Figure S-1** shows the location of faults and Alquist-Priolo Fault Zones in and around El Cerrito, while **Figure S-2** shows the fault lines in Contra Costa County.

Earthquakes are likely to continue on an occasional basis. Most are expected to cause no substantive damage and may not even be felt by most people. However, a major earthquake along any of the nearby faults could result in substantial casualties and widespread destruction. The greatest risk in El Cerrito is from the Hayward Fault due to its

Figure S-1 Local Fault Lines

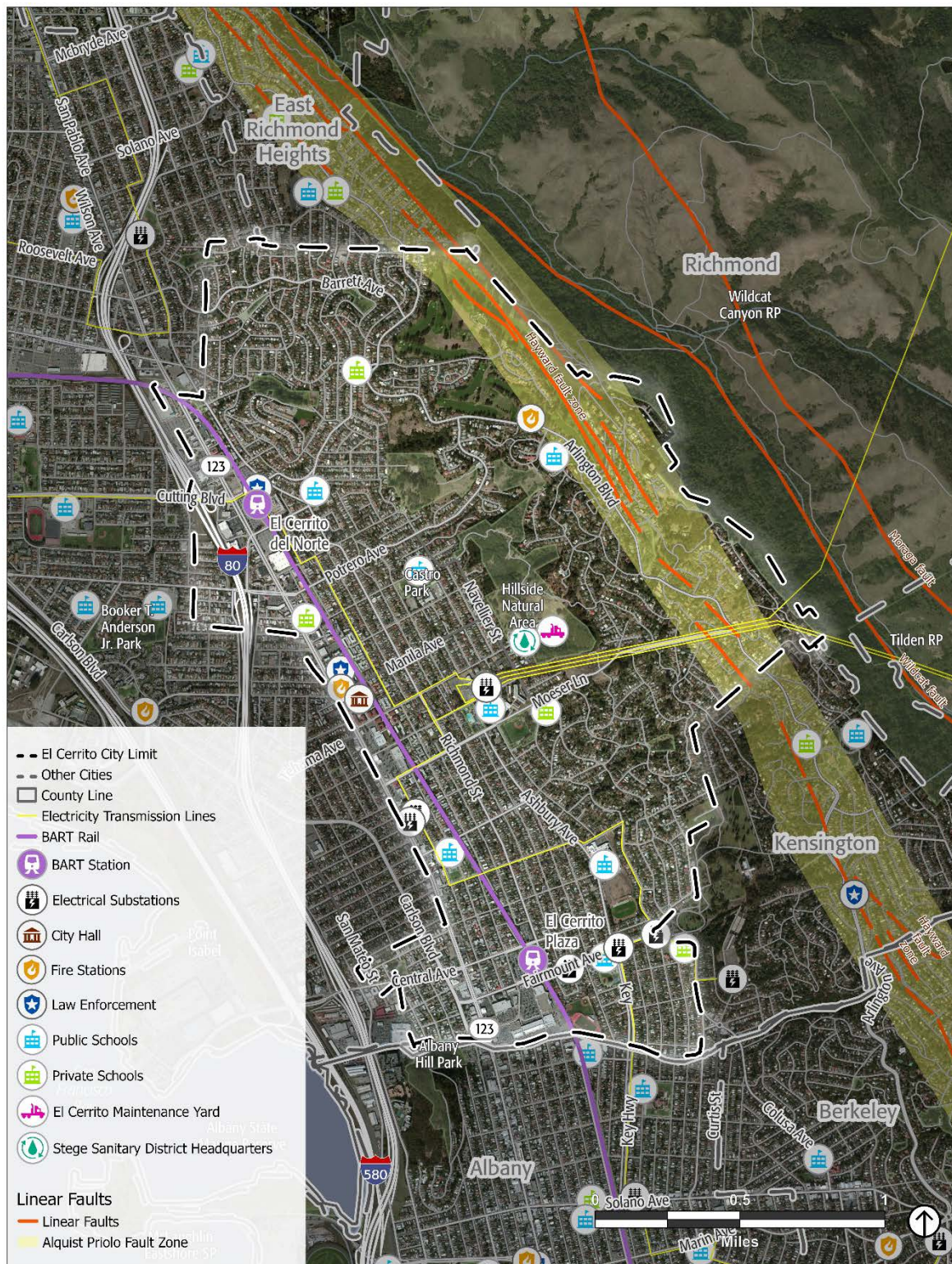
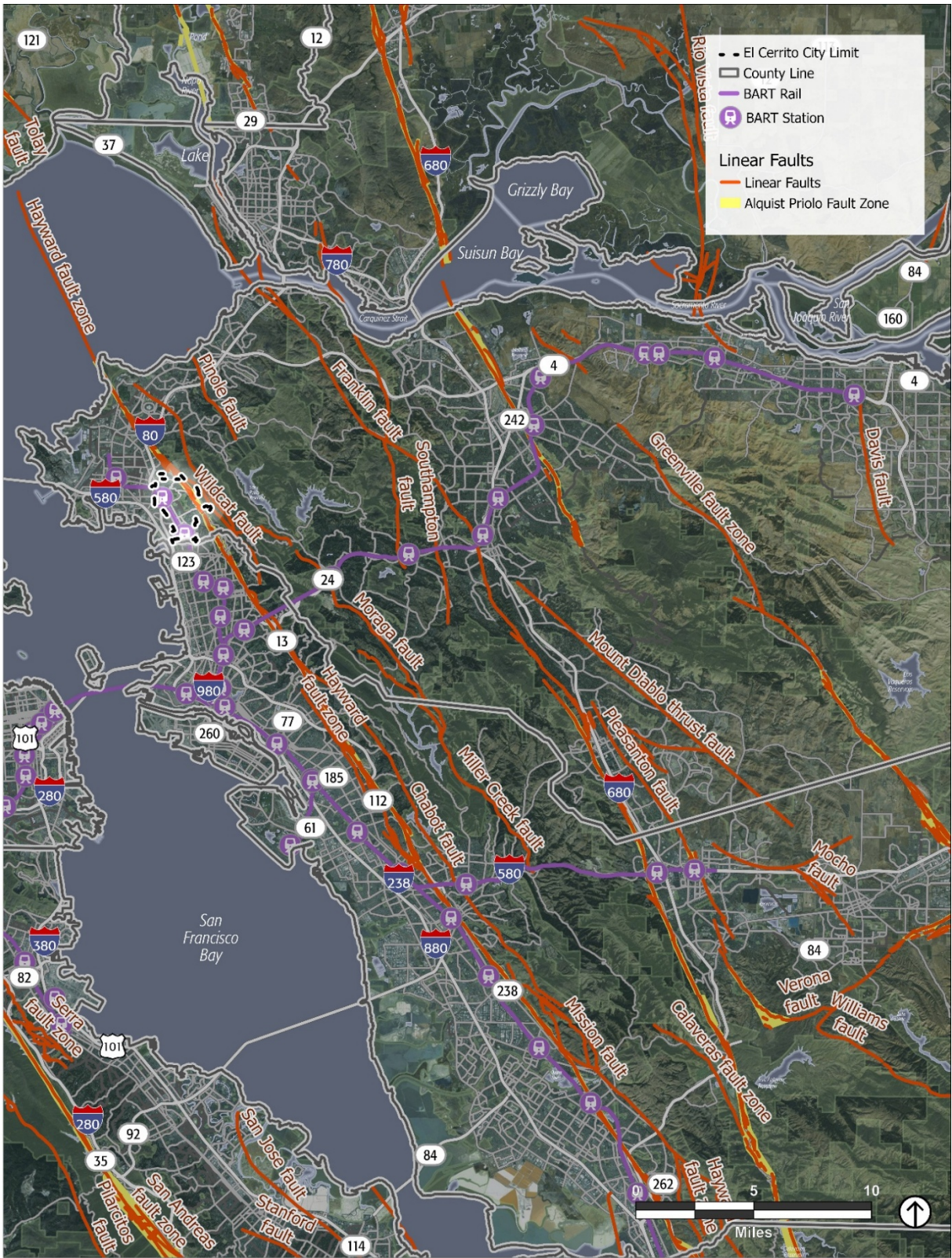


Figure S-2 Regional Fault Lines



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, Planisat 2024, US Geological Survey 2018, CDE, CaGIS 2019, 2023

Other Seismic Hazards

In addition to the direct physical damage that can result from the shaking of an earthquake, earthquakes can cause secondary hazards. Liquefaction occurs where waterlogged soils near the ground surface lose compaction during strong ground motion, causing the soil to lose strength and behave as liquid. This can cause building foundations to shift and can result in significant structural damage. Soils susceptible to liquefaction are typically found in low-lying current or former floodplains. Portions of the City near the floodplains in the southern part of the City, adjacent to I-80, are likely to face liquefaction during an earthquake. **Figure S-3** shows the areas facing an elevated liquefaction risk in El Cerrito.

Earthquake-induced landslides pose a significant risk due to the presence of landslide-prone areas in the hillsides of eastern El Cerrito and proximity of earthquake faults. Ground shaking from seismic activity can cause rocks, debris, and hillside soils to loosen and fall downslope, harming people, buildings, and infrastructure in their path.

A secondary hazard of earthquakes is a tsunami, which has the potential to affect areas near the shoreline of the Richmond/El Cerrito area. Tsunamis are typically caused by earthquakes in places where ocean plates are forced down into the mantle by plate tectonic forces. These areas are known as subduction zones, although earthquakes in other parts of the ocean may also cause tsunamis. Tsunami waves can travel across entire ocean basins and impact coastal areas that are far from the earthquake's epicenter, including places where the shaking from the earthquake is not felt. Tsunamis can result in severe property damage and loss of life to affected areas near the coast. They can also disrupt emergency

services and transportation routes. Also, tsunami waves can diffract around land masses, and because they are not symmetrical, the wave may be much stronger in one direction than another, depending on the source and the surrounding geography. Earthquakes with magnitudes below 6.5 are very unlikely to trigger a tsunami. Earthquakes of magnitudes between 6.5 and 7.5 do not usually produce destructive tsunamis.

A similar hazard, known as a seiche, may also occur. A seiche is a standing wave that oscillates back and forth across an enclosed or partially-enclosed water body, such as the San Francisco Bay. Earthquakes, landslides, or strong storms may create a seiche wave that repeatedly floods shoreline areas, in a manner similar to a tsunami.

Figure S-4 illustrates the area that may be subject to inundation from a tsunami in El Cerrito.

Figure S-3 Liquefaction Areas

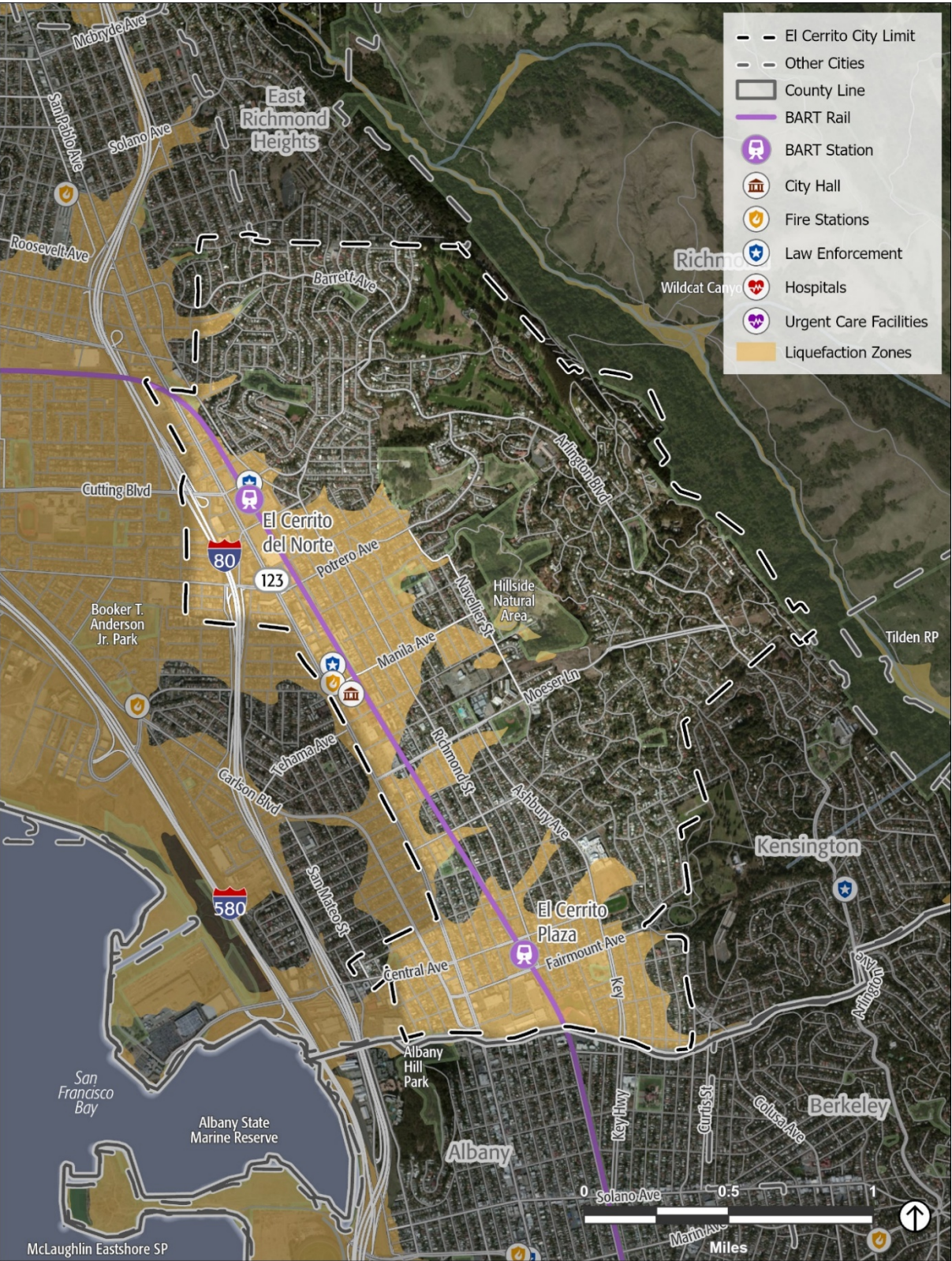
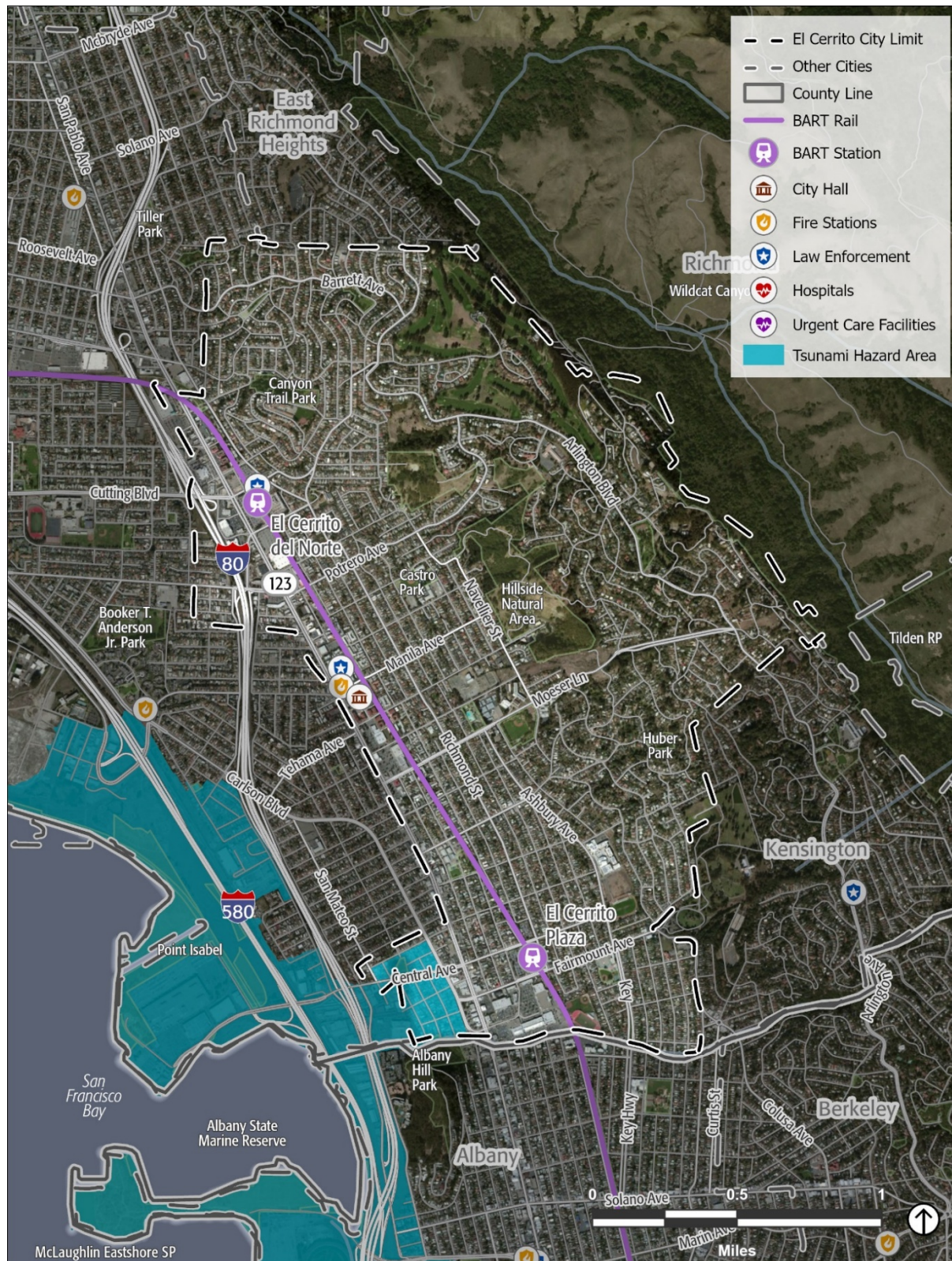


Figure S-4 Tsunami Inundation Areas



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; California Geographic Survey, 2022; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024;

Geologic Hazards

Geologic hazards in El Cerrito include landslides and erosion. Landslides, which can occur as debris flows or rock falls, are most common in steep, sloped areas with loose and fragmented soil. While some landslides develop gradually, others happen suddenly, often with severe consequences. Landslides are a continuous natural process affecting all slopes with varying degrees of impact. Landslides are often triggered by other natural hazards, such as earthquakes, heavy rain, floods, or wildfires, so landslide frequency is often related to the frequency of these other hazards. Landslides have occurred on hillsides throughout the City, usually in winter during high rainfall years. Due to the hilly terrain, the eastern portion of the City is in a very high landslide susceptibility class, as shown on **Figure S-5**.

Localized over-steepened slopes in El Cerrito present elevated risk of rockfall, particularly when combined with heavy rainfall or earthquake shaking. For example, over-steepened slopes such as the quarry face near the City's Recycling Center pose a heightened risk of rockfall that could affect nearby facilities and operations. These site-specific conditions illustrate the potential severity of landslide hazards in the city and the importance of ongoing monitoring and mitigation where critical facilities are located near unstable slopes.

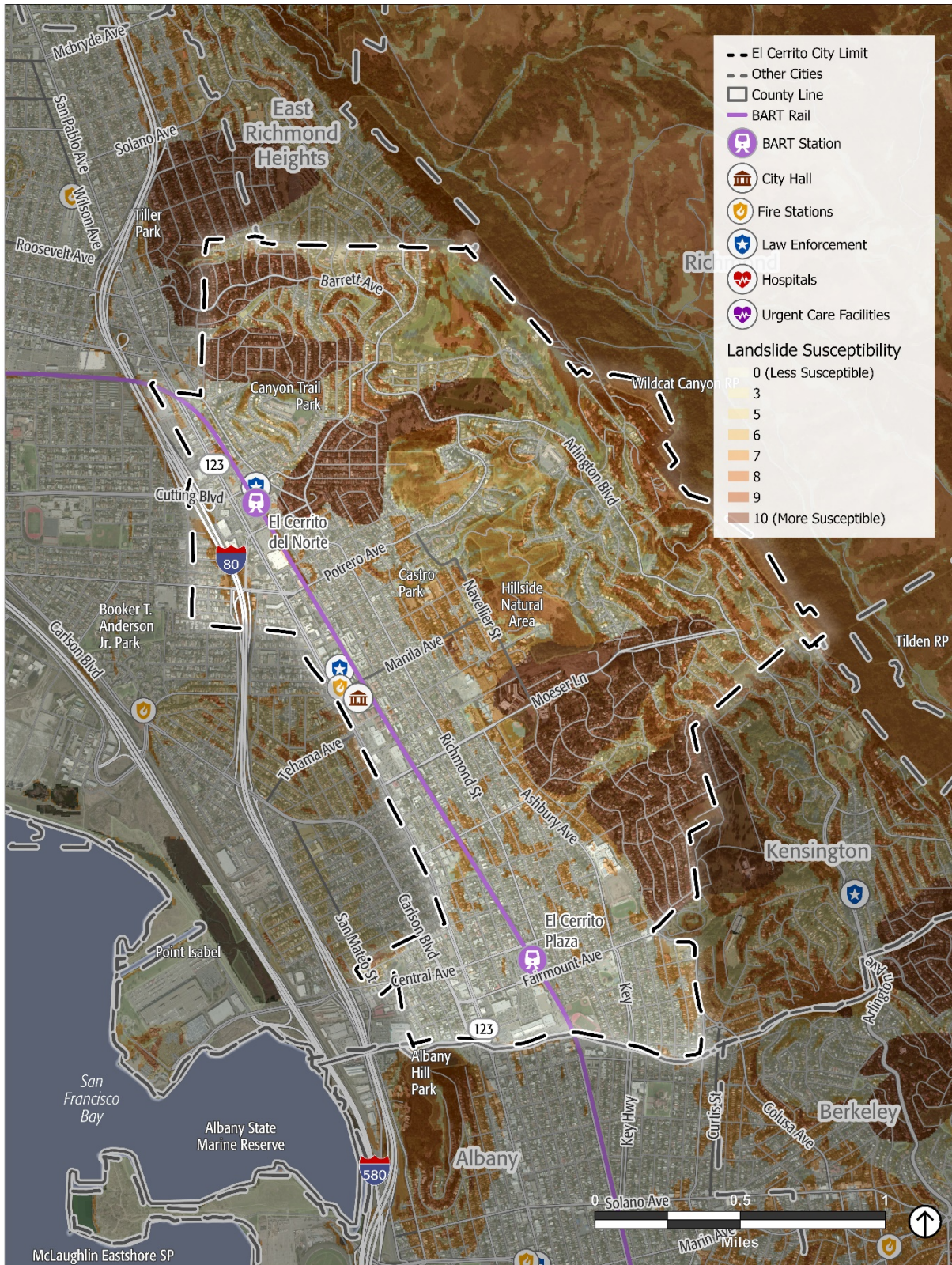
Climate change is expected to result in more precipitation extremes. More frequent periods of heavy rainfall could cause an increase in the number of landslides or make landslides larger than normal. Increased wildfire frequency can destabilize hillsides due to loss of vegetation and change soil composition, which can

contribute to greater runoff and erosion.

Climate change will also cause more frequent and extreme droughts, which dries out soil. When heavy precipitation does occur (another expected effect of climate change), the soil cannot absorb as much water, which creates higher levels of runoff, potentially leading to landslides and mudflows. The combination of more frequent drought and intense rainfall combined with increased wildfire hazards are likely to cause more mudslides and landslides.

El Cerrito is also susceptible to hazards related to erosion, or the geological process in which rocks and soil are worn away by natural forces such as water or wind, causing the soil to deteriorate. The eroded particles can end up in local creeks and San Francisco Bay, creating water quality problems. The eastern hillsides of the City are particularly at risk due to their steep slopes, making them more vulnerable to erosion. Erosion can damage roads, bridges, buildings, and other structures by weakening the foundations of buildings and structures, causing washouts during heavy rains, and increasing the risk of landslides.

Figure S-5 Landslide Susceptibility Areas



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWise 2024, California Geological Survey 2018, CalDES 2019, 2023

Goals and Policies

Goal 1: Mitigate risk from geologic and seismic hazards.

- Policy 1.1: Geotechnical Review.** Require geotechnical studies for development proposals in areas at risk from geologic and seismic hazards (see Figure S-1, Local Fault Lines; Figure S-3, Liquefaction Areas; and Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas), in accordance with City procedures. Such studies should evaluate the extent of geotechnical hazards, optimum location for structures, the advisability of special structural requirements, and the feasibility and desirability of a proposed facility in a specified location.
- Policy 1.2: Erosion Control.** Provide appropriate control measures in conjunction with proposed development in areas susceptible to erosion, including an erosion control plan and revegetation plan as part of grading permits.
- Policy 1.3: Seismic Safety of New Development.** Require new structures to be designed to contemporary standards for seismic safety. Require that new City-owned critical facilities be constructed to the highest possible standard of seismic safety.
- Policy 1.4: Seismic Safety of Existing Development.** Assist occupants and owners of existing structures in identifying seismic risks to their structures and provide support in obtaining appropriate seismic retrofit measures. Evaluate all City-owned facilities to determine seismic risks and implement appropriate seismic retrofit measures.
- Policy 1.5: Seismic Safety of Utilities.** Encourage local gas, water, and sewer providers to review and retrofit their main distribution pipes.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MATERIALS

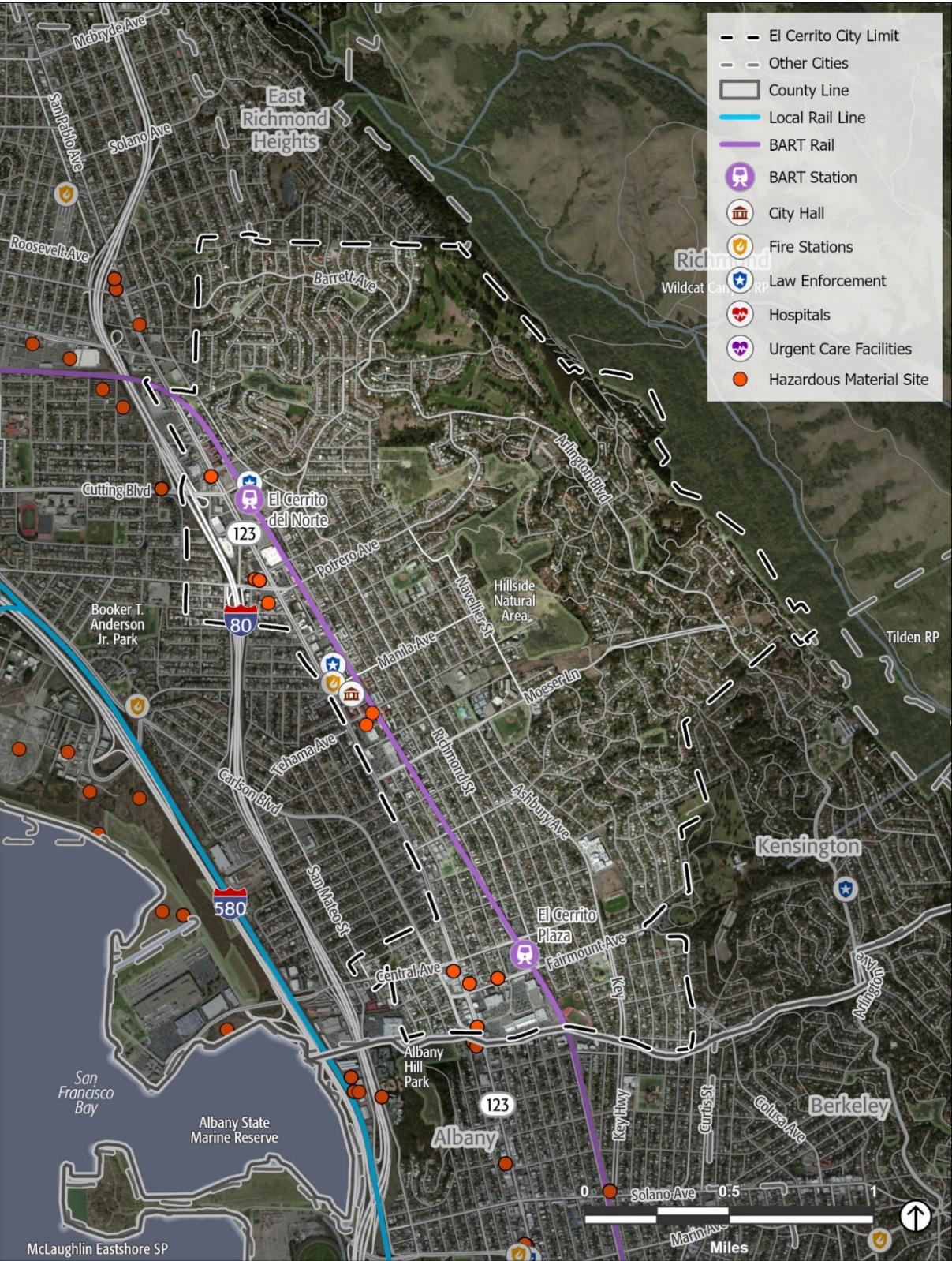
Hazardous materials are materials that pose a significant risk to public safety or to human or environmental health. These include toxic chemicals, flammable or corrosive materials, petroleum products, and unstable or dangerously reactive materials, which may be stored, transported, or processed at dry cleaners, gas stations, automotive repair centers, and similar light industrial facilities in El Cerrito. The release or spill of bulk hazardous materials could result in fire, explosion, toxic clouds, or direct contamination of water, people, and property. The El Cerrito Fire Department, Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division, and Contra Costa Environmental Health Division are responsible for hazardous materials accidents in El Cerrito.

Several State agencies have jurisdiction over hazardous materials sites and oversee the monitoring of hazardous materials and waste facilities. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are responsible for different types of sites. Facilities that use or store hazardous materials, such as industrial plants, laboratories, and storage facilities, must comply with regulations enforced by the DTSC, which ensures proper handling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous substances. Cleanup sites, which include contaminated properties and hazardous waste disposal areas, fall under the oversight of both RWQCB and DTSC. The RWQCB focuses on preventing hazardous materials from contaminating water resources, conducting site inspections, and enforcing water protection regulations. The DTSC maintains records of these contaminated sites, supervises cleanup efforts,

and ensures compliance with hazardous materials laws. Both agencies coordinate with local governments, businesses, and other regulatory bodies to ensure the safe management of hazardous materials and the remediation of contaminated sites.

Figure S-6 identifies potential sites with hazardous materials. DTSC typically acts as the lead agency for sites involving toxic substances and remediation, and the RWQCB leads issues concerning water quality. Additionally, the Contra Costa Environmental Health Division serves as the oversight agency for sites within the City. A review of the leaking underground storage tank list produced by the RWQCB and the DTSC EnviroStor databases indicates 33 cleanup sites (2 open and 31 case closed sites) and 7 cleanup program sites (5 open and 2 case-closed sites). ^{ii,iii} Open cleanup sites for hazardous materials are still undergoing investigation, remediation, or monitoring to address contamination; closed sites have met regulatory cleanup standards and no longer require active remediation.

Figure S-6 Hazardous Materials Sites



Since 1970, there is no recorded history of roadway or rail hazardous materials incidents in El Cerrito.^{iv} While El Cerrito has not experienced such incidents, the broader region has seen hazardous materials transportation incidents in the past, including cities adjacent to El Cerrito. Notably, Berkeley has recorded two roadway incidents; Richmond has recorded 29 roadway and 45 rail incidents; and San Pablo has recorded 21 roadway incidents.^v These events, which involve the release of hazardous materials during transportation by roadway or rail transit, can pose a threat to public health and safety, property, and the environment. Hazardous materials in nearby communities may affect El Cerrito, including through indirect impacts such as closing regional highways. It is possible that these events may occur in El Cerrito and surrounding communities in the future.

Climate change is unlikely to substantially affect hazardous materials transportation incidents. However, increases in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards, such as floods, landslides, and severe storms, may create a greater risk of hazardous material releases during these events. Beyond transportation incidents, climate change increases the risk of hazardous material releases from industrial facilities, storage sites, and other hazardous material locations. Extreme weather can stress infrastructure, causing equipment failures, leaks, or corrosion. Flooding may submerge storage tanks, leading to spills or contamination. Power outages can disrupt cooling systems, heightening explosion risks. Wildfires can ignite hazardous materials, releasing toxins into the environment.

Goals and Policies

Goal 2: Minimize potential damage from existing hazardous materials and prevent future hazardous materials contamination.

- Policy 2.1: Potential Hazardous Soils Conditions of New Development.** Evaluate new development on potentially contaminated sites (such as older fill sites, historical auto service uses, industrial uses, or areas where hazardous materials may have been used, as mapped in **Figure S-6, Hazardous Materials Sites**), and require that development proposals contain adequate measures to mitigate hazardous material exposure prior to development approvals.
- Policy 2.2: Hazardous Soil Conditions in Inundation Hazard Areas.** Work with Contra Costa Health Services and other regional partners to identify hazardous materials sites where proximity to mapped flood hazard zones, sea level rise inundation areas, and other water-based hazards that may spread hazardous materials. Prioritize remediation of these sites.
- Policy 2.3: Hazardous Materials at Municipal Facilities.** Ensure that hazardous materials owned or stored by the City are managed and disposed of appropriately to protect human and environmental health and safety.
- Policy 2.4: Hazardous Materials Storage and Disposal.** Require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials in accordance with all State, federal, and local laws and regulations to prevent leakage, potential explosions, fires, or the escape of harmful gases, and to prevent individually innocuous materials from combining to form hazardous substances, especially at the time of disposal.
- Policy 2.5: Hazardous Materials Usage in Construction.** Require and enforce effective mitigation measures to minimize exposure to toxic and hazardous materials during building renovations and demolitions.
- Policy 2.6: Hazardous Materials Public Education.** Provide information to the community regarding the potential health hazards posed by hazardous materials and possible ways to reduce hazardous materials use and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

FLOOD AND INUNDATION HAZARDS

Flooding

Flooding is when water covers normally dry land, often from poor drainage during heavy precipitation or when a water body overflows its banks. Floods are one of the most frequent natural hazards in El Cerrito and among the costliest natural disasters nationwide in terms of human hardship and economic loss. Floods cause substantial damage to structures, landscapes, and utilities as well as life and safety issues.

Historically, El Cerrito has been at risk of flooding primarily during the winter and spring when stream systems swell with heavy rain. Occasionally, flash flooding results from intense rainfall. In urban areas, flash flooding can be a serious problem due to lack of vegetation and replacement of groundcover with impermeable surfaces such as roads, driveways, and parking lots. These hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the soil, leading to rapid runoff that overwhelms storm drain infrastructure and natural waterways. Without proper drainage, excess water accumulates quickly, increasing the likelihood of localized flooding. Other impacts connected with flooding and associated stormwater runoff include erosion, sedimentation, habitat disruption, and increased pollution in waterways. These effects can degrade water quality, harm aquatic ecosystems, and contribute to long-term environmental degradation.

Areas at an elevated risk of flooding are divided into 100- and 500-year flood zones. A 100-year flood zone has a 1 percent chance of experiencing a major flood in any given year, and a 500-year flood zone has a 0.2 percent

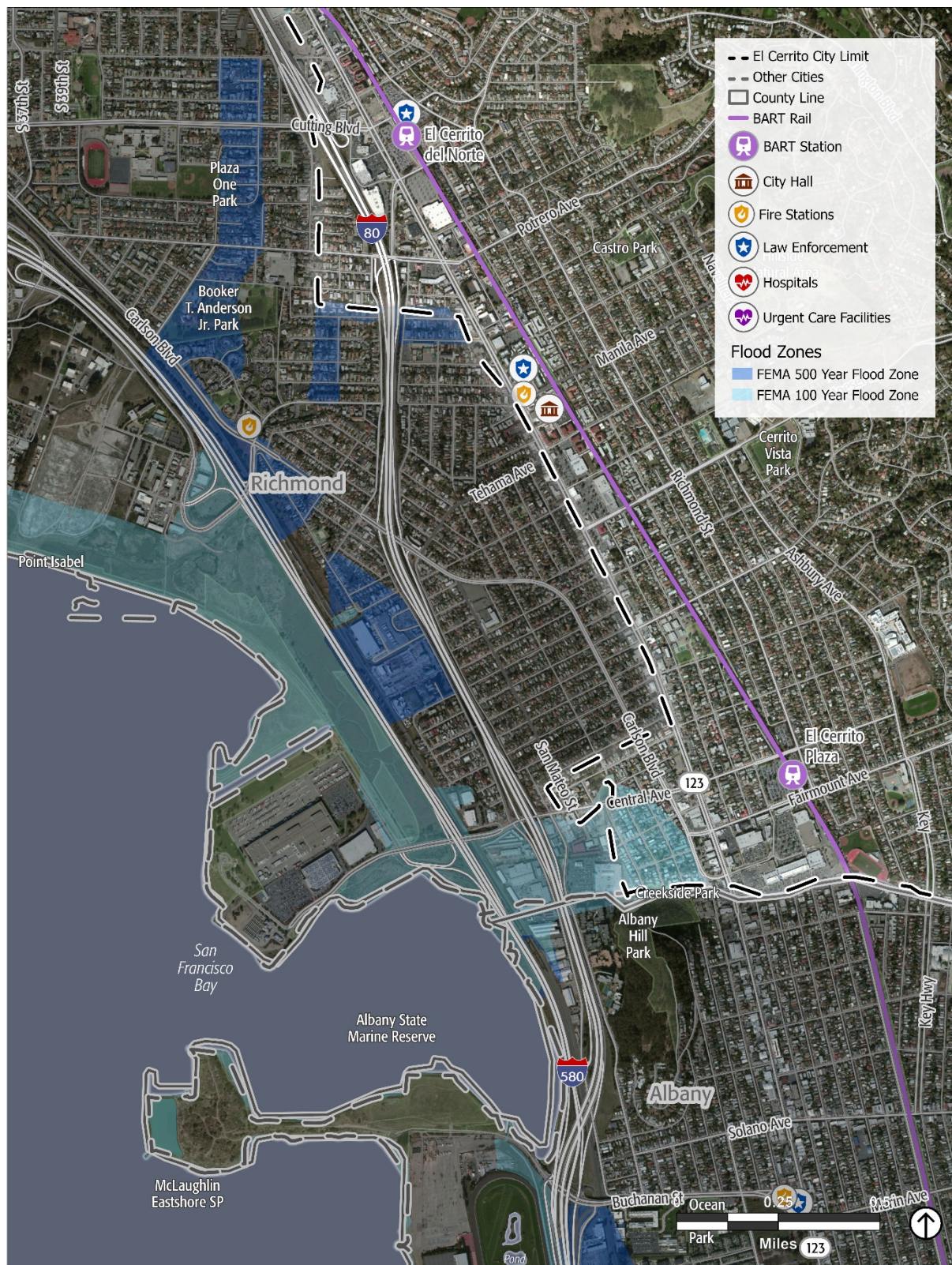
chance of flooding in any given year. The 100-year floodplain in El Cerrito is west of San Pablo Avenue and south of Central Avenue in the southern portion of the City. The City does not have any areas in the 500-year floodplain. However, it is important to note that flooding can still occur outside of these mapped flood zones, especially in low-lying areas with poor drainage. **Figure S-7** shows the mapped flood zones in and around El Cerrito.

Scientists expect that climate change will cause greater shifts in annual rainfall in El Cerrito. This shift toward more extreme events is likely to result in increases in flooding from intense storm systems as well as an increase in regional drought conditions. These intense systems can drop substantial volumes of precipitation over a short period and cause flooding. Because of this, floods are expected to happen more often in El Cerrito, and climate change may expand the parts of the City that are considered prone to flooding. More frequent droughts are also likely to dry out soil, hardening it and increasing the volume of runoff when rainfall does return. **One extreme flooding scenario developed by scientists is known as ARkStorm (and its updated ARkStorm 2.0 model). These scenarios simulate the impacts of prolonged, high-intensity storms comparable to the “Great Flood” of 1862, which inundated much of California. ARkStorm 2.0 imagines a period of extreme rainfall lasting up to a month that would cause extensive flooding across the state, although particularly in the Central Valley. Such events would likely overwhelm flood-protection systems, trigger hundreds of landslides, disrupt power, water, and transportation infrastructure, and result in economic losses estimated at more than \$700 billion statewide.^{vi} Rainfall totals in El Cerrito could be as high as 23 inches over the course**

of the event, with an average rainfall of slightly less than an inch each day, although some days are modeled to see as many as four inches of rainfall in El Cerrito.

The scenario underscores the potential for extreme precipitation events to impact large geographic areas simultaneously, thereby limiting the availability of mutual aid and compounding recovery challenges. This research highlights the importance of local flood preparedness and mitigation, particularly as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

Figure S-7 Flood Hazard Zones



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (AAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017, CalOES 2019, 2023

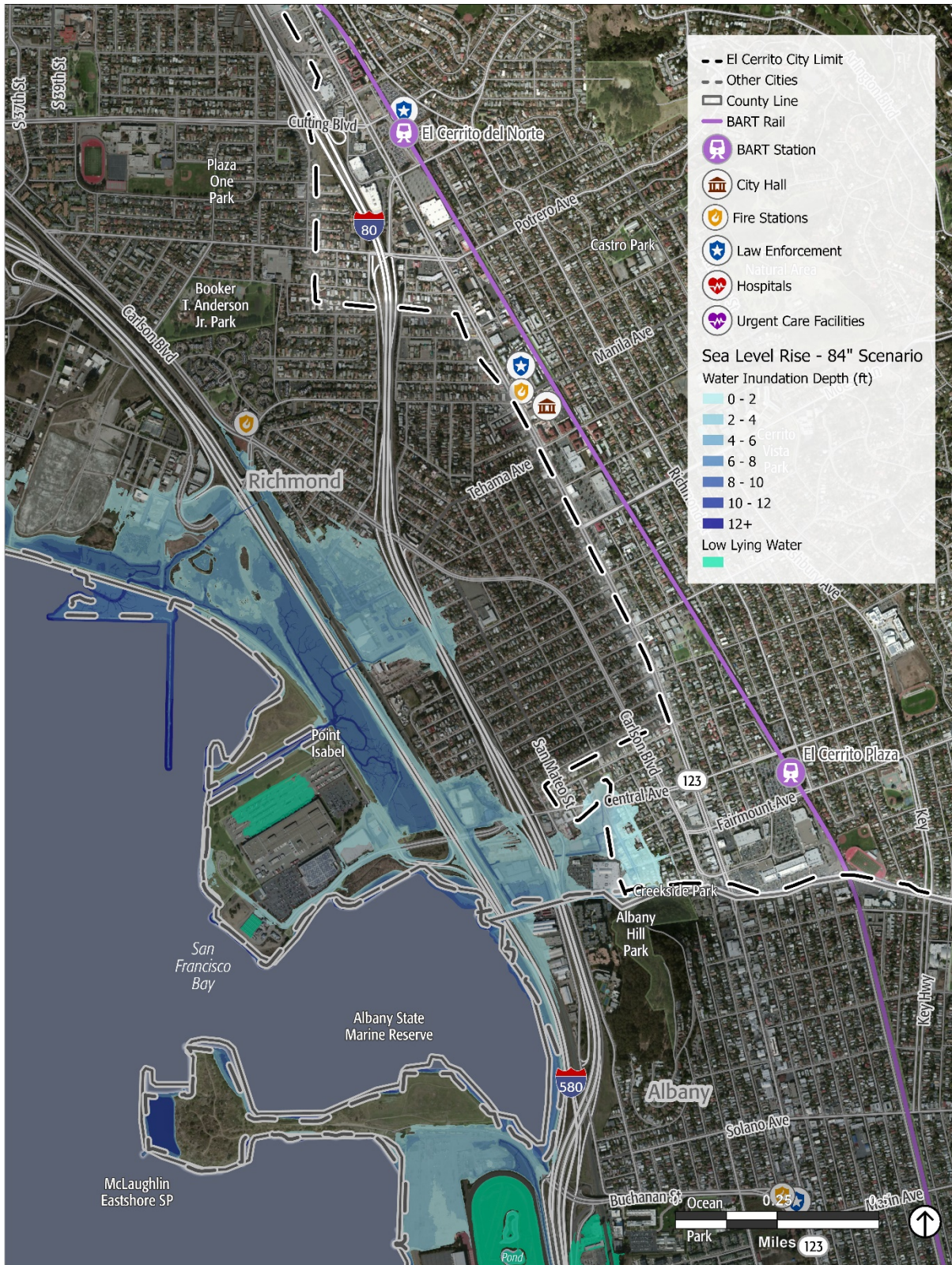
Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise is an increase in the ocean's surface height relative to the land and a direct result of climate change. Sea level rise has the potential to inundate homes, businesses, and infrastructure near shorelines. Along the shoreline, sea levels are projected to rise by as much as 3 feet (36 inches) by 2070 and 6.6 feet (79.2 inches) by 2100.^{vii} However, it is possible that sea levels could rise faster than these projections, which has happened historically. **Figure S-8** shows the permanent flooding that may occur by 2100.

Rising sea levels can cause the shoreline to flood more frequently and severely during storms or king tide events. For example, a storm that has a one in five chance of occurring in a given year (known as a five-year storm) can create a temporary increase in sea levels of approximately two feet. Because sea level rise will cause ocean levels to be higher during normal conditions, shoreline floods will expand and reach further onto land. **Figure S-9** shows the additional temporary flooding that may occur by 2100 from strong storms or high tides.

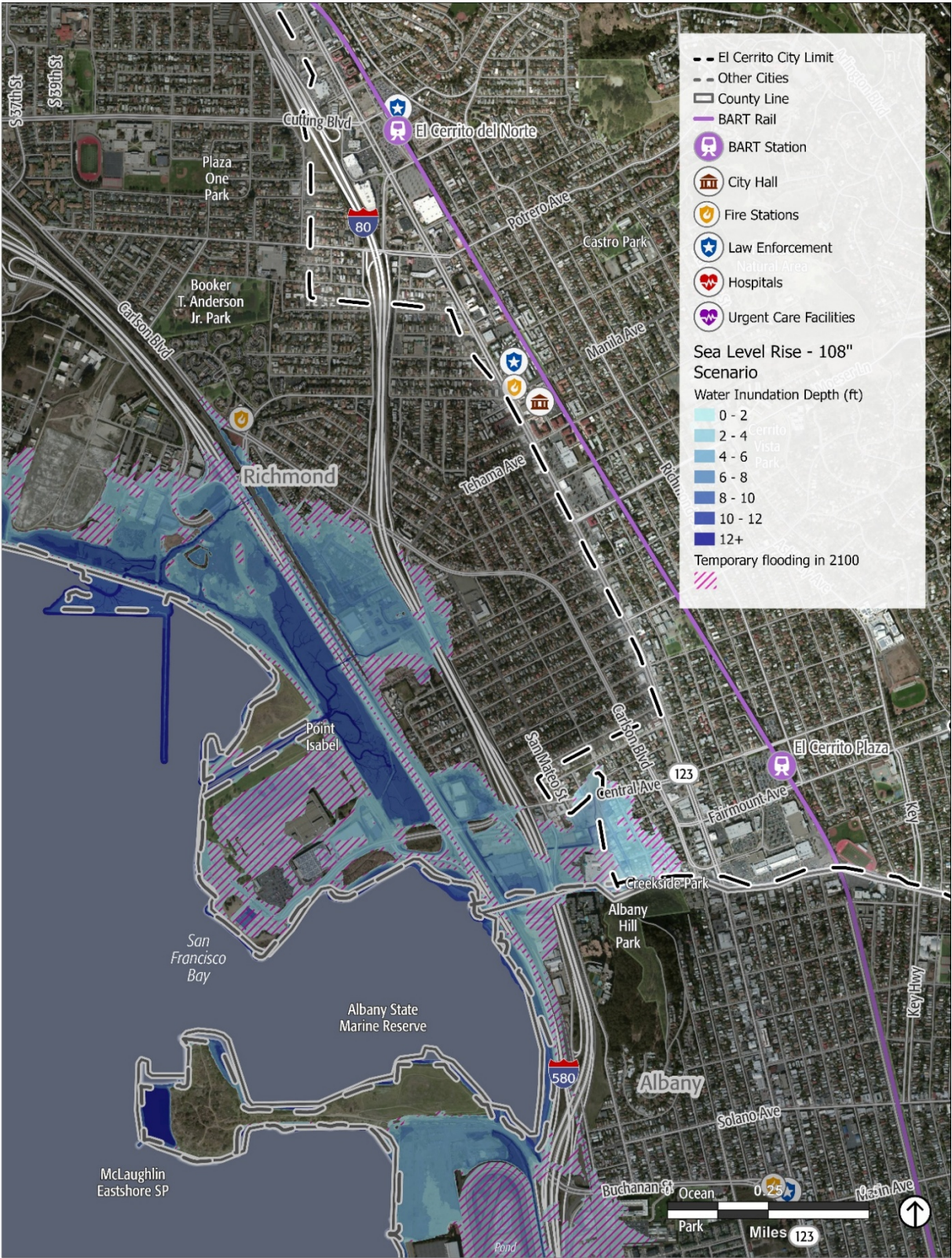
Historical records from the San Francisco tidal gauge show that the sea level in the San Francisco Bay rose eight inches from 1897 to 2006. Sea levels are expected to continue to rise over this century, likely faster than they have historically. Rising sea levels will increase the impacts of other coastal hazards, such as shoreline erosion and tsunamis.

Figure S-8 Sea Level Rise Projections by 2100 for Permanent Flooding



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (AAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017

Figure S-9 Sea Level Rise Projections by 2100 for Permanent and Temporary Flooding



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adopting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (JAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017

Goals and Policies

Goal 3: Reduce risks from flooding and sea level rise and provide timely and effective flood response.

- Policy 3.1: Flood-responsive Siting of New Critical Facilities.** Prohibit the construction of new critical facilities and infrastructure, including hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communication facilities in mapped flood hazard and sea level rise inundation zones (see **Figures S-7, S-8, and S-9**).
- Policy 3.2: Flood-Proofing New Construction.** Require that new and significantly renovated buildings and structures in the mapped 100-year flood zones be constructed to a higher standard of flood protection to improve resilience, as required by the California Building Code and in accordance with the City's Floodplain Management ordinance.
- Policy 3.3: Flood Hazards from New Construction.** Require new development and significant redevelopment projects, greater than 5,000 square feet of conditioned space, to prepare drainage studies to assess stormwater runoff impacts on the local storm drain system, and to develop recommended detention and drainage facilities as needed to ensure that increased risks of flooding on to neighboring properties do not result from development.
- Policy 3.4: Flood Hazards to Existing Development.** Help property owners identify qualified service providers and obtain financial incentives to floodproof existing buildings. Continue to evaluate new opportunities to help reduce flood hazards to existing development, including development at risk of current or future flooding not in the mapped 100-year floodplain.
- Policy 3.5: Maintenance for the City's Storm Drainage Facilities.** Continue to enforce existing laws prohibiting the dumping of debris, fill, or other waste materials, and illicit discharges into storm drains, creeks and channels, and the littering of garbage. Continue to ensure that local storm drainage facilities are sufficiently maintained. Pursue viable funding sources for local and regional drainage improvements for adequate flood control and protection.
- Policy 3.6: Creek Maintenance Education.** Continue to educate local property owners about their responsibilities to maintain creeks, storm drainpipes, and open channels on private property, including regularly clearing trash and other debris.
- Policy 3.7: Natural Stormwater Management Solutions.** Continue to identify opportunities and funding sources to expand the City's green infrastructure network, as defined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Update Chapter 8.40 of the City's Municipal Code, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control, to require new development to

incorporate natural stormwater management solutions on-site as a condition of approval for discretionary projects, as appropriate.

- Policy 3.8: Permeable Paving and Green Infrastructure.** Continue to require that new development complies with Contra Costa Clean Water Program Stormwater C.3 Guidebook requirements for treatment of stormwater. Encourage new development to reduce impervious areas and use permeable surfaces in paving and landscaping. Promote the use of green infrastructure, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and vegetated swales, to manage stormwater and enhance groundwater infiltration as outlined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Include permeable surfaces and green infrastructure into City construction and improvement projects.
- Policy 3.9: Continuity of public facilities during flooding.** Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding through structural retrofits, flood management, operational improvements, and other appropriate actions.
- Policy 3.10: Sea Level Rise Coordination.** Coordinate with local, regional, State, and federal agencies to plan for the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and groundwater intrusion in the community.
- Policy 3.11: Flood Response.** Coordinate with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and neighboring jurisdictions to address regional flood hazards.
- Policy 3.12: Public Flood Preparedness Information.** Improve public access to information about flood risks, preparedness, and response steps. Revise and expand on existing resources, such as those available on the City's website, to help residents and property owners understand what to do before, during, and after flooding events.
- Policy 3.13: Adopt-A-Drain Program.** Explore the development and funding of an Adopt-A-Drain program. This initiative would encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to voluntarily adopt storm drains and commit to their regular maintenance by removing debris, leaves, and litter to ensure proper stormwater flow.
- Policy 3.14: Central Avenue and I-80 Resilience.** Support efforts to improve flood protection and long-term resilience to sea level rise for Central Avenue and the I-80 interchange area. Ensure flood protection and climate adaptation initiatives prioritize El Cerrito's transportation needs, including emergency access and evacuation needs.

FIRE HAZARDS

Fire hazards include wildfires, urban fires, and structural fires. Historically, the wildfire season extended from early summer through late fall of each year, during the hotter, dryer months, although it is increasingly a hazard that can occur year-round. Fire conditions arise from a combination of high temperatures, dry conditions, plentiful fuel (such as dry plants or other debris), and high winds.

Wildfires

Wildfires start on hillsides, forest, scrub, and grassland environments, but may easily spread into developed areas next to or mixed in with these ecosystems, and from there may spread into more developed urban areas. Fuel, weather, and topography are primary factors that affect how wildfires spread. In and around El Cerrito, natural habitats provide highly flammable fuel that is conducive to wildfires.

Wildfires can occur in areas of natural vegetation, especially forests, brush and scrublands, and grasslands. When vegetation dries out and becomes highly flammable, especially during hot, dry, and windy conditions, it creates a wildfire risk. Historically, wildfires have been most common in late summer and fall, but they have become increasingly a year-round event. Wildfires most often ignite from human activities—such as sparks from vehicles contacting dry vegetation, downed power lines, or electrical equipment failures—or from natural causes like lightning. They may also be set deliberately. The hilly areas of eastern El Cerrito and the undeveloped lands of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park to the east, outside City limits, face an elevated wildfire risk.

There are no records of historic fires within the City or in the immediate vicinity. However, the surrounding East Bay Hills do have a history of wildfire events. One of the most destructive was the Tunnel Fire, also known as the “Oakland Hills Firestorm,” which occurred on October 19, 1991. The fire started on private property near the Caldecott Tunnel, rapidly spreading and burning 1,520 acres. It resulted in 25 fatalities, 150 injuries, and the destruction of approximately 3,000 homes. Other significant events include the 1970 Fish Fire in Oakland, which spread through the East Bay Hills, and the 1923 Berkeley Fire. This fire destroyed about 640 structures, and highlighted vulnerabilities such as insufficient fire breaks and limited water supply in the hills.

Within El Cerrito, the Hillside Natural Area has experienced numerous smaller fires over the past two decades, most ignited by human activity and contained less than two acres. Examples include a 2010 fire near Tamalpais Avenue, a 2012 fire at the entrance to the Recycling Center, and a 2020 lightning-caused fire south of Moeser Lane. Although these incidents were small, they demonstrate the ongoing fire risk within the Hillside Natural Area, particularly in grassland areas near heavily traveled access points. More recent wildfires have also occurred in the region, including two wildfires along Highway 4 east of Hercules in August 2022. Changing climate conditions are expected to increase the wildfire risk in and around El Cerrito. Warmer temperatures brought on by climate change can exacerbate drought conditions. Droughts can kill or dry out plants, creating more fuel for wildfires. Increased winds will result in more erratic fire behavior, making fires harder to predict and contain. Warmer temperatures are also expected to occur later in the year, extending the wildfire season, which is likely to

begin earlier in the year and extend later than it has historically.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) establishes Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), designating each as moderate, high, or very high severity. El Cerrito has 329 acres (14 percent of the City's land area) in the very high severity zone, 147 acres (6 percent) in the high severity zone, and 146 acres (6 percent) in the moderate severity zone. Various State requirements apply in some of these zones, including fire-safe standards for development or redevelopment activities, additional review and approval processes for new development, establishing and maintaining defensible space around buildings and facilities, and disclosing the presence of wildfire hazards during real estate transactions.

To reflect the threats posed by wildfires, the City has adopted local ordinances and programs to reduce wildfire risk. In July 2025, the City amended Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code to adopt the most recently available State-recommended FHSZ maps, and to establish procedures for defensible space and home hardening inspections within the high and very high zones. The ordinance can be accessed here:

https://library.municode.com/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT8HESA_CH8.30FIHASEZODESPHOHARE. Current maps are available at CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program, at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program>. Future updates to the Safety Element will incorporate new mapping data as it becomes available.

State law, established by Assembly Bill (AB) 38 in 2019, requires that properties in high and very high FHSZs be inspected by the El Cerrito Fire Department prior to the close of escrow. A report is issued confirming compliance or identifying corrective actions. Sellers must disclose the results of these inspections, along with any home hardening improvements or vulnerabilities, to buyers before the close of escrow.

While the City already had a robust vegetation management program, this action updated vegetation management standards (including "Zone Zero" standards for the areas within five feet of a building) and repealed outdated roofing requirements for properties in very high FHSZs. It also created a local requirement for owners of real property in high or very high FHSZs to have a home hardening and defensible space inspection completed and to disclose the result of that inspection to buyers prior to the time of sale per State law. These efforts better align the City of El Cerrito with state law, decrease vulnerability to wildfires, and assist residents in maintaining home insurance.

CAL FIRE designates these zones for areas where local agencies have responsibility for fire protection (known as local responsibility areas, or LRAs), and areas where the State is responsible, even if local authorities provide fire protection (known as state responsibility areas, or SRAs). El Cerrito is an LRA, and the unincorporated areas east of the City are a mix of LRAs and SRAs. **Figure S-10** shows the FHSZs in and around El Cerrito. The City's Community View/GIS, available at the following link:

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/154/GIS-Maps>, provides a user-friendly way to view property information, zoning, and land use patterns, and

illustrates how development patterns are aligned with fire safety considerations.

The City's land use and housing plans, including the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and the Housing Element, intentionally concentrate new growth and higher-intensity development outside of the very high FHSZ. This approach reduces risks to people, property, and critical infrastructure. This strategy also helps protect natural hillsides and provides a buffer between residential areas and high fire-risk landscapes.

Wildland-Urban Interface Area

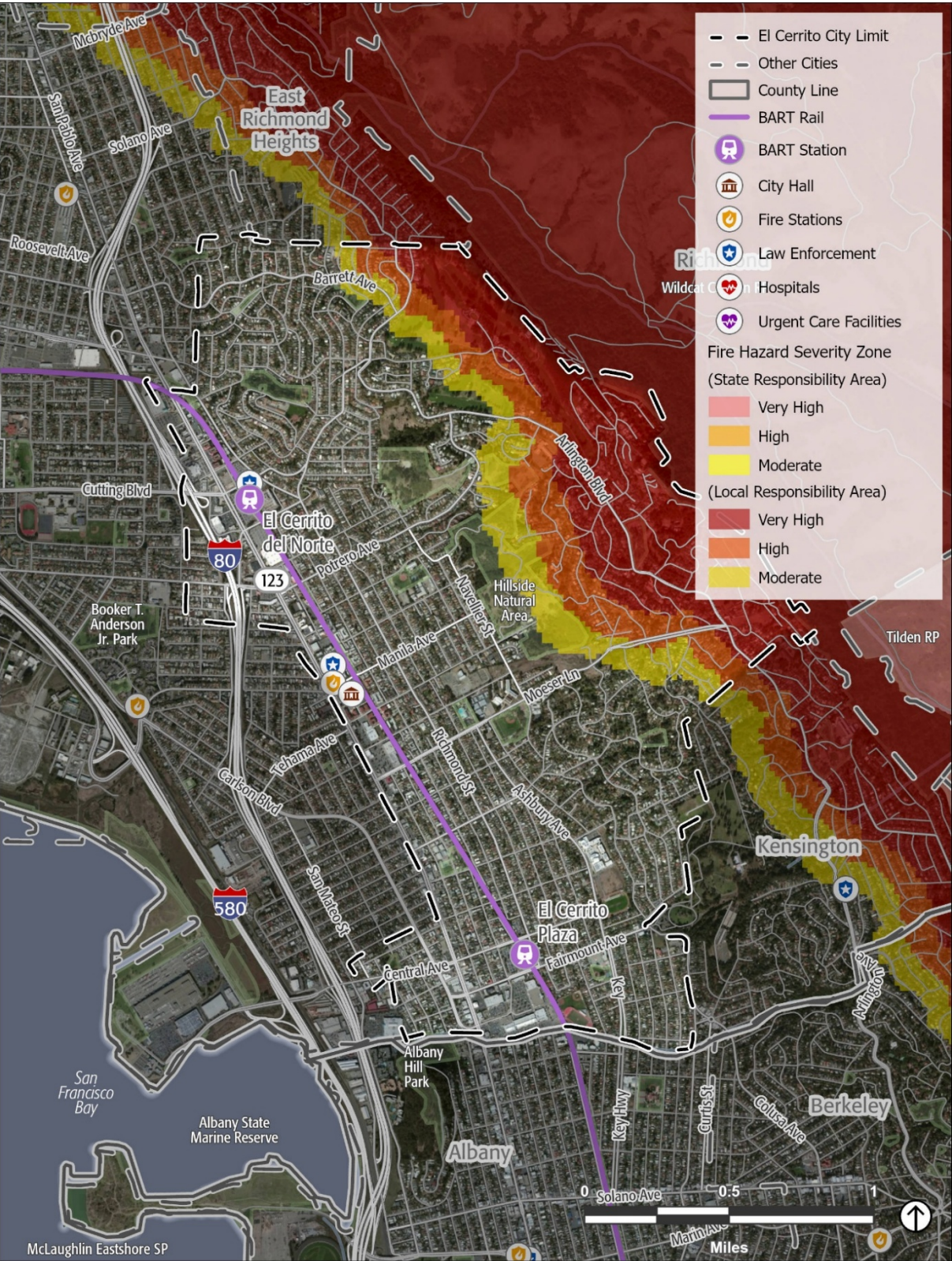
In addition to the FHSZ designations by CAL FIRE, the City contains areas identified as a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is an area where buildings (e.g., housing) and infrastructure (e.g., cell towers and water supply facilities) mix with flammable wildland vegetation, allowing wildland fires to spread to buildings and structures easily.

There are three distinct zones in the WUI.

1. The **intermix zone** contains housing development or improved parcels interspersed in an area dominated by wildland vegetation subject to wildfire.
2. The **interface zone** contains dense housing next to vegetation that can burn in a wildfire but is not dominated by wildland vegetation.
3. The **influence zone** contains wildfire-susceptible vegetation within 1.5 miles from the WUI or wildland-urban intermix zones.

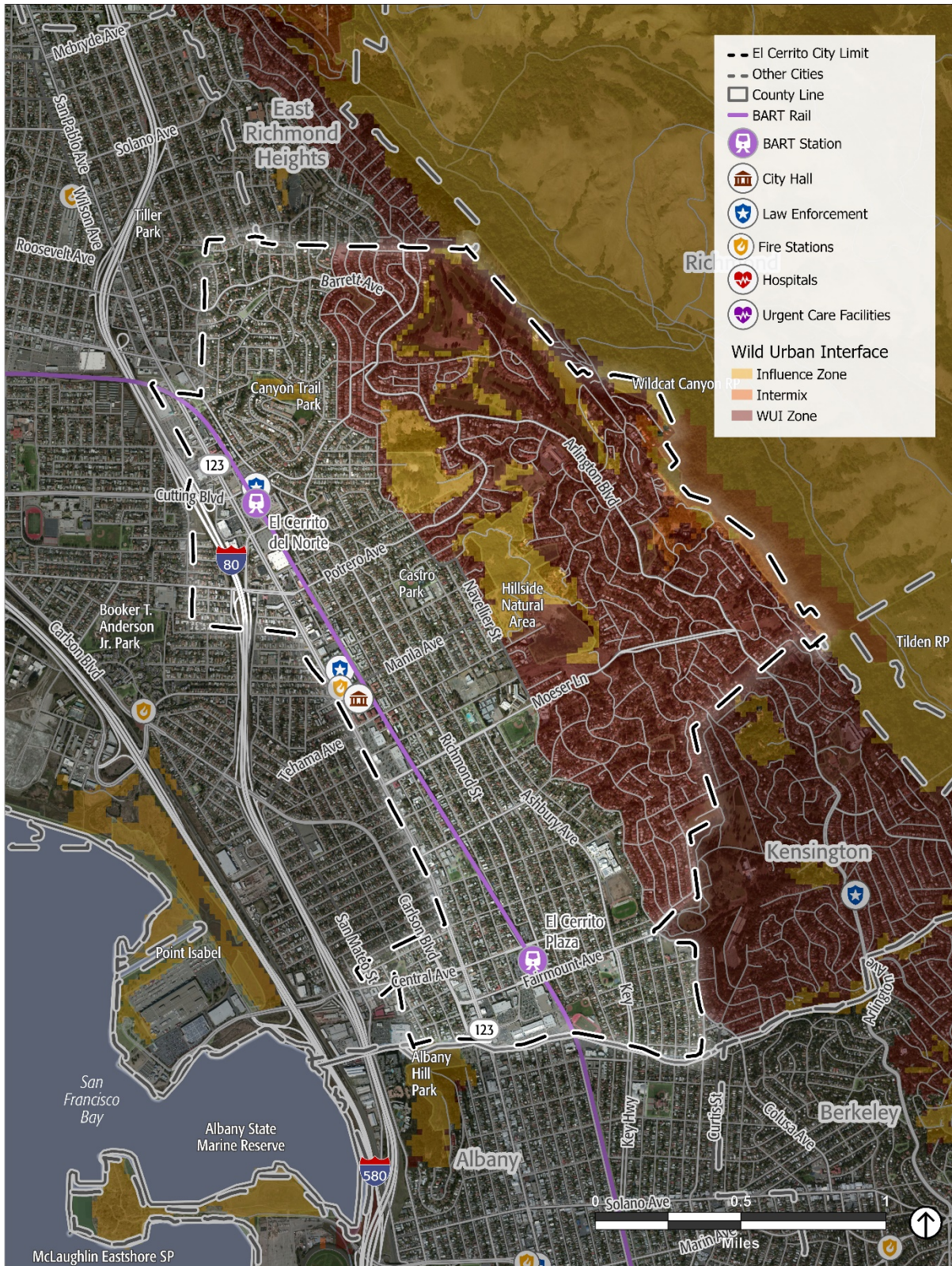
In the WUI area, efforts to prevent ignitions and limit wildfire loss hinge on hardening structures and creating defensible space through a multifaceted approach that includes engineering, enforcement, education, emergency response, and economic incentives. As shown in **Figure S-11**, most of eastern El Cerrito lies within the WUI zone. The WUI zones shown in this map are not formally established by the State or City and are not associated with any regulatory requirements. They are included in this Safety Element to help the City and community understand wildfire risks in different parts of El Cerrito. These zones may also inform insurance rates, evacuation planning, and other associated factors.

Figure S-10 Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid Transit, 2020; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal FIRE, 2025; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033;

Figure S-11 Wildland-Urban Interface Areas



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWise 2024, CalFIRE 2019, CalOES 2019, 2023

Structural Fires

El Cerrito is also at risk from structural fires. Structural fires are often due to faulty wiring, mechanical equipment, or combustible construction materials in the built environment. The absence of fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems often exacerbates the damage associated with a structural fire. Structural fires are largely caused by human accidents, although deliberate fires (arson) may cause some events. Older buildings lacking modern fire safety features may face greater risk of fire damage.

Building construction standards help reduce the risk of structural fires. Every proposed construction project in El Cerrito is reviewed by the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department for compliance with the most recent version of the California Fire Code adopted by the City, including City amendments to the code.

Fire Protection

The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department provides fire protection to all areas of El Cerrito. There are no areas in the city that lack fire protection service. The Fire Department operates two fire stations in the City of El Cerrito and one in the unincorporated community of Kensington:

- Station 51 at 10900 San Pablo Avenue
- Station 52 at 1520 Arlington Boulevard, El Cerrito
- Station 55 at 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington

In addition to local fire stations, the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department participates in automatic and mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, Contra Costa County agencies, CAL FIRE, and other regional, State,

and federal partners. These agreements ensure that personnel and equipment can be deployed quickly across jurisdictions to respond to large-scale natural disasters, including wildfires.

Goals and Policies

Goal 4: Reduce El Cerrito's risk of wildfire and provide timely and effective fire response.

- Policy 4.1: Fire-Resilient Existing Development.** Work with property owners and building occupants to raise awareness about potential building and landscape modifications to improve wildfire resilience and work to obtain funding to help property owners make these improvements, in accordance with applicable State requirements and the City's local ordinances and Vegetation Management Program.
- Policy 4.2: Fire-Retardant Landscaping.** Require the use of fire-retardant vegetation for landscaping in new development in high fire hazard areas. Encourage the use of fire-retardant vegetation in all development City-wide. Fire-retardant vegetation, also known as fire-resistant plants, refers to plants that do not readily ignite from flames or other ignition sources and, if exposed to fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire's fuel or intensity.
- Policy 4.3: Hillside Natural Area.** Manage vegetation in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fire hazards in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. The Fire Department and Public Works Department shall share responsibility for implementation. Pursue viable funding sources to implement measures identified in the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan that promote wildfire resilience.
- Policy 4.4: Hazardous Tree Removal on Private Property.** Help residents access resources for removing hazardous trees on private property that threaten residential buildings and critical facilities. Distribute information about available programs and facilitate efforts to connect property owners with external funding sources, local organizations, nonprofits, or state agencies that can provide resources or assistance.
- Policy 4.5: Urban Forest Management for Wildfire Risk Reduction.** Maintain and manage El Cerrito's urban forest to reduce wildfire risk in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Wildfire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan.
- Policy 4.6: Fuel Breaks.** Require property owners of existing and new development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland-Urban Interface (as shown on **Figure S-10** and **Figure S-11**) to create and maintain fuel breaks and defensible space around structures and along roadways that is free from dry brush and other flammable materials and to comply with the 100-foot Defensible Space Requirement in the Public Resources Code Section 4291 and Government Code Section 51182 for fuel modification to reduce fire danger.
- Policy 4.7: Regional Wildfire Prevention.** Continue to collaborate with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, neighboring

jurisdictions, the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, the El Cerrito and Diablo Fire Safe Councils, Hills Emergency Forum, and local community organizations to regularly review regional wildfire hazards and vulnerabilities and develop regional wildfire abatement and response strategies.

Policy 4.8: Wildfire Risk from Energy Infrastructure. Coordinate with PG&E to reduce wildfire risk related to electrical infrastructure, including:

- Maintenance of fire breaks around electrical infrastructure.
- Installation of covered conductors to reduce ignition risk from contact with vegetation or debris.
- Use of Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings that automatically shut off power in high-risk conditions.
- Vegetation management beyond minimum clearance requirements in high-risk areas.
- Implementation of Public Safety Power Shutoffs during extreme fire weather events, with coordination to minimize community disruption.
- Undergrounding electricity infrastructure in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy 4.9: Firefighting Infrastructure. Facilitate the timely and effective provision of firefighting services by:

1. Expanding the availability of fire hydrants in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. This may include installation of sufficiently sized hydrants in areas identified in the Hillside Natural Area.
2. Coordinating with the East Bay Municipal District to ensure that adequate peak load water supplies are available to fight fires. Redundancies in the water storage and capacity distribution network should be considered and implemented in those areas of the City where ground failure could result in breaks to both the water and gas mains, with the potential for significant conflagrations. Ensure that hydrants remain accessible for fire response.
3. Requiring that development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones contain visible street signage, such as reflective signs that clearly indicate street names, addresses, and directional arrows for emergency response,
4. Studying and establishing, as appropriate, Red Flag Day parking restrictions to ensure unobstructed access for emergency vehicles.
5. Requiring that new development provide roadways of adequate width to support emergency response vehicles.
6. Requiring that new development provide adequate water pressure for firefighting.

7. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development.

Policy 4.10: Sufficient Firefighting Services. Regularly review funding, staffing levels, fire station location, equipment availability, water availability, and availability of other key resources of the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department to ensure that the Department is keeping pace with changes in local population.

Policy 4.11: Fire Protection for New Development. Ensure new development is located where fire and emergency services have sufficient capacity to meet project needs and that existing development maintains its current level of protection service. In addition to adequate Fire Department staffing and resources, this may include increased requirements for fire protection systems for residential units, such as roof sprinkler systems or other site-specific fire resilience features.

Policy 4.12: Post-Fire Development. Require redevelopment after wildfires to meet current California Building Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Standards to reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazards through site preparation, layout design, fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-retarding building design and materials. Re-evaluate development standards after a wildfire to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices. In addition, regularly review and update local development standards to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices, independent of local fire events.

Policy 4.13: Post-Fire Displacement. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and local homeless service and emergency support providers to help residents displaced from wildfires to secure housing and other necessary services.

Policy 4.14: Post-Fire Slope Stabilization. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to stabilize and vegetate burned slopes after a wildfire.

Policy 4.15: Wildfire Health Impacts. Work with the Contra Costa County Public Health Division and health service providers to plan for increased levels of illness and injury due to wildfire and to distribute N95 masks during periods of poor air quality.

Policy 4.16: New Development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Encourage new residential development to occur outside of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones identified by CAL FIRE (see **Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones**). Where new construction or significant redevelopment is proposed in such areas, require review by the Community Development Department and El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department prior to the issuance of development permits. Plans for proposed development in such areas shall include, at a minimum:

- Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies.

- Development and maintenance of defensible space and shaded fuel breaks.
- Development of fire protection plans that include at a minimum:
 - Risk analysis;
 - Fire response capabilities;
 - Fire safety requirements, including defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance;
 - Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification;
 - Wildfire education, maintenance, and limitations; and
 - Evacuation planning.
- Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, fire equipment access, and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3, commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).
- Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs.
- Location and source of anticipated water supply.

Policy 4.17: Fire Hazards Response Support. Facilitate firefighting in low-visibility conditions by requiring measures such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).

Policy 4.18: Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment. Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).

Policy 4.19: Retrofitting City-Owned Roadways. Identify existing public and private roadways in fire hazard severity zones that are not in compliance with current fire safety regulations, to the extent resources are available. Work at retrofitting and maintaining City-owned roadways as needed to meet current standards and encourage private property owners to do the same, to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints.

These standards include road standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).

Policy 4.20: Firewise Communities. Work with the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council to publicize the Firewise USA program to neighborhoods in areas with high fire risks and support neighborhoods in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface in pursuing designation as Firewise Communities.

EXTREME HEAT AND SEVERE WEATHER

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest climate-related hazards nationwide; the Center for Disease Control and Prevention noted a rise in heat-related deaths—from 297 in 2004 to over 2,300 in 2023 .^{viii, ix} The rising frequency and intensity of extreme heat events pose significant public health concerns, especially in areas such as El Cerrito that have historically experienced milder temperatures and are home to residents without access to climate-controlled environments. Warmer temperatures and the urban heat island effect can exacerbate extreme heat impacts in densely populated areas, especially those that have limited tree canopy. **Figure S-12** shows the relative levels of extreme heat in different neighborhoods of El Cerrito.

Extreme heat is when temperatures are well above normal conditions. In El Cerrito, the extreme heat threshold is 88.7 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), or hotter than 98 percent of historic days. Five extreme heat days in a row is considered a heat wave. When the daily minimum temperatures remain significantly above normal, warm nights worsen extreme heat days because overnight temperatures do not decrease to provide relief from high temperatures. A warm night occurs when temperatures remain above 60°F in El Cerrito.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize extreme heat as a substantial public health concern. Seniors, persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities, persons experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, low-resourced people of color, immigrant/linguistically isolated communities,

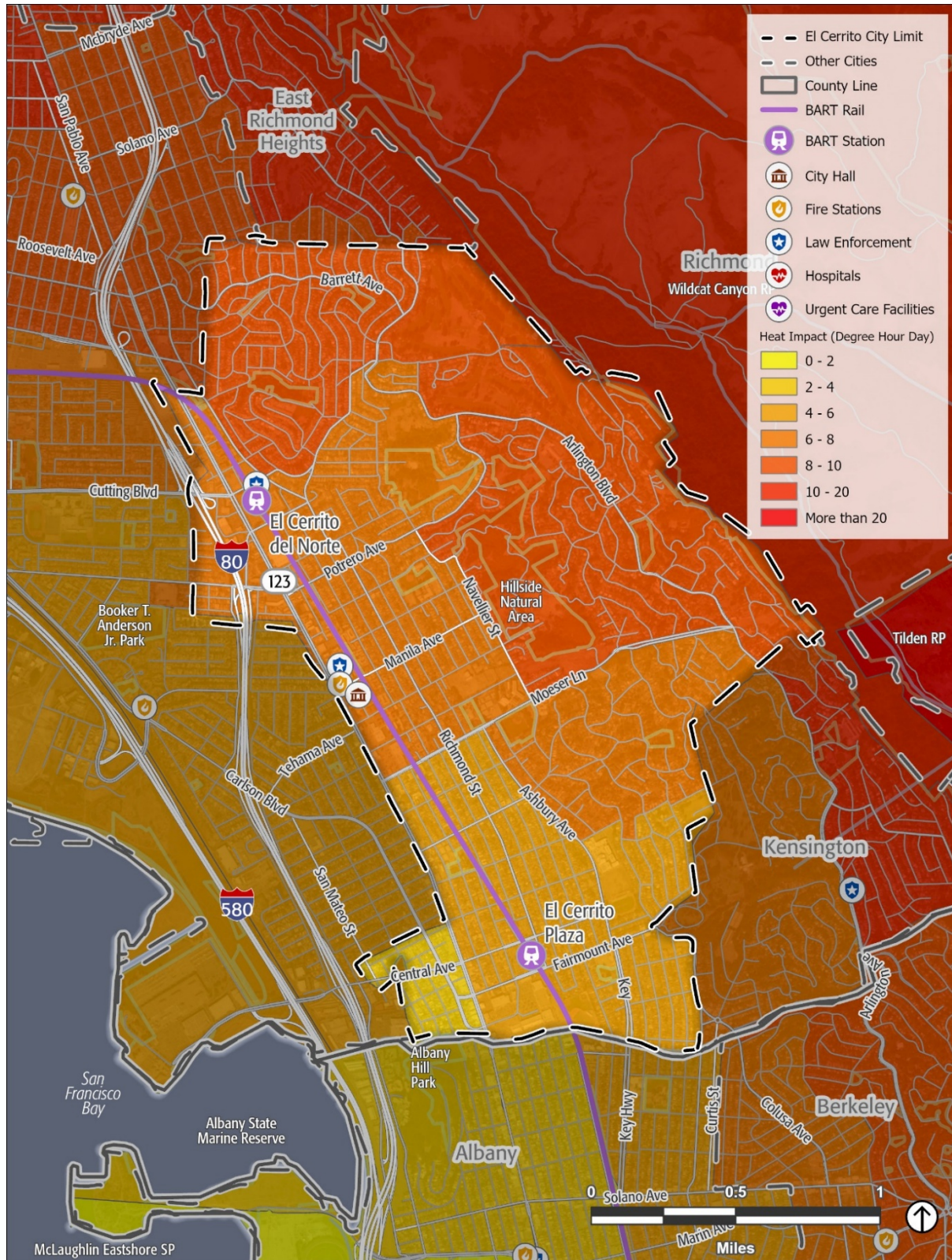
and households in poverty are among those most vulnerable to extreme heat.

According to the U.S. Census, approximately 82 percent of all housing in El Cerrito was built prior to 1980,^x which is unlikely to have air conditioning and may lack effective insulation. During extreme heat days, temperatures in poorly insulated homes may reach uncomfortable or dangerous temperatures. People living in these homes are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses from extreme heat events, especially people who are predisposed to heat-related illnesses.

Walking, biking, and other modes of active transportation become more difficult in extreme heat. These activities carry greater health risks when temperatures are very hot, especially for people who are already vulnerable to extreme heat and in areas with little or no shade coverage. Extreme heat can limit active transportation options and disproportionately affect those who rely on them.

Extreme heat also stresses infrastructure networks. Higher air conditioning demand during extreme heat days risks overloading the electrical grid and causing power outages. Very high heat can degrade transportation systems by softening and buckling asphalt and warping rail lines. These impacts reduce public transit capacity, as trains must operate at lower speeds, resulting in delays and increased risk of damage. Additionally, rising temperatures harm local ecosystems by increasing water temperatures in local lakes and streams, harming fish and plant species.

Figure S-12 Extreme Heat in El Cerrito



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; California Environmental Protection Agency, 2013; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024;

The warmer temperatures brought on by climate change are likely to cause an increase in extreme heat events locally. In El Cerrito, the state projects that the number of extreme heat days is expected to rise from a historical annual average of 3 to 9 days by the middle of the century (2035 to 2064), and an average of 17 days by the end of the century (2070 to 2099). Additionally, the number of warm nights is expected to rise from a historical annual average of 5 to 47 nights by the middle of the century (2035 to 2064), and to an average of 119 nights by the end of the century (2070 to 2099).^{xi}

Severe Weather

Severe weather poses a significant threat to El Cerrito and the greater region, disrupting daily life, compromising safety, and affecting infrastructure and ecosystems. Severe weather is usually caused by intense storm systems, although some strong winds can occur without a storm. The types of dangers posed by severe weather include injuries or deaths, damage to buildings and structures, fallen trees, roads blocked by debris, fires sparked by lightning, downed power lines, flooding, storm drain overflows, and infrastructure failure. Heavy rain can cause widespread flooding, often overwhelming drainage systems and leading to significant disruptions in transportation, emergency response, and access to essential services. Severe weather often produces high winds and lightning that can damage structures and cause power outages. Lightning from these storms can ignite fires and cause explosions that damage buildings and endanger people. High wind events can also exacerbate the risk of wildfires in El Cerrito and across the region.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and other electrical utilities have begun to occasionally “de-energize” or turn off the electricity for power lines that run through areas with an elevated fire risk. Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events are intended to reduce the risk of power lines sparking or being damaged and starting a wildfire. A PSPS event may occur at any time of the year, usually during high wind events and dry conditions. While PSPS events have been smaller and less frequent recently, these events still pose a risk to PG&E customers across Contra Costa County, including El Cerrito. According to records of PSPS events, the hillside neighborhoods of El Cerrito experience an average of one PSPS every two years, and neighborhoods closer to the bayshore experience a PSPS approximately once every five years.

People who depend on medical devices, such as oxygen concentrators or ventilators, are at greater risk during power outages, as are those who need electricity for climate control to keep indoor temperatures safe. The loss of power to communications and other critical infrastructure disrupts access to goods and services.

Climate change is expected to cause an increase in intense rainfall and strong storm systems, such as atmospheric rivers. This increase means that El Cerrito could see more intense weather resulting from these storms in the coming years and decades, although such an increase may not affect all forms of severe weather. Heavy rainfall can increase the frequency and severity of other hazards, including flooding and landslides.

Goals and Policies

Goal 5: Reduce risk from and provide timely and effective response to extreme heat and severe weather.

- Policy 5.1: Urban Tree Canopy.** Maintain the health of the urban tree canopy to increase shaded surfaces and reduce risk of downed trees during severe weather. Expand and renew the urban tree canopy to help reduce the impacts of extreme heat.
- Policy 5.2: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials.** Use heat-mitigating materials and install shade structures, both green and built infrastructure, at parks, schools, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces to reduce ground surface temperatures.
- Policy 5.3: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials at Transit Stops.** Coordinate with local and regional public transportation providers to increase shading and heat-mitigating materials at transit stops.
- Policy 5.4: Resilience Hubs.** Identify existing facilities that can function as community resilience hubs. Maintain these facilities as needed to serve as resilience hubs, ensuring they are well-equipped, accessible, and situated outside of areas at risk from hazards impacts, and that the public is aware of these resources. Work with neighboring jurisdictions to promote awareness and use of these hubs. Evaluate the feasibility of creating new resilience hubs when new facilities are developed or existing facilities are retrofitted, incorporating renewable energy generation, energy storage, and the ability to offer refuge from extreme heat and poor air quality due to regional wildfire smoke.
- Policy 5.5: Resilient Development.** Encourage new and existing development to incorporate building and site design features that reduce the effects of extreme heat, improve indoor air quality, and reduce energy demand. These features could include air conditioning, air filtration, energy-efficient duct work improvements, passive cooling design and amenities, cool roofs, reflective or pervious pavement materials, high-albedo surfaces, shade trees, and other green infrastructure. Help residents connect with contractors and financial assistance programs to implement these improvements.
- Policy 5.6: Resilient Power Supplies.** Work with PG&E, MCE, and local solar energy installers to support resiliency of the local power grid, including distributed generation and microgrids for residents, businesses, and public agencies.
- Policy 5.7: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage at City Facilities.** Maintain, improve, and where fiscally viable expand distributed renewable generation and energy storage at City facilities. Include provisions for the ongoing maintenance and performance monitoring of these systems to ensure long-term reliability. Prioritize buildings and facilities that provide essential City services during extreme weather events for energy storage systems.

- Policy 5.8: Community Solar and Energy Storage.** Work in partnership with MCE, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, and others to support the development of community solar projects, streamline permitting where possible, and prioritize storage systems to ensure community solar could be used during outages.
- Policy 5.9: Planning for Extreme Heat.** Participate in regional planning with neighboring jurisdictions to develop an extreme heat response plan that includes establishment of community cooling centers, weatherization of City buildings, temperature triggers for when cooling centers would open, and cooling strategies for persons engaged in outdoor work and persons experiencing homelessness.
- Policy 5.10: Community Support and Mutual-Aid Networks.** Support residents in developing neighborhood support programs to perform wellness checks on vulnerable neighbors during hazardous events.
- Policy 5.11: Urban Greening Plan.** Implement the Urban Greening Plan to enhance public places and open spaces throughout the City. Open and green spaces provide cooling from heat and are linked to mental health and quality of life benefits.

DROUGHT

A drought is an extended period when precipitation levels are well below normal. Drought may affect domestic water supply, energy production, public health, wildlife, and contribute to wildfire. Like most of California and the western United States, El Cerrito chronically experiences drought cycles. The U.S. Drought Monitor recognizes a five-point scale for drought events: D0 (abnormally dry), D1 (moderate drought), D2 (severe drought), D3 (extreme drought), and D4 (exceptional drought). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the most intensive drought conditions in recent years were during most of 2014 and 2021, when all of Contra Costa County was classified in “extreme” drought. As of March 2025, El Cerrito was not facing drought conditions, but eastern Contra Costa County was classified as abnormally dry, and over half of California was in some level of drought. During severe drought conditions, water shortages are common, and water restrictions may be imposed to meet essential community needs.

El Cerrito’s water supply comes from imported water delivered by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Approximately 90 percent of EBMUD’s water supply begins at the Mokelumne River watershed in the Sierra Nevada and extends 90 miles to the East Bay, passing through the Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Mokelumne Aqueducts convey the Mokelumne River supply to local storage and treatment facilities in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

Drought in California is cyclical, driven by large-scale climate patterns. Although droughts are a regular feature of California’s climate,

climate change is leading to more frequent, prolonged, and intense droughts statewide. Overall, long-term precipitation levels are expected to remain similar to historic levels in El Cerrito, potentially increasing slightly by the end of the century.^{xii} However, there are likely to be more years with extreme levels of rainfall, both high and low, because of climate change. This is expected to cause more frequent and intense droughts, compared to historical norms, which cause soil to dry out, and harden, which can trigger landslides in the subsequent rainy season.

Reduced winter precipitation levels and warmer temperatures have decreased the size of the Sierra Nevada snowpack (the volume of accumulated snow), making less fresh water available for communities throughout California, including the imported water supply for El Cerrito. A continued decline in the volume of the Sierra Nevada snowpack is expected, which may lead to lower volumes of available imported water. More precipitation is expected to fall as rain instead of snow, and the snow that does fall will melt earlier, reducing the Sierra Nevada spring snowpack by as much as 70 to 90 percent.^{xiii} How much snowpack will be lost depends in part on future precipitation patterns, the projections for which remain uncertain. However, even under wetter climate projections, the loss of snowpack would pose potential water shortage issues and exacerbate drought conditions.

Goals and Policies

Goal 6: Secure a resilient water supply and use water supplies sustainably.

- Policy 6.1: Drought-Tolerant Landscaping.** Require drought-tolerant landscaping in new private and municipal development, in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Ensure that new landscaping does not exacerbate wildfire or flood risks and aligns with vegetation and stormwater management standards.
- Policy 6.2: Water-Efficient Development.** Require the installation of water efficiency measures in new private development and at municipal facilities. Encourage the installation of water efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.
- Policy 6.3: Drought Planning.** Work with regional water providers to prepare for reduced long-term water supply resulting from more frequent and severe drought events, and implement extensive water conservation measures and ensure sustainable water supplies, including fire suppression needs.

HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

Human health hazards, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and other pathogens, pose significant concerns in El Cerrito. These conditions can result in physical injuries, fatalities, and mental health issues and exacerbate pre-existing conditions like asthma and allergies. Rats, mice, ticks, and mosquitos are common vectors, meaning they often spread the pathogens that can cause illness. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns due to climate change promote the proliferation of disease-carrying vectors. Many of these pathogens also reproduce more rapidly in warmer conditions, compounding the risk of transmission. Warmer conditions and wetter years allow for increased populations of mosquitoes and ticks, extending their geographic range and spreading diseases like West Nile virus, dengue fever, and Lyme disease.^{xiv} As temperatures rise and extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, become more frequent, these vectors can spread more broadly, transmitting diseases that threaten public health.^{xv}

Populations most vulnerable to human health hazards are those who spend a significant amount of time outdoors (such as outdoor workers or persons experiencing homelessness), those with fragile immune systems or existing illnesses (which may include persons with chronic illnesses and seniors), those who may live in substandard housing, or who do not have access to health insurance and medical care.

Heatwaves, another increasing hazard due to climate change, can directly impact human health by causing heat-related illnesses and deaths while worsening respiratory conditions

due to increased air pollution. The combination of these factors suggests that human health hazards will become more widespread and severe as climate change progresses, making proactive public health measures even more critical. The impacts of these health hazards extend beyond individual well-being.

Widespread disease outbreaks can place strain on healthcare systems, increase economic burdens, and affect community-wide mental health.

Goals and Policies

Goal 7: Protect the health of El Cerrito residents.

- Policy 7.1: Regional Health.** Support Contra Costa County in disseminating information on disease conditions that may affect El Cerrito residents.
- Policy 7.2: Pandemic Planning.** Support Contra Costa County to plan for future pandemic events, including securing necessary public health supplies, preparing effective messaging for preventative actions and treatments, and identifying and evaluating potential public health measures.
- Policy 7.3: Vector-Borne Diseases.** Support the County and the Mosquito and Vector Control District in working with healthcare providers to support free or reduced-cost vaccinations for vector-borne diseases for El Cerrito residents.
- Policy 7.4: Medical Providers.** Support Contra Costa County to coordinate with local medical providers to ensure low-cost medical and emergency medical services are available to all residents in the City.
- Policy 7.5: Outdoor Workers.** Support opportunities to ensure that workers in outdoor industries have the training and resources to be adequately protected from environmental hazards, including extreme heat, poor air quality, pests, and diseases, in alignment with applicable OSHA and Cal/OSHA regulations and standards.
- Policy 7.6: Public Awareness.** Work with local community groups, providers of senior services, and childcare workers to raise awareness about disease prevention and response.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Local Emergency Response

Emergency preparedness and response in El Cerrito is a coordinated effort involving all City departments, which together constitute the City's emergency organization during an emergency, under the leadership of the City Manager, who serves as the Director of Emergency Services, as established in El Cerrito Municipal Code (ECMC) Chapter 2.28 and the City's adopted emergency plan.

The El Cerrito Police Department provides law enforcement services and the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department delivers fire prevention and suppression services. Other departments such as Public Works also play key roles and have important responsibilities during emergency response efforts.

The City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) guides these efforts by outlining roles, responsibilities, and coordination among departments, stakeholder agencies, community-based organizations, the business community, and residents. The EOP is regularly updated by staff and approved by the City Council, and it identifies operational strategies and plans for managing inherently complex and potentially catastrophic events. The EOP is available online at:

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20415/Emergency-Operations-Plan>

During emergency events, or in anticipation of one, the City will activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate response and recovery efforts across departments and with regional, State, and federal partners. The EOC's organizational

structure, as outlined in the City's EOP, serve as a clear hierarchy and system for situational awareness, resource management, and providing public information. The City is committed to maintaining EOC readiness through regular training and drills for City staff, testing communication linkages with external agencies, and reporting on EOC preparedness activities to the community.

The Fire Department also conducts regular training exercises with residents, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. El Cerrito's CERT program is run by a partnership between the City and the Fire Department to provide residents with hands-on training in disaster first aid, disaster preparedness, basic firefighting, light search and rescue, damage assessment, and how to turn off utilities. Through CERT and other preparedness activities, the City equips community members with the skills and knowledge needed to assist themselves, their families, and their neighbors during emergencies.

Emergency planning

The State of California requires all State, regional, and local agencies, including PG&E and EBMUD, to maintain their own emergency plan relating to the infrastructure that they install and maintain. In the event of an emergency, the City relies on PG&E to implement its emergency plan, with City support as needed. When an incident occurs anywhere in El Cerrito, the Police Department and/or the Fire Department is typically the first to arrive at the scene, where they secure the area and then determine which other agencies need to be involved.

The City of El Cerrito website's Alert Center, allows residents to view all issued alerts and emergencies in the area and can be accessed at <https://www.el-cerrito.org/AlertCenter.aspx>. The City also provides various emergency alerts through posts on social media platforms and the City's Nixle system. El Cerrito residents may register with Contra Costa County's Community Warning System, an emergency notification system maintained by Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. This system provides alerts and critical information during emergencies or disasters, including instructions on protective actions such as sheltering in place, lockdowns, evacuations, or avoiding certain areas. Residents receive CWS alerts via phone calls, text messages, emails, sirens, and social media to stay informed about life-threatening hazards.

Emergency Evacuation

With advanced warning, evacuation can effectively reduce injury and loss of life during a catastrophic event. Primary potential emergency access and evacuation routes include San Pablo Avenue, which runs north-south along the western portion of the City, and Arlington Boulevard, runs north-south along the eastern portion of the City. Other potential evacuation routes include Cutting Boulevard, Potrero Avenue, and Moeser Lane, which run east-west and connect Arlington Boulevard to San Pablo Avenue. **Figure S-13** shows the potential evacuation routes throughout the City, although the recommended evacuation routes in any given situation will depend on the specifics of the emergency. These evacuation routes face potential disruption from flooding, wildfire, landslides, or an earthquake, which may block roadways, damage the roadway surface, or collapse bridges and overpasses.

Figure S-14 shows residential parcels with evacuation constraints. All of these parcels are at least a half mile from a major roadway and have access to only one emergency evacuation route. The lack of multiple emergency access points limits roadway access for these properties, which may create difficulties if there is a need to evacuate.

As part of the Safety Element Update, the project team assessed emergency evacuation times, consistent with California AB 747, which requires that all general plan safety elements identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. The study assesses evacuation under different scenarios, evaluating roadway capacity and the time needed to evacuate. The evacuation study is included as an appendix to this Safety Element (**Appendix A**).

This study focused on the use of private vehicles for evacuations, consistent with the focus on roadways under State law. While private vehicles are likely to be the primary means of evacuation in most scenarios, some El Cerrito residents may lack access to private vehicles. People may evacuate on foot, by bicycle, using public transit or school buses, or other means, depending on their specific circumstances and the nature of the emergency. Additionally, some residents who initially evacuate by car may have to leave their vehicles and evacuate on foot due to roadway congestion or the speed of the hazardous conditions, as has happened in some recent wildfires across California.

The evacuation study modeled an evacuation from three different scenarios: 1) an early-morning hazardous material spill on San Pablo Avenue, 2) a midday wildfire originating near

the Rifle Range Road trailhead, and 3) a midday wildfire in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park that prompts widespread evacuations. This study found that fully evacuating the affected areas may take up to 60 to 140 minutes for the hazardous material spill, up to 70 to 80 minutes for the Rifle Range Road wildfire, and up to 110 to 160 minutes for the Wildcat Canyon wildfire. These are general estimates that may be affected by numerous factors in an actual emergency, and that most persons in affected areas would likely be able to evacuate sooner.

The report provides a set of recommendations based on the results of the analysis, such as identifying multiple evacuation destinations in different locations to allow for more evacuation routes and shorter evacuation times; coordinating with other jurisdictions to maintain the designated evacuation routes that serve the City; prioritizing undergrounding utilities and upgrading power poles on main evacuation routes to minimize downed wires on these routes; and conducting community-wide evacuation exercises to test the recommendations and plans associated with scenarios in the evacuation study. This Safety Element incorporates many of these recommendations into the goals and policies discussed in this section.

Figure S-13 Potential Evacuation Routes

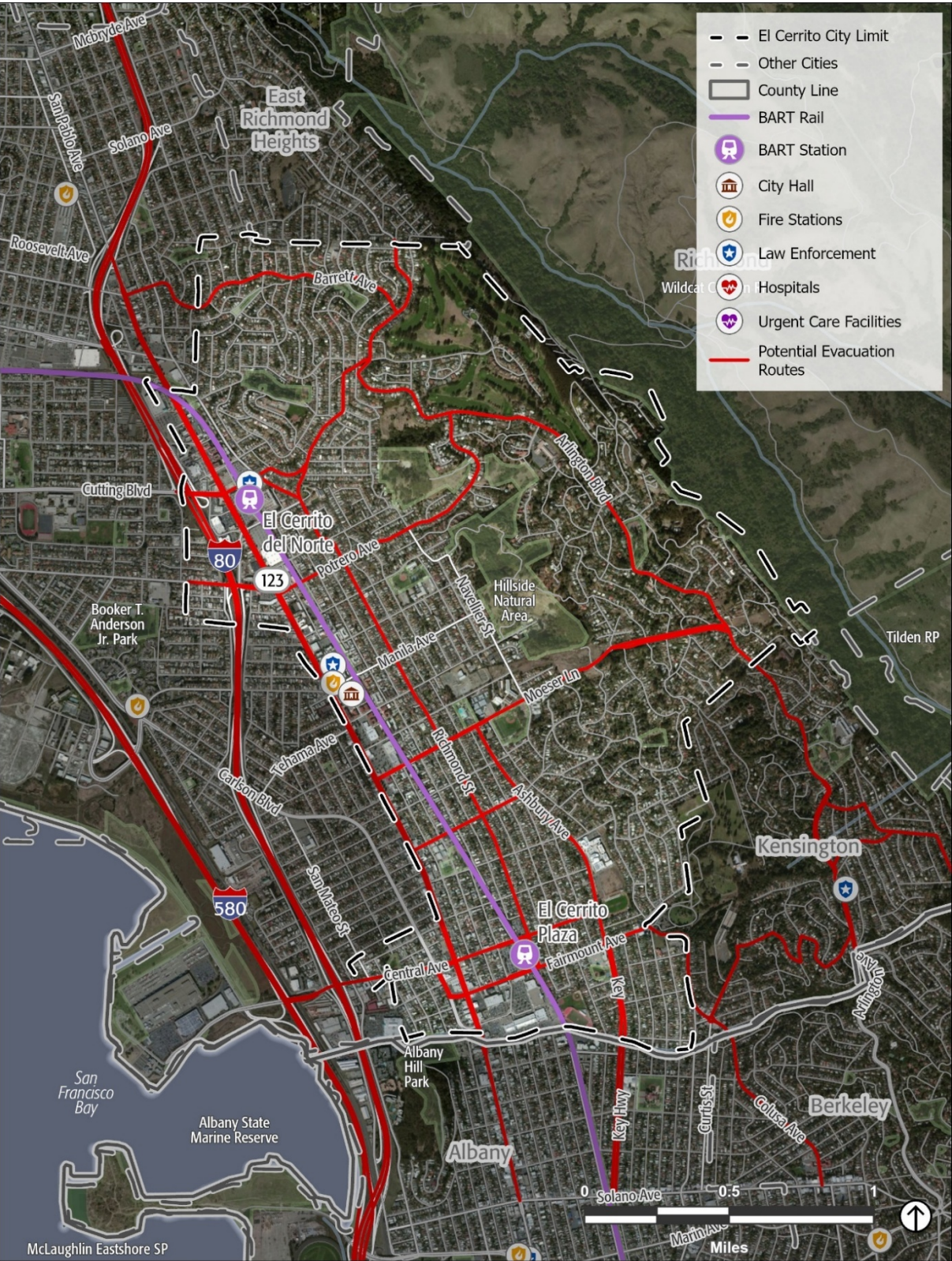
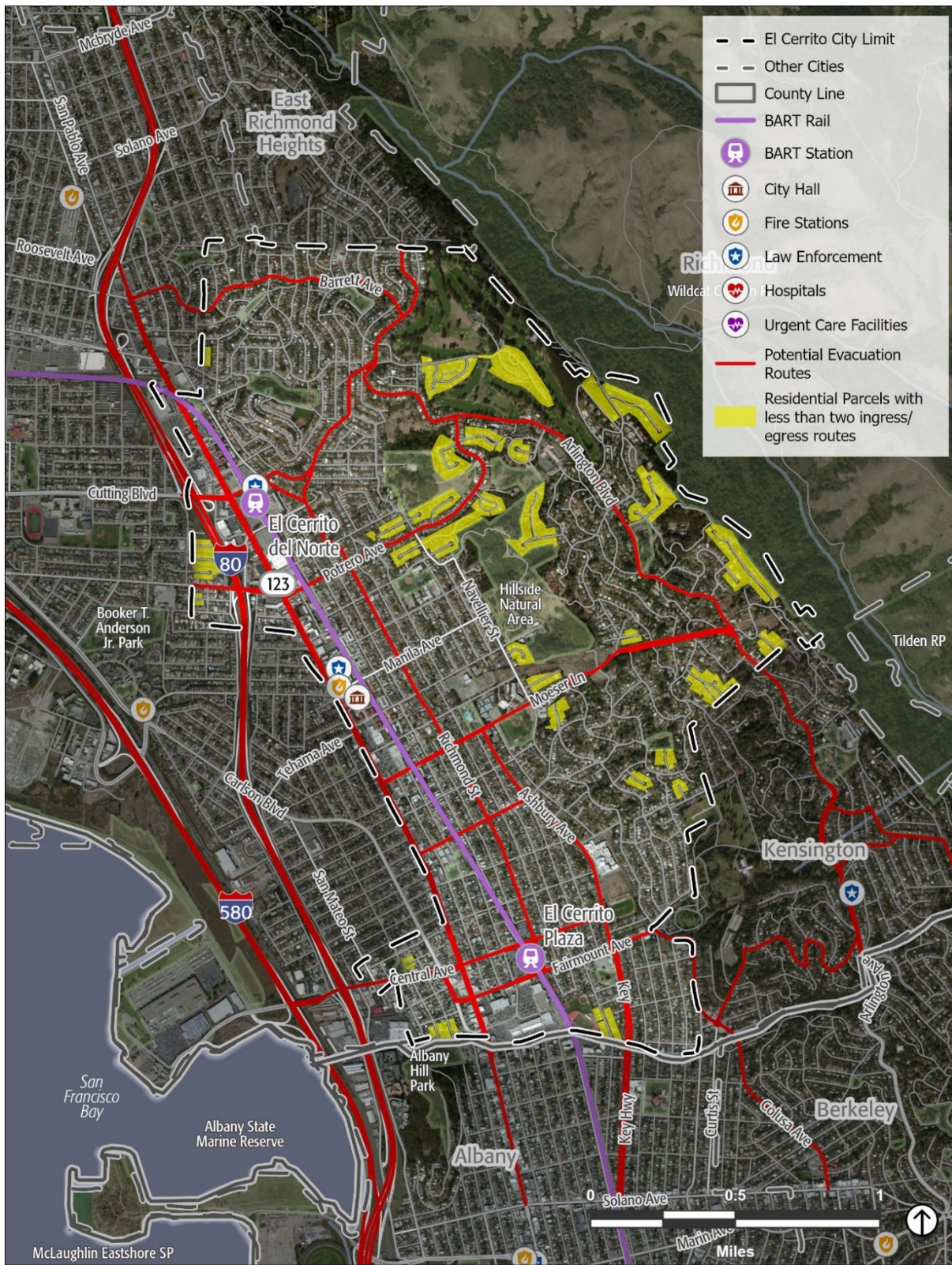


Figure S-14 Evacuation-Constrained Parcels



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033

Goals and Policies

Goal 8: A community prepared for an effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or natural and human-caused disasters.

- Policy 8.1: Hazard Awareness.** Publicize areas at risk of local hazards, emergency preparedness programs, evacuation planning resources, and other efforts to promote resident awareness and caution regarding hazards, including soil instability, earthquakes, flooding, and fire.
- Policy 8.2: Public Facilities.** Avoid construction of new emergency buildings (police, fire, hospital, etc.) and vital utilities, communication systems and other public facilities in identified fire, flood, and geologic hazard zones (see **Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas**; **Figure S-7, Flood Hazard Zones**; and **Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones**) to the extent feasible. Design such buildings and infrastructure to remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster and ensure that existing critical facilities and infrastructure remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster.
- Policy 8.3: Emergency Notification and Communication.** Promote participation in the City's Emergency Alert E-Notifications program, PG&E's emergency alert system, emergency HAM radio operators' network, and other networks that can reach residents in the event of an emergency. Continue to support the County's Community Warning System sirens and explore opportunities to expand emergency warning siren systems in El Cerrito. Use all City social media channels, both citywide accounts and departmental accounts to share timely and accurate emergency information. Ensure that the City can issue emergency warnings and ensure communication between emergency responders even in the absence of electrical and cellular service and update the Emergency Operations Plan to specify these alternatives. Ensure that all official City communications are provided in formats and languages that are reflective of the demographics of El Cerrito. Conduct regular outreach and education so that residents understand how notifications and alerts will be shared during an emergency, what emergency sirens mean, and what protective actions should be taken when they are activated.
- Policy 8.4: Power Outages.** Identify residents whose health and safety may be most severely impacted by power outages and provide support and assistance in obtaining backup power supplies and other safety resources.
- Policy 8.5: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** After update and certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, incorporate the current Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's Annex into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.

- Policy 8.6: Community Emergency Preparedness.** In partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, conduct community emergency response and evacuation drills to increase awareness and support improved community preparedness for future emergencies.
- Policy 8.7: Community Emergency Response Team Training.** Support, encourage, and continue to offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.
- Policy 8.8: Hazard Insurance.** Work with property and rental insurance providers to raise awareness about the latest safety requirements related to seismic, flood, and fire hazards and regularly incorporate these requirements into development codes as necessary, referencing related local ordinances and programs, such as the City's 2025 amendments to Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code. Work with other jurisdictions and local community-based organizations to evaluate opportunities to preserve and improve the cost and quality of property insurance for El Cerrito community members.
- Policy 8.9: Regional Emergency Response and Mutual Aid.** Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and Caltrans in emergency response and evacuation planning. Maintain and participate in mutual aid agreements with these agencies to ensure coordinated response capabilities, adequate medical and emergency services, and effective inter-agency communication. Cooperate with partners to assess and project future emergency service needs and to conduct joint preparedness, training, and exercises.
- Policy 8.10: Multi-Destination Evacuation Planning.** Identify and maintain a list of multiple evacuation destinations in different locations in the vicinity of the city to provide diverse points of refuge and reduce evacuation times. The City should select these sites based on their capacity to accommodate the estimated number of people evacuating from El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington.
- Policy 8.11: Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination for Evacuation Route Maintenance.** Collaborate and plan with the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans to ensure the ongoing maintenance and readiness of potential evacuation routes serving El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington, including making improvements to existing roads to support safe evacuations, as needed. Continue to implement and expand existing agreements where feasible along evacuation routes. These agreements shall include provisions for:
- a. Regular assessment and improvement of existing roads to support safe evacuations.
 - b. Coordinated planning and implementation of traffic management strategies during evacuations.

These efforts will help to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes in the event of an emergency.

Policy 8.12: Evacuation Route Infrastructure Preparedness. To enhance evacuation efficiency and safety, the City will:

- a. Continue to evaluate and to the extent feasible provide back-up power systems for all City-owned traffic signals on potential evacuation routes.
- b. Evaluate and as appropriate develop or update emergency evacuation traffic signal timing plans for all signals on potential evacuation routes, prioritizing outbound traffic flow while maintaining access for emergency vehicles through traffic signal pre-emption.
- c. Identify and designate routes where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained. This will include pre-identifying bottleneck intersections and positioning law enforcement personnel to maintain traffic movement during evacuations.
- d. Identify additional opportunities to preserve and enhance evacuation route infrastructure preparedness as part of regular maintenance activities, including evaluating the expansion of temporary parking restrictions (such as the red flag day pilot program) to enhance public safety during evacuations, as appropriate.

Policy 8.13: Evacuation Route Clearance and Capacity Enhancement. To maximize evacuation route effectiveness:

- a. The City will implement a permanent program that allows restriction of on-street parking on designated evacuation routes during high-risk periods for various hazards based on evaluation of pilot program.
- b. El Cerrito will support efforts by PG&E to prioritize the undergrounding of utilities and the upgrading of power poles with current isolating/shutdown technologies along main evacuation routes to minimize the risk of downed wires during evacuations. The City will also support tree trimming and other regular maintenance conducted by PG&E along utility corridors.

Policy 8.14: Community Evacuation Education and Preparedness. El Cerrito will implement a comprehensive community evacuation education and preparedness program, including:

- a. Regular updates and dissemination of information about how to plan for safe and effective evacuations, in multiple languages and formats accessible to all community members.

- b. Coordination with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and private schools to develop and regularly update evacuation plans that address both safe on-campus procedures and coordinated off-site transport to predetermined refuge locations beyond the disaster area.
- c. Targeted outreach and planning for areas with high concentrations of physically and socially vulnerable residents, including those with age-related, disability-related, or other mobility challenges.
- d. Conducting periodic community-wide evacuation exercises to test and refine evacuation plans and procedures.
- e. Encouraging residents and employees to sign up with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System and Genasys Protect to receive emergency alerts and ensure effective distribution of evacuation notifications (New policy).
- f. Identifying pedestrian paths, including stairs and trails, on evacuation maps.

Policy 8.15: Evacuation Assistance Program. Support and coordinate an evacuation assistance program with Contra Costa Transportation Authority, AC Transit, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies, and care homes to help those with limited mobility, lack of access to a vehicle, and other at-risk populations evacuate safely. Consider training for emergency responders and volunteers in assisting vulnerable populations during evacuations.

Policy 8.16: Hazard Planning in Capital Improvements. As part of the Capital Improvements Program, CIP Budget, and related planning and funding processes for capital improvements, include a forward-looking assessment of how the proposed improvements may be affected by current and anticipated future hazards, including those subject to climate change. Highlight how the project supports community-wide safety, equity, and climate readiness now and in the future. All projects shall incorporate at a minimum standard resilience practices, materials, and other elements to minimize future maintenance. Larger or more complex projects shall include a thorough resilience analysis that describes specific design, material, and construction strategies to ensure long-term durability and adaptability.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation matrix identifies information to support the implementation of the Safety Element policies. For each policy, the implementation matrix includes information on the Department responsible, time frame, and the relative cost to implement the measure (ranging from low to high). The City Manager's Office oversees all departments and leads community outreach and engagement efforts to support these measures.

Table 1: Safety Element Policy Matrix

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 1: Mitigate risk from geologic and seismic hazards.						
1.1: Geotechnical Review. Require geotechnical studies for development proposals in areas at risk from geologic and seismic hazards (see Figure S-1, Local Fault Lines; Figure S-3, Liquefaction Areas; and Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas), in accordance with City procedures. Such studies should evaluate the extent of geotechnical hazards, optimum location for structures, the advisability of special structural requirements, and the feasibility and desirability of a proposed facility in a specified location.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
1.2: Erosion Control. Provide appropriate control measures in conjunction with proposed development in areas susceptible to erosion, including an erosion control plan and revegetation plan as part of grading permits.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing	Public Works		Medium	Permit fees
1.3: Seismic Safety of New Development. Require new structures to be designed to contemporary standards for seismic safety. Require that new City-owned critical facilities be constructed to the highest possible standard of seismic safety.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
1.4: Seismic Safety of Existing Development. Assist occupants and owners of existing structures in identifying seismic risks to their structures and provide support in obtaining appropriate seismic retrofit measures. Evaluate all City-owned facilities to determine seismic risks and implement appropriate seismic retrofit measures.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Mid-term			High	Bonds, General Fund, grants, permit fees

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
1.5: Seismic Safety of Utilities. Encourage local gas, water, and sewer providers to review and retrofit their main distribution pipes.	Public Works Department,	Long-term		EBMUD, PG&E	Low	General Fund, grants
Goal 2: Minimize potential damage from existing hazardous materials and prevent future hazardous materials contamination.						
2.1: Potential Hazardous Soils Conditions of New Development. Evaluate new development on potentially contaminated sites (such as older fill sites, historical auto service uses, industrial uses, or areas where hazardous materials may have been used, as mapped in Figure S-6, Hazardous Materials Sites) and require that development proposals contain adequate measures to mitigate hazardous material exposure prior to development approvals.	Community Development Department	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
2.2: Hazardous Soil Conditions in Inundation Hazard Areas. Work with Contra Costa Health Services and other regional partners to identify hazardous materials sites where proximity to mapped flood hazard zones, sea level rise inundation areas, and other water-based hazards that may spread hazardous materials. Prioritize remediation of these sites.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Contra Costa Health Services	Medium	General Fund, grants
2.3: Hazardous Materials at Municipal Facilities. Ensure that hazardous materials owned or stored by the City are managed and disposed of appropriately to protect human and environmental health and safety.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, Contra Costa Clean Water Program	Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
2.4: Hazardous Materials Storage and Disposal. Require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials in accordance with all State, federal, and local laws and regulations to prevent leakage, potential explosions, fires, or the escape of harmful gases, and to prevent individually innocuous materials from combining to form hazardous substances, especially at the time of disposal.	Fire Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa Health Services	Low	General Fund, permit fees
2.5: Hazardous Materials Usage in Construction. Require and enforce effective mitigation measures to minimize exposure to toxic and hazardous materials during building renovations and demolitions.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing		Bay Area Air District	Low	Permit fees
2.6: Hazardous Materials Public Education. Provide information to the community regarding the potential health hazards posed by hazardous materials and possible ways to reduce hazardous materials use and properly dispose of hazardous materials.	Public Works	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, Recyclemore	Low	General Fund, grants, permit fees
Goal 3: Reduce risks from flooding and sea level rise and provide timely and effective flood response.						
3.1: Flood-responsive Siting of New Critical Facilities. Prohibit the construction of new critical facilities and infrastructure, including hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communication facilities in mapped flood hazard and sea level rise inundation zones (see Figures S-7, S-8, and S-9).	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.2: Flood-proofing New Construction. Require that new and significantly renovated buildings and structures in the mapped 100-year flood zones be constructed to a higher standard of flood protection to improve resilience, as required by the California Building Code and in accordance with the City's Floodplain Management ordinance.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing	Public Works		Medium	Permit fees
3.3: Flood Hazards from New Construction. Require new development and significant redevelopment projects, greater than 50,000 square feet of conditioned space, to prepare drainage studies to assess stormwater runoff impacts on the local storm drain system, and to develop recommended detention and drainage facilities as needed to ensure that increased risks of flooding on to neighboring properties do not result from development.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Medium	Permit fees, developer impact fees
3.4: Flood Hazards to Existing Development. Help property owners identify qualified service providers and obtain financial incentives to floodproof existing buildings. Continue to evaluate new opportunities to help reduce flood hazards to existing development, including development at risk of current or future flooding not in the mapped 100-year floodplain.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control District, FEMA	Medium	FEMA grants, General Fund, Community Development Block Grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.5: Maintenance for the City's Storm Drainage Facilities. Continue to enforce existing laws prohibiting the dumping of debris, fill or other waste materials, and illicit discharges into storm drains, creeks and channels, and the littering of garbage. Continue to ensure that local storm drainage facilities are sufficiently maintained. Pursue viable funding sources for local and regional drainage improvements for adequate flood control and protection.	Public Works Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa County Flood Control District	High	Stormwater utility fees, General Fund
3.6: Creek Maintenance Education. Continue to educate local property owners about their responsibilities to maintain creeks, storm drain-pipes, and open channels on private property, including regularly clearing trash and other debris.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Friends of Five Creeks, Contra Costa Clean Water Program	Low	General Fund
3.7: Natural Stormwater Management Solutions. Continue to identify opportunities and funding sources to expand the City's green infrastructure network, as defined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Update Chapter 8.40 of the City's Municipal Code, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control, to require new development to incorporate natural stormwater management solutions on-site as a condition of approval for discretionary projects, as appropriate.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term		San Francisco Estuary Partnership, State Water Resources Control Board	Medium	Green Infrastructure grants, Prop 84/1 Stormwater Grant Program

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.8: Permeable Paving and Green Infrastructure. Continue to require that new development complies with Contra Costa Clean Water Program Stormwater C.3 Guidebook Requirements for treatment of stormwater. Encourage new development to reduce impervious areas and use permeable surfaces in paving and landscaping. Promote the use of green infrastructure, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and vegetated swales, to manage stormwater and enhance groundwater infiltration as outlined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Include permeable surfaces and green infrastructure into City construction and improvement projects.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Near-term			Low	Development impact fees, General Fund
3.9: Continuity of public facilities during flooding. Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding through structural retrofits, flood management, operational improvements, and other appropriate actions.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Cal OES, FEMA	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, General Fund, infrastructure resilience bonds
3.10: Sea Level Rise Coordination. Coordinate with local, regional, State, and federal agencies to plan for the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and groundwater intrusion in the community.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Long-term		BCDC, State Coastal Conservancy	Medium	State Coastal Conservancy grants, regional adaptation funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.11: Flood Response. Coordinate with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and neighboring jurisdictions to address regional flood hazards.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	Medium	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, General Fund
3.12: Public Flood Preparedness Information. Improve public access to information about flood risks, preparedness, and response steps. Revise and expand on existing resources, such as those available on the City's website, to help residents and property owners understand what to do before, during, and after flooding events.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	Low	General Fund
3.13: Adopt-A-Drain Program. Explore the development and funding of an Adopt-A-Drain program. This initiative would encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to voluntarily adopt storm drains and commit to their regular maintenance by removing debris, leaves, and litter to ensure proper stormwater flow.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Local schools, community-based organizations	Low	Volunteer services, General Fund
3.14: Central Avenue and I-80 Resilience. Support efforts to improve flood protection and long-term resilience to sea level rise for Central Avenue and the I-80 interchange area. Ensure flood protection and climate adaptation initiatives to prioritize El Cerrito's transportation needs, including evacuation needs.	Public Works Department	Long-term		Caltrans, Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, infrastructure resilience bonds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 4: Reduce El Cerrito's risk of wildfire and provide timely and effective fire response.						
4.1: Fire-Resilient Existing Development. Work with property owners and building occupants to raise awareness about potential building and landscape modifications to improve wildfire resilience and work to obtain funding to help property owners make these improvements, in accordance with applicable State requirements and the City's local ordinances and Vegetation Management Program.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Mid-term			Medium	General Fund, FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, State Fire Marshal grants
4.2: Fire-Retardant Landscaping. Require the use of fire-retardant vegetation for landscaping in new development in high fire hazard areas. Encourage the use of fire-retardant vegetation in all development City-wide. Fire-retardant vegetation, also known as fire-resistant plants, refers to plants that do not readily ignite from flames or other ignition sources and, if exposed to fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire's fuel or intensity.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning Division	Near-term			Low	Permit fees, development impact fees
4.3: Hillside Natural Area. Manage vegetation in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fire hazards in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. The Fire Department and Public Works Department shall share responsibility for implementation. Pursue viable funding sources to implement measures identified in the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan that promote wildfire resilience.	Public Works Department, Fire Department	Ongoing		Friends of the HNA, Friends of Five Creeks, El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers	High	General Fund, CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.4: Hazardous Tree Removal on Private Property. Help residents access resources for removing hazardous trees on private property that threaten residential buildings and critical facilities. Distribute information about available programs and facilitate efforts to connect property owners with external funding sources, local organizations, nonprofits, or state agencies that can provide resources or assistance.	Community Development Department, Planning Division	Mid-term			Medium	CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants
4.5: Urban Forest Management for Wildfire Risk Reduction. Maintain and manage El Cerrito's urban forest to reduce wildfire risk in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Wildfire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Medium	General Fund, CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants
4.6: Fuel Breaks. Require property owners of existing and new development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland-Urban Interface (as shown on Figure S-10 and Figure S-11) to create and maintain fuel breaks and defensible space around structures and along roadways that is free from dry brush and other flammable materials and to comply with the 100-foot Defensible Space Requirement in Public Resources Code Section 4291 and Government Code Section 51182 for fuel modification to reduce fire danger.	Fire Department	Ongoing	Community Development Department, Planning Division		Medium	

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.7: Regional Wildfire Prevention. Continue to collaborate with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, neighboring jurisdictions, the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, the El Cerrito and Diablo Fire Safe Councils, Hills Emergency Forum, and local community organizations to regularly review regional wildfire hazards and vulnerabilities and develop regional wildfire abatement and response strategies.	Fire Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa RCD, Alameda County RCD, neighboring jurisdictions, East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, and local community-based organizations	Low	General Fund, interagency agreements, regional resilience grants
4.8: Wildfire Risk from Energy Infrastructure. Coordinate with PG&E to reduce wildfire risk related to electrical infrastructure, including: ▪ Maintenance of fire breaks around electrical infrastructure. ▪ Installation of covered conductors to reduce ignition risk from contact with vegetation or debris. ▪ Use of Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings that automatically shut off power in high-risk conditions. ▪ Vegetation management beyond minimum clearance requirements in high-risk areas. ▪ Implementation of Public Safety Power Shutoffs during extreme fire weather events, with coordination to help minimize community disruption. ▪ Undergrounding electricity infrastructure in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		PG&E	Medium	PG&E infrastructure hardening funds, CAL FIRE mitigation grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.9: Firefighting Infrastructure. Facilitate the timely and effective provision of firefighting services by: 1. Expanding the availability of fire hydrants in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. This may include installation of sufficiently sized hydrants in areas identified in the Hillside Natural Area. 2. Coordinating with the East Bay Municipal Utility District to ensure that adequate peak load water supplies are available to fight fires. Redundancies in the water storage and capacity distribution network should be considered and implemented in those areas of the City where ground failure could result in breaks to both the water and gas mains, with the potential for significant conflagrations. Ensure that hydrants remain accessible for fire response. 3. Requiring that development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones contain visible street signage, such as reflective signs that clearly indicate street names, addresses, and directional arrows for emergency response, 4. Studying and establishing, as appropriate, Red Flag Day parking restrictions to ensure unobstructed access for emergency vehicles. 5. Requiring that new development provide adequate water pressure for firefighting. 6. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. 7. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		EBMUD, PG&E	High	EBMUD partnership funds, CAL FIRE grants, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.10: Sufficient Firefighting Services. Regularly review funding, staffing levels, fire station location, equipment availability, water availability, and availability of other key resources of the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department to ensure that the department is keeping pace with changes in local population.	Fire Department	Ongoing	City Manager's Office		High	General Fund, equipment replacement reserves
4.11: Fire Protection for New Development. Ensure new development is located where fire and emergency services have sufficient capacity to meet project needs and that existing development maintains its current level of protection service. In addition to adequate fire department staffing and resources, this may include increased requirements for fire protection systems for residential units, such as roof sprinkler systems or other site-specific fire resilience features.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Ongoing			Medium	Development impact fees, General Fund
4.12: Post-Fire Development. Require redevelopment after wildfires to meet current California Building Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Standards to reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazards through site preparation, layout design, fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-retarding building design and materials. Re-evaluate development standards after a wildfire to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices. In addition, regularly review and update local development standards to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices, independent of local fire events.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Near-term		California Office of Emergency Services	Medium	Permit fees, General Fund, CAL FIRE resilience grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.13: Post-Fire Displacement. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and local homeless service and emergency support providers to help residents displaced from wildfires to secure housing and other necessary services.	Community Development Department, Housing Division	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, local housing, and emergency assistance nonprofits	Medium	General Fund, Emergency Solutions Grants, Community Services Block Grant
4.14: Post-Fire Slope Stabilization. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to stabilize and vegetate burned slopes after a wildfire.	Public Works, Fire Department	Near-term		CAL FIRE, Cal OES, FEMA	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Cal OES grants, General Fund
4.15: Wildfire Health Impacts. Work with the Contra Costa County Public Health Division and health service providers to plan for increased levels of illness and injury due to wildfire and to distribute N95 masks during periods of poor air quality.	Fire Department, City Manager's Office	Mid-term		Contra Costa County Public Health Division, local healthcare providers	Medium	General Fund, public health grants

4.16: New Development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Encourage new residential development to occur outside of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones identified by CAL FIRE (see Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones). Where new construction or significant redevelopment is proposed in such areas, require review by the Community Development Department and El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department prior to the issuance of development permits. Plans for proposed development in such areas shall include, at a minimum: ▪ Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. ▪ Development and maintenance of defensible space and shaded fuel breaks. ▪ Development of fire protection plans that include at a minimum: - o Risk analysis; - o Fire response capabilities; - o Fire safety requirements, including defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance; - o Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification; - o Wildfire education, maintenance, and limitations; and - o Evacuation planning. ▪ Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Fire Department	Ongoing		CAL FIRE	Medium	Permit fees, developer-funded improvements, fire resilience grants
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Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). - Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. - Location and source of anticipated water supply.						
4.17: Fire Hazards Response Support. Facilitate firefighting in low-visibility conditions by requiring measures such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).	Fire Department	Near-term			Medium	General Fund
4.18: Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment. Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).	Fire Department, Public Works Department, Community Development Department	Ongoing		CAL FIRE	Medium	Development impact fees

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.19: Retrofitting City-Owned Roadways. Identify existing public and private roadways in fire hazard severity zones that are not in compliance with current fire safety regulations, to the extent resources are available. Work at retrofitting and maintaining City-owned roadways as needed to meet current standards and encourage private property owners to do the same, to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints. These standards include road standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Long-term			High	General Fund, state transportation grants, infrastructure resilience grants
4.20: Firewise Communities. Work with the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council to publicize the Firewise USA program to neighborhoods in areas with high fire risks and support neighborhoods in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface in pursuing designation as Firewise Communities.	Fire Department	Near-term		National Fire Protection Association, neighborhood associations	Low	General Fund, Firewise USA program support
Goal 5: Reduce risk from and provide timely and effective response to extreme heat and severe weather.						
5.1: Urban Tree Canopy. Maintain the health of the urban tree canopy to increase shaded surfaces and reduce risk of downed trees during severe weather. Expand and renew the urban tree canopy to help reduce the impacts of extreme heat.	Public Works Department	Mid-term			Medium	Urban Greening Grants, CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.2: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials. Use heat-mitigating materials and install shade structures, both green and built infrastructure, at parks,, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces under City control. Coordinate with school districts and private schools to encourage similar improvements at school sites to to reduce ground surface temperatures.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		West Contra Costa Unified School District, California Department of Education, private school operators	Medium	Prop 68 funds, General Fund, California Natural Resources Agency grants
5.3: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials at Transit Stops. Coordinate with local and regional public transportation providers to increase shading and heat-mitigating materials at transit stops.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Western Contra Costa Transit Authority, Contra Costa Transportation Authority	Medium	Transportation grants, Green Infrastructure funds, Caltrans Active Transportation Program

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.4: Resilience Hubs. Identify existing facilities that can function as community resilience hubs. Maintain these facilities as needed to serve as resilience hubs, ensuring that they are well-equipped, accessible, and are situated outside of areas at risk from hazards impacts, and that the public is aware of these resources. Work with neighboring jurisdictions to promote awareness and use of these hubs. Evaluate the feasibility of creating new resilience hubs when new facilities are developed or existing facilities are retrofitted, incorporating renewable energy generation, energy storage, and the ability to offer refuge from extreme heat and poor air quality due to regional wildfire smoke.	Public Works Department, Operations & Environmental Services Division	Mid-term		Contra Costa County, PG&E, local community-based organizations	High	Community Resilience Centers Program, Resilience Hubs Grant Program, General Fund
5.5: Resilient Development. Encourage new and existing development to incorporate building and site design features that reduce the effects of extreme heat, improve indoor air quality, and reduce energy demand. These features could include air conditioning, air filtration, energy-efficient duct work improvements, passive cooling design and amenities, cool roofs, reflective or pervious paving materials, high-albedo surfaces, shade trees, and other green infrastructure. Help residents connect with contractors and financial assistance programs to implement these improvements.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Mid-term			Medium	BayREN incentives, Green Building grants, Energy-Efficiency Financing programs
5.6: Resilient Power Supplies. Work with PG&E, MCE, and local solar energy installers to support resiliency of the local power grid, including distributed generation and microgrids for residents, businesses, and public agencies.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		PG&E, MCE, local solar energy providers	High	California Energy Commission programs, federal energy resilience funding, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.7: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage at City Facilities. Maintain, improve, and where fiscally viable expand distributed renewable generation and energy storage at City facilities. Include provisions for the ongoing maintenance and performance monitoring of these systems to ensure long-term reliability. Prioritize buildings and facilities that provide essential City services during extreme weather events for energy storage systems.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		BayREN, California Energy Commission	High	BayREN incentives, state/local infrastructure funds, renewable energy rebates
5.8: Community Solar and Energy Storage. Work in partnership with MCE, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, and others to support the development of community solar projects, streamline permitting where possible, and prioritize storage systems to ensure community solar could be used during outages.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Long-term		MCE, BayREN	Medium	BayREN incentives, MCE incentives, state energy grants, infrastructure investment funds
5.9: Planning for Extreme Heat. Participate in regional planning with neighboring jurisdictions to develop an extreme heat response plan that includes establishment of community cooling centers, weatherization of city buildings, temperature triggers for when cooling centers would open, and cooling strategies for persons engaged in outdoor work and persons experiencing homelessness.	Fire Department	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, neighboring jurisdictions	Medium	Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants, General Fund
5.10: Community Support and Mutual-Aid Networks. Support residents in developing neighborhood support programs to perform wellness checks on vulnerable neighbors during hazardous events.	Fire Department, Police Department,	Near-term		Neighborhood groups, senior service providers	Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.11: Urban Greening Plan. Implement the Urban Greening Plan to enhance public places and open spaces throughout the city. Open and green spaces provide cooling from heat and are linked to mental health and quality of life benefits.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term	Recreation Department		Medium	Urban Greening Program (Prop 84), General Fund
Goal 6: Secure a resilient water supply and use water supplies sustainably.						
6.1: Drought-Tolerant Landscaping. Require drought-tolerant landscaping in new private and municipal development, in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Ensure that new landscaping does not exacerbate wildfire or flood risks, and aligns with vegetation and stormwater management standards.	Community Development Department, Planning Division, Public Works Department	Near-term			Low	EBMUD rebates, General Fund
6.2: Water-Efficient Development. Require the installation of water-efficiency measures in new private development at municipal facilities. Encourage the installation of water-efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Near-term			Medium	EBMUD rebates, BayREN water-efficiency programs, General Fund
6.3: Drought Planning. Work with regional water providers to prepare for reduced long-term water supply resulting from more frequent and severe drought events, and implement extensive water conservation measures and ensure sustainable water supplies, including fire suppression needs.	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	Mid-term		EBMUD	Medium	Integrated Regional Water Management funds, General Fund, Cal OES drought resilience funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 7: Protect the health of El Cerrito residents.						
7.1: Regional Health. Support Contra Costa County in disseminating information on disease conditions that may affect El Cerrito residents.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Ongoing	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund, public health grants
7.2: Pandemic Planning. Support Contra Costa County to plan for future pandemic events, including securing necessary public health supplies, preparing effective messaging for preventative actions and treatments, and identifying and evaluating potential public health measures.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Near-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund, public health grants
7.3: Vector-Borne Diseases. Support the County and the Mosquito Vector and Control District in working with healthcare providers to support free or reduced-cost vaccinations for vector-borne diseases for El Cerrito residents.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund
7.4: Medical Providers. Support Contra Costa County to coordinate with local medical providers to ensure low-cost medical and emergency medical services are available to all residents in the city.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund, community health partnerships
7.5: Outdoor Workers. Support opportunities to ensure that workers in outdoor industries have the training and resources to be adequately protected from environmental hazards, including extreme heat, poor air quality, pests, and diseases, in alignment with applicable OSHA and Cal/OSHA regulations and standards.	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	Near-term		Cal/OSHA, labor unions, Public Works contractors	Low	General Fund
7.6: Public Awareness. Work with local community groups, providers of senior services, and childcare workers to raise awareness about disease prevention and response.	City Manager's Office	Near-term		Senior service providers, childcare organizations, local nonprofits	Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 8: A community prepared for an effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or natural and human-caused disasters.						
8.1: Hazard Awareness. Publicize areas at risk of local hazards, emergency preparedness programs, evacuation planning resources, and other efforts to promote resident awareness and caution regarding hazards, including soil instability, earthquakes, flooding, and fire.	City Manager's Office, Fire Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County	Low	General Fund
8.2: Public Facilities. Avoid construction of new emergency buildings (police, fire, hospital, etc.) and vital utilities, communication systems, and other public facilities in identified fire, flood, and geologic hazard zones (see Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas; Figure S-7, Flood Hazard Zones; and Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to the extent feasible. Design such buildings and infrastructure to remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster and ensure that existing critical facilities and infrastructure remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster.	Community Development, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Long-term			High	General Fund, grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.3: Emergency Notification and Communication. Promote participation in the City's Emergency Alert E-Notifications program, PG&E's emergency alert system, emergency HAM radio operators' network, and other networks that can reach residents in the event of an emergency. Continue to support the County's Community Warning System sirens and explore opportunities to expand emergency warning siren systems in El Cerrito. Use all City social media channels, both citywide accounts and departmental accounts, to share timely and accurate emergency information. Ensure that the City can issue emergency warnings and ensure communication between emergency responders even in the absence of electrical and cellular service, and update the Emergency Operations Plan to specify these alternatives. Ensure that all official City communications are provided in formats and languages that are reflective of the demographics of El Cerrito. Conduct regular outreach and education so that residents understand how notifications and alerts will be shared during an emergency, what emergency sirens mean, and what protective actions should be taken when they are activated.	City Manager's Office, Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County, PG&E	Medium	General Fund
8.4: Power Outages. Identify residents whose health and safety may be most severely impacted by power outages and provide support and assistance in obtaining backup power supplies and other safety resources.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Building Division	Near-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.5: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. After update and certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, incorporate the current Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's Annex into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.	Community Development Department, Planning Division	Near-term	Fire Department		Low	General Fund
8.6: Community Emergency Preparedness. In partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, conduct community emergency response and evacuation drills to increase awareness and support improved community preparedness for future emergencies.	Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term		0Neighboring jurisdictions	Medium	General Fund
8.7: Community Emergency Response Team Training. Support, encourage, and continue to offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.	Fire Department	Ongoing			Low	General Fund
8.8: Hazard Insurance. Work with property and rental insurance providers to raise awareness about the latest safety requirements related to seismic, flood, and fire hazards and regularly incorporate these requirements into development codes as necessary, referencing related local ordinances and programs, such as the City's 2025 amendments to Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code. Work with other jurisdictions and local community-based organizations to evaluate opportunities to preserve and improve the cost and quality of property insurance for El Cerrito community members.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Mid-term			Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.9: Regional Emergency Response and Mutual Aid. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and Caltrans in emergency response and evacuation planning. Maintain and participate in mutual aid agreements with these agencies to ensure coordinated response capabilities, adequate medical and emergency services, and effective inter-agency communication. Cooperate with partners to assess and project future emergency service needs and to conduct joint preparedness, training, and exercises.	Fire Department, Police Department	Ongoing		Caltrans	Low	Mutual-aid agreements, General Fund
8.10: Multi-Destination Evacuation Planning. Identify and maintain a list of multiple evacuation destinations in different locations in the vicinity of the City to provide diverse points of refuge and reduce evacuation times. The City should select these sites based on their capacity to accommodate the estimated number of people evacuating from El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington.	Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term			Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.11: Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination for Evacuation Route Maintenance. Collaborate and plan with the City of Albany, City of Richmond,, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans to ensure the ongoing maintenance and readiness of potential evacuation routes serving El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington, including making improvements to existing roads to support safe evacuations, as needed. Continue to implement and expand existing agreements where feasible along evacuation routes. These agreements shall include provisions for: a. Regular assessment and improvement of existing roads to support safe evacuations. b. Coordinated planning and implementation of traffic management strategies during evacuations. These efforts will help to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes in the event of an emergency.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term		City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans	Medium	Transportation planning funds, infrastructure grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.12: Evacuation Route Infrastructure Preparedness. To enhance evacuation efficiency and safety, the City will: - Continue to evaluate and to the extent feasible provide back-up power systems for all City-owned traffic signals on potential evacuation routes. - Evaluate and as appropriate develop or update emergency evacuation traffic signal timing plans for all signals on potential evacuation routes, prioritizing outbound traffic flow while maintaining access for emergency vehicles through traffic signal pre-emption. - Identify and designate routes where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained. This will include pre-identifying bottleneck intersections and positioning law enforcement personnel to maintain traffic movement during evacuations. - Identify additional opportunities to preserve and enhance evacuation route infrastructure preparedness as part of regular maintenance activities, including evaluating the expansion of temporary parking restrictions (such as the red flag day pilot program) to enhance public safety during evacuations, as appropriate.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term			High	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.13: Evacuation Route Clearance and Capacity Enhancement. To maximize evacuation route effectiveness: - The City will implement a permanent program that allows restriction of on-street parking on designated evacuation routes during high-risk periods for various hazards based on evaluation of pilot program. - El Cerrito will support efforts by PG&E to prioritize the undergrounding of utilities and the upgrading of power poles with current isolating/shutdown technologies along main evacuation routes to minimize the risk of downed wires during evacuations. The City will also support tree trimming and other regular maintenance conducted by PG&E along utility corridors.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term		PG&E	Medium	General Fund, PG&E infrastructure hardening funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.14: Community Evacuation Education and Preparedness. El Cerrito will implement a comprehensive community evacuation education and preparedness program, including: - Regular updates and dissemination of information about how to plan for safe and effective evacuations, in multiple languages and formats accessible to all community members. - Coordination with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and private schools to develop and regularly update evacuation plans that address both safe on-campus procedures and coordinated off-site transport to predetermined refuge locations beyond the disaster areas. - Targeted outreach and planning for areas with high concentrations of physically and socially vulnerable residents, including those with age-related, disability-related, or other mobility challenges. - Conducting periodic community-wide evacuation exercises to test and refine evacuation plans and procedures. - Encouraging residents and employees to sign up with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System and Genasys Protect to receive emergency alerts and ensure effective distribution of evacuation notifications. - Identifying pedestrian paths, including stairs and trails, on evacuation maps.	Police Department	Near-term	Fire Department, City Manager's Office	West Contra Costa Unified School District	Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.15: Evacuation Assistance Program. Support and coordinate an evacuation assistance program with Contra Costa Transportation Authority, AC Transit, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies, and care homes to help those with limited mobility, lack of access to a vehicle, and other at-risk populations evacuate safely. Consider training for emergency responders and volunteers in assisting vulnerable populations during evacuation.	City Manager's Office	Mid-term	Public Works Department, Recreation Department	Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit District, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies	Medium	General Fund
8.16: Hazard Planning in Capital Improvements. As part of the Capital Improvements Program, CIP Budget, and related planning and funding processes for capital improvements, include a forward-looking assessment of how the proposed improvements may be affected by current and anticipated future hazards, including those subject to climate change. Highlight how the project supports community-wide safety, equity, and climate readiness now and in the future. All projects shall incorporate at a minimum standard resilience practices, materials, and other elements to minimize future maintenance. Larger or more complex projects shall include a thorough resilience analysis that describes specific design, material, and construction strategies to ensure long-term durability and adaptability.	Public Works Department	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES GLOSSARY

Capital Improvement Program - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/475/Capital-Improvement-Program>

El Cerrito's multi-year plan for funding and implementing major infrastructure projects, including those that enhance community safety, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>

El Cerrito's comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts, including measures that overlap with hazard mitigation such as urban forestry, green infrastructure, and wildfire prevention.

Community Collaborations

Partnerships between the City of El Cerrito and local organizations, neighborhood groups, businesses, and service providers to implement safety policies, conduct outreach, and enhance emergency preparedness.

Development Regulations

El Cerrito's set of zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, design guidelines, and other land use controls that govern how property can be developed, including requirements related to hazard mitigation and safety.

Development Review - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/4760/2017-Development-Review-Application?bidId=>

The City of El Cerrito's comprehensive process for evaluating proposals for new construction and significant renovations. This process ensures compliance with applicable zoning regulations, subdivision standards, building codes, design guidelines, environmental requirements, and other municipal policies.

Emergency Preparedness Planning - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/572/Get-Ready--Emergency-Preparedness>

El Cerrito's comprehensive approach to planning for disasters. This covers a wide range of City activities, including maintaining and updating the Emergency Operations Plan that directs the City's emergency response and recovery procedures, evacuation plans and protocols, and coordination with the Contra Costa County Emergency Services.

Geologic, Fire, Flooding, and Other Hazard Maps

Official maps maintained by El Cerrito that identify areas subject to specific hazards, including fault zones, landslide-prone areas, Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and flood zones.

Green Infrastructure Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/1335/Green-Infrastructure-Plan>

El Cerrito's strategy for implementing natural systems to manage stormwater, reduce flooding, and provide multiple environmental benefits, including specific projects and maintenance protocols.

Hazardous Soils Remediation

The process of identifying and cleaning up sites with soils that have been contaminated with hazardous materials or other pollutants in El Cerrito, particularly in areas with historical industrial use or other potential sources of contamination.

Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/21576/HNA-Draft-Final-Plan-020625?bidId=>

A specific plan for El Cerrito's 102-acre Hillside Natural Area that balances fire risk reduction through vegetation management with conservation of native plant communities and wildlife habitat.

Intergovernmental Coordination

El Cerrito's formal and informal relationships with other governmental entities, including Contra Costa County, neighboring cities, special districts, and state agencies to address hazards and emergency planning.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/82601/City-of-El-Cerrito-Annex-2024-HMP>

The Contra Costa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and El Cerrito's Annex (a locally specific appendix), which identify risks from natural and human-caused hazards and outline short-term, detailed strategies to reduce these risks.

Municipal Code - https://library.municode.com/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT1GEPR

The codified ordinances of El Cerrito that establish legal requirements for various activities, including those related to public safety, building standards, and emergency management.

Release of Hazardous Materials - <https://www.cchealth.org/health-and-safety-information/hazmat-programs>

El Cerrito's protocols for responding to and providing public information about hazardous materials incidents, including

coordination with Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs.

Urban Forest Management Plan – <https://www.elcerrito.org/463/Urban-Forest-Management-Plan>

El Cerrito's comprehensive approach to maintaining and expanding the city's tree canopy, including street trees and trees in parks and other public spaces. The tree canopy helps to reduce urban heat island effects and manage stormwater.

ENDNOTES

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<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/science-application-for-risk-reduction/science/haywired-scenario>

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<https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/California-Sea-Level-Rise-Guidance-2024-508.pdf>.

^{viii} Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2022. QuickStats: Deaths Involving Exposure to Excessive Heat, by Sex. National Vital Statistics System, United States, 1999–2020.

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^{xi} Cal-Adapt. 2025, March 18 (accessed). Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights.

<https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat>

^{xii} Cal-Adapt. 2025, June 18 (accessed). Annual Averages.

<https://cal-adapt.org/tools/annual-averages>

^{xiii} Cal-Adapt. 2025, June 18 (accessed). Snowpack. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/snowpack/>

^{xiv} California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. 2024. Vector-borne diseases. <https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/epic-2022/impacts-human-health/vector-borne-diseases#>

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^{xv} California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. 2024. Vector-borne diseases. <https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/epic-2022/impacts-human-health/vector-borne-diseases#>

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CHAPTER 7 RESOURCES AND HAZARDS

The Resources and Hazards section of the General Plan covers ~~four~~ ^{three} State mandated elements: Open Space, Conservation, ~~Safety~~ and Noise. The subject matter of this element is intertwined with the rest of the General Plan. For example, areas designated for open space are also intended to minimize damage due to geologic hazards, and trails plans that link local and regional open space areas at the same time providing recreation and offering an alternative to driving.

~~Hazards policies address issues related to geologic and seismic risk, flooding, hazardous materials and noise. The purpose is to identify and appraise hazards in the community, which will establish a basis for the goals, policies and implementing actions necessary to assure community safety.~~ The noise portion of the element is concerned with planning for land uses that are typically sensitive to noise impacts, including residential development, residential neighborhood quality of life, nursing homes, schools, wildlife sanctuaries, hospitals and treatment centers.

The element also contains policies for the preservation of open space and the conservation of natural resources. The General Plan designates open space and sets forth policies and programs defining ways in which open space will be used, water and air quality will be enhanced, and natural resources will be protected and managed.

NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

A. Setting

Open Space

Open space is discussed primarily in Chapters 4 and 6, although it also serves an important function in preserving natural resources. This is especially true of plant and animal habitats, creeks, erosion control, and visual amenities. Open space serving these functions is subject to the same level of protection as provided by the policies and implementation measures in Chapter 6.

Wildlife

The scarcity of undeveloped land in the City has had a limiting effect on natural areas for both vegetation and wildlife. Some forms of wildlife, such as deer, fox, coyote, and raccoons, can be found in the hills of the City, especially next to the large open areas of Wildcat Canyon. Wildlife also have been found elsewhere in the

City. The natural habitat within the City itself is somewhat limited, although it provides an important part of the character and quality of the community. Some plant and animal species are designated as sensitive because of their overall rarity, endangerment, restricted distribution, and/or unique habitat requirements.

Air Quality

Because ventilation is relatively good, and there is little transport of pollutants into El Cerrito from other upwind urban areas, the pollution potential of El Cerrito is relatively low compared to other parts of the San Francisco Bay Area. However, during periods of light or calm winds, which typically occur in the fall and winter months, El Cerrito and the entire Bay Area are subject to stagnation and poor air quality.

Storm Runoff

The watershed within the city limits is fully urbanized, and relatively little additional runoff is anticipated from new development. There are eight major watersheds that drain through the City of El Cerrito. These watersheds generally drain from the Berkeley Hills along the east border of El Cerrito westward towards the City of Richmond and San Francisco Bay. Runoff from the hills generally drains into intermittent drainageways. These waterways are steep, average six feet in width, and have rocky to cobbly substrates incised into bedrock. Recent improvements to the city's storm drainage system have dramatically improved capacity of the system. El Cerrito has also adopted management guidelines to comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. NPDES is a federal environmental protection program that regulates the discharge of contaminants to surface waters.

Historic Resources

Prehistoric resources typically include chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars and pestles, and dark, friable soil containing shell and bone, dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Prehistoric archaeological sites in Western Contra Costa County are typically located near historical marsh margins, on terraces along watercourses, and at the base of hills near watercourses. Common prehistoric archaeological resources found at such sites include shell middens and bedrock milling stations. The City of El Cerrito is situated to the east of the general zone where shellmounds have been found. Further from the shoreline and upslope, the likelihood of encountering a classic deposit diminishes. Less than five percent of the city has been surveyed for prehistoric resources. There are five recorded prehistoric archaeological sites within El Cerrito's boundaries.

"Historic" resources typically include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits (often found in old wells and privies). The Office of Historic Preservation has also determined that buildings and structures 45 years and older may be of historic value. There are only a few identified historic properties in the city that are listed in the *State Office of Historic Preservation Historic Properties Directory*, the *Contra Costa County Historic Resources*

Inventory, and/or a list of historic buildings identified by the El Cerrito Historical Society. There are no properties in the city listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

B. Trends

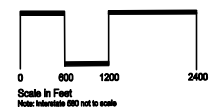
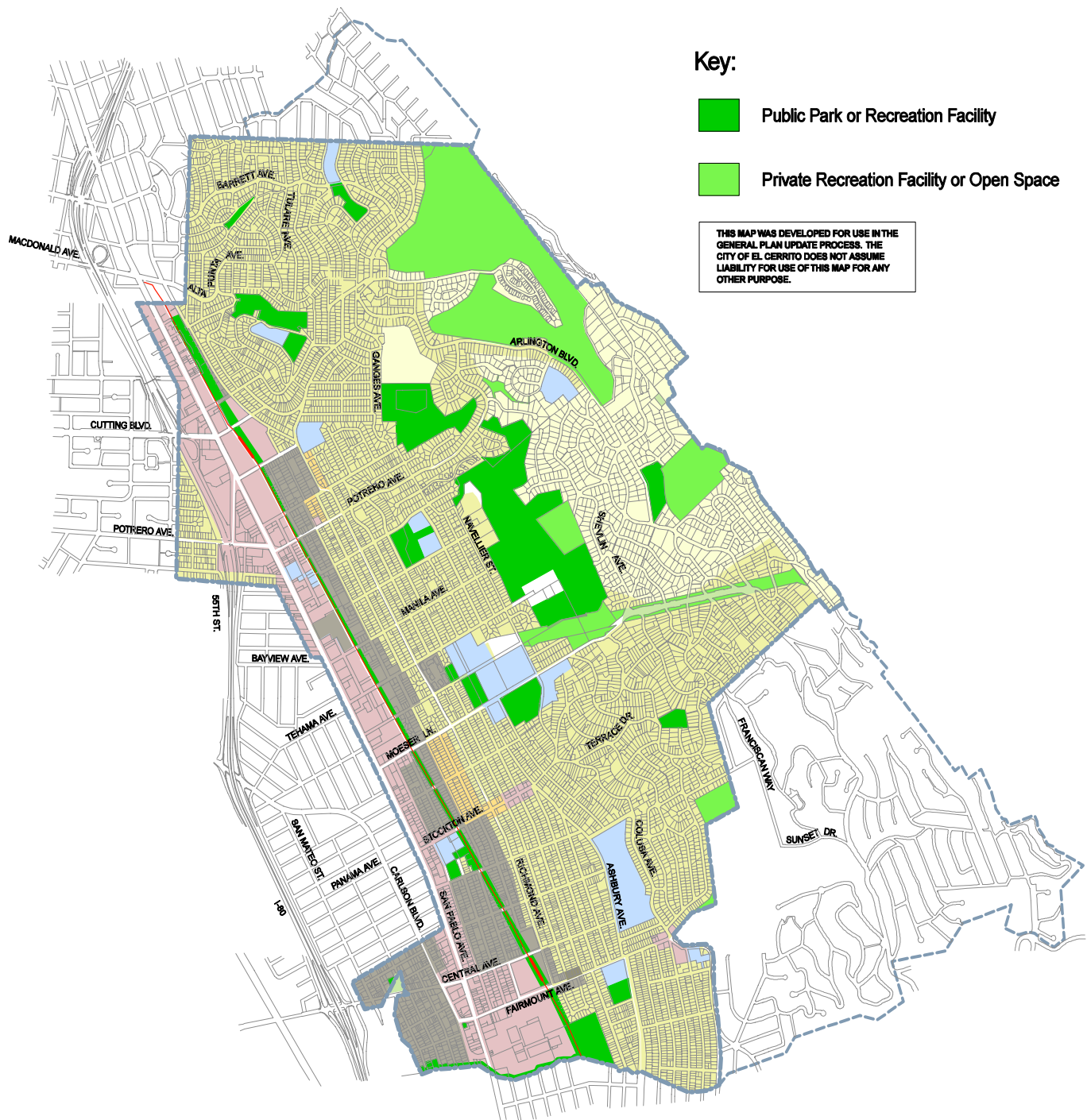
Open space and natural resources are important to El Cerrito and reflect a variety of important values: ecological, educational, aesthetic, economic and recreational. These values are interwoven throughout the community in numerous ways so that the preservation of these resources is very important to the well being of the City. City policies have preserved open space and natural resource values in combination with protection of public health and safety. Such actions include the designation of the Hillside Natural Area and other open space areas, and preparation of the Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan. (See Figure 12, Open Space Plan.)

This portion of the General Plan is designed to accomplish two major objectives:

1. To identify and protect open space used for the preservation of natural resources and to protect the resources themselves for the benefit of present and future generations.
2. To encourage urban growth in those areas where the natural characteristics of the land are most suited to such development, and to protect the public from risks to life and property.

To accomplish these objectives, two types of policies are proposed—one type proposes specific physical changes, or prescribes management policies for a distinct physical area. The other type of policy applies to the entire area, and prescribes management techniques for new development, makes recommendations to other agencies, or suggests efforts to educate the public.

EL CERRITO GENERAL PLAN



Drawing prepared by MIG, Inc. 800 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710

Figure 12 OPEN SPACE PLAN

C. Goals and Policies

The Implementation Measures associated with each policy are described at the end of this chapter.

Goal R1: Protected natural resources (important habitat, ecological resources, key visual resources, ridges and ridgelines, creeks and streambanks, steeper slopes, vista points, and major features), and clean air and water.

Policies	Implementation Measures
R1.1 Habitat Protection. Preserve oak/woodland, riparian vegetation, creeks, native grasslands, wildlife corridors and other important wildlife habitats. Loss of these habitats should be fully offset through creation of habitat of equal value. Compensation rate for habitat re-creation shall be determined by a qualified biologist.	• Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan • Tree Preservation Ordinance • Consultation on Fish and Wildlife Impacts • CEQA
R1.2 Rare and Endangered Species. Limit development in areas that support rare and endangered species. If development of these areas must occur, any loss of habitat should be fully compensated on-site. If off-site mitigation is necessary, it should occur within the El Cerrito planning area whenever possible, and must be accompanied by plans and a monitoring program prepared by a qualified biologist.	• Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan • Open Space Preservation Program • CEQA
R1.3 Potential Environmental Impacts. Encourage development patterns that minimize impacts on the City's biological, visual and cultural resources, and integrate development with open space areas.	• Tree Preservation Ordinance • Open Space Preservation Program • Environmental Education Programs • CEQA

R1.4	Air Quality. Strive to achieve federal and state air quality standards by managing locally generated pollutants, coordinating with other jurisdictions and implementing measures to limit the increase of automobile trips in El Cerrito and the region.	• Air Quality Strategies
R1.5	Clean Energy Sources. Support efforts by public and private agencies to develop new sources of energy for all uses, heating and industrial activities as well as transportation that will be non-polluting of our atmosphere.	• Air Quality Strategies
R1.6	Runoff Water Quality. Maintain, at a minimum, the water quality levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), implement Clean Water Program and NPDES requirements, and achieve the highest possible level of water quality reasonable for an urban environment in City creeks.	• Water Quality Strategies
R1.7	Creek Protection. Preserve riparian vegetation, protect owners and buyers of property from erosion and flooding, and increase public access to the creeks. Lands adjacent to riparian areas should be protected as public or private permanent open space through dedication or easements.	• Riparian and Stream Restoration Programs
R1.8	Creek Improvements. Accomplish design and improvements along creeks (Cerrito Creek, Baxter Creek, etc.) in consultation and cooperation with creek restoration and design professionals.	• Riparian and Stream Restoration Programs

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| R1.9 | Development Near Creeks.
For development adjacent to creeks and major drainages, provide adequate building setbacks from creek banks, provision of access easements for creek maintenance purposes and for public access to creekside amenities, and creek improvements such as bank stabilization. Also protect riparian vegetation outside the setback. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Regulations (zoning) • Development Review • Creek Ordinance • CEQA |
| R1.10 | Cerrito Creek and Baxter Creek. In implementing improvements to Cerrito Creek, follow design objectives established in 1996 by the City Council. Similarly, establish a set of design objectives that are specific to Baxter Creek. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council Resolution 96-103 • Design Objectives for Baxter Creek • Creek Ordinance |
| R1.11 | Native Plant Communities. Encourage use of native plant species for landscaping in hillside areas, preserve unique plant communities, and use fire-preventive landscaping techniques. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan • Hillside Ordinance |
| R1.12 | Ridgelines Protection in East Richmond Heights Area. Control development on ridges to protect the form of the ridges and, in particular, by restricting development on ridgelines. Natural contours and vegetation on ridgelines should be maintained. Locate and design structures and other public and private improvements so as to minimize cut and fill areas that will impact public views, safety and surrounding uses, and avoid building profiles (silhouettes) being located above the ridgeline when viewed from public streets and designated public access areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Preservation Program • CEQA |
| R1.13 | View Protection and Vista Points.
Preserve prominent views of visual resources and the bay, and consider visual access and view corridors when reviewing development proposals. Require | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Preservation Program |

assessment of critical public views, ridgelines, scenic overlooks, Bay vista points, significant knolls, stands of trees, rock outcrops, and major visual features as part of the project review process to assure that projects protect natural resources through proper site planning, building design and landscaping, and that public access is provided if possible to vista points.

R1.14 Continued Inter-Agency Cooperation in Environmental Resource

Protection: Ensure that the mandatory referral process is utilized by all governmental projects prior to any authorization, and that the cities, county, and appropriate agencies initiate cooperative studies, when needed, in matters pertaining to open space and environmental resource protection.

- CEQA
- Intergovernmental Coordination

R1.15 Joint Watershed Partnership. Assure coordination between the cities of El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, and Richmond, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the University of California at Berkeley to restore the watershed of the joint jurisdictions to a healthy condition. Cooperate closely to achieve the goals expressed in The Joint Watershed Goals Statement.

- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Joint Watershed Goals Statement

Goal R2: Protected and rehabilitated architectural, historical, cultural, and archaeological resources that are of local, state, or federal significance.

Policies	Implementation Measures
R2.1 Historic Preservation. Ensure that the remodeling and renovation of historic structures respects the character of the structure and its setting.	• Historic Preservation Ordinance • Development Review • Historical Inventory and Designation • Archaeological Resources • Development Regulations (zoning)
R2.2 Development Approvals. Ensure that all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to such resources are observed in the granting of development approvals.	• Historic Preservation Ordinance • Development Review • Design Guidelines • CEQA
R2.3 Vegetation. Include significant trees and other plant materials in the definition of significance.	• Historic Preservation Ordinance • Design Guidelines
R2.4 Coordination. Coordinate City preservation activities with appropriate community groups and state and federal agencies.	• Historic Preservation Ordinance
R2.5 Public Awareness. Promote public awareness of significant resources through educational programs, tours, markers, and other appropriate measures.	• Historic Preservation Ordinance

~~HAZARDS~~

~~A. Setting~~

~~The policies below address issues related to geologic and seismic risk, flooding, hazardous materials and noise. The element covers two state mandated general plan elements, safety and noise. The purpose of the element is to identify and appraise hazards in the community that will establish a basis for the goals, policies and implementing actions necessary to assure community safety. Other issues such as disaster preparedness, fire and crime prevention will be addressed in more detail in the Public Facilities and Services section of the General Plan.~~

~~El Cerrito lies on the southwest facing slopes of the Berkeley Hills, rising from the Bay Plain to the top of the ridgeline (approximate elevation 900 feet). Several faults run roughly parallel to the ridgeline, with an extensive portion of the Alquist-Priolo fault zone mostly located in the City of El Cerrito. Potential health and safety hazards due to earthquake, other geologic conditions, fire, noise and flooding exist in El Cerrito. These conditions are summarized below.~~

~~Earthquake~~

~~There is a probability of roughly one in four of a large earthquake (magnitude 7 or greater) occurring in the next thirty years along each of the two Hayward fault segments, as well as the peninsula segment of the San Andreas Fault. The Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities (1990) has estimated that there is only a 2 percent chance of a magnitude 8 earthquake occurring on the nearby segment of the San Andreas Fault within the next 30 years.~~

~~Other Geologic Hazards~~

~~From a geologic and geotechnical standpoint, the primary concerns in El Cerrito are: (1) slope stability; (2) earthquake ground shaking; (3) fault ground rupture; and (4) liquefaction potential. According to the Tri-Cities Seismic Safety Study (Bishop 1973), virtually all of the upland areas of El Cerrito have a moderate to high landslide risk. The highest risk for groundshaking is in the flatter areas, which have shallow alluvium. Several small areas along Baxter and Cerrito creeks are identified as having a high liquefaction potential.~~

~~Fire Hazards~~

~~El Cerrito's intermix of urban housing and wildland areas increases the community's risk of loss from a devastating fire. The City's Fire Hazard Reduction Program addresses hazard reduction in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones of the city, requiring that property owners take special precautions with their properties, including vegetation management, to reduce the risk of fire. In addition, creation of a buffer zone interface between developed areas and the East Bay Regional Park District open space and City parks should occur to reduce the risk of fire.~~

~~Areas Prone to Flooding~~

~~There have been a number of large storms in El Cerrito that have caused drainage problems and flooding in the past. Recent completion of the first phase in the City's storm drain master plan program has addressed the highest priority sites and significantly reduced localized flooding issues in the city. During the past year of heavy rains, only three sites had drainage-related flooding problems. The only portion of El Cerrito located in a FEMA Flood Insurance Zone is the area located west of San Pablo Avenue and south of Central Avenue. Flooding is generally caused by the relatively low ground elevations and high tides in this area, coupled with hydraulic restrictions in the existing downstream channels located in Richmond between El Cerrito and San Francisco Bay.~~

NOISE

A. Setting

The major noise sources in the City of El Cerrito are vehicular and rail traffic. Noise generated by vehicular traffic in El Cerrito is greatest along Interstate 80 and San Pablo Avenue. In most cases there will not be significant increases in noise from these sources. BART trains are a significant noise source in El Cerrito, but are different in nature from vehicular noise because they are characterized by numerous discrete, periodic events during train pass-bys. Studies indicate that after entering or leaving the Del Norte BART Station, BART trains produce maximum noise levels typically in the range of 72 to 76 dBA. Further away from the station, where BART trains travel faster, maximum noise levels typically range from 75 to 80 dBA. Residents also complain about BART noise where the tracks curve in the northern end of the City.

Land uses that are most sensitive to external noise sources include schools and libraries, hospitals and convalescent homes, churches and outdoor recreation areas. Other sensitive uses are residential and public facilities located near transportation links such as BART, San Pablo Avenue, or the Freeway.

B. Trends

~~Hazards – General~~

~~The intent of the General Plan is to reduce the potential for injury, damage, public expense, and loss of life due to natural and man-made hazards. The concept of public safety expressed in the General Plan is based on the following assumptions:~~

- ~~1. Hazards are an unavoidable aspect of life. Not every degree of risk or all hazards can be eliminated.~~
- ~~2. Public policy and action are appropriate to mitigate against hazards which: (a) have a high degree of risk to the general public or to a large part of the population; (b) may have relatively low risk but which would be considered disasters should the event occur; and (c) may not have a disaster potential but which are persistent safety problems with a history of occurring in the City.~~

~~The extent of the hazard depends on local conditions, since most hazards are confined to a particular area or site. Various health and safety hazards should be considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density and type of land uses in a given area. Long term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure and emergency services, are potentially greater where high hazards exist.~~

The 1975 General Plan provided the framework and direction for development of more detailed studies, policies, and programs, including designation of the Hillside Natural Area and other open space areas; preparation of the Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan; preparation of the Storm Water Master Plan; designation of Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones; and development of the City's Fire Hazard Reduction Program. The 1999 update reflects these plans and programs as well as respond to other issues of community concern. In addition, Chapter 6, Public Facilities and Services, contains policies and programs covering fire hazards. It is important that coordination and review of resource and environmental hazard protection implementing measures continue to occur in El Cerrito. (See Figure 13)

Noise

The noise portion of the General Plan is concerned with planning for land uses that are typically sensitive to noise impacts, including residential development, residential neighborhood quality of life, nursing homes, schools, wildlife sanctuaries, hospitals and treatment centers. Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity) and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Examples of potential noise generators in residential neighborhoods include, among others, I-80, BART, retail center operations and the location of play areas (such as school and park play areas). The Noise portion of the General Plan will establish the basis for code enforcement and regulation through the proposed adoption of a noise ordinance to control nuisances such as off-hour truck unloading and trash pickup, barking dogs, loud music and vehicle noise.

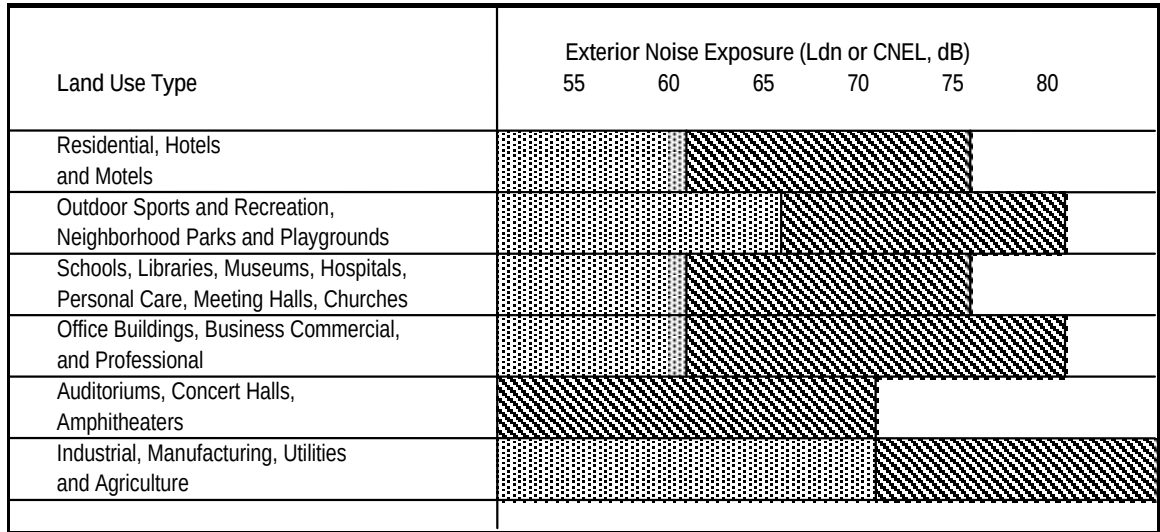
The normally acceptable noise standards for new land uses are established in Table 7-1, Land Use Compatibility for Community Exterior Noise Environments. This table defines the acceptable noise environment for the uses listed – it does not refer to the noise generated by the uses listed.

Table 7-2 shows existing (1998) and projected (2020) noise levels for BART, I-80 and San Pablo Avenue. The projected increase in noise levels along other City streets is projected to be less than 1 decibel (dB), which is less than noticeable. It should be noted that the projected increase in traffic on I-80 will be offset by a decrease in the average travel speed and noise levels are not projected to increase over existing levels.

Figure 13 is unavailable at this time in this digital version.

Figure 7-1 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments

Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments



 **Normally Acceptable**
Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.

 **Conditionally Acceptable**
Specified land use may be permitted only after detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements and needed noise insulation features included in the design.

 **Unacceptable**
New construction or development should generally not be undertaken because mitigation is usually not feasible to comply with Noise Element policies.

Table 7-2 Existing and General Plan Buildout Noise Contour Distances

Interstate 80 with Soundwalls	
Ldn (dB)	Distance from Centerline (feet)
70	140
65	320
60	1100
<i>Source: Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc., 1999</i>	

Interstate 80 without Soundwalls	
Ldn (dB)	Distance from Centerline (feet)
80	150
75	400
70	1200
65	3000
60	6500
<i>Source: Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc., 1999</i>	

BART (Existing and Projected)	
Ldn (dB)	Distance from Centerline (feet)
70	30
65	150
60	320
<i>Source: Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc., 1999</i>	

San Pablo Avenue (Existing and Projected)		
Ldn (dB)	Distance from Centerline (feet)	Distance from Centerline (feet)
	Existing	General Plan Buildout
70	45	55
65	140	175
60	300	380
<i>Source: Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc., 1999</i>		

C. Goals and Policies

The Implementation Measures associated with each policy are described in the following section of this chapter.

~~Goal H1: Minimal potential for loss of life, injury, damage to property, economic and social dislocation and unusual public expense due to natural and man-made hazards, including protection from the risk of flood damage, hazards of soil erosion, fire hazards, weak and expansive soils, potentially hazardous soils materials, other hazardous materials, geologic instability, seismic activity, and release of hazardous materials from refineries and chemical plants in West County.~~

Policies	Implementation Measures
H1.1 Location of Future Development. Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.	• Building Code Update • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • CEQA
H1.2 Development Review. Require appropriate studies to assess identified hazards and assure that impacts are adequately mitigated.	• Building Code Update • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Geotechnical Review Procedures • CEQA
H1.3 Geotechnical Review. Require geotechnical studies for development proposals in potentially hazardous areas; such studies should determine the actual extent of geotechnical hazards, optimum location for structures, the advisability of special structural requirements, and the feasibility and desirability of a proposed facility in a specified location.	• Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Geotechnical Review Procedures

H1.4	Soils and Geologic Review. Require soils and geologic review of development proposals as mapped in accordance with City procedures to assess potential seismic hazards, liquefaction, landsliding, mudsliding, erosion, sedimentation and settlement in order to determine if these hazards can be adequately mitigated.	• Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Geotechnical Review Procedures
H1.5	Erosion Control. Provide appropriate control measures in conjunction with proposed development in areas susceptible to erosion, including an erosion control plan and revegetation plan as part of grading permits, and ensure that mineral production be planned and carried out to avoid destruction or degradation of the environment.	• Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan • Development Review • Design Guidelines
H1.6	Development on Steeper Slopes. As a soil conservation and flood prevention measure, slopes exceeding 30 percent in steepness should be developed with extreme caution and should be designed to control erosion and runoff.	• Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Plan • Development Review • Hillside Ordinance
H1.7	Geological Hazards Mitigation. Require all geologic hazards be adequately addressed and mitigated through project development. Development proposed within areas of potential geological hazards shall not be endangered by, nor contribute to, the hazardous conditions on the site or on adjoining properties.	• Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Geotechnical Review Procedures
H1.8	Seismic Safety. Assure existing and new structures are designed to contemporary standards for seismic safety. Review, amend, and update, at regular intervals, all relevant City codes and ordinances to incorporate the most current knowledge and highest standards of seismic safety.	• Building Code Update • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Geotechnical Review Procedures • Unreinforced Masonry Buildings

H1.9	Potential Hazardous Soils Conditions. Evaluate new development on sites that may have involved hazardous materials (such as older fill sites, historical auto service uses, industrial uses, or areas where hazardous materials may have been used) prior to development approvals.	• Hazardous Materials Storage Tanks • Hazardous Soils
H1.10	Hazardous Materials Storage and Disposal. Require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials in accordance with all State, Federal and local laws and regulations to prevent leakage, potential explosions, fires, or the escape of harmful gases, and to prevent individually innocuous materials from combining to form hazardous substances, especially at the time of disposal.	• Hazardous Waste Management • Hazardous Materials Storage Tanks • Hazardous Soils
H1.11	Hazardous Waste Management. Support measures to responsibly manage hazardous waste to protect public health, safety and the environment, and support state and federal safety legislation to strengthen requirements for hazardous materials transport.	• Hazardous Waste Management • Transportation of Hazardous Materials
H1.12	Hazardous Materials Usage. Minimize the use of toxic and hazardous materials. Encourage the use of safer alternative materials and practices, and advise builders on applying for any programs for non-toxic building materials incentives.	• Hazardous Waste Management
H1.13	Clean Environment. Provide information to the community regarding the potential health hazards posed by pollution and possible solutions. Such educational programs sponsored by educational institutions should also be supported.	• Hazardous Waste Management
H1.14	Regional Agencies Coordination. Cooperate with and to promote the efforts of regional organizations in their efforts to clean up the environment.	• Hazardous Waste Management

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| H1.15 | Flood Hazards. Assure existing and new structures are designed to protect people and property from the threat of potential flooding. New development shall be designed to provide protection from potential impacts of flooding during the “1% chance” or “100-year” flood. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps |
| H1.16 | Maintenance for the City’s Storm Drainage Facilities. In order to maintain unobstructed drainage courses, existing laws prohibiting the dumping of debris, fill or other waste materials into creeks and channels, and the littering of garbage should be strictly enforced. The City will also continue to maintain a high level of maintenance for its storm drainage facilities. New developments will be carefully reviewed to insure that adequate storm drain facilities are available both on and off the site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Drainage Facilities • Cooperation with Other Jurisdictions in Solving Storm Drainage Problems |
| H1.17 | Storm Drainage Capacity. Ensure storm drainage capacity to be available to carry runoff generated by new developments, and implement the City’s Storm Water Master Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Drainage Facilities • Cooperation with Other Jurisdictions in Solving Storm Drainage Problems |
| H1.18 | Rise in Sea Level. Coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies regarding potential rise in sea level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with Other Jurisdictions in Solving Storm Drainage Problems |
| H1.19 | Standards of Fire Safety. Review, amend, and update, at regular intervals, all relevant City codes and ordinances to incorporate the most current knowledge and highest standards of fire safety. The City should also review at adequate intervals, the adequacy of existing fire service facilities throughout the community in relation to such factors as hydrant capacity, peak load water requirements, fire access roads to wildland areas, and other fire protection factors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Code Update • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Emergency Preparedness Planning |

H1.20	Fire Hazard Reduction Program. Promote fire safety in El Cerrito through fire prevention programs and public information programs. Emphasis should be given to programs devoted to the following:	• Building Code Update • Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Emergency Preparedness Planning
	1. Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones in the City as they relate to definable fire and fire safety hazards.	
	2. Map high hazard areas.	
	3. Strengthen existing codes in relation to such high hazard areas.	
H1.21	Fire Retardant Landscaping. Encourage the use of fire-retardant vegetation for landscaping, especially in high fire hazard areas.	• Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Emergency Preparedness Planning
H1.22	Hillside Natural Area. Control vegetation growth in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fire hazards.	• Annual Budget
Goal H2:	Government agencies, citizens and businesses are prepared for an effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or disasters.	

Policies	Implementation Measures
H2.1	Hazard Awareness. Publicize disaster plans and promote resident awareness and caution regarding hazards, including soil instability, earthquakes, flooding, and fire.
	• Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps • Emergency Preparedness Planning • Release of Hazardous Materials

- H2.2** ~~**Public Facilities.** Locate and design emergency buildings (police, fire, hospital, etc.) and vital utilities, communication systems and other public facilities so that they remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster.~~
- ~~Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps~~
 - ~~Emergency Preparedness Planning~~

Goal H3: New development complies with the noise standards established in the General Plan, all new noise sources are within acceptable standards, and existing objectionable noise sources are reduced or eliminated.

Policies

Implementation Measures

- H3.1** **Noise Levels in New Residential Projects.** New residential development projects shall meet acceptable exterior noise level standards. The "normally acceptable" noise standards for new land uses are established in Table 7-1, Land Use Compatibility for Community Exterior Noise Environments, which shall be modified by Policies H3.2 through H3.12, below.
- Noise Standards Review
 - State Noise Insulation Standards
 - CEQA
- H3.2** **Outdoor Noise Levels.** The goal for maximum outdoor noise levels in residential areas is an Ldn of 60 dB. This level is a requirement to guide the design and location of future development and is a goal for the reduction of noise in existing development. However, 60 Ldn is a goal that cannot necessarily be reached in all residential areas within the realm of economic or aesthetic feasibility. This goal will be applied where outdoor use is a major consideration (e.g., backyards in single-family housing developments and recreation areas in multi-family housing projects). The outdoor standard will not normally be applied to the small decks associated with apartments and condominiums but these will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Noise Standards Review
 - State Noise Insulation Standards

Where the city determines that providing an Ldn of 60 dB or lower outdoors is not feasible, the outdoor goal may be increased to an Ldn of 65 dB at the discretion of the Planning Commission.

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| H3.3 | Indoor Noise Levels. The indoor noise level as required by the State of California Noise Insulation Standards must not exceed an Ldn of 45 dB in new housing units. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards |
| H3.4 | Indoor Instantaneous Noise Levels. Interior noise levels in new single-family and multi-family residential units exposed to an Ldn of 60 dB or greater should be limited to a maximum instantaneous noise level in the bedrooms of 50 dBA. Maximum instantaneous noise levels in other rooms should not exceed 55 dB. The typical repetitive maximum instantaneous noise level at each site would be determined by monitor. Examples would include truck passbys on busy streets, BART passbys and train warning whistles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards |
| H3.5 | Impacts of BART Noise. If the noise source is BART, then the outdoor noise exposure criterion should be 70 Ldn for future development, recognizing that BART noise is characterized by relatively few loud events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BART Noise |
| H3.6 | New Commercial, Industrial and Office Noise Standards. Appropriate interior noise levels in commercial, industrial, and office buildings are a function of the use of space and shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Interior noise levels in offices generally should be maintained at 45 Leq (hourly average) or less. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards |

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| H3.7 | Areas Below Desired Noise Standards.
These guidelines are not intended to be applied reciprocally. In other words, if an area currently is below the desired noise standards, an increase in noise up to the maximum should not necessarily be allowed. The impact of a proposed project on an existing land use should be evaluated in terms of the increase in existing noise levels and potential for adverse community impact, regardless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards |
| H3.8 | Non-Transportation Related Noise Sources. For non-transportation related noise sources, noise levels outdoors should not exceed the limits in the table above. Interior noise levels shall be 15 decibels lower than those shown in the table. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards |
| H3.9 | Noise Environment in Existing Residential Areas. Protect the noise environment in existing residential areas. In general, the City will require the evaluation of mitigation measures for projects under the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project would cause the Ldn to increase 3 dB(A) or more. 2. Any increase would result in an Ldn greater than 60 dB(A). 3. The Ldn already exceeds 60 dB(A). 4. The project has the potential to generate significant adverse community response. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards • Noise Ordinance |
| H3.10 | Mitigating the Effects of Noise on Adjacent Properties. Require proposals to reduce noise impacts on adjacent properties by incorporating appropriate measures into the project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Standards Review • State Noise Insulation Standards • Noise Ordinance |

H3.11 Commercial or Industrial Source Noise. Noise created by commercial or industrial sources associated with new projects or developments shall be controlled so as not to exceed the noise level standards set forth in the table below (Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure for Stationary Noise Sources), as measured at any affected residential land use.

- Noise Standards Review
- State Noise Insulation Standards
- Noise Ordinance

Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure for Stationary Noise Sources (1)

	Daytime (5) (7 AM to 10 PM)	Nighttime (2,5) (10 PM to 7 AM)
Hourly Leq, DB (3)	55	45
Maximum Level, dB (3)	70	65
Maximum Level, dB - Impulsive Noise (4)	65	60

(1) As determined at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards may be applied on the receptor side of noise barriers or other property line noise mitigation measures.

(2) Applies only where the receiving land use operates or is occupied during nighttime hours.

(3) Sound level measurements shall be made with "slow" meter response.

(4) Sound level measurements shall be made with "fast" meter response.

(5) Allowable levels shall be raised to the ambient noise levels where the ambient levels exceed the allowable levels. Allowable levels shall be reduced 5 dB if the ambient hourly Leq is at

H3.12 New Noise Reducing Technologies. Support and employ new noise reducing technologies in the development and maintenance of local and regional infrastructure.

- Noise Standards Review
- State Noise Insulation Standards

IMPLEMENTATION

The following is a summary of the major tools available to the City for implementation of the policies in this chapter, Resources and Hazards.

1. Air Quality Strategies

Implement trip reduction and energy conservation measures for jobs/housing balance, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and transit, as identified in the Community Design and Development, and Housing Elements, and coordinate with regional and state agencies and other West County jurisdictions in enhancing air quality.

~~**2. Annual Budget**~~

~~The annual budget should provide adequate funds for community facilities, infrastructure, and services. In particular, it should place a high priority on the inspection and maintenance of recreational facilities, especially on ensuring the safety of these facilities. Once the existing problems of deferred maintenance are corrected, it should be avoided because it inevitably leads to higher costs.~~

3. Archaeological Resources

Where possible, archaeological sites or fragile historic sites will be placed within open space areas as defined during the specific project review process.

4. BART Noise

Continue to work with-BART on noise reduction programs, placing special emphasis on noise reduction adjacent to noise sensitive uses. (i.e., public library, Fairmont School, Civic Center and residences within 200 feet of BART right-of-way)

~~**5. Building Code Update**~~

~~Update the Building and other codes as necessary to address earthquake, fire and other hazards and support programs for the identification, abatement or mitigation of existing hazardous structures.~~

6. CEQA

The City should ensure that the CEQA review process adequately identifies impacts of new development upon the natural environment.

7. City Council Resolution 96-103

The following objectives were adopted by City Council Resolution 96-103, and are summarized below:

- a. Create a strong relationship between the creek and adjacent land by integrating retail, housing and civic uses with the creek, and improving the creek as an amenity.
- b. Create a continuous pedestrian/bicycle corridor along the creek, linking this segment to creek alignments to the west and east.

- c. Link a creekside pedestrian/bicycle corridor along Cerrito Creek to the Bay Trail.
- d. Provide opportunities for visual and physical linkages between Albany and El Cerrito.
- e. Create an open natural channel along its entire length within the Plaza area.
- f. Restore the creek channel as a natural riparian corridor with habitat enhancement.
- g. Provide variety of uses and diversity of experiences along the creek alignment.
- h. Extend the open creek channel to San Pablo Avenue and investigate the potential to realign the creek north of the Wells Fargo building, and to make a visible connection across San Pablo Avenue.
- i. Provide for physical access by pedestrians to the creek channel.

8. Consultation on Fish and Wildlife Impacts

The City will continue to notify and consult with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Army Corps of Engineers when development projects are proposed in locations where there may be impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats.

~~9. Cooperation with Other Jurisdictions in Solving Storm Drainage Problems~~

~~Work with other agencies, such as the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County, to address downstream drainage problems. Such jurisdictions should be encouraged to participate and help solve such drainage problems. In the event that Kensington decides to install new storm drainage facilities, El Cerrito should review the plans to insure that the proposed system will be compatible with the design and capacity of El Cerrito's system and to encourage contributions to any adjacent system changes as a result of such plans.~~

10. Creek Ordinance

Consider adoption of a creek ordinance applicable city-wide to waterways to be specified, to include, among other factors, such provisions as setbacks of construction including buildings and paved areas; avoidance of culverting; standards for waterway restoration; and principles of watershed management.

11. Design Objectives for Baxter Creek

A set of objectives should be adopted by the council for Baxter Creek, similar to Resolution 96-103. Objectives might include:

- a. Improve the natural channel characteristics.
- b. Maintain and improve the riparian habitat.
- c. Improve and maintain water quality in the creek channel.
- d. Integrate the Baxter Creek corridor with the Ohlone Greenway and establish a connection with the proposed Central Richmond Greenway.
- e. Provide for physical access by pedestrians to the creek channel.

- f. Establish a creek corridor through public ownership of a conservation easement or other interest in a portion of the property through which the creek flows.
- g. Establish setbacks for buildings and other improvements, through special regulations or a general Citywide creek protection ordinance.

12. *Design Guidelines*

Design guidelines are very useful tools for ensuring that development is compatible with the surrounding area and that it provides required design features. To the extent possible, the guidelines should be specific; guidelines that are quantifiable should be considered for incorporation into the development regulations.

13. *Development Regulations (zoning)*

The development regulations, primarily the zoning regulations, provide the standards for development, prescribe allowable uses, contain specific incentive provisions, and include other standards and procedures related to approval of development projects.

14. *Development Review*

The development review process includes discretionary review by the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board, based on consideration of General Plan objectives and policies, and criteria established by the zoning and subdivision ordinances and other city regulations and adopted guidelines. Most discretionary actions are subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The development review process also includes administrative review of projects to verify compliance with Planning Commission and Design Review Board requirements, as well as standards set by the City through adoption of building and fire codes, engineering standards, and other regulations and ordinances.

~~15. *Emergency Preparedness Planning*~~

~~Continue to implement emergency preparedness plans in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Services regarding the provision of emergency services in the event of a large earthquake or other disaster. Continue to organize a comprehensive grassroots emergency preparedness plan using volunteer to organize neighborhood-level disaster response and preparation.~~

16. *Environmental Education Programs*

Establish public information/education programs to enhance public knowledge about environmental protection and conservation measures.

~~17. *Geologic, Fire, Flooding and Other Hazard Maps*~~

~~Maintain detailed hazard maps for use in development review.~~

~~18. *Geotechnical Review Procedures*~~

~~Update City guidelines establishing geotechnical review procedures, including but not limited to, the content of geologic feasibility reports and design level geotechnical reports, and the credentials of the authors of such reports. Considerations include:~~

- ~~a. Implement procedures and requirements of the state-established Alquist-Priolo zone.~~
- ~~b. Establish procedures addressing the type(s) of investigation, minimum report guidelines, minimum standards, technical review of reports submitted to the City, and enforcement of recommendations contained in the reports and City policy.~~
- ~~c. Define types of projects and areas within the planning area that trigger report requirements for engineering geologic and/or geotechnical (soil and foundation engineering) reports to address these concerns.~~
- ~~d. Require engineering geologic reports: (a) for certain projects within a Fault Studies Zone; and (b) for certain projects in hillside and flatland areas and within 50 feet of creekbanks.~~
- ~~e. Require geotechnical reports for: (a) additions imposing significant new loads on existing foundations; (b) projects involving significant grading, particularly where located on a slope (e.g. swimming pools, basements); (c) repair of foundation distress; (d) landslide repairs; and (e) repair of distressed retaining walls over 4 feet in height.~~
- ~~f. Require the engineering geologist of record (where one is required on the project) to be an engineering geologist certified by the State of California.~~
- ~~g. Require the geotechnical consultant of record to be a registered civil engineer who holds a valid authorization to use the title "soil engineer" as provided in Section 6736.1 of the State of California Business and Professions Code.~~
- ~~h. Continually revise the existing database to indicate those sites with geologic/geotechnical reports on file.~~

~~19. Hazardous Materials Storage Tanks~~

~~A comprehensive investigation of hazardous materials storage tanks should be undertaken for specific sites when development is proposed. The potential hazard of any tanks or former tank sites found should then be evaluated using California EPA and local regulatory guidelines, and remedied.~~

~~20. Hazardous Soils~~

~~Sites within El Cerrito that are contaminated with hazardous substances should be remediated in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. If it is not feasible to fully remediate soils, land uses may be restricted to protect public health and safety.~~

~~21. Hazardous Waste Management~~

~~Work with Contra Costa County, other cities in the county and other jurisdictions on implementing measures of the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan.~~

~~22. Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan~~

Implement the Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan in coordination with fire reduction programs.

23. Hillside Ordinance

The City should examine its existing regulations regarding hillside development and assess other hillside ordinances, such as the City of Richmond's April 1997 Hillside Ordinance, to ensure that environmental and safety issues are properly addressed.

24. Historic Preservation Ordinance

Consider adopting a Historic Preservation Ordinance following procedures identified by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to protect historic resources and to ensure that new buildings and remodeling of existing buildings are compatible with City goals for preserving the City's historic resources and character. The City should also examine financial assistance options for eligible historic properties. The ordinance would:

- a. Establish standards for determining the historic value of potentially historic properties.
- b. Define historic areas where new development will be required to complement the character of the surrounding historic structures.
- c. Establish separate historic design guidelines that could be used to allow the adaptive re-use of historic buildings and facade improvements, and include guidelines and standards covering specific historical/architectural features, materials, colors, etc. for all new construction.
- d. Address Unreinforced Masonry Building safety.
- e. Establish exceptions from parking, lot coverage and setback requirements for historic buildings (through separate zoning amendment).

25. Historical Inventory and Designation

The City should initiate, or work with a local civic group to initiate, an inventory of structures or sites that may have architectural, historical, archeological, or cultural significance to the community. The City should then consider action to list the most significant structures or sites on the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places.

26. Intergovernmental Coordination

The City should continue to coordinate with other cities, Contra Costa and Alameda counties, and other agencies to ensure that environmental objectives are achieved.

27. Joint Watershed Goals Statement

Assure ongoing general cooperation in the furtherance of joint watershed goals as adopted by the City of El Cerrito on September 5, 1995, and seek out opportunities to jointly apply for grants and jointly undertake planning, construction, educational, and watershed management projects which will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the respective governing bodies. Joint Watershed Goals include:

- a. Restoring creeks by removing culverts, underground pipes, and obstructions to fish and animal migration, and putting creeks in

restored channels up in the sunshine where people and wildlife can enjoy them.

- b. Restoring creek corridors as natural transportation routes with pedestrian and bicycle paths along creekside greenways; wherever possible, using creekside greenways to connect neighborhoods and commercial districts east of Interstate 80 freeway to the shoreline of San Francisco Bay and the San Francisco Bay Trail.
- c. Restoring a healthy freshwater supply to creeks and the Bay by eliminating conditions that pollute rainwater as it flows overland to creeks, and eliminating conditions that prevent a healthy amount of rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing the underground water supplies that nourish creeks.
- d. Instilling widespread public awareness of the value of developing infrastructure along lines that promote healthier watersheds and watershed-oriented open spaces where nature and community life can flourish.

28. Noise Ordinance

Adopt a noise ordinance to regulate noise-generating activities.

29. Noise Standards Review

Review development proposals to assure consistency with noise standards. The City will require the following and other means, as appropriate, to mitigate noise impacts on adjacent properties:

- a. Screen and control noise sources such as parking, outdoor activities and mechanical equipment.
- b. Increase setbacks for noise sources from adjacent dwellings.
- c. Wherever possible do not remove fences, walls or landscaping that serve as noise buffers, although design, safety and other impacts must be addressed.
- d. Use soundproofing materials and double glazed windows.
- e. Control hours of operation, including deliveries and trash pickup to minimize noise impacts.

The City will use the Future Noise Contours data to determine if additional noise studies are needed for proposed development.

30. Open Space Preservation Program

See Implementation Section of Chapter 4.

~~**31. Release of Hazardous Materials**~~

~~Update emergency preparedness planning and education related to the release of hazardous materials from refineries and chemical plants in West County to take into account risk management plans of operators.~~

32. Riparian and Stream Restoration Programs

Establish priorities for riparian and stream restoration that include erosion control measures, stream clean-up, improved capacity and reliability of the City's storm drain system, and revegetation plans. Coordinate creek preservation with CEQA review, bicycle master plan, open space preservation actions, and grant funding.

33. *State Noise Insulation Standards*

Use the adopted Health and Safety Element as a guideline for compliance with the State's noise insulation standards by providing noise contour information around all major sources in support of the sound transmission control standards (Chapter 2-35, Part 2, Title 24, California Administrative Code).

34. *Storm Drainage Facilities*

Efforts should be made to provide funds for the improvement of the City's storm drainage facilities to meet the substantial cost of any such projects.

~~35. *Transportation of Hazardous Materials*~~

~~Work with Contra Costa County, other cities in the county and other jurisdictions in establishing standards for the transportation of hazardous wastes through West County and the City.~~

36. *Tree Preservation Ordinance*

Consider adoption of a tree preservation ordinance that will define types and size of trees to be protected, and will include specific criteria, procedures and mitigation when trees are proposed to be removed.

~~37. *Unreinforced Masonry Buildings*~~

~~Develop strategies for abatement of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMB) hazards consistent with Guidelines established by the California Seismic Safety Commission, with provisions for coordination with historic preservation.~~

38. *Water Quality Strategies*

Implement habitat protection programs and evaluate proposed projects for potential water quality impacts that may require sediment basins as part of grading activities, grease/oil traps where concentrations of such pollutants are anticipated, or other measures. In coordination with Contra Costa County, continue to implement measures consistent with the City's NPDES Stormwater Permit.

City of El Cerrito

**GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT:
ADDENDUM TO THE
CITY OF EL CERRITO GENERAL PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

October 2025 | Addendum

State Clearinghouse No. 1999022058

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October 2025 | Addendum
State Clearinghouse No. 1999022058

SAFETY ELEMENT CEQA DOCUMENT: ADDENDUM TO THE CITY OF EL CERRITO GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

for the City of El Cerrito

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is an Addendum to the El Cerrito General Plan Environmental Impact Report (General Plan EIR), prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15168. This Addendum reviews the proposed goals and policies in the Safety Element update and finds that the Safety Element update is consistent with the General Plan and that its potential environmental impacts are within the scope of those addressed in the General Plan EIR, which was certified by the El Cerrito City Council in September 1999.

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The City of El Cerrito (City) certified the El Cerrito General Plan Environmental Impact Report (Certified EIR), State Clearinghouse (SCH) Number 1999022058, in September 1999. The General Plan is the “blueprint” for the City and lays out the future of the City’s development in general terms through a series of policies. The General Plan provides the City with a vision for achieving balanced residential, commercial, and civic uses in El Cerrito.

The Safety Element is a State-mandated General Plan element (topic area) that must identify potential natural and human-caused hazards that could affect the City’s residents, businesses, and services. The Safety Element is the section of the General Plan that helps to protect the community against natural disasters and other hazardous conditions. This element identifies these hazards and contains goals and policies to improve the City’s resilience. The proposed project consists of updating the Safety Element to address changed conditions, current best practices, and to meet current requirements in State law.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15164 and 15168, this Addendum has been prepared to document that the potential environmental impacts associated with the Safety Element update (herein referred to as Safety Element update or proposed project) are within the scope of those addressed in the Certified EIR. This Addendum also documents that none of the conditions have occurred, as described in Public Resources Code Section 21166 or CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163, that would call for preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR. As described below, there are no changes associated with the proposed project or changes in circumstances that would trigger subsequent environmental review.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

Pursuant to the CEQA Statutes Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for the project unless the lead agency determines that one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Substantial project changes are proposed that will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- Substantial changes would occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that require major revisions to the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- New information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified shows any of the following:
 - a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR.
 - b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than identified in the previous EIR.
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponent declines to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.
 - d. Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponent declines to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.

Where none of the conditions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 are present,¹ the lead agency must determine whether to prepare an Addendum or whether no further CEQA documentation is required (CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[b]). An Addendum is appropriate where some changes or additions to the previously certified EIR are necessary, but there are not any new or substantially more severe significant impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164).

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, as demonstrated in Section 2, *Project Description*, and Section 3, *Environmental Analysis*, of this Addendum, the City has determined that an Addendum to the Certified EIR is appropriate for the proposed project.

1 See also Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, which applies the requirements of Section 15162 to supplemental EIRs.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 REGIONAL LOCATION

The City of El Cerrito is in the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. The City is approximately 11 miles northeast of San Francisco in Contra Costa County, bordered by the City of Richmond to the north and west, Wildcat Canyon Regional Park to the east, the Cities of Albany and Berkeley to the south, and the San Francisco Bay to the west (beyond the City of Richmond). Regional access to the City is provided by Interstate 80 (I-80), Interstate 580 (I-580), and by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) transit system. The City encompasses approximately four square miles.

2.2 STUDY AREA

The Study Area for this Addendum is the area within the El Cerrito City limit, approximately 2,386 acres. This area was evaluated in the Certified EIR.

2.3 BACKGROUND

2.3.1 1999 General Plan

The General Plan, adopted in 1999, lays out the future of the City's development through goals and policy framework. Currently, the State-mandated Safety Element is woven through two chapters of the existing General Plan (Chapter 6, *Public Facilities and Services*, and Chapter 7, *Resources and Hazards*), which include the policies that address safety. These policies were evaluated as part of the environmental review conducted in the Certified EIR.

2.3.2 Safety Element Update (Proposed Project)

The existing 1999 Safety Element is out of date and does not include many of the required topics in current State law. As described previously, policies addressing safety within the City are addressed through two chapters in the General Plan. The proposed project will ensure that the Safety Element meets current requirements and contains important components, such as climate change adaptation and evacuation. The Safety Element will be a dedicated element in the General Plan.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Safety Element update follows the requirements of Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code, which mandates that a Safety Element contain background information and policies to address multiple natural hazards, an analysis of vulnerabilities from climate change, policies to improve climate change resilience, and an assessment of residential areas with evacuation constraints. The Safety Element update covers the following safety issues: seismic and geologic hazards, hazardous waste and materials, flood and inundation hazards, fire hazards, extreme heat and severe weather, drought, human health hazards, and emergency preparedness and response. The Safety Element update is a programmatic document, which provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

As previously described in Section 1.2, *Environmental Procedures*, this Addendum has been prepared pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164 to determine whether implementation of the proposed project would result in any new impacts compared to those evaluated in the Certified EIR. This Addendum only considers the extent to which the proposed project could result in new or more severe impacts than previously evaluated in the Certified EIR; it does not reevaluate impacts that would remain consistent with the analysis provided in the Certified EIR.

The proposed project is a program-level policy document focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and policies and does not include land use or zoning changes that would result in direct or indirect growth or changes in building density and intensity. As shown in the supporting environmental checklist, no provisions implemented under the proposed project would result in direct or indirect population growth and thus would not place additional demands on natural resources, public services, or infrastructure. In addition, the proposed project does not include any site-specific designs or proposals to develop specific projects, nor does it grant any entitlements for development projects. Any future construction-level projects occurring from implementation of the proposed project would be subject to applicable federal, State, regional, and/or City regulations, including compliance with General Plan policies and Municipal Code requirements, and undergo an appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA, including incorporating mitigation measures from the Certified EIR, as required.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

Sections 3.1.1 through 3.1.21 provide a summary of the conclusions from the Certified EIR and then provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project as compared to the impacts identified in the Certified EIR. This evaluation is organized to correspond with the standards of significance consistent with Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist Form*, of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA identifies and analyzes the significant effects on the environment, where “significant effect on the environment” means a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical condition within the area affected by the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382). The proposed project, which does not increase development potential, introduce new types of development, or expand the boundaries of the Study Area evaluated under the Certified EIR, is analyzed herein.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1.1 Aesthetics

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on scenic vistas, would not substantially damage scenic resources, would not conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality, or create a new source of light and glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU1.1, LU1.2, LU1.3, LU.3, LU1.5, LU1.5, LU1.6, LU1.7, LU2.1, LU2.5, LU3.1, LU3.2, LU4.1, LU4.5, LU4.6, LU5.1, LU5.2, LU5.3, LU5.4, LU5.6, LU6.1, CD1.1, CD1.2, CD1.3, CD3.3, CD3.4, CD3.9, CD4.1, CD4.2, T1.7, T2.1, PR1.7, PS2.11, PS2.12, PS3.5, and PS5.3, and adherence to applicable guidelines, and procedures, including, but not limited to, Design Guidelines, Development Regulations (zoning), and Development Review.²

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. Therefore, the proposed project would not change the scale or location of development beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts to aesthetics beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in no impacts on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance, would not conflict with a Williamson Act contract, would not conflict with forest land or timberland, would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and would not involve the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.³

² City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, page 2-10 and pages 4-83 through 4-87.

³ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, page 1-2.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The proposed project is a program-level policy document which provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. Therefore, the proposed project would not change the scale or location of development beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to agriculture and forestry resources. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.3 Air Quality

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to conflicts with an applicable air quality plan and would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard. The Certified EIR also concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in a less-than-significant impact with respect to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations with implementation of normal permit and review procedures and mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: R1.4, LU5.5, T1.3, T1.4, and T2.2. In addition, the Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in no impact on other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.⁴

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts to air quality resources beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

⁴ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-4 and 2-5 and 4-31 through 4-38.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1.4 Biological Resources

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat, would not have a substantial adverse effect on wetlands or wildlife corridors, would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU6.1, R1.1, R1.2, R1.3, R1.7, R1.8, and R1.9, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies, including, but not limited to, Riparian and Stream Restoration Programs, Environmental Education Programs, a Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan, Tree Preservation Ordinance, Open Space Preservation Actions, and consultation with applicable regulatory agencies.⁵

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts to biological resources beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.5 Cultural Resources

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less than significant impacts on historical resources, would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, and would not disturb any human remains with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, Policy R1.3, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and

⁵ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-9 and 2-10 and 4-78 through 4-82.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

implementing strategies, including, but not limited to, Development Review, Historical Inventory and Designation, and Archaeological Resources.⁶

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts to cultural resources beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.6 Energy

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts with respect to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU5.5, T1.3, T1.4, T2.2, R1.4, R1.5, CD4.4, CD4.5, CD5.1, and H-7, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Bicycle Master Plan, Capital Improvement Program, Travel Demand Management (TDM), Intergovernmental Coordination, Development Regulations (zoning), Development Review, and Air Quality Strategies.⁷

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. As described in more detail in Section 4.1.8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the El Cerrito City Council adopted the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) that addresses energy use along with GHG emissions and community resilience in the face of climate change-related hazards. The Safety Element update incorporates the climate vulnerability assessment in the CAAP and contains policies that support the adaptation and resilience efforts in the CAAP. Therefore, the proposed project reaffirms and further implements efforts of the CAAP in safeguarding the existing energy infrastructure and promoting energy efficiency. It

⁶ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-10 and 4-88 through 4-90.

⁷ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-8 and 4-63 through 4-64.

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would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in more intense energy usage or any other adverse impacts to energy beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.7 Geology and Soils

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death, related to faulting, seismic shaking, or landslides with implementation of applicable General Plan policies, guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including the use of Geologic, Fire, Flooding, and Other Hazard Maps, Geotechnical Review Procedures, and Emergency Preparedness Planning. The Certified EIR also concluded that there would be less-than-significant impacts with respect to the loss of topsoil and that development would not be located on unstable soil or expansive soil and would not destroy a unique paleontological resource with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: H1.1, H1.2, H1.3, H1.4, H1.5, H1.6, H2.1, and H2.2, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Capital Improvement Program and Development Review. Additionally, the Certified EIR concluded that there would be no impacts associated with soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks.⁸

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to address seismic and geologic hazards (Goal 1). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to geology and soils beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was

⁸ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-9, 4-68 through 4-78, and 4-88.

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addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Certified EIR did not include an evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines criteria (a) and (b) for GHG emissions because these criteria were not introduced to the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist*, until 2010, and therefore were not required by CEQA at the time the Certified EIR was prepared. However, global climate change could have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the EIR was certified. In the U.S. Supreme Court Case of *Massachusetts v. USEPA* (2007) 549 U.S. 497, 507, the Court explained the issue began garnering governmental attention long before the General Plan EIR was certified in 1999. The opinion states: “[i]n the late 1970s, the Federal Government began devoting serious attention to the possibility that carbon dioxide emissions associated with human activity could provoke climate change. In 1978, Congress enacted the National Climate Program Act, 92 Stat. 601, which required the President to establish a program to ‘assist the Nation and the world to understand and respond to natural and man-induced climate processes and their implications.’” Although the Certified EIR did not include a GHG analysis, the Certified EIR included an evaluation of the GHG emissions (particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter [PM₁₀], reactive organic gases [ROG], nitrogen oxides [NOx], ozone [O₃], and carbon monoxide [CO]) in Chapter 4.5, *Air Quality*.⁹

On July 16, 2024, the El Cerrito City Council adopted the City’s CAAP to address GHG emissions and community resilience in the face of climate change-related hazards. The City developed the CAAP’s focus areas and strategies based on results from community engagement, the vulnerability assessment, and GHG analysis. The CAAP intends to serve as a roadmap toward reaching aggressive emissions-reduction targets, improving the City’s resilience to climate change impacts, and guiding collaboration between the City and community of El Cerrito. The CAAP aims to distribute the benefits of climate action and adaptation equitably by prioritizing vulnerable communities in planning and implementation. The Safety Element update incorporates the climate vulnerability assessment in the CAAP and contains policies that support the adaptation and resilience efforts in the CAAP. Therefore, the proposed project would support the CAAP in reducing GHG emissions for construction and operation of potential future development in the City. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was

⁹ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 4-31-4-38.

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addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts with respect to disposal of hazardous materials, would not cause a release of hazardous materials into the environment, would not emit hazardous emissions within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, would not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, would not physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and would not expose people or structures to wildland fires with implementation of applicable mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: H1.7, H1.8, H1.9, H1.10, and H1.11, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Hazardous Waste Management, Development Review, and Transportation of Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Materials Storage Tanks. The Certified EIR also concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would not result in impacts to an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.¹⁰

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to address hazardous waste and materials (Goal 2). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to hazards and hazardous materials beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts with respect to water quality standards, would not decrease groundwater supply, would not alter the drainage pattern of the area such that it would cause erosion, runoff, polluted runoff, and flooding, would not release pollutants due to project

¹⁰ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-6, 4-55, and 4-56, and 4-65 through 4-68.

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inundation, and would not conflict with a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: PS1.1, PS1.2, PS4.1, H1.13, H1.14, H1.15, H1.16, R1.6, R1.7, R1.8, and R1.9, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Capital Improvement Program, Development Review, Water Quality Strategies, and use of Geologic, Fire, Flooding, and Other Hazard Maps.¹¹

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to address flooding and inundation hazards (Goal 3). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to hydrology and water quality beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.11 Land Use and Planning

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts with respect to dividing an established community and would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU1.1, LU1.2, LU1.3, LU1.4, LU1.5, LU1.6, LU1.7, LU2.1, LU2.5, LU3.1, LU3.2, LU4.1, LU4.5, LU4.6, LU5.1, LU5.2, LU5.3, LU5.4, LU5.6, LU6.1, CD1.1, CD1.2, CD1.3, CD3.3, CD3.4, CD3.9, CD4.1, CD4.2, T1.7, T2.1, PR1.7, PS2.11, PS2.12, PS3.5, and PS5.3.¹²

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with

¹¹ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-6, 2-9, 4-44, and 4-73 through 4-77.

¹² City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-2, 2-3, and 4-3 through 4-17.

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respect to land use and planning beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.12 Mineral Resources

The Certified EIR does not identify any mineral resources in the City.

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to mineral resources beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.13 Noise

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on temporary or permanent increases in ambient noise levels and would not be located in a private airstrip or airport land use plan that would expose people to excessive noise levels with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: H3.1, H3.2, H3.3, H3.4, H3.5, H3.6, H3.7, H3.8, H3.9, H3.10, H3.11, and H3.12, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, compliance with the Noise Ordinance, State Noise Insulation Standards, and BART Noise.¹³

The General Plan EIR did not include an evaluation of groundborne vibration pursuant to criterion (b). However, impacts associated with groundborne vibration could have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the EIR was certified, and no such impact was identified in the Certified EIR. The Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, prepared by the Federal Transit Administration, was originally issued in 1995, prior to

¹³ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-5 and 4-39 through 4-43.

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certification of the Certified EIR.¹⁴ The manual provides procedures for prediction and assessing noise and vibration impacts for transit projects and is commonly used to evaluate impacts associated with groundborne vibration for several types of development projects.

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to noise beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.14 Population and Housing

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on inducing substantial unplanned population growth and would not displace people or housing with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU1.1, LU1.2, LU1.3, LU1.4, LU1.5, LU1.6, LU1.7, LU2.1, LU2.3, LU2.5, LU3.1, LU3.2, LU4.1, LU4.2, LU4.5, LU5.1, LU5.2, LU5.3, and LU5.4, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Capital Improvement Program, Design Guidelines, Development Regulations (zoning), Development Review, Economic Development Strategy, Housing Program, Redevelopment Program, and Specific Plans.¹⁵

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to population and housing beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project

¹⁴ Federal Transit Administration. 2018, September. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*.

¹⁵ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-3 and 4-17 through 4-20.

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would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.15 Public Services

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on fire protection services, police protection services, schools, parks, and other public facilities with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: GM4.2, PS1.1, PS1.2, PS1.3, PS1.4, PS1.7, PS2.1, PS2.2, PS2.3, PS2.4, PS2.5, PS2.6, PS2.7, PS2.8, PS2.9, PS2.10, PS2.11, PS2.12, PS3.1, PS3.5, PS5.3, PS6.1, PS6.2, PS6.3, H1.17, H1.18, H1.19, H2.1, LU4.6, CD2.4, CF1.8, PR1.1, PR1.6, PR2.3, CF1.1, CF1.2, CF1.4, CF1.5, CF1.6, CF1.7, and CF1.8, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the development review process and requirements for payments of public facilities fees.¹⁶

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to reduce fire hazards (Goal 4) and assist the community and public services providers with responding to and recovering from emergencies (Goal 8). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to public services beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.16 Recreation

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on existing neighborhood and regional parks and would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: PR1.2, PR1.3, PR1.4, PR1.5, PR1.6, PR1.7, PR1.8, PR1.9, PR1.10, PR1.11, PR1.12, PR1.14, PR2.1, PR2.2 and PR2.3, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing

¹⁶ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-5 through 2-8 and 4-44 through 4-61.

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strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, Development Review, Grant Funds, In-lieu Fees, Annual Budget, Asset Replacement Fund, and Capital Improvement Program.¹⁷

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to recreation facilities beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.17 Transportation

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on conflicts with the circulation system, would not increase hazards or incompatible uses, and would not result in inadequate emergency access with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: LU5.1, GM1.1, GM1.2, GM3.3, GM4.1, GM4.3, T1.1, T1.2, T1.7, T2.1, T2.2, T3.1, T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, and T4.4, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Capital Improvement Program, use of the General Plan Circulation Map, Development Review, Intergovernmental Coordination, Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan, Transportation System Performance Measures, Bicycle Master Plan, Travel Demand Management (TDM), Design Guidelines, Design Review, and Development Regulations (zoning).¹⁸

The Certified EIR did not include an evaluation of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) pursuant to criterion (b) of the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist*, because this criterion was not introduced to the checklist until 2018, and therefore were not required by CEQA at the time the EIR was certified. With the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 743 (September 2013), which was codified in Public Resources Code Section 21099, and the subsequent adoption of revised CEQA Guidelines (December 2018), level of service (LOS) can no longer be used as a criterion for

¹⁷ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-7 and 4-59 through 4-61.

¹⁸ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-7, 4-21 through 4-30, and 4-55 through 4-59.

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identifying significant transportation impacts for most projects under CEQA.¹⁹ SB 743 changed the focus of transportation impact analysis in CEQA from measuring quality-of-life impacts to drivers, to measuring the physical impacts of driving on the environment. Changes in law, regulation, or guidelines adoption are not “new information” as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 if the information about the issue (i.e., VMT) was known or should have been known at the time EIR was certified (in this case 1999). The Certified EIR included a discussion of the generation of additional daily automobile trips in Chapter 4.8, Energy, of the Certified EIR.²⁰ Since the certification of the General Plan EIR, the issue of VMT has become a more prominent issue of concern, as evidenced by passage of SB 743 in 2013.

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity within the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to transportation beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

The Certified EIR did not include an evaluation of tribal cultural resources in accordance with criteria in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Sections XVIII(a) and XVIII(b) because these criteria were not introduced to the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist*, until 2017, and were not required to be evaluated per CEQA at the time the EIR was certified. Changes in law, regulation, or guidelines adoption are not “new information” as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 if the information about the issue (i.e., tribal cultural resources) was known or should have been known at the time EIR was certified (in this case 1999). Numerous studies completed in the twentieth centuries have documented resources and/or sites of

¹⁹ LOS is the measure of the average amount of delay experienced by vehicle drivers at an intersection or along a road segment during the most congested time of day. VMT measures the total number of daily miles traveled by vehicles on the roadway network and thereby the impacts on the environment from those miles traveled. LOS is a measure of local vehicle congestion at an intersection or on a road segment, and VMT is a measure of the total miles of vehicle travel measured area-wide or at the project level.

²⁰ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 4-62 through 4-64.

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significance to Native American tribes. Therefore, this is not new information per CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.

In compliance with SB 18,²¹ a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to determine whether any sacred sites are listed on its Sacred Lands File for the potential sites for housing. A response was received on June 13, 2025, indicating the search returned positive results for tribal cultural resources within the Study Area and recommended contacting tribal representatives. The City sent SB 18 letters to the tribal representatives provided by the NAHC on June 23, 2025. The City received a response from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation requesting consultation on July 16, 2025, and a response from the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan on July 25, 2025. The City clarified with representatives of both tribes that the Safety Element update is a policy document and any future discretionary projects occurring from implementation of the proposed project would undergo an appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA, including tribal consultation, as required per CEQA. City staff met with a representative of the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan on August 12, 2025 and discussed the project. The City followed up with both tribes on September 17, 2025 to confirm that neither tribe had any comments to share regarding the Safety Element update. No other responses have been received to date.

3.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

The Certified EIR concluded that development consistent with the General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts on water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities, would not affect water supply for future development, would not create the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity, would not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, and would comply with statutes related to solid waste with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: GM5.1, GM5.2, GM5.3, GM5.4, PS2.8, PS3.5, PS5.1, S4.1, PR2.3, PS4.1, R1.6, R1.7, R1.8, R1.9, H1.14, and H1.15, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, the Growth Management Element of the El Cerrito General Plan that establishes a service standard (for capacity planning purposes), Capital Improvement Program, and Development Review.²²

²¹ Senate Bill 18, passed in 2005, requires a city to consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and any appropriate Native American tribes for the purpose of preserving relevant tribal cultural resources prior to the adoption, revision, amendment, or update of a General Plan.

²² City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 2-5 through 2-8 and 4-44 through 4-57.

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The proposed project is a program-level policy document which provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to safeguard utility infrastructure (Goals 1, 5, and 8). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to utilities and service systems beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.1.20 Wildfire

While wildfire was not introduced as its own topical section in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist*, until 2018, Chapter 4.7, *Public Services and Utilities*, of the Certified EIR addressed impacts to fire protection services and emergency evacuation and impacts were found to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures that include the adoption of, and adherence to, the following policies: PS2.1, PS2.2, PS2.3, PS2.4, PS2.5, PS2.6, PS2.7, PS2.8, PS2.9, PS2.10, PS2.11, PS2.12, PS3.1, H1.17, H1.18, H1.19, and H2.1, and adherence to applicable guidelines, procedures, and implementing strategies and plans.²³

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. The proposed project includes policies to address fire hazards, including wildfire (Goal 4). It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities beyond those that could occur from implementation of the General Plan, and, as such, would not result in adverse impacts with respect to wildfires materials beyond what was evaluated in the Certified EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standard for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The proposed project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the Certified EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

²³ City of El Cerrito. 1999, April 16. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the City of El Cerrito General Plan Update*, pages 4-49 through 4-57.

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3.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

The proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-disturbing activities or directly or indirectly induce population growth beyond that which could occur from implementation of the General Plan. As discussed throughout this Addendum, the proposed project would not result in a new impact or a substantial increase in magnitude of the existing impacts evaluated in the Certified EIR.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15355, *Cumulative Impacts*, defines cumulative impacts as two or more individual effects, which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. Cumulative impacts may result from individually minor, but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time. As described in Sections 3.1.1 through 3.1.20, implementation of the proposed project would not result in a new or a substantial increase in magnitude of the existing cumulatively considerable impacts of the General Plan.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

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4. CONCLUSION

As demonstrated in the Certified EIR, all impacts from implementation of the General Plan were found to be less than significant except for the significant and unavoidable impacts related to air quality. As discussed in Section 3.1.3, *Air Quality*, the proposed project would not exacerbate these impacts. The proposed project does not include any site-specific designs or proposals to develop specific projects, nor does it grant any entitlements for development projects. Any future construction-level projects occurring from implementation of the proposed project would be subject to applicable federal, State, regional, and/or City regulations, including compliance with General Plan policies and Municipal Code requirements, and undergo an appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA, including incorporating mitigation measures from the Certified EIR, as required.

As summarized in this chapter and for the reasons described in Chapter 3, *Environmental Analysis*, the City has determined that an Addendum to the Certified EIR is appropriate for the proposed project. None of the conditions analyzed under the Certified EIR have changed, nor does the proposed project, as an implementing tool of the General Plan, meet any of the criteria for preparing a subsequent or supplemental EIR. The proposed project will not have one or more significant effects not discussed in the Certified EIR, nor does the proposed project create substantially more severe significant effects than previously examined in the Certified EIR.

4.1 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO THE PROJECT

The proposed project does not represent a substantial change to the Certified EIR because the proposed project is a program-level policy document that provides strategies to address public safety and resilience issues focused on hazard reduction and adaptation goals and does not include land use or zoning changes and would not result in an increase in development capacity in the City. It would not change the scale or location of development or overall ground-distributing activities beyond those which could occur from implementation of the General Plan. Consequently, there are no substantial changes proposed that would require major revisions of the Certified EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

4.2 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed project would not result in substantial changes in physical circumstances that would cause a new significant impact or substantially increase the severity of a previously identified significant impact, and there have been no other changes in the circumstances that

4. CONCLUSION

meet this criterion. There have been no changes in the environmental conditions in the Study Area that were not contemplated and analyzed in the Certified EIR and that would result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts in association with implementation of the proposed project.

4.3 NEW INFORMATION

There is no new information of substantial importance, which was not known or could not have been known at the time of certification of the General Plan EIR by the El Cerrito City Council in September 1999, that identifies a new significant impact; a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact; mitigation measures or alternatives previously found infeasible that would now be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the General Plan; or mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the Certified EIR and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment.



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 9.A.

Date: December 2, 2025
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Roland Lambert, Associate Engineer, Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department; Christopher Jones, Recreation Director, Recreation Department
Subject: Award of Construction Contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9

ACTION PROPOSED

Adopt a resolution awarding the contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9 to Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$228,103 and to approve potential change orders in an amount not to exceed \$34,215, for the construction of the Project; and appropriating a one-time allocation from the General Fund in the amount of \$183,300 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BACKGROUND

The Project implements the urgent replastering work for the Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool, part of the Swim Center improvements discussed by the City Council at its [August 19, 2025](#) and [October 21, 2025](#) meetings. The Project consists of demolition of the existing plaster and tiles to the existing bare concrete shell, retiling, replastering, and associated work necessary to provide a safe and functional Lap Pool.

The Notice Inviting Bids for the Project was advertised in the West County/East Bay Times on November 4 and 10, 2025. Additionally, the notice along with a complete set of Contract Documents was sent to Builder and Construction Exchanges in the Bay Area and Northern California and made available for purchase through an online plan room used by the City. The notice was also posted on the City's website.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference was held on November 10, 2025 and two (2) addenda were issued. Addendum No. 1 revised the Bid Opening date from November 18, 2025 to November 19, 2025. Addendum No. 2 was prepared in response to an item that was identified during the pre-bid conference about waterproofing of the pool's surge tank. The surge tank helps the pool water level stay consistent and requires waterproofing, which is a task that involves specialized work similar to the pool replastering project. Since the sequencing of the replastering work already provides access to the surge tank, performing both tasks concurrently minimizes disruption and avoids redundant mobilization. If the surge tank waterproofing was deferred, the pool would need to be shut down again in the future to drain the tank, resulting in additional downtime, inconvenience to facility users, and increased costs. By addressing the surge tank waterproofing now, while the pool is already drained for replastering, the City can achieve significant operational efficiencies and cost savings.

ANALYSIS

Four bids were received by the advertised Bid Opening date and time of November 19, 2025, at 2 p.m. The bids were publicly opened and read by the City Clerk. All bids were checked for completeness and Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc., the apparent low bidder at the time of the Bid Opening, was found to be responsive. City staff determined that the three remaining bids were non-responsive due to having submitted their bid on the wrong Bid Proposal form, which was updated by Addendum No. 2 issued on November 14, 2025, four days before the Bid Opening. USA Construction LLC also had an incomplete Bid Bond form.

The results of the bids are summarized below:

Name and Location of Bidder	Base Bid	Additive Alternate 1
Engineer's Estimate	\$540,000.00	\$35,000.00
Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. Ripon, CA	\$224,133.00	\$3,970.00
Adams Pool Solutions Pleasanton, CA	\$249,216.00	Non-Responsive
Dave Gros Enterprise Inc. Sacramento, CA	\$462,677.00	Non-Responsive
USA Construction LLC San Francisco, CA	\$528,460.00	Non-Responsive

The sole Base Bid of \$224,133 and Alternate No. 1 Bid of \$3,970 submitted by Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. are well below the Engineer's Estimate of \$540,000 and \$35,000, respectively. The Engineer's Estimate was rooted in the assumption that a bidder could be a General Contractor, using a subcontractor to perform the pool replastering. However, since the scope of work was limited, three (3) specific pool contractors were able to submit bids without a General Contractor, eliminating a great deal of overhead. The pool contractors that bid are also local, which leads to much lower General Conditions and overhead than what was budgeted. Additionally, interest from multiple contractors led to more competitive bid prices.

City staff recommend that the City Council award the construction contract in the amount of \$228,103 for the Base Bid and Additive Alternate 1 to Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *High Performing Organization; and*

- *Community Safety; and*
- *Livability and Belonging; and*
- *Infrastructure and Amenities.*

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the Project is a repair to an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that presently existing. Additionally, under this exemption the restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety is exempt, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as an earthquake, landslide, or flood. There are no such environmental hazard present here.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Based on the Project bid results, the currently estimated cost for the Swim Center Replaster plus Parking Lot ADA & Path of Travel, Stormwater Bioretention & Electric Vehicle Charging Improvements totals \$1,994,851, a decrease of \$316,280 from the amount previously reported in August and October 2025. This includes some increased costs for project management and design for various elements of the improvements including design to accommodate upgrades from Level 2 to Level 3 ("Quick Chargers") Electrical Vehicle Chargers in the future, developing three bid packages instead of two due to project phasing, and distributed egress points to both the parking lot and Portola Drive as required by the City Building Official and Fire Marshal, as well as additional project management tasks to refine the project scope and coordinate with design team. The estimated cost and expenditures to date are summarized below. Additional details are provided in Attachment 2.

Original Estimate (August 2025)	\$2,311,131
Current Estimate (November 2025)	\$1,994,851
Difference	-\$316,280
Expenditures for Construction of Project plus Continued Design & Bid	\$883,264
Previously Approved Funding	\$700,00
Funding Needed	\$183,264

The City Council has previously approved budget in the amount of \$700,000 including \$200,000 from Measure H and \$500,000 from discretionary General Fund reserves.

This leaves a shortfall of just under \$183,300 to complete the construction of the Project as well as continue the design, permitting, and bidding of the remaining phases of the Lap Pool improvements. City staff requests a budget appropriation in this amount from the General Fund unassigned balance to fully fund the Project in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed actions and found that legal considerations have been addressed.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Pinkos".

Karen Pinkos, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Cost Estimate

RESOLUTION 2025-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE SWIM CENTER LAP POOL REPLASTERING PROJECT, CITY PROJECT NO. C3050.9 (PROJECT) TO BURKETT'S POOL PLASTERING INC. AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \$228,103.00 AND TO APPROVE POTENTIAL CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,215 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT; AND APPROPRIATING A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$183,300 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

WHEREAS, the Project implements the urgent replastering work for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replaster plus Parking Lot ADA & Path of Travel, Stormwater Bioretention, & Electric Vehicle Charging Improvements approved by the City Council at its August 18, 2025 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of demolition of the existing pool plaster and tiles to existing bare concrete shell, retiling, replastering, and associated work necessary to provide a safe and functional pool; and

WHEREAS, the Notice Inviting Bids for the Project was advertised in the West County Times on November 4 and 10, 2025 and the notice and complete set of contract documents were sent to Builder and Construction Exchanges and made available to contractors through an online planroom; and

WHEREAS, a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on November 10, 2025, and two addenda were issued; and

WHEREAS, four bids were publicly opened and read by the City Clerk on November 19, 2025, at 2 p.m., the advertised Bid opening date and time; and

WHEREAS, all bids were checked for completeness and Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc., the apparent low bidder at the time of the Bid Opening, was found to be responsive; and

WHEREAS, the bids submitted by Adams Pool Solutions (Pleasanton, CA), Dave Gros Enterprise Inc. (Sacramento, CA), and USA Construction LLC (Sacramento, CA) were determined to be non-responsive as they did not meet the bid proposal form requirements; and

WHEREAS, the sole Base Bid of \$224,133.00 and Alternate No. 1 Bid of \$3,970.00 submitted by Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. are well below the Engineer's Estimate; and

WHEREAS, Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid; and

WHEREAS, a one-time allocation of funds is required from the General Fund unassigned balance to complete the Project and continue design, permitting, and bidding of the remaining components of the Swim Center improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the project is a repair to an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that presently existing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that is hereby:

- 1) Awards a contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9 (Project) to Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and
- 2) Authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$228,103 with Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. and approve potential approve change orders in an amount not to exceed \$34,215 for the construction of the Project; and
- 3) Amends the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget to appropriate \$183,300 from the General Fund unassigned balance

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on December 2, 2025, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on _____.

Holly M. Charl  y, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Carolyn Wysinger, Mayor

**CITY COUNCIL-APPROVED
SWIM CENTER IMPROVEMENTS
UPDATED PROJECT COST ESTIMATE
November 2025**

PROJECT NAME			
Lap Pool Replaster			
ITEM	COST ESTIMATE		FY2025-26
	AUG 2025	CURRENT	IN-PROGRESS
CONTRACTOR COSTS			
Base Bid	\$ 538,704	\$ 224,133	\$ 224,133
Additive Alternative No. 1		\$ 3,970	\$ 3,970
SUBTOTAL HARD COSTS	\$ 538,704	\$ 228,103	\$ 228,103
HARD COSTS 15% CONTINGENCY	\$ 80,806	\$ 34,215	\$ 34,215
TOTAL HARD COSTS	\$ 619,510	\$ 262,318	\$ 262,318
SOFT COSTS (Percentages based on Subtotal Hard Costs)			
Permitting Fees	\$ 15,951	\$ 15,951	\$ 15,951
Pre-Construction Project Management	\$ 29,540	\$ 54,015	\$ 54,015
Testing and Inspection	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Construction Project Management	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
SUBTOTAL SOFT COSTS	\$ 113,491	\$ 137,966	\$ 137,966
SOFT COSTS CONTINGENCY (ORIGINALLY 15%)	\$ 17,024	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
TOTAL SOFT COSTS	\$ 130,515	\$ 147,966	\$ 147,966
TOTAL HARD & SOFT COSTS	\$ 750,024	\$ 410,284	\$ 410,284
FULL SCOPE DESIGN FEE	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 970,024	\$ 630,284	\$ 630,284

PROJECT NAME			
ADA Parking Lot and Related Amenities			
ITEM	COST ESTIMATE		FY2025-26
	AUG 2025	CURRENT	IN-PROGRESS
CONSTRUCTION - PARKING LOT			
Accessible Parking - Path of Travel, Stormwater Bioretention	\$ 561,400	\$ 561,400	
EV Charging - trenching, conduit, equipment	\$ 73,000	\$ 73,000	
Parking Lot Rehabilitation - Grind and Overlay, Striping	\$ 114,900	\$ 114,900	
SUBTOTAL ITEM COSTS	\$ 749,300	\$ 749,300	
CONTRACTOR COSTS (Percentages based on Renovation Subtotal Costs)			
General Conditions	12%	\$ 89,916	\$ 89,916
Insurance	2%	\$ 14,986	\$ 14,986
Overhead and Profit	15%	\$ 112,395	\$ 112,395
SUBTOTAL CONTRACTOR FEES		\$ 217,297	\$ 217,297
HARD COSTS 15% CONTINGENCY		\$ 144,990	\$ 144,990
TOTAL HARD COSTS		\$ 1,111,587	\$ 1,111,587
SOFT COSTS (Percentages based on Subtotal Hard Costs)			
Design Fee		\$ 5,000	\$ 25,400
Permitting Fees		\$ 17,356	\$ 17,356
Pre-Construction Project Management		\$ 29,540	\$ 29,540
Testing and Inspection		\$ 27,500	\$ 27,500
Construction Project Management		\$ 120,186	\$ 120,186
SUBTOTAL SOFT COSTS		\$ 199,582	\$ 219,982
SOFT COSTS CONTINGENCY (ORIGINALLY 15%)		\$ 29,937	\$ 32,997
TOTAL SOFT COSTS		\$ 229,520	\$ 252,980
TOTAL HARD & SOFT COSTS		\$ 1,341,106	\$ 1,364,566
OPTION 2 GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,311,131	\$ 1,994,851	\$ 883,264
	DIFFERENCE	\$ (316,280)	

Previously Approved Funding	\$ 700,000
Funding Needed	\$ 183,264



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIALS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2025
(rev. 12.3.2025)**

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (6:00 PM)

Public Comments (Not on the Agenda and Consent Calendar)

Materials received at meeting

Agenda Item No. 6.A. – State of the District Presentation - Contra Costa Community Collage

Materials received at meeting

Agenda Item No. 7.E. – Cooperative Agreement between the City of El Cerrito and Caltrans for the Caltrans State Route 123 Pavement Rehabilitation Project in El Cerrito, Caltrans Project ID: 0419000452

Public Comments

Agenda Item No. 8.A. – Proposed East Bay Sanitary Garbage & Organic Waste Collection and Post-Collection Rates and Integrated Waste Management Fees – Effective January 1, 2026

Presentation

Public Comments

Agenda Item No. 8.B. – Adoption of an amendment to the Safety Element of the El Cerrito General Plan

Presentation

Safety Element (with Appendix A)

Agenda Item No. 9.A. – Award of Construction Contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project, City Project No. C3050.9

Presentation

General Public Comments

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 4:31:09 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Happy Holidays Mayor Wysinger, Council Members and Staff,

I AM SUBMITTING the Following Comments into the Record:

1. for a future Agenda, the Council Should Revisit the idea of Having the Public to Participate Remotely
2. Also to Have Bike East Bay to present on their Organization

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Stuart Sonatina](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Not on the agenda
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:51:17 PM

Dear councilmembers,

The recent pedestrian collisions here in El Cerrito highlight the need for significant changes to the way we design our streets. While these tragedies were severe enough to show up on a police report, many more go unreported due to the inconvenience and stigma attached to calling the police for what some may see as the "cost of doing business" on america's streets today. It doesn't have to be this way.

From the vision zero network:

"For too long, we've considered traffic deaths and severe injuries to be inevitable side effects of modern life. While often referred to as "accidents," the reality is that we can prevent these tragedies by taking a proactive, preventative approach that prioritizes traffic safety as a public health issue."

visionzeronet.org

I urge the council to commit to a vision zero strategy to traffic safety. Let's become a Vision Zero city and eliminate traffic injuries. The benefits go far beyond simply not killing our community members; when the young and old can get around without a car and without fearing for their lives, our little city will transform.

We've paid for the studies, conducted the surveys, hired the consultants, and dilly-dallied for years. Let's do this thing.

Thank you,
Stuart Sonatina

From: [Gaia Sonatina](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment Dec. 2nd 2025
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:06:45 PM

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Dear El Cerrito City Council,

I have lived in El Cerrito for 7years, and I love it here! I am deeply invested in the wellbeing of this city and its inhabitants. The news of multiple pedestrian accidents in such a short span is shocking to say the least.

As I'm sure you will hear over and over this evening, it is time to make changes.

Don't wait for death to improve life.

Crossing the street should not be the life risking act that it is.

Please do everything in your power to adopt a Vision Zero Network. It can only make El Cerrito a nicer place to be.

Thank you for caring about our wonderful city. Let's change it together!

Thank you,
Gaia Sonatina

--

Gaia J Sonatina

From: [Carrie Hobbs](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: public comments – not on the agenda
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 10:19:47 AM

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Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to urge the City Council to install stop signs at all street crossings along the Ohlone Greenway. I moved to El Cerrito in 2010 and now live here with my spouse and two children. Biking is our primary form of transportation so the safety of these crossings is a daily concern for us. Recent pedestrian-involved collisions along the Greenway make it clear that the current design is not protecting residents.

[In just the last month, multiple pedestrians have been struck while using Greenway crosswalks.](#) These collisions show that marked crosswalks alone are not enough when drivers are not required to stop. Installing stop signs at every Greenway crossing would slow vehicle speeds, increase pedestrian visibility, and create clear and consistent rules for drivers approaching these high-use areas.

Given the recent incidents and the heavy daily use of the Greenway by families, students, commuters, and seniors, this issue requires prompt action. I respectfully ask that the Council agendaize this matter and move forward with installing stop signs at all Ohlone Greenway street crossings.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety concern.

Sincerely,
Carrie Schulman

From: [Javier Arbona-Homar](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: "Public Comments – not on the agenda." Re: Collisions on San Pablo
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 10:37:26 AM

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TWIMC,

I'm writing out of alarm and concern about safety crossing San Pablo. I'm a parent of a child at Fairmont elementary. This is not the first time I write to officials about this issue. I think I've resigned myself to believing that no one cares about children, elderly, disabled, and all other pedestrians who live or visit here.

In the recent past, in addition to the serious car violence we've had this Fall, we had a car run straight over the curb and hit a "massage parlor" facade near the Stockton Ave corner (next to Outline contractors in EC) — still boarded up, by the way. We also had a car take out the signal light at Stockton within the last two years. When people name pedestrian strikes "accidents," it is misrepresented. These are anticipated incidents, as we've written (and I, like many, have reported these to Caltrans as instructed by officials). Meanwhile, I see drivers all the time looking at their phones, running red lights, speeding at busy intersections, etc etc.

The chief of police scolds pedestrians to be more alert — the chief should come out any morning of a school day to see the constant risks faced by our children crossing this dangerous road, even when everyone is alert. But children, for one, are not and should not be as worried and obsessive about cars as the grown-ups are. It's insulting that we're blamed for our own situation with the cars.

There need to be traffic safety measures and physical barriers — I could go on about the need to have more transit and fewer and fewer cars, but that's beyond the scope, I suppose.

I hope the city can exert pressure to have more improvements and investigate these incidents.

Best,
Javier Arbona

From: [Christoph Dankert](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [UNKNOWN SENDER] Public Comment - Dec 2, 2025 City Council Meeting - Agenda Item 7.E Caltrans
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 9:38:59 PM

Hi,

It was with great disappointment that I read the news about the number of vehicle-pedestrian accidents in El Cerrito over the last two weeks. Thank goodness there were no fatalities, but that may just have been luck. The one at Ohlone Greenway and Central Ave hit particularly hard, as I bike the greenway with our two kids on a cargo bike most weekdays. I myself was once chafed by a car albeit in Albany at Solano and Greenway, that didn't pay any attention to the traffic signals and turned on red when that was forbidden.

I understand this is part of a sad nationwide trend, as recently illustrated in the Nov 19 Washington Post article "The deadliest roads in America".

I'd like to city to take every possible step to reduce pedestrian and bike accidents. This includes taking measures to make our streets safer, such as may be possible with the upcoming Caltrans agreement for the improvements along San Pablo. I'd also like to encourage the city to use technology to improve vehicle driver and bike rider behavior. Police resources are intensive, so why not consider stop sign and red light and other cameras that send tickets to drivers not obeying traffic laws? And consider ticketing for bike riders as well, as they're sometimes part of the problem.

Regards,

Christoph Dankert

From: [Ly Nguyen](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment/Not on Agenda
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:58:04 AM

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Hello El Cerrito City Council Members:

I am a parent and resident of the Richmond Annex. I am deeply concerned about how unsafe the crosswalks are along San Pablo Ave. In particular, my daughter attends the Ah-Lan dance center and heard the two car crashes that occurred right near Waldo Ave. two weeks ago while in class. I have witnessed cars make quick u-turns or cross over two lanes with high speed from Carlson to make that turn on to Waldo Ave. Something has to be done to control the traffic in that section as soon as possible.

Our family walks every day on San Pablo Ave. and we see neighborhood children, including mine cross the busy corridors whether to attend Koretmatsu or Fairmont. We need to ensure that each crosswalk has proper lights and is well lit warning systems for drivers. It is very hard to see pedestrians as the evening rolls in as a driver. We cannot wait for more fatalities to occur to take action. I urge the city to work with Caltrans and demand that they create safe crosswalks for our families.

Thank you for reading my comment.

-Ly Nguyen
(Parent and Richmond Annex Resident)

--

Ly Nguyen
Support [Oasis for Girls](#)
Have a beautiful day!

From: [Katharine Bierce](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Ohlone greenway public comments – not on agenda
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 10:26:07 AM

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As a regular bicyclist on the Ohlone greenway, I agree with Carrie's comments and request stop signs along the streets near the greenway.

Katharine

On Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 10:18 AM Carrie Hobbs <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to urge the City Council to install stop signs at all street crossings along the Ohlone Greenway. I moved to El Cerrito in 2010 and now live here with my spouse and two children. Biking is our primary form of transportation so the safety of these crossings is a daily concern for us. Recent pedestrian-involved collisions along the Greenway make it clear that the current design is not protecting residents.

[In just the last month, multiple pedestrians have been struck while using Greenway crosswalks.](#) These collisions show that marked crosswalks alone are not enough when drivers are not required to stop. Installing stop signs at every Greenway crossing would slow vehicle speeds, increase pedestrian visibility, and create clear and consistent rules for drivers approaching these high-use areas.

Given the recent incidents and the heavy daily use of the Greenway by families, students, commuters, and seniors, this issue requires prompt action. I respectfully ask that the Council agendaize this matter and move forward with installing stop signs at all Ohlone Greenway street crossings.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety concern.

Sincerely,
Carrie Schulman

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk & Roll" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to ECRAWalkRoll+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion visit

https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/ECRAWalkRoll/CANWSG85Y2CBUg_xh%2B9oQRbwofKiyL4bBkCz6-NvJScJ0oFVS2g%40mail.gmail.com.

From: [Ah-Lan Dance](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [UNKNOWN SENDER] Public Comments – Request for Pedestrian Safety Improvements on San Pablo Ave
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 9:20:55 PM

Dear City Council Members and City Clerk,

My name is Yaqi, and I lead a business on San Pablo Avenue at Ah-Lan Dance Studio. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding pedestrian safety at the intersection and crosswalk area directly in front of our studio.

In the week before Thanksgiving, there were two car accidents in this same area—one of which involved a 70-year-old pedestrian who sustained life-threatening injuries at the crosswalk. These incidents occurred during our evening classes, and our students and families heard and witnessed the crashes firsthand. Understandably, this has caused significant concern among our staff, families, and community members.

This intersection has long been known to be dangerous, and we strongly urge the City of El Cerrito, in coordination with Caltrans, to prioritize and expedite safety improvements for this stretch of San Pablo Avenue. Our business serves many children and families each day, and safe pedestrian access is essential to their well-being.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I appreciate the City's efforts and respectfully request that pedestrian safety enhancements be made as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Yaqi
Artistic Director at Ah-Lan Dance Studio

From: [Janet Byron](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Amelia Schmale](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Dec. 2 council meeting: El Cerrito must do better on traffic safety
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 11:06:41 AM

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Dear City Council,

The recent spate of traffic accidents on San Pablo Avenue, including two very serious ones (and several minor car-pedestrian collisions that could have been a lot worse), show that El Cerrito has a long way to go toward being a safe environment for all travelers, especially walkers.

Crossing San Pablo Avenue should not be a life-threatening enterprise for the elderly, children on their way to school, and all who are simply trying to get to the other side.

Steps that El Cerrito can take **immediately** to improve street safety include:

- 1) Include as many safety improvements as possible as part of the Caltrans street repaving project.
- 2) Pass a Vision Zero policy, declaring El Cerrito's intention to eliminate traffic violence from our city.
- 3) In a public process, plan and implement a traffic calming strategy for the entire city, which would include stop signs, speed bumps, traffic diversions, and other lower-cost measures to slow down traffic on El Cerrito's neighborhood streets.

In June of 2024, ~ 130 people [signed a petition](#) calling for "immediate measures to improve traffic safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and children in the areas between San Pablo Ave., Potrero Ave., Moeser Ave., and Navellier St." In a subsequent meeting, the public works director told a group of concerned residents that traffic calming measures would be implemented in this area. To our knowledge, no traffic-calming measures have been implemented.

Also, as part of the Local Road Safety Plan process, a community survey found that **nine out of ten residents want slower streets**. (The LRSP and the results of this survey have not been publicly released. When will this information be made publicly available?)

El Cerrito residents are demanding safer, slower streets. The city must act now to prevent future traffic violence on El Cerrito.

Sincerely,
Janet Byron
Member, El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk & Roll coordinating committee

--

Janet Byron

[REDACTED]

From: [islandgirl](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Marlene Metcalf](#)
Subject: [UNKNOWN SENDER] Public Comment - Not on Agenda
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 1:04:53 PM

Good evening, El Cerrito City Council and all city residents.

I would like to express my deep opposition to the proposed 30- year Bond measure advertised as a project to build a new library that will definitely cost atleast \$75 million by 10 years of operation. Beyond the first 10 years, it will require taxes to be increased even more, or else cut services.

I note that we have a nice, well-functioning public library already in place, with lots of parking, and it's owned by the city: no payments needed. It can be expanded if necessary in future as plans were drawn up years ago to add a second story, complete with cost estimates and specs. However, since I am at that library every day, I have observed that usage is steadily going down, not up; thus is borne out by city usage statistics. If usage is going down, there may not be any reason to expand the size. It could be augmented or remodeled in various ways in the same size space, again if need is determined to be high.

I am in my 70's and live on a fixed income. So do half the people on my block and more than half of El Cerrito residents. My property taxes with this stunningly expensive project proposal will go up \$255 a year immediately and reach \$1340 a year extra tax by 5 years. Then \$2857 a year by 15 years. Finally \$6,514 a year extra tax, after 20 years. This bond money is to raise at least \$20 million to pay a not yet revealed contractor to build a 770-aparment complex on the parking lot of our El Cerrito Plaza, using almost all the 1,400 parking spaces, and in the process also build a new library.

So the library is first of all an afterthought; it seems to me it's just an excuse to get the 770 apartments built.

However, there is nothing in the plan that requires a time schedule to start building either the new library or in fact the apartments. However, once the bond measure is passed by 50 percent of EC voters plus one, taxes start. It immediately goes on our property tax bills for 30 years even if nothing is ever built, or is built 5 years late, or 10 years late, or never.

The bond measure would be paid by property tax on El Cerrito homeowners (6,600), plus all renters can expect their rents to be raised by homeowner landlords as the property tax grows and grows according to the tax increase schedule.

This proposed library would have no parking spaces. It would have to be entered by the same entrance, in fact only entrance, for an estimated 1,500-2,500 people who would live in the 770 new apts, and for which only 100 parking spaces will be allocated to these 770 new families for their own parking. So, a quiet, peaceful environment for reading + studying? Not with 1500 to 2500 people going in and out of their apts up to ten times a day, every day, right thru the library space!

Again, no parking --none-- for the proposed new library.

Half of El Cerrito is over 55, and many have mobility issues so cannot walk miles to the library, so parking is important. The current library has parking, is already paid for, and is in a convenient location already for most.

It should be noted that this building project will wipe out the present functionality of BART as a way to get to work for many residents, as people drive to the BART station and park, then

get on their train. With this proposal, there will be only 290 parking spaces for BART users, instead of the 1,400 spaces that were available as designed by BART.

In summary, I feel strongly that this measure is a disaster, both in cost and design/function. The city's own estimates say we will pay \$2.7 million a year for at least 30 years, which if you multiply that, is \$85 million. The city can actually decide to INCREASE the tax rate for this project EVERY YEAR with no further vote. That to me is frightening and spells bankruptcy for many homeowners as well as the City itself which may attract more interest from the State of California auditors who have already noted our city's tendency to spend \$9 million a year beyond its income and borrowing with short term expensive loans to plug the shortfall. I propose setting aside this disastrous not-well-thought-out proposal.

Thank you,
Marlene Metcalf
a concerned resident of El Cerrito

From: [Ariel Gold](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Street Safety on San Pablo Avenue and Key Crossings
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 2:24:39 PM

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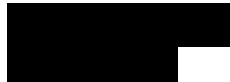
I'm asking the City Council to make pedestrian and bicycle safety an urgent priority in the San Pablo Avenue project and at key crossings throughout El Cerrito. In just two weeks, multiple people were hit in crosswalks on San Pablo Avenue, at Central and the Ohlone Greenway, and at Carlson. This is clear evidence that our streets are not working for the most vulnerable users.

We need improvements that physically slow vehicles, increase visibility, and give people walking and biking clear priority. That means installing measures such as raised crossings, daylighting, tighter turning radii, and other proven traffic-calming designs that make drivers slow down and yield predictably.

These crashes are preventable. I urge the Council and staff to ensure the Caltrans project includes strong, immediate safety upgrades so no one else is injured while simply trying to cross the street.

Thank you.

Ariel Gold



El Cerrito, CA 94530

DEC 02 2025



CITY OF EL CERRITO
CITY CLERK

St. John's Senior Center

HOLIDAY POTLUCK and SING-ALONG

*with live music by
the St John's Ukulele circle*

hosted by Darlene Newman

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

11:15 music and sing-along

12:00 potluck lunch

Contributions of food or drink welcome

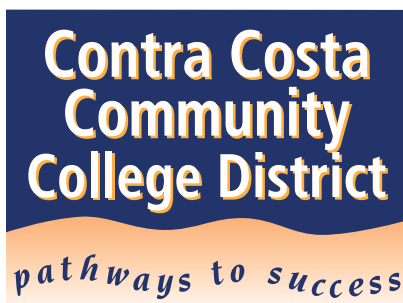
Location: 6500 Gladys Ave. at Lexington Ave. , El Cerrito
(St. John's Community Center Building)

Questions? call or email (no texts) Director, Buddy Akacic
(925) 628-9325 buddyakacic@gmail.com

Hosted by West Contra Costa Adult Education,
Contra Costa County and
St John the Baptist Catholic Church



RECEIVED
AT THE MEETING OF
12/02/2025
CITY OF EL CERRITO
CITY CLERK



Contra Costa Community College District Strategic Plan 2025-2030



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4CD Leadership District Administrative Team

Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Chancellor

Dr. Kimberly R. Rogers, President,
Contra Costa College

Dr. Monica Chahal, President,
Diablo Valley College

Dr. Pamela Ralston, President,
Los Medanos College

Dr. Micaela Ochoa, Executive Vice
Chancellor, Administrative Services

Kelly Schelin, Executive Vice Chancellor,
Education and Technology

Ines Zildzic, Vice Chancellor, Facilities
Planning and Construction

Dr. Jeffrey Michels, Associate Vice
Chancellor, Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Mandy Liang, Associate Vice Chancellor,
Educational Services

Dr. Tony Wold, Associate Vice Chancellor,
Chief Financial Officer

Chancellor's Message

In the last quarter of 2024, the Contra Costa Community College District was completing its yearlong celebration of our 75th anniversary and simultaneously kicking off our strategic planning process to identify the goals and strategies that will guide our next five years.

The process was thoughtful and inclusive as we sought to hear from all of the constituency groups who comprise our community: students, faculty, classified staff, industry partners, and other key stakeholders from all over the county.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We heard your input, and we value your perspectives. With your feedback, we were able to tailor our strategic objectives to address our current needs and emerging priorities.

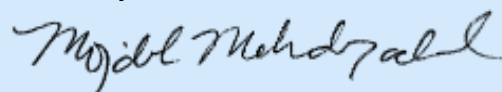
Our 2020-2025 strategic plan was completed in 2019, less than a year ahead of the Covid pandemic, which catalyzed major changes in how education is delivered. While we had already begun implementing professional development for the delivery of effective distance education, the rapid shift to fully remote instruction, student services, and support functions was a monumental undertaking marked by innovation, adaptability, and a deep commitment to supporting student success under unprecedented conditions.

Staying nimble and attuned to the needs of students and employers continues to be an area of focus for us as we look ahead to the next five years.

Our updated mission statement highlights the need to equip students with the knowledge and resilience to thrive in a changing world. As technology and industry needs evolve, we remain committed to providing equitable pathways to student success and fostering innovation and adaptability.

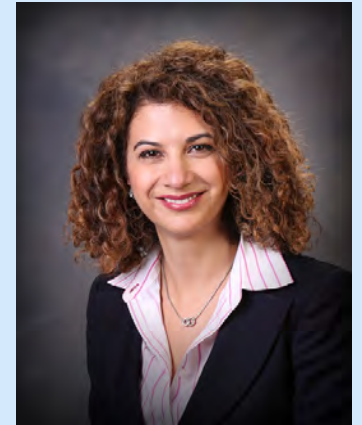
Through the goals and strategies outlined in this plan, our colleges will remain steadfast in creating an environment of excellence and belonging where all students can achieve their educational and career goals.

Sincerely,



Mojdeh Mehdizadeh

Chancellor



4CD Leadership Governing Board

Andy Li, President

Diana Honig, Vice President

Fernando Sandoval, Secretary

John E. Márquez, Member

Rebecca Barrett, Member

Sophie Khouri, Student Trustee



Top row, left to right: Rebecca Barrett, John E. Márquez
Bottom row, left to right: Diana Honig, Andy Li, Fernando Sandoval. Not pictured: Sophie Khouri

Planning Process Chronology

September 17, 2024	Chancellor's Cabinet Initial Planning Meeting
October 1, 2024	District Governance Council (DGC) Initial Planning Meeting
October 9, 2024	Strategic Planning Discussion with Governing Board
November 20, 2024	Planning Forum at Diablo Valley College
November 26, 2024	Planning Forum at Contra Costa College
December 2, 2024	Planning Forum at Los Medanos College
December 4, 2024	Planning Forum on Zoom
January 14, 2025	Community Planning Forum
February 11, 2025	DGC provides feedback on Mission, Vision, and Values
February 19, 2025	Strategic Planning Update to Governing Board
April 8, 2025	DGC provides feedback on Goals, Priorities, and Strategies
April 24, 2025	Online Survey Opens - Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals
April 29, 2025	First Draft reviewed by Chancellor's Cabinet
May 6, 2025	First Draft reviewed by DGC
May 14, 2025	First Draft reviewed by the Governing Board
May 27, 2025	Final Draft reviewed by Chancellor's Cabinet
June 3, 2025	Final Draft reviewed by DGC
June 11, 2025	Final Draft approved by the Governing Board



4CD's Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Summary

The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Strategic Plan aligns and supports the work of all District sites—including Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, and the District Office—by providing a shared direction and fostering coordinated efforts across the entire District.

Mission

To deliver innovative, high-quality educational programs and services that enrich communities, advance equity and belonging, and equip students with the knowledge and resilience to thrive in a changing world.

Vision

To be a leader in educational excellence—advancing equitable student achievement, fostering social mobility, and transforming the communities we serve.

Values

Student-Centered • Equity and Belonging • Future-Readiness and Adaptability • Excellence and Integrity

Strategic Goals

1. Equitably improve student learning and completion by providing holistic support.
2. Foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and student-focused engagement.
3. Embed future readiness and adaptability into 4CD's educational programming and operations by fostering innovation, responsiveness, and proactive problem-solving at all levels.
4. Responsibly, proactively, and sustainably steward 4CD resources.





District Profile

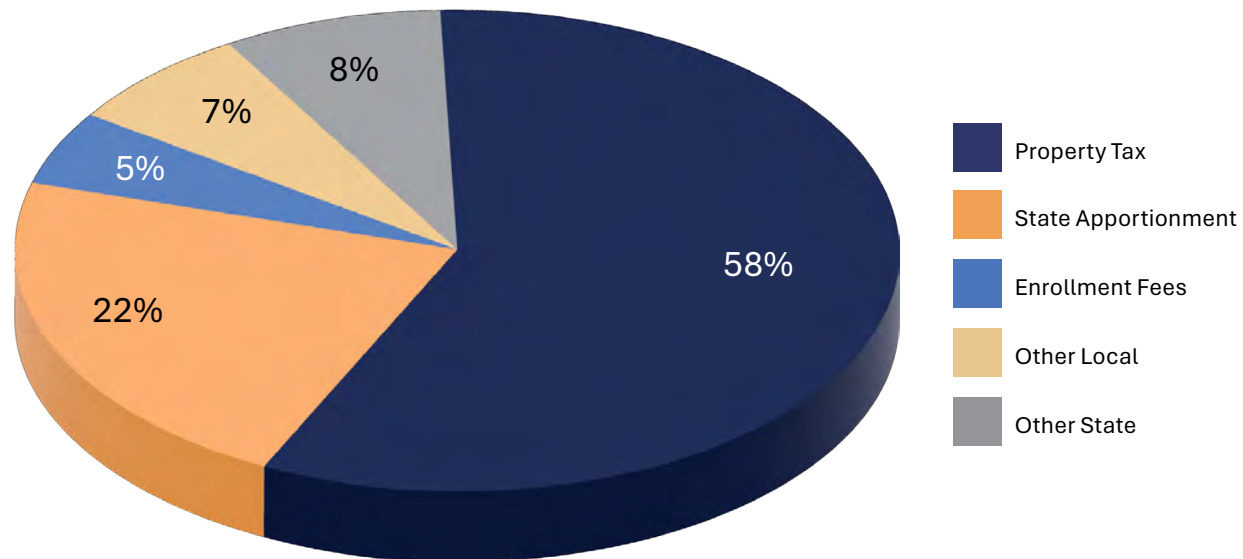
In 2024, 4CD proudly celebrated 75 years of service to the Contra Costa County community. This rich history demonstrates a strong commitment to educational excellence, partnership development, and regional advancement. 4CD's longstanding presence has nurtured reliable relationships and collaborations, creating a solid foundation for implementing this plan, which guides us in addressing the community's changing needs.

The strategic plan is informed by this legacy of service and current and emerging factors influencing our local context. These factors include 4CD's economic contributions, financial landscape, student demographics, and relevant data regarding its service area, county population forecasts, and overall economic conditions.

Financial Overview

4CD's operational budget is supported by a combination of local, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Local property taxes account for the largest share at 58% of total revenues, followed by state apportionment at 22% (see Figure 1)

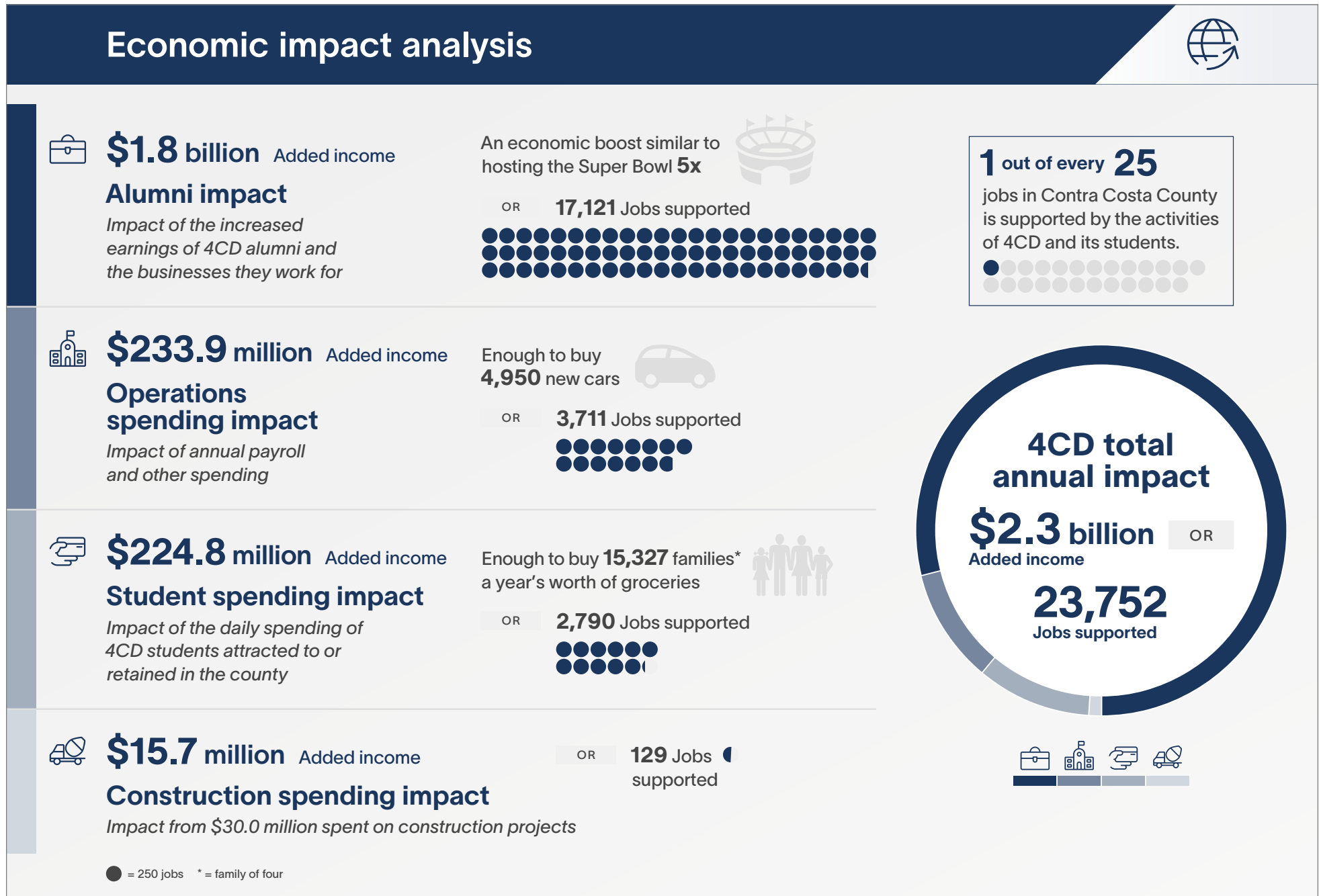
Figure 1. 4CD Funding Sources



4CD's Economic Contribution

According to the recent economic impact analysis, 4CD contributes approximately \$2.3 billion in annual income to the economy (Figure 2). This contribution exceeds the entire income generated by the County's Transportation and Warehousing sector and is comparable to sustaining 23,752 jobs in the area.

Figure 2. Highlights of District Economic Impact, Fiscal Year 2022-2023



Service Area

4CD comprises one of the largest multi-college districts in California, serving more than 1.16 million people who reside in Contra Costa County. Geographically, 4CD's boundaries are virtually coterminous with those of the County, encompassing all but 48 of the County's 734-square-mile land area (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Contra Costa Community College District Service Area



With three colleges on five campuses serving nearly 50,000 students annually, 4CD is committed to delivering innovative, high-quality educational programs and services that enrich communities, advance equity and belonging, and equip students with the knowledge and resilience to thrive in a changing world.

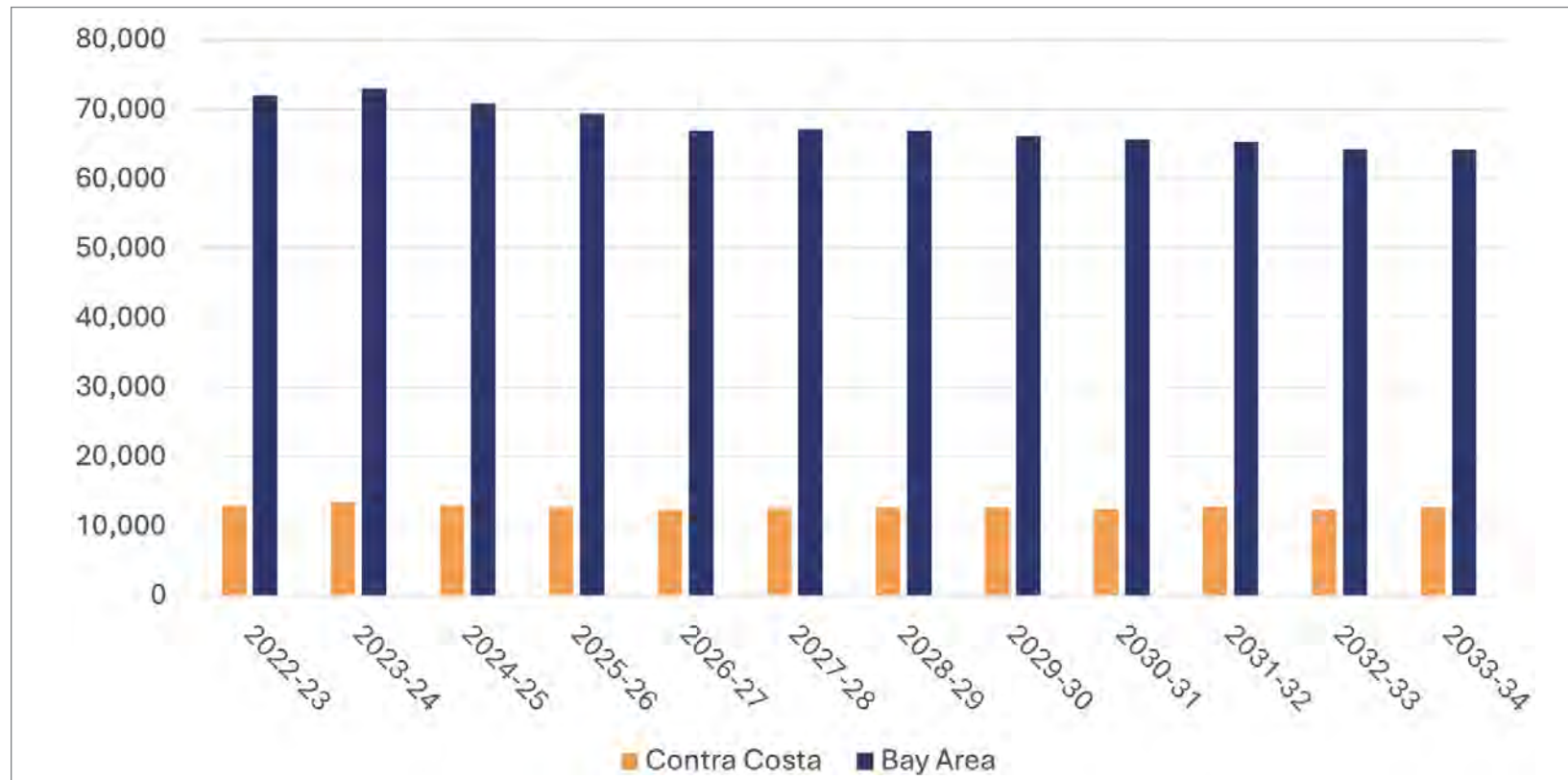
Population Trends and Projections

4CD's recent environmental scan projects steady but limited population growth in Contra Costa County through 2033. The County's population is expected to age significantly over that period, with a notable increase in residents aged 65 and older and a decrease in those under 18.¹ This shift accompanies a gradual decline in traditional high school graduate pipelines and highlights

the importance of engaging adult learners (Figure 4). Nearly half of the County's adult population does not hold an associate degree or higher, presenting a critical opportunity for 4CD to expand access and address evolving educational and workforce needs through targeted programs for adult and returning learners.

¹ Contra Costa Community College District. (2025). Environmental scan 2025. Office of Research and Planning. www.4cd.edu/environmentalscan

Figure 4. High School Graduate Projection for the Bay Area and Contra Costa County



Economic Conditions

Contra Costa County's residents represent a diverse range of income levels, with a relatively high proportion of high-earning households compared to the overall state. However, the County's high cost of living places significant financial pressure on many residents, particularly students, and higher incomes do not fully alleviate these challenges. Economic conditions vary significantly across different communities, with higher concentrations of poverty generally found in the western and eastern regions of the County. Traditional poverty measures likely underestimate the true extent of financial hardship in the County, as they do not adequately account for the high cost of living.

While job growth is expected to continue in the near term, 2024 marked an increase in unemployment compared to the previous two years. Broader economic shifts may also emerge as federal

policy changes impact trade and other key sectors. Despite these uncertainties, Contra Costa County's economy remains on a growth trajectory, supported by investments in transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and business incentives. However, persistent challenges such as housing affordability and infrastructure demands continue to shape the region's economic landscape.

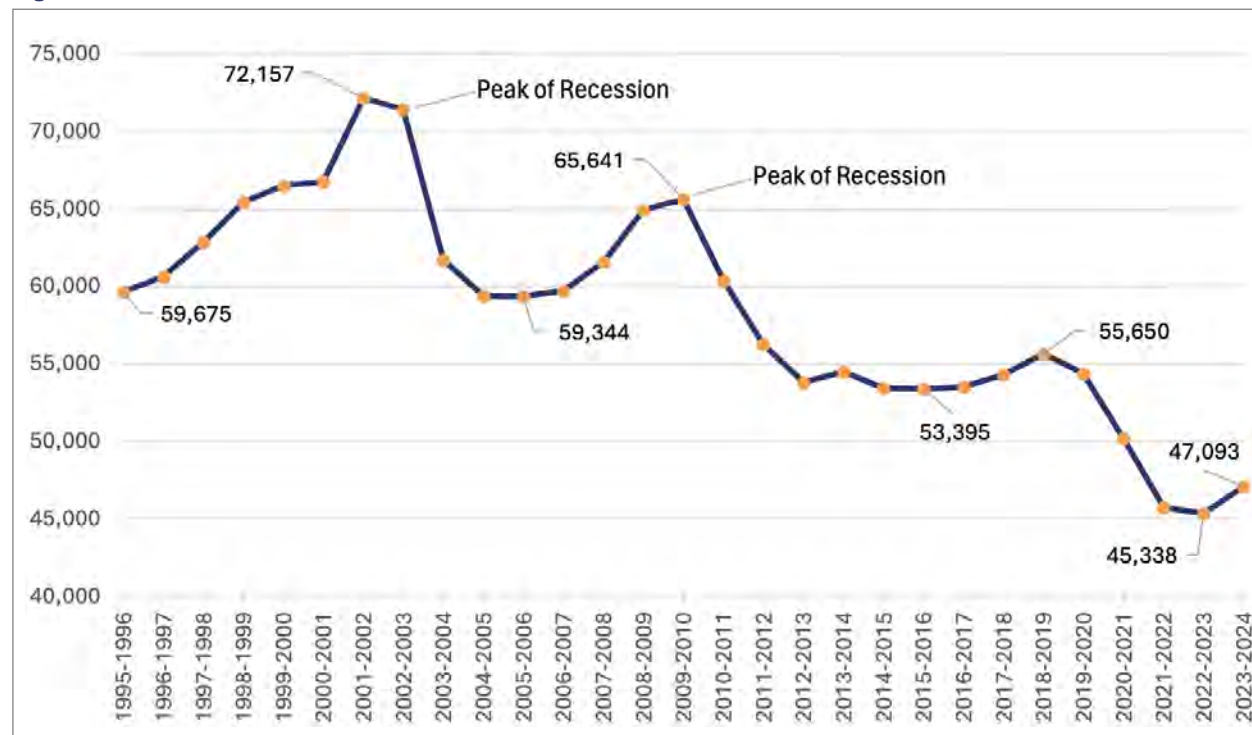
4CD's three colleges—Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College—serve the distinct regions of West, Central, and East County, respectively. Each college's unique strengths, programming, and deep connection to its community position it to respond effectively to the specific demographic, economic, and workforce trends shaping its service area.

4CD Student Characteristics

Enrollment Trends

With two years of enrollment growth, 4CD is seeing encouraging signs of recovery following a prolonged period of decline exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (see Figure 5). Historically, enrollment patterns have closely reflected regional economic conditions, typically rising during periods of economic downturn. However, during COVID-19 and the resulting economic instability, this enrollment trend did not occur, disrupting a reliable pattern often used in enrollment planning. This disruption highlights an increasing complexity in people's decisions to pursue post-secondary education. As social perceptions and national conditions continue to evolve, likely amid ongoing uncertainty over the next five years, maintaining flexibility and responsiveness in enrollment planning will be critical to sustaining and building on this recovery.

Figure 5. 4CD Enrollment Trends



Recent high school graduates make up approximately one-quarter of 4CD's student population. High school graduation rates have been gradually declining since 2020-2021, a trend that is expected to continue. Although the percentage of graduates enrolling at a 4CD college decreased during the pandemic, enrollment rates among this group are now showing signs of recovery (Figure 6).

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly accelerated the diversification of instructional delivery at 4CD, leading to a lasting expansion of learning modalities available to students across disciplines. In the post-pandemic learning environment,

students continue to engage across the three primary modalities: face-to-face, hybrid, and online. As of fall 2024, 4CD experienced equal enrollment in face-to-face and online courses, each accounting for 42%, with hybrid enrollments showing steady growth (see Figure 7).

Figure 6. Local High School Transitions to 4CD

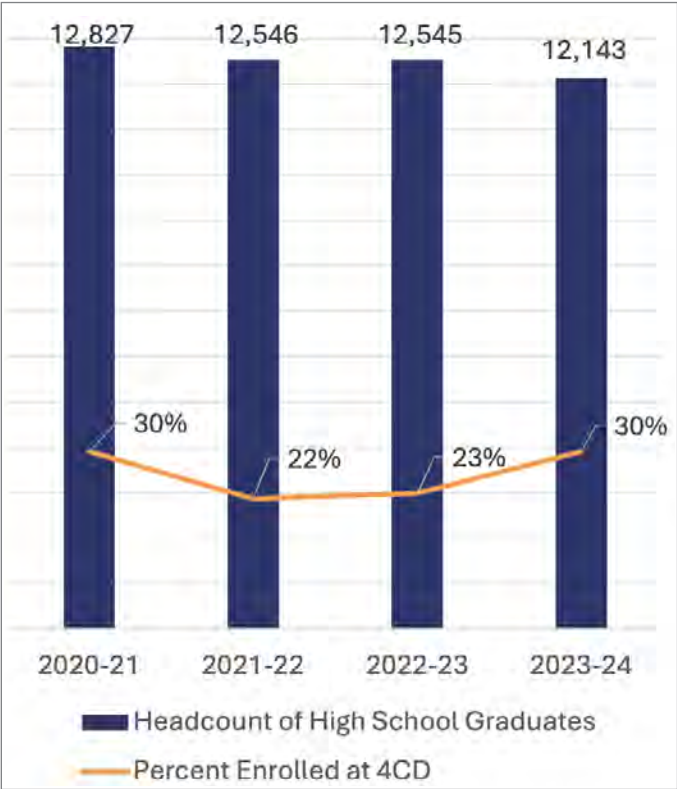
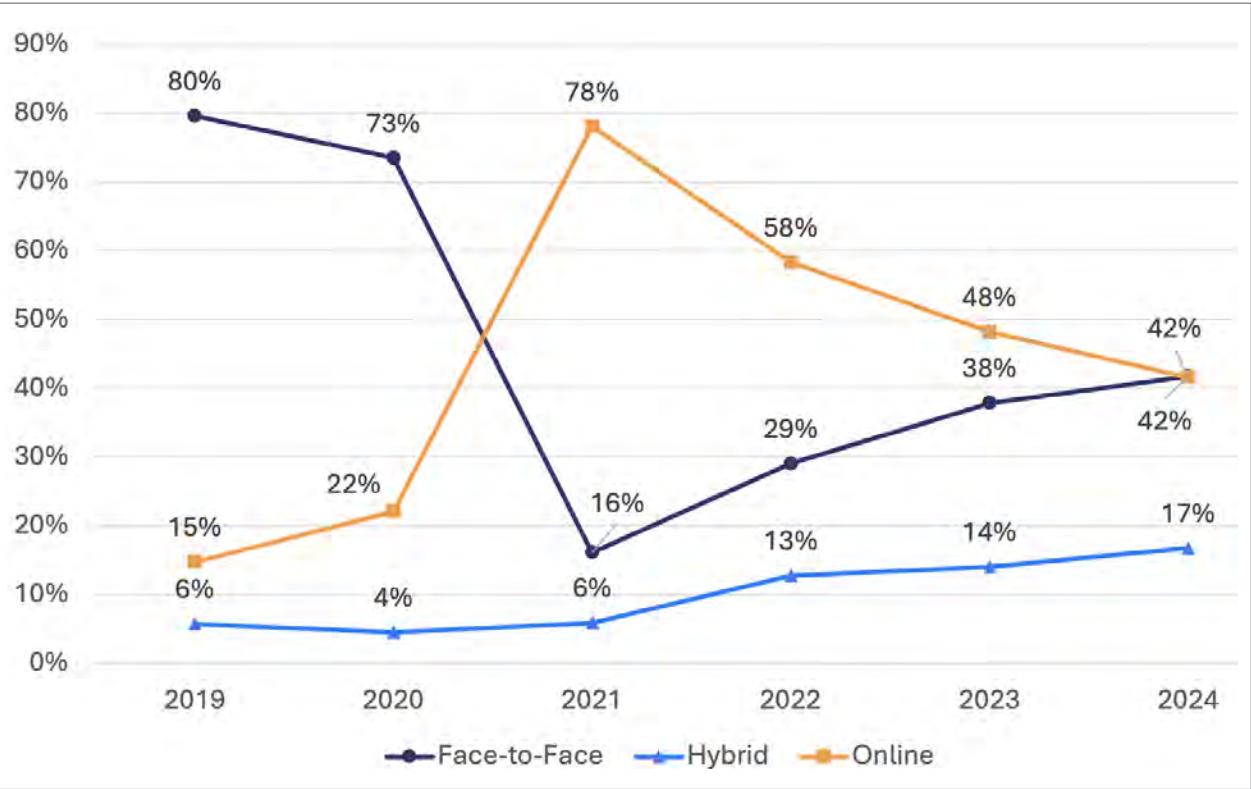


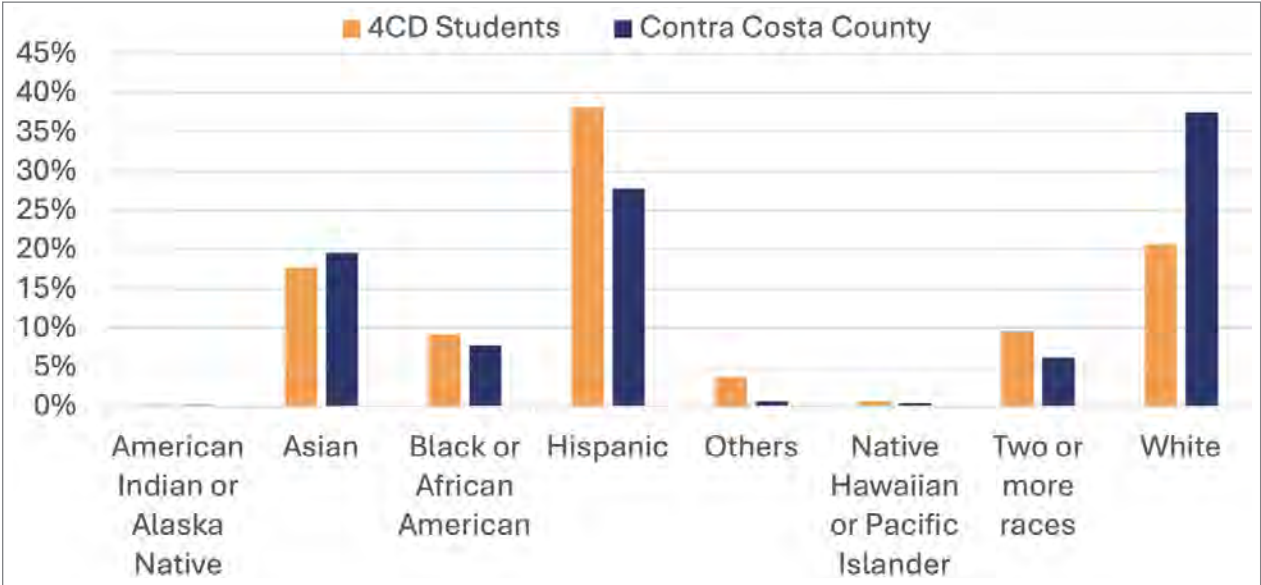
Figure 7. Credit Student Fall Enrollment by Modality



Student Demographics

Districtwide, the broad demographic patterns of 4CD students mirror the diversity of the County. The 4CD student body has higher concentrations of Hispanic, African American, and students identifying as Two or More races (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. 4CD Students' Ethnic Composition Compared to Contra Costa County



Strategic Plan

Purpose and Scope

4CD's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan provides a unifying framework to guide collaborative decision-making, align efforts across all District sites, and drive positive change to achieve meaningful results for students, employees, and the communities we serve.

At its core, the plan affirms our collective commitment to continuous improvement in service to our students, employees, and communities. Through strategic planning, we define our organizational identity—who we are, what we value, where we aspire to go, and how we will get there, together. By examining our current context through the lens of our shared purpose and values, we identify common goals and priorities that will guide efforts to advance equitable student outcomes, address evolving workforce needs, and foster supportive, inclusive learning and work environments across 4CD.

This plan is designed to inform and support the development of each college's strategic educational plan and integrate with other institutional plans, promoting coherence across all planning efforts.





Strategic Planning Process

The 4CD Districtwide Strategic Plan was developed through an inclusive, participatory process that incorporated the perspectives of students, employees, and community partners. Instead of establishing separate planning structures, the process was embedded within existing governance bodies, districtwide committees, and workgroups, and was complemented by a series of focused planning forums. This approach supported continuous refinement and broad engagement throughout the planning period.

The 4CD Governing Board initiated the plan development process in fall 2024 by offering guidance related to 4CD's overarching direction and core values, which served as a compass for the remainder of the planning process. The District Governance Council (DGC) served as the District Strategic Planning Committee throughout the planning period, grounding the process in 4CD's participatory governance framework and providing consistent guidance and oversight.

Input was gathered through multiple formats to encourage broad and inclusive participation. More than 250 individuals directly contributed to the plan's content, including classified professionals, faculty, administrators, students, and external partners. A series of strategic planning forums served as key touchpoints for engagement:

- Three hybrid college forums—one at each college—welcomed employees and students to participate in person or via Zoom.
- A districtwide virtual forum provided an additional opportunity for engagement across all sites.
- A dedicated community partner forum brought together voices from education, business and industry, community-based organizations, elected offices, and workforce and economic development agencies.

To complement the forums, online surveys and digital feedback opportunities allowed stakeholders to review and comment on draft components of the plan, including the mission, vision, values, goals, and strategic priorities. This ensured that community feedback directly informed the development of the plan. The Chancellor's Cabinet and District Governance Council (DGC) reviewed and finalized the plan, which the Governing Board ultimately approved.

This collaborative, multi-modal approach helped create a plan that reflects diverse perspectives and articulates the shared purpose of advancing student success, equity, and innovation across 4CD.

Planning Context

The Strategic Plan is shaped by 4CD's broader environmental context, which includes current and emerging economic trends, socio-political dynamics, statewide priorities and mandates, emerging technologies, and changing workforce demands. The goals, priorities, and strategies detailed in the plan represent 4CD's deliberate response to this evolving landscape, grounded in its mission, aligned with its values, and directed toward achieving its long-term vision.

The summary below highlights key trends considered during the planning process. It is important to note that while this plan is a static document providing a snapshot of the environment at a particular point in time, it results from an ongoing districtwide planning process that adapts to circumstances as new needs emerge.

Economic Trends and Assumptions

As of early 2025, Contra Costa County's economy continues to display resilience, although some moderation is evident. Following a sharp rise in unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the County's job market has largely rebounded. The unemployment rate peaked at 15.3% in 2020 and then declined steadily in subsequent years, reaching 4.6% in early 2025. Excluding pandemic outliers, the County's unemployment rate has remained below the statewide average, which was 5.4% during the same period.

California continues to face fiscal uncertainty at the state level. Its progressive tax system, which is heavily dependent on capital gains, leaves state revenues vulnerable to economic fluctuations.

Recent trends show a drop in consumer spending alongside a largely stagnant labor market.² Nationally, key economic indicators—such as yield curve inversions, slowing job growth, and weakening consumer confidence—suggest that the U.S. economy faces an elevated risk of recession in the coming years.

Given these dynamics, 4CD's Strategic Plan acknowledges the ongoing economic uncertainty and anticipates slower economic growth or the potential for a recession during the 2025–2030 period, including the related enrollment and budgetary implications.

² Legislative Analyst's Office. (2024, March). The 2024–25 budget: California community colleges. <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4939>



State and Federal Policy Trends

Statewide Frameworks

California's higher education landscape is increasingly shaped by ambitious statewide initiatives aimed at improving student outcomes, streamlining transfer, and aligning programs with workforce demands. The *Governor's Roadmap for Community Colleges*, California Community Colleges' Vision 2030, and California's *Master Plan for Career Education* establish a statewide strategic framework. While these state-led efforts promote systemwide coherence and student success, they also place significant demands on institutional capacity and reduce the flexibility available for locally driven planning, innovation, and improvement.

The *Roadmap for California Community Colleges* outlined systemwide priorities tied to increased base funding, establishing a policy foundation built on data-informed planning, equity-focused investments, and measurable outcomes. These principles shaped the development of Vision 2030, which extends the Roadmap's direction by providing a long-term strategy to advance equity, increase credential attainment, and strengthen connections between education and regional workforce needs. The *Master Plan for Career Education* complements this work by advancing a statewide vision for universal access to relevant, high-quality training and clearly defined pathways to economic mobility.

Legislative Mandates and Structural Reform

In tandem with these strategic frameworks, the California Legislature has enacted several policy mandates requiring colleges and districts to implement significant structural reforms—changes that necessitate deeper coordination between instruction and student services and often involve substantial investments of time, staffing, and resources for effective implementation. Assembly Bill 928 (the Transfer Achievement Reform Act) requires a single general education pattern for CSU and UC transfer, while Assembly Bill 1111 (Common Course Numbering) mandates standardized course numbering across California Community Colleges. These reforms aim to streamline the student experience but require significant curricular, operational, and technological adjustments at the district and college levels.

These state policy trends signify a shift from local and regionally tailored planning to state-directed structural change. While the intent is to create a more coherent and navigable system for students, the cumulative effect is an increasing expectation that districts implement uniform structural changes with limited flexibility to adapt solutions based on regional or institutional context. For district-level strategic planning, this evolving landscape necessitates a proactive and adaptive approach that aligns local priorities with state mandates, anticipates systemic change, and builds the internal capacity needed to implement reforms at scale. Strategic planning must incorporate compliance timelines, cross-functional coordination, and sustainable change management, all while remaining focused on student success and equity.

Evolving Federal Landscape

Executive orders and administrative actions under the current federal administration have created a new policy environment impacting California's community colleges. These include attempts to limit or dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, as well as shifts in immigration policy and other directives with potential impacts on student access and support. Together, they

contribute to a climate of uncertainty for institutions and the students they serve, particularly for undocumented students and those from historically marginalized populations. As a result, strategic planning must consider the implications of these federal actions and incorporate flexibility to respond to evolving national policy conditions over the next five years.

Public Perceptions of Higher Education

Public perceptions of higher education are complex, varied, and often conflicting. While views of higher education in the United States have improved slightly since pre-pandemic levels, concerns about affordability and return on investment remain paramount, despite a broad acknowledgement of higher education's role in economic mobility and long-term career success.³

These perceptions vary significantly depending on the type of institution and the job sector in question. Community colleges are generally viewed more favorably than four-year institutions for their affordability, flexibility, and direct pathways to employment—particularly in technical and healthcare fields. However, four-year institutions are often regarded more favorably in terms of academic prestige, research opportunities, and long-term earning potential.

Fortunately, local perceptions of 4CD have remained consistently favorable over time. In January 2024, EMC Research surveyed Contra Costa County voters and found that 4CD colleges were

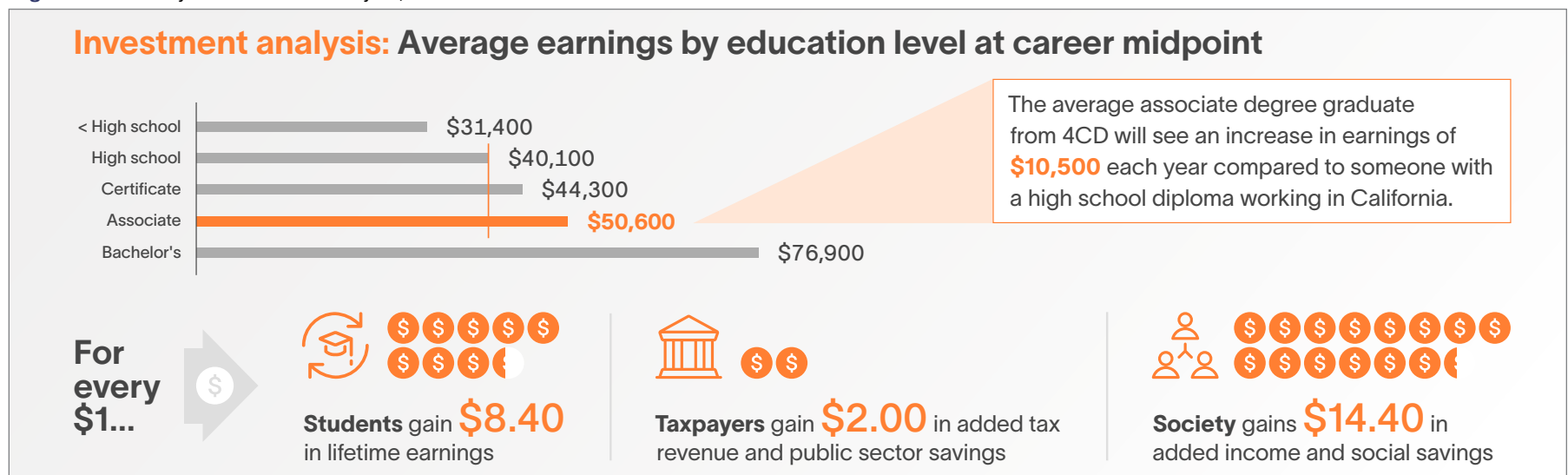
rated positively for providing good or excellent overall quality and educational value. Fewer than 14% of respondents expressed an unfavorable view of the District or its colleges. These results closely mirror findings from a similar survey conducted by EMC Research in October 2013, reflecting a consistent and sustained positive perception of 4CD over the past decade.

Furthermore, data from a recent economic impact study commissioned by the District reveals that 4CD enhances the economic well-being of county residents and generates substantial financial returns for both students and residents. Every dollar students spend on tuition and fees yields, on average, \$8.40 in the form of higher future lifetime earnings. Similarly, for every dollar of public money invested in 4CD, taxpayers receive a cumulative value of \$2.00, equating to a 200% return on investment. The return to society in added revenue and social savings is estimated at \$14.40 for every dollar of investment (see Figure 9).⁴

³ Contra Costa Community College District. (2025). Environmental scan 2025. Office of Research and Planning. www.4cd.edu/environmentalscan

⁴ Lightcast (2024). The Economic Value of the Contra Costa College District. www.4cd.edu/economicimpact

Figure 9. Summary of Investment Analysis, Fiscal Year 2022-2023





The Expanding Role of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

Artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies are rapidly reshaping the landscape of higher education and the future of work. These advancements are transforming how students learn, how educators teach, and the skills required for future careers. As AI tools become more embedded in educational practices and operations, they create opportunities to tailor learning experiences, streamline administrative processes, and broaden access to information.

At the same time, this rapid evolution demands that higher education adapt swiftly to prepare students for a workforce shaped by automation, data, and digital systems. In addition to

technical competencies, students need critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and digital citizenship skills to navigate complex digital environments successfully.

These shifts represent more than technological advancements; they signify a fundamental redefinition of institutional roles in preparing students for success in a rapidly changing world. The magnitude and pace of this change emerged as a consistent theme in strategic planning forums held across the colleges and the broader community, highlighting a collective awareness of its far-reaching impact and the need for a coordinated response across 4CD.

4CD Values

Student-Centered

We are committed to putting students first, recognizing that serving and supporting them is our shared purpose.

- **Student-First Approach** – Ensure that policies, programs, and practices are designed to support student needs and success.
- **Student Voice and Agency** - Actively seek and integrate student perspectives in decision-making.
- **Shared Responsibility and Engagement** - Strengthen collaboration among faculty, staff, administrators, and partners in service to students.

Equity and Belonging

Equity and belonging are core values guiding our work as we strive to create more diverse, just, inclusive, and supportive learning and work environments.

- **Addressing Inequities** – Remain reflective and proactive in identifying and addressing disproportionate impacts in our policies, practices, programs, and processes.
- **Inclusive Collaboration** – Work collectively to create welcoming spaces that reflect and celebrate our communities' diverse identities and cultures.
- **Safe and Supportive Environments** – Foster a culture where students and employees feel physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe in order to thrive.

Future-Readiness and Adaptability

We strive to prepare students, employees, and our institution for a rapidly changing world by fostering a culture of resilience, responsiveness, and ongoing improvement.

- **Sustainability and Stewardship** – Responsibly manage resources and embrace sustainable, forward-thinking practices.
- **Flexible and Responsive Systems** – Design programs and services that adapt to evolving student, workforce, and community needs.
- **Proactive Innovation** – Anticipate and drive positive change by embracing emerging technologies, data-informed strategies, and innovative practices.
- **Preparation and Resilience** – Equip students and employees with critical thinking skills, knowledge, and tools to navigate and shape a dynamic future.

Excellence and Integrity

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence and integrity in all aspects of our institution.

- **Academic and Institutional Excellence** – Maintain high expectations for students, staff, and institutional practices to ensure rigorous, high-quality programs and services.
- **Proactively Affirm Student Potential** – Recognize the extraordinary abilities and resilience of our students and communities, engaging with humility and a commitment to meaningful support.
- **Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability** – Uphold ethical standards and clear, transparent processes with built-in accountability to ensure continuous improvement.
- **Thoughtful Action and Reflection** – Assess the impact of our decisions and continuously refine our practices to align with our values.

4CD Strategic Goals 2025-2030

Over the next five years, 4CD will pursue four goals that reflect and advance its mission and values. These goals provide a framework for aligning districtwide efforts with our commitment to student success, equity, and continuous improvement. Each goal is supported by four priorities that focus and coordinate action, along with suggested strategies and progress measures that identify specific steps and promote measurable outcomes. Together, these elements ensure that our mission and values are translated into meaningful, sustained impact across 4CD.



Goal 1

Equitably improve student learning and completion by providing holistic support.

Provide high-quality, evidence-based, and culturally responsive educational programs and support that meet the evolving needs of students and communities. Simplify systems and processes to improve student success and remove barriers to completion, focusing on closing equity and opportunity gaps for historically marginalized students.

Priority 1

Align districtwide completion, participation, and student support goals with those identified in the California Community Colleges Vision 2030.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

Annually review districtwide progress toward Vision 2030 student completion, participation, and support goals to achieve districtwide improvement by 2030.

- a) **Completion:** Increase with equity the number of 4CD students completing a certificate, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree by 30%.
- b) **Participation:** Increase with equity the number of students attending a 4CD college by either 25%, or enrollment levels that surpass pre-pandemic numbers for student populations that experienced declines during the pandemic, whichever is greater.
- c) **Maximizing Financial Aid:** Increase with equity the number of 4CD students receiving Pell and California College Promise Grant by 10%.
- d) **Reducing Units to Completion:** Reduce with equity the average number of units required to complete an associate degree for transfer.

Priority 2

Clarify educational pathways and streamline institutional processes, ensuring students can navigate them easily and track their progress with confidence.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Utilize integrated technologies to guide students through the enrollment process, key educational milestones, and timely access to support services. Regularly review relevant performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions.
- b) Evaluate student-facing processes across 4CD to identify opportunities for automation, streamlining, and standardization to improve the overall student experience.
- c) Review and revise policies and practices to remove structural and systemic barriers that hinder the success of historically minoritized groups.



Goal 1

Priority 3

Collaborate with other systems, agencies, institutions, and community-based organizations to increase equitable access and offer students holistic academic, financial, and social support.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Enhance collaboration and alignment with K-12 and adult education partners to support equitable access and seamless transition to 4CD colleges. Annually review the District Feeder High School Report and California Adult Education metrics to track student enrollment and success.
- b) Aligning with Vision 2030, collaborate with regional UC and CSU systems to equitably increase the number of 4CD students earning associate degrees for transfer by 30%, while providing effective transfer services and support.
- c) Expand districtwide partnerships with local municipalities, cultural organizations, public agencies, and community-based organizations to effectively address student needs and enhance support services.

Priority 4

Design educational offerings that are accessible, flexible, and responsive to students' diverse needs and educational goals.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Implement a technology-enabled process to create data-informed, student-centered class schedules while streamlining schedule development for faculty, staff, and administrators.
- b) Assess 4CD's accessibility support infrastructure using the California Community Colleges Accessibility Center's Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM) and implement necessary improvements.
- c) Promote college affordability by expanding the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and increasing the availability of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Low Textbook Cost (LTC) sections across disciplines. Improve transparency by displaying instructional material costs in the student-facing schedule, aiming to provide cost information for at least 80% of course sections by 2030.
- d) Support the expansion of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) across 4CD, to increase the number of students earning CPL by 25% by 2030.
- e) Annually review progress on the metrics identified in the [2022-2027 Distance Education Strategic Plan](#).



Goal 2

Foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and student-focused engagement.

Cultivate increasingly inclusive learning and work environments across 4CD where students and employees feel connected, engaged, and valued. Provide equitable opportunities for all community members to contribute, collaborate, and grow.

Priority 1

Implement the CREED⁵ Framework across 4CD to reinforce our common purpose, promote a research-driven approach, encourage open and effective dialogue, and ensure deliverables are broadly communicated.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- Host CREED trainings throughout 4CD, with an emphasis on utilizing the framework in participatory governance settings.
- Regularly assess the utilization and impact of the CREED Framework and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

⁵ The CREED Model was developed by Dr. Alvin B. Tillery, Jr., Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy at Northwestern University. The five CREED pillars are: Common Purpose, Research, Equanimity, Empathy, and Deliverables.

Priority 2

Ensure broad and active participation in 4CD's governance structures, with diverse representation across roles, backgrounds, and perspectives. Intentionally elevate the voices of students and those most impacted by decisions.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- Assess 4CD employee engagement in participatory governance to determine who is engaged, how they contribute to decision-making, and identify opportunities to enhance involvement.
- Regularly review and share findings from student surveys (e.g., the Survey of Entering Student Engagement [SENSE], Community College Survey of Student Engagement [CCSSE], etc.), focus groups, and other mechanisms used to gather student input, ensuring that student perspectives are amplified and inform decision-making across 4CD.



A photograph of two young men sitting outdoors and talking. The man on the left has reddish-brown hair and is wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. The man on the right has dark hair, is wearing sunglasses and a red t-shirt, and is smiling. They are in a park-like setting with trees in the background.

Goal 2

Priority 3

Expand and enhance districtwide professional development opportunities, including employee mentoring programs.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Revitalize and sustain the 4CD Leadership Institute (4CDLI) or a similar leadership development program.
- b) Assess faculty, staff, and administrator engagement in professional learning using qualitative and quantitative measures.
- c) Design and scale districtwide professional learning opportunities that align with districtwide strategic priorities, address Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) requirements, and support progress toward Vision 2030 goals.

Priority 4

Plan and build safe, flexible, and inspiring spaces that reflect the identities and cultures of our students, employees, and communities.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Regularly monitor progress on implementing District Facilities Plans, which include projects that prioritize accessibility, safety, and the use of universal design principles to create inclusive environments.
- b) Evaluate and implement new facility projects and renovations in alignment with 4CD standards and codes, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.
- c) Incorporate culturally significant design elements into new and renovated spaces, including artwork, symbols, bilingual signage, and visual representations that celebrate the heritage and traditions of diverse cultural groups.

Goal 3

Embed future readiness and adaptability into 4CD's educational programming and operations by fostering innovation, responsiveness, and proactive problem-solving at all levels.

Adopt a future-focused, data-informed approach to address evolving educational, workforce, social, and fiscal demands. Embrace emerging technologies and build strategic partnerships to enhance adaptability, ensuring programs, services, and infrastructure align with emerging needs.

Priority 1

Foster an organizational culture that actively encourages and supports experimentation, innovation, and strategic risk-taking.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Offer professional development for managers to cultivate a leadership approach that encourages experimentation and innovation within their areas.
- b) Convene faculty, staff, and administrators committed to driving culture change to explore models from higher education institutions that have effectively promoted a culture of innovation and adaptability.

Priority 2

Design educational programs and learning environments to swiftly adapt to evolving educational, technological, and workforce demands.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Regularly analyze regional labor market data and trends to develop and refine a districtwide strategy that leverages each college's strengths and potential to address evolving workforce needs effectively.
- b) Aligning with Facilities Plans, implement planning and design strategies that create flexible, technology-integrated learning environments that optimize utility and simulate real-world settings.





Goal 3

Priority 3

Embrace emerging technologies, data-informed strategies, and forward-thinking practices to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Assess opportunities to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into institutional practices, administrative workflows, and student support services to increase efficiency, improve responsiveness, and predict student needs.
- b) Convene forums that bring together faculty, staff, and administrators to explore opportunities to engage students with emerging technologies while promoting critical thinking and responsible digital citizenship.

Priority 4

Strengthen the resilience of Contra Costa County communities by advancing a future-ready workforce, providing educational opportunities that promote social mobility, and championing environmental sustainability.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Expand demand-driven, apprenticeship, and 'earn-and-learn' models across 4CD.
- b) In alignment with Vision 2030, increase with equity the percentage of 4CD students who earn a living wage for the Bay Area by 10%.
- c) Strengthen partnerships with workforce development boards, industry councils, and trade organizations to proactively design educational programs that address sector-specific training needs anticipated in Contra Costa County over the next five to ten years.



Goal 4

Responsibly, proactively, and sustainably steward 4CD resources.

Prudently steward Contra Costa County's investment in 4CD by sustainably and strategically leveraging all resources. Prioritize fiscal responsibility and environmental sustainability, recognizing their integral connection to student success and institutional resilience.

Priority 1

Allocate financial, human, and capital resources strategically and responsibly to enhance student success, ensure financial integrity and stability, and promote long-term institutional excellence.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Regularly monitor districtwide performance on the Student-Centered Funding Formula metrics and share the results broadly to support informed decision-making and continuous improvement.
- b) Develop models and projections to assess how decisions, interventions, and strategies may influence future funding and financial sustainability.
- c) Continuously assess 4CD's funding composition and proactively diversify revenue sources.
- d) Regularly assess 4CD's financial state using the Sound Fiscal Management Checklist.

Priority 2

Optimize operational efficiencies by streamlining standard processes and eliminating unnecessary complexity.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Identify and assess key districtwide processes that impact employee workload and operational efficiency, with a focus on improving those that are repetitive and manual and increase liabilities.
- b) Engage appropriate districtwide workgroups or form ad hoc taskforces to achieve process improvement goals and communicate progress widely.
- c) Recognize 4CD teams and employees who contribute to identifying and implementing successful process improvements.





Goal 4

Priority 3

Support a strong and secure technology infrastructure that enhances workforce efficiency, delivers excellent service to students and employees, and maintains high security and privacy standards.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Assess and address ongoing infrastructure improvement needs.
- b) Regularly review and update technology-related policies and practices to ensure alignment with industry standards and federal and state regulations related to security, risk mitigation, and access control.

Priority 4

Develop and implement practices and procedures that promote sustainability, environmental stewardship, proactive maintenance, and long-term resilience in all areas of the District.

Suggested Strategies and Progress Measures

- a) Annually evaluate progress on [4CD's Districtwide Energy and Sustainability Goals](#) to assess advancement toward 2030 benchmarks.
- b) Track the adoption of practices and process improvements that demonstrate environmental stewardship and replicate best practices across District sites.

Appendix:

4CD Colleges

Contra Costa College

Contra Costa College (CCC) was the first college in the Contra Costa Community College District. As a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution, CCC serves a majority Latinx, African American, and Asian student population drawn from a socioeconomically diverse, culturally rich, and resilient community. The Chronicle of Higher Education has ranked its faculty among the most diverse in the nation.

CCC has earned national distinction for its academic partnerships and student opportunities. It is the only Northern California campus chosen for NASA's Aerospace Scholars program. CCC also supports Middle College High School, a National Blue Ribbon School, and has been recognized for many of its academic and student support programs.

West County residents have a long tradition of supporting education, and their strong support for our facilities bond measures demonstrates their recognition that higher education is key to improving the quality of life in our community. The completion of the new Science Center and fully renovated and expanded PE/Kinesiology Complex are the kind of investments that West County and our students will enjoy for decades to come. We appreciate the support that voters have shown by passing Measure E and earlier bond measures.



Contra Costa College

Diablo Valley College

Diablo Valley College (DVC) has earned recognition as one of the most successful community colleges in the country—offering exceptional degree and certificate programs in both transfer and career education to an increasingly diverse student body. With campuses in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon, DVC is ranked first in the state for the number of students transferring to UC Berkeley and is regularly highly ranked for transfer rates to all UC and CSU campuses.

Preparing students of today to be the leaders of tomorrow requires facilities designed with student learning and success in mind. Thanks to the support of voters through Measure E bond funds, DVC recently completed several major projects, including the new Art Complex and Athletics Complex on the Pleasant Hill campus, as well as the Library and Academic Success Center on the San Ramon campus. These investments, along with critical upgrades to aging facilities and infrastructure, ensure that our students continue to benefit from the high-quality instruction for which DVC is known for. We appreciate the support that voters have shown by passing Measure E and earlier bond measures.



Diablo Valley College

Los Medanos College



Los Medanos College

Los Medanos College (LMC) offers award-winning transfer and career education programs, stellar support services, and diverse learning opportunities in East Contra Costa County. Our exceptional educators, innovative curricula, growing degree and certificate offerings, and strong regional partnerships focus on student success. Of the 1,600 two-year institutions across the nation, LMC has been recognized on the list of “Top 150 U.S. Community Colleges” by the Aspen Institute since 2017 and was named one of the “50 Best Community Colleges” by College Choice. LMC ranks No. 12 among the best accredited colleges for associate degrees in mathematics, according to BestAccreditedColleges.org.

We are grateful to county residents for supporting our facilities bond measures, enabling the college to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment in state-of-the-art facilities at our Pittsburg Campus, including a new Kinesiology/Athletics and Student Union Complex, as well as new Brentwood Center. Such community investment allows LMC to continue positioning our students for success at four-year universities, in the workforce, and beyond.



CONTRA
COSTA
COLLEGE

DVC
DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE

Contra Costa Community College District www.4cd.edu



From: [Amelia Schmale](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comments
Date: Sunday, November 30, 2025 4:14:25 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the El Cerrito City Council will soon be reviewing a contract with Caltrans for street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements along San Pablo Avenue (State Route 123), with El Cerrito committing up to \$400,000 over the next two years to the project.

I am very concerned about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists along all of El Cerrito's streets and particularly along San Pablo Avenue. I urge the council to make sure that the Caltrans project includes urgently needed improvements to slow down traffic and make intersections and crosswalks safer along San Pablo Avenue.

Traffic calming will make that corridor not only safer, but more attractive to businesses and shoppers, as well as more visually appealing.

Thank you,
Amelia Schmale

 El Cerrito



Public Hearing: Proposed East Bay Sanitary Rates & Integrated Waste Management Fees

Effective January 1, 2026

Presentation to City Council
December 2, 2025

R3
CONSULTING
GROUP, INC.



Agenda

- El Cerrito's Solid Waste Services
- New Regional Post-Collection Agreement
- 2026 Rate Changes
- Zero Emission Vehicles
- Accomplishments & Objectives

Proposed City Council Actions

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion:

- Adopt a resolution establishing maximum allowable East Bay Sanitary (EBS) garbage and organic waste collection and post-collection rates, effective January 1, 2026.
- Adopt a resolution setting Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fees effective January 1, 2026, and appropriating an allocation from the Integrated Waste Management Fund in the amount of \$218,507

El Cerrito's Solid Waste Services

(1) Integrated Waste Management (IWM): Curbside Recycling, Recycling Center & Compliance



(2) East Bay Sanitary (EBS): Garbage and Organic Waste Collection



(3) RecycleMore and Republic: Post-Collection Services



2026 Solid Waste Rates

- Residential rates are proposed to increase 10.6% to 11.6%
- Commercial rates are proposed to increase 10.3% to 11.2%
- Attachment 3 of Agenda Bill provides all rates of specific / additional services

Existing City Post-Collection Agreements

- Per City's existing Post-Collection Agreement (PCA) with Republic Services (Republic), EBS pays Republic \$134.70/ton for solid waste and organics processing on behalf of the City
- Fees EBS pays Republic also includes the City's costs for Household Hazardous Waste services and membership in the RecycleMore Joint Powers Authority
- City further pays recyclables processing costs of \$55/ton, which require its trucks to make daily drop-offs in Napa
- Existing PCA with Republic expires 12/31/2025

New RecycleMore Post-Collection Agreement

- City joined RecycleMore's new regional PCA with Republic, effective 1/1/2026 at \$195.82 per/ton for solid waste, organics, and recycling
- New PCA decreases the City's recycling transportation, maintenance, and toll costs
- Value added provisions in new PCA include:
 - SB 1383 Compost Procurement Compliance - Continuation of supplied compost for compost giveaways
 - Continuation of student tours of Republic recycling facility
 - Continuation of Household Hazardous Waste programs
 - Predictable future post-collection rates - Fixed costs for years 1-3, cap on Consumer Price Index in following years
- The proposed 2026 EBS and IWM rates reflect these new post-collection costs.

Overall Factors Affecting 2026 Solid Waste Rate Adjustment

	2025 Revenues	2026 Revenues	Change in Revenue	% Impact to Rates
East Bay Sanitary (Garbage and Organics Collection)	\$5,725,063	\$5,853,705	\$128,642	1.1%
City Integrated Waste Management (Recyclables Collection + RERC)	\$4,158,143	\$4,193,889	\$35,746	0.3%
Recyclables Post- Collection (Processing)	\$184,745	\$657,759	\$473,014	4.0%
Garbage and Organics Post- Collection (Processing)	\$1,765,990	\$2,437,949	\$671,958	5.7%
Total	\$11,833,942	\$13,143,303	\$1,309,360	11.1%

2026 Residential Rates

Proposed Monthly Rates for Residential Customers

Garbage Container Size	EBS Collection (2026)	Post-Collection (2026)	IWM Fee (2026)	TOTAL Monthly 2026	TOTAL Monthly 2025	Monthly Change
20 Gallon Cart	\$24.00	\$8.90	\$24.38	\$57.28	\$51.79	\$5.49
35 Gallon Cart	\$33.87	\$15.61	\$26.66	\$76.14	\$68.21	\$7.93
64 Gallon Cart	\$67.74	\$31.20	\$52.25	\$151.19	\$135.46	\$15.73

2026 Commercial and Multi-Family Rates

Proposed Monthly Rates for Commercial/Multi-family Customers

Garbage Container Size	EBS Collection (2026)	Post-Collection (2026)	IWM Fee (2026)	TOTAL Monthly 2026	TOTAL Monthly 2025	Monthly Change
20 Gallon Cart	\$26.12	\$8.90	\$24.38	\$59.40	\$53.91	\$5.49
35 Gallon Cart	\$36.79	\$15.61	\$26.66	\$79.06	\$71.13	\$7.93
64 Gallon Cart	\$73.59	\$31.20	\$52.25	\$157.04	\$141.31	\$15.73
1 Cubic Yard (Loose)	\$241.63	\$90.26	\$188.33	\$520.22	\$470.82	\$49.40
2 Cubic Yards (Loose)	\$466.99	\$180.44	\$376.65	\$1,024.08	\$925.28	\$98.80

Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Update

- El Cerrito is amidst Public Fleet Electrification Transition Plan with a Spring 2026 estimated completion.
- El Cerrito learning from peers' beta use of new technology to minimize risks
 - demonstration of reliable battery range and depletion rate (especially on hills and when fully loaded), spare ratio, impact of efficient operator behavior
 - market stabilization, costs to decline, technology standardization, defects and technical problems to resolve, repair solutions to develop, mechanics to be trained

Funding Plan for ZEV Purchases

- Zero emission solid waste trucks cost approximately ~\$1 M per vehicle (2025), not including the significant costs of installing charging infrastructure and of the electricity.
- Proposed 2026 IWM Fees are structured to continue to generate reserve funds for purchase of one ZEV (estimated 2027-2028)
- Proposed 2026 EBS Rates continue to generate surplus revenues which may be applied to future ZEV purchases (or to offset future rate adjustments) – specifics to be determined between City and EBS per terms and conditions of the Franchise Agreement

Recent Accomplishments

- 2025 Platinum Spotlight Beacon Award
- Collaborated with RecycleMore on regional PCA
- Advertising campaign promoting composting via SB 1383 Implementation Grant



Recent Accomplishments, Cont'd

- Purchased & Installed 40 New Dual-Trash Receptacles for Parks
- Outfitted recycling drivers with tablets to facilitate Hauler Hero software implementation to improve service



2026 Waste Objectives

- Implement Provisions of the New Post-Collection Agreement
- Continue Public Fleet Electrification Transition Plan development
- Continue to Implement SB 1383 Grant
- Deploy New Recycling Truck into Operations
- Continue to identify vendors to expand materials the Recycling & Environmental Resource Center accepts

Proposed City Council Actions

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion:

- Adopt a resolution establishing maximum allowable East Bay Sanitary (EBS) garbage and organic waste collection and post-collection rates, effective January 1, 2026.
- Adopt a resolution fixing and setting Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fees effective January 1, 2026, and appropriating an allocation from the Integrated Waste Management Fund in the amount of \$218,507



Questions

From: [Howdy Goudey](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment for agenda item 8A - waste fees
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 5:14:36 PM

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Dear Mayor Wysinger and Councilmembers,

When considering the rate setting of waste fees, I encourage there to be more attention to funding programs to reduce the volume of waste generated, as called for in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CW1.1 - 1.5).

Waste management shouldn't just be about hauling stuff off and getting it processed, but rather dramatically reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place. That will best serve the community both environmentally, as well as reduce household costs.

Please direct staff to publicly report and track the tonnage of each of the three streams, as part of the annual rate setting process presentation, as well as implement, and report on, the CW1.1 - 1.5 actions using funding from the waste management fees.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Howdy Goudey
El Cerrito

SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

December 2, 2025

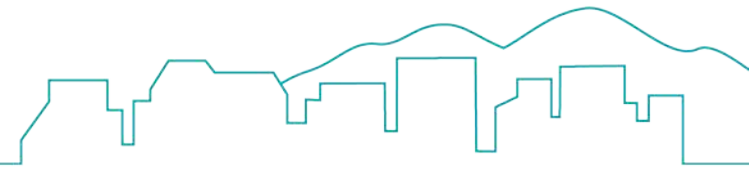


- 
1. Project Team
 2. Overview of Safety Element
 3. Summary of Feedback and Responses

Agenda



Project Team



City

- Sean Moss, Planning Division, Planning Manager
- Jeff Ballantine, Planning Division, Senior Planner
- Chase Beckman, Fire Marshal

PlaceWorks

- Eli Krispi, Project Manager
- Miles Barker, Assistant Project Manager



OVERVIEW OF SAFETY ELEMENT

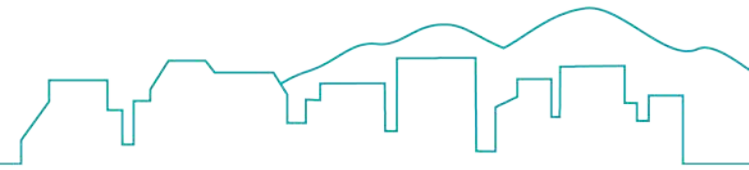


Safety Element

- Mandatory part of the General Plan.
- Identifies hazards of concern and related issues.
- Contains policies to protect El Cerrito against natural disasters and other hazards.
 - Seismic and geologic hazards
 - Flooding
 - Wildfire
 - Hazardous materials
 - Emergency response and evacuation
 - Sea level rise
 - Other topics of concern



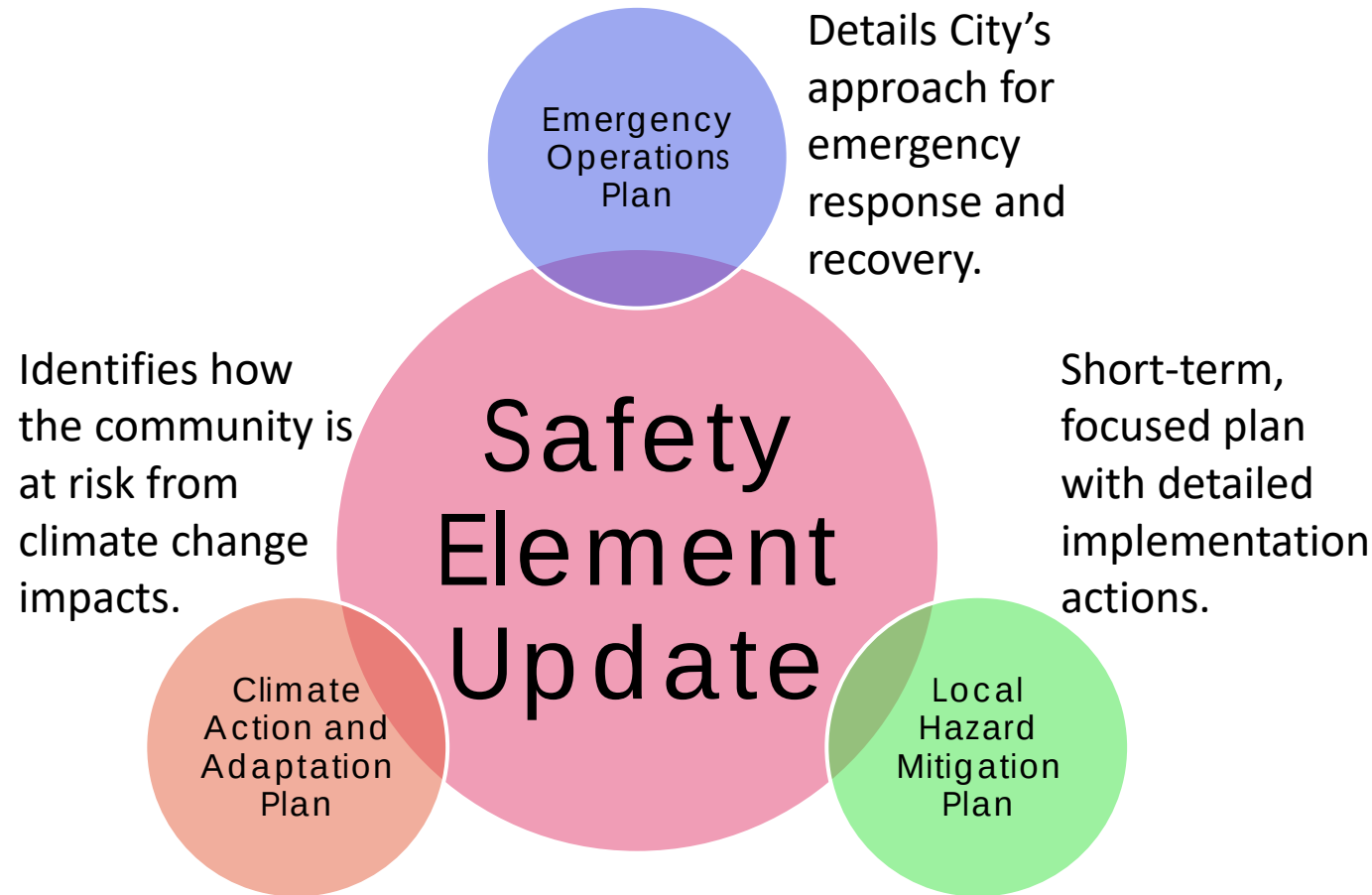
Relevance of Safety Element



- **The Safety Element plays an important role in people's daily lives.**
 - Addresses various safety concerns and hazards that potentially impact the community.
 - Natural Hazard Mitigation
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Environmental Hazards
 - Land Use Planning

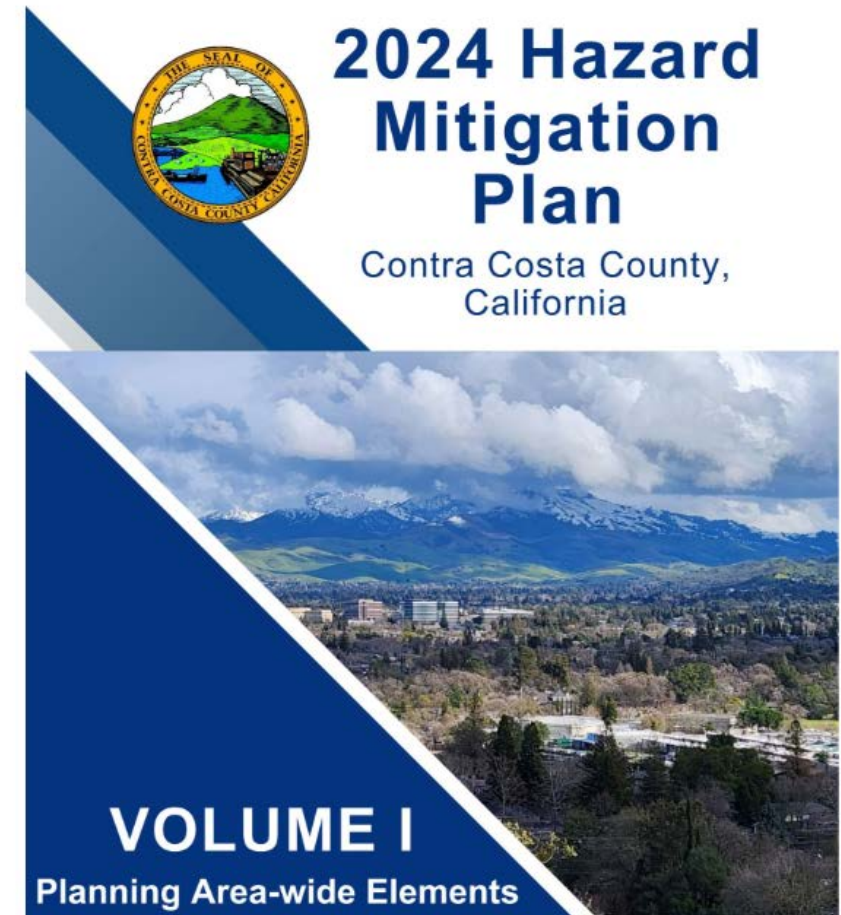
Why Update the Safety Element?

- State law requires a review and update of the Safety Element every eight years.
 - Current Safety Element is 26 years old.
- New requirements for policies and background information.
- Need to integrate other recent planning efforts.
- Changes in community needs and priorities

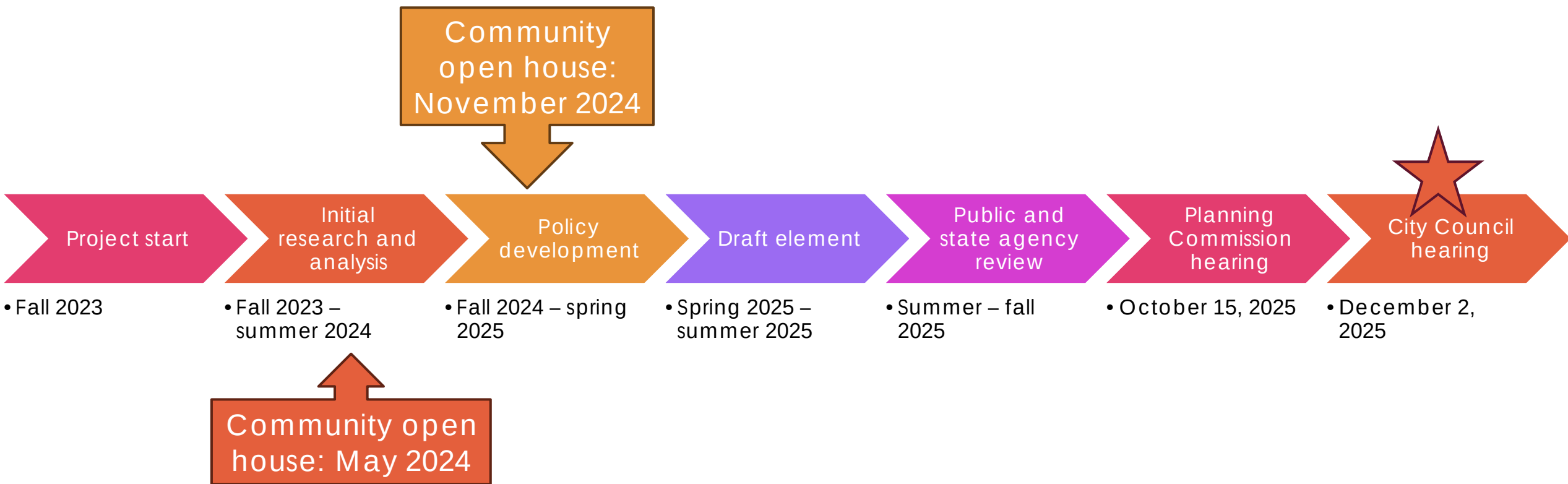


New State Requirements

- Increased requirements for flood and wildfire sections.
- SB 379: Requires a Safety Element to address climate related hazards and resilience.
- AB 2140: Incorporation of the LHMP.
- SB 99 / AB 747: Show evacuation routes and assess evacuation-constrained areas.



Overall Project Timeline

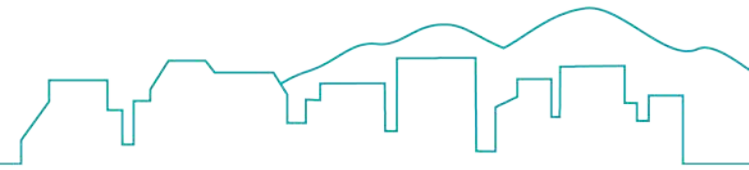




FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES

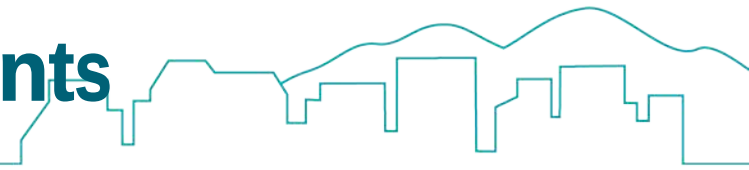


Timeline of Comments Received



- **Public Workshop held on November 20, 2024**
 - Received comments from the Planning Commission, City Council, and community members.
- **60-Day Public Review and State Agency Review Period (August – October 2025)**
 - Received comments from residents, the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, and CAL FIRE.

Planning Commission/City Council Comments



- **Focus Areas. All comments from November 2024 study session**
 - Strengthen policy language (“require” vs. “encourage”) and clarify implementation priorities, costs, and responsibilities.
 - Integrate resilience into City budgeting and CIP to ensure long-term action.
 - Add discussion of risk tolerance and address insurance availability challenges.
 - Clarify whether sea level rise hazard zones apply to El Cerrito.
- **Implementation Oversight. All comments from November 2024 study session**
 - Provide a list of hazard-abatement requirements and pre-approved techniques.
 - Ensure the implementation matrix is sorted by priority and updated regularly.
 - Improve coordination across departments and regional partners such as the East Bay Wildfire Coalition.

Responses to Commission/Council comments

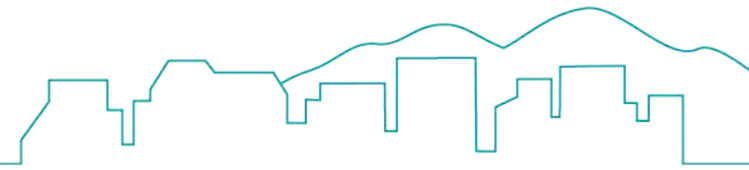
- **Overall Approach**

- Reviewed all Planning Commission and City Council feedback and incorporated feasible edits.
- Strengthened the Safety Element to improve clarity, implementation detail, and policy direction.
- Refined organization and language for consistency and ease of use.

- **Key Outcomes**

- Clarified roles, responsibilities, and alignment across City departments and partner agencies.
- Integrated long-term resilience into City budgeting and CIP.
- Enhanced coordination and transparency across departments and regional partners.

Community Comments



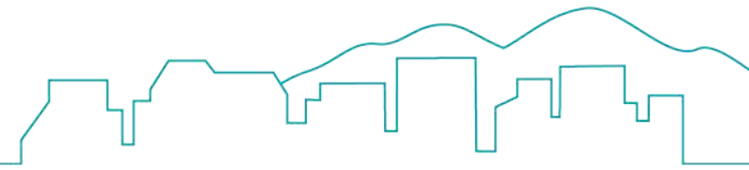
- **Preparedness & Communication**

- Expand drills and preparedness (November 2024 Public Workshop).
- Strengthen emergency communication systems (November 2024 Public Workshop).
- Improve multilingual outreach (November 2024 Public Workshop and Fall 2025 Public Review Period).

- **Evacuation & Infrastructure**

- Add signage along public paths (November 2024 Public Workshop and Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Provide backup power for traffic signals on key evacuation routes (Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Evaluate parking restrictions on red-flag days (November 2024 Public Workshop).

Community Comments



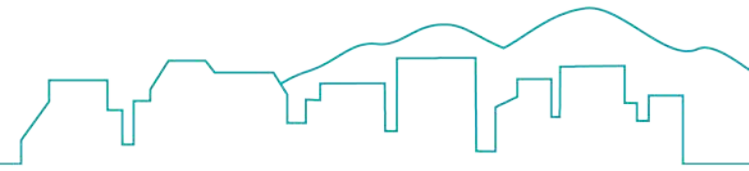
- **Wildfire & Flood Resilience**

- Implement the Hillside Fire Resiliency Plan (Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Expand home-hardening programs (Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Update flood maps for climate-driven events (Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Expand green-infrastructure and Adopt-a-Drain programs (November 2024 Public Workshop).

- **Equity & Community Resilience**

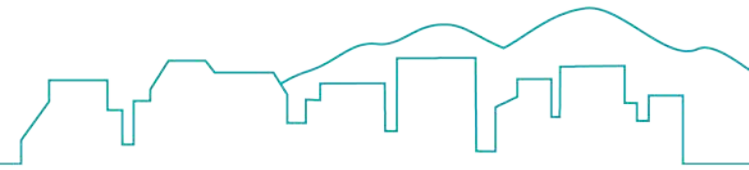
- Support small-business retrofits and hazard preparedness (November 2024 Public Workshop).
- Increase CERT participation and outreach to renters and older adults (November 2024 Public Workshop and Fall 2025 Public Review Period).
- Ensure ongoing, inclusive engagement in emergency preparedness and response planning (November 2024 Public Workshop and Fall 2025 Public Review Period).

CAL FIRE Review



- Required by State law for jurisdictions with certain fire zones.
- CAL FIRE recommends that Safety Elements include certain policies and background information related to fire protection.
- CAL FIRE staff reviewed the Safety Element in September and October of 2025.
- The Board of Forestry reviewed the Safety Element at its November 4th meeting.
 - Praised several items in the Safety Element.
 - Only recommendations were to correct minor technical wording.

Responses to Community Comments



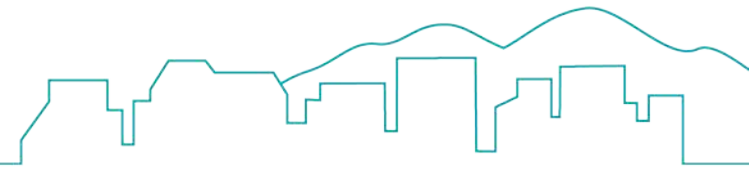
- **Overall Approach**

- Reviewed all written comments including those from residents, the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, and CAL FIRE.
- Incorporated feasible edits to clarify intent, strengthen policies, and improve accuracy.
- Coordinated with City departments and CAL FIRE to align policy language and mapping updates.

- **Key Revisions Made**

- Expanded focus to cover multiple hazards and long-term community resilience.
- Strengthened communication, outreach, and equity considerations throughout.
- Clarified department roles and timelines in the implementation matrix.
- Updated data and mapping references using current State and federal resources.

Implementation



- Implementation begins after adoption.
 - Policy matrix is a roadmap and a tool for implementation
 - City to lead implementation, with support from local, regional, and state agencies and other third parties.
 - Several policies may require securing additional funding.
 - City staff have evaluated the cost of providing signage at public stairs and pedestrian paths, consistent with Planning Commission direction from prior hearing.

Staff Recommendation



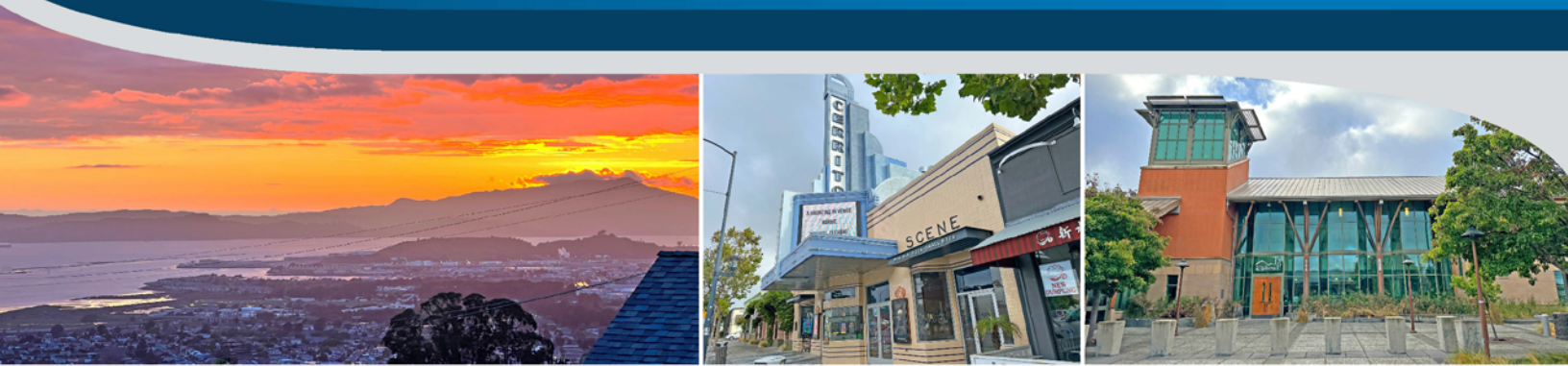
Adopt a resolution amending the El Cerrito General Plan, adopting an update to the Safety Element, and finding that the Safety Element Update is consistent with the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that an Addendum has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.



THANK YOU



Safety Element



Hearing Draft

November 2025

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Safety Element

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Safety Element

OVERVIEW

The Safety Element is the section of the City's General Plan that helps to protect the community against natural disasters and other hazardous conditions. This Element identifies these hazards and contains goals, policies, and implementation measures to improve El Cerrito's resilience.

PURPOSE AND CONTENT

The Safety Element follows the requirements of Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code, which mandates that the Safety Element contain background information and policies to address multiple natural hazards, an analysis of vulnerabilities from climate change, policies to improve climate change resilience, and an assessment of residential areas with evacuation constraints. This Safety Element covers the following safety issues in El Cerrito:

- Seismic and geologic hazards
- Hazardous waste and materials
- Flood and inundation hazards
- Fire hazards
- Extreme heat and severe weather
- Drought
- Human health hazards
- Emergency preparedness and response

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LOCAL PLANS

The El Cerrito General Plan's Safety Element is one of several plans that address community safety and related topics. Other plans include the Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, El Cerrito Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, El Cerrito Emergency Operations Plan, and various local regulations. The Safety Element is consistent with these other plans and integrates them as appropriate to ensure that the City has a unified strategy to address public safety and resilience issues.

General Plan Elements

The Safety Element provides policy direction and designs safety improvements that complement the intent and policies of other General Plan elements/chapters. How land uses are determined in areas prone to natural hazards, what regulations limit development in these areas, and how hazards are mitigated for existing development are all issues that tie the elements together. For instance, the Public Facilities and Services chapter must consider how hazards will affect the park and recreation infrastructure and facilities in El Cerrito but also recognize that parks can provide strategies to reduce flood risks throughout the City. The Housing Element is closely tied to the Safety Element. Future potential development in the City must be protected from hazards and able to adapt to climate change hazards to ensure homes and the people living in them remain safe. Safety Element policies, especially those concerning evacuation routes and critical facilities, must also be consistent

with those of the Transportation and Circulation chapter.

Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) assesses the risk of hazards and vulnerabilities from natural and human-caused hazards, including risk to people and facilities, and identifies short-term (five-year) mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate hazard risks. The LHMP includes a dedicated annex for the City of El Cerrito, which discusses El Cerrito's characteristics and history, development trends, hazard mitigation capabilities, integration with other hazard mitigation planning efforts, and vulnerabilities of specific facilities and infrastructure. Contra Costa County led the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan in collaboration with the City and other local agencies and special districts, in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) hazard mitigation assistance guidance. The current LHMP and El Cerrito Annex, as certified by FEMA, is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6. It is available online at: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6415/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>.

City of El Cerrito Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

On July 16, 2024, the El Cerrito City Council adopted the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and community resilience in the face of climate

change-related hazards. The City developed the CAAP's focus areas and strategies based on results from community engagement, the vulnerability assessment, and GHG analysis. One of these focus areas is community resilience and empowerment, which includes efforts such as establishing climate resilience hubs, conducting equitable climate preparedness activities, and offering public education on climate risks and resources. The CAAP intends to serve as a roadmap toward achieving these goals: reaching aggressive emissions reduction targets, improving El Cerrito's resilience to climate change impacts, and guiding collaboration between the City and community of El Cerrito. The CAAP aims to distribute the benefits of climate action and adaptation equitably by prioritizing vulnerable communities in planning and implementation. The Safety Element incorporates the climate vulnerability assessment in the CAAP, as discussed in greater detail in the following section, and contains policies that support the adaptation and resilience efforts in the CAAP. The CAAP is available online at: <https://el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>.

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Under California law, the Safety Element is required to include a vulnerability assessment that looks at how people, buildings, infrastructure, and other key community assets may be affected by climate change. In 2024, the City conducted a vulnerability assessment to identify current and future climate change impacts and risks to different sectors and communities of El Cerrito. The Vulnerability Assessment includes an overview of climate trends, projections, and impacts for El Cerrito and the broader Bay Area region, and evaluates

the risks and vulnerabilities across four City sectors:

- **Infrastructure and the Built Environment.** El Cerrito's buildings, facilities, and transportation systems.
- **Natural Systems and Water.** El Cerrito's open space, tree canopy, water supply, and water-related (e.g., potable water, wastewater, stormwater) infrastructure.
- **Energy.** El Cerrito's energy delivery infrastructure, supply, and demand.
- **Community Health, Well-Being, and Public Safety.** El Cerrito's community mental and physical health and emergency response services.

El Cerrito faces increasing climate-related risks that threaten these four sectors. Climate change is expected to cause El Cerrito to experience warmer temperatures year-round, including higher maximum summer temperatures and more frequent and severe heat waves; greater precipitation fluctuations between wet and dry years, with higher risk of flooding during wet years and higher risk of drought during dry years; and increasing chance of wildfire and poor air quality due to wildfire smoke. El Cerrito's natural landscapes, urban forests, and water systems are highly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns will stress vegetation, increasing the risk of insect outbreaks, disease, tree mortality, and fire. Extreme weather events in the community, including droughts and floods, will lead to soil erosion, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline. Local water management will become more difficult as intensified rainfall strains aged stormwater infrastructure, increasing the risk of flooding, groundwater contamination, and untreated water entering homes and

waterways. The Bay Area's alternating wet and dry years are likely to create economic and environmental challenges, affecting water availability, agriculture, recreation, and public health.

El Cerrito's energy infrastructure faces growing risks from climate-driven floods, heavy rain, and strong winds, which could damage power lines, substations, and transmission towers, leading to outages. Wildfires pose an additional threat, disrupting energy distribution and impacting residents, businesses, and City operations. Rising temperatures will increase electricity demand, heightening the risk of brownouts and power failures. Climate hazards will also affect community health and safety. More frequent landslides, floods, and wildfires will raise the risk of injury, illness, and mental health challenges, especially for vulnerable populations like seniors and low-income residents. Displacement, property damage, and disruptions may worsen physical and mental health issues. Emergency response activities in the community will also be affected if flooding, landslides, and wildfires disrupt transportation routes, and energy blackouts impact communication systems, delaying critical services. The Vulnerability Assessment, included as Appendix F of the CAAP, is available online at: <https://el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>.

To increase community resilience and help lower vulnerability, the Safety Element includes goals, policies, and implementation measures to improve the resilience of the populations and assets identified as highly vulnerable in the Vulnerability Assessment.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Seismic and geologic hazards are risks caused by the movement of different parts of the earth's surface, known as the crust. Seismic hazards include earthquakes and hazardous events caused by them, such as liquefaction and tsunamis. Geologic hazards are other hazards involving land movements that are not linked to seismic activity, including landslides caused by heavy rains, and can inflict harm to people or property.

Seismic Hazards

Seismic activity occurs along boundaries in the earth's crust, called faults. Pressure along the faults builds over time and is ultimately released, resulting in ground shaking, commonly referred to as an earthquake. Earthquakes can also trigger other hazards, including tsunamis, surface rupture (cracks in the ground surface), liquefaction (causing loose soil to lose its strength), landslides, and subsidence (sinking of the ground surface).

Earthquakes

Though El Cerrito is at risk from many natural and human-caused hazards, the event with the greatest potential for loss of life or property and economic damage is an earthquake. This risk is true for most of the San Francisco Bay Area region, which has several active seismic faults. Earthquake risk is very high in Contra Costa County, including the City of El Cerrito, due to the presence of five major active faults in the region: the Hayward Fault, Calaveras (North Central) Fault, Concord-Green Valley Fault, Mount Diablo Fault, and Greenville Fault.

The Hayward fault, which is an approximately 45-mile-long fault that runs through densely populated areas on the East Bay, passes through eastern El Cerrito. The Hayward Fault is increasingly becoming a hazard of concern throughout the Bay Area because of its likelihood of activity and its intersection with highly populated areas and critical infrastructure. A significant earthquake on the Hayward Fault is predicted to result in catastrophic damage to buildings and infrastructure and substantial loss of life. The probability of experiencing a Magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake along the Hayward Fault in the next 30 years is 33 percent. An earthquake of this magnitude could cause widespread devastation across the Bay Area, with the potential for thousands of fatalities, mass displacement, and long-term disruption of essential services.

The U.S. Geological Survey developed the HayWired Earthquake Scenario, a scientifically realistic study of the likely impacts of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake and its aftershocks on the Hayward Fault, to evaluate these risks in greater detail.ⁱ The HayWired Scenario emphasizes the vulnerabilities and strengths posed by the Bay Area's interconnected infrastructure systems such as utilities, roads, communications, and the compounded effects these interdependencies create in communities and the regional economy. Because the Hayward Fault runs through heavily developed areas, the scenario anticipates widespread impacts, including injuries, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and significant displacement of residents. The Hayward Fault crosses critical infrastructure, including major highways, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) tracks, and water and gas pipelines, making the potential

consequences especially severe for local and regional transportation, utilities, and emergency response systems.

proximity and high potential to cause a severe earthquake.

In addition to direct ground shaking and structural damage, large earthquakes can rupture water and gas mains, down power lines, and topple trees. These secondary impacts increase the risk of fires, reduce the City's ability to fight fires due to water system disruption, and can obstruct evacuation routes and delay first responder access. Such cascading hazards further illustrate the interconnected risks facing El Cerrito during a major seismic event.

The Calaveras (North Central) Fault, a major branch of the San Andreas Fault, extends 76 miles from Hollister to Danville, east of the Hayward Fault. The Concord-Green Valley Fault beneath Concord runs 11 miles from Mount Diablo to the Carquinez Strait and connects to the Green Valley Fault. The Mount Diablo thrust fault lies between the Calaveras, Greenville, and Concord Faults in Contra Costa County. The Greenville Fault, also part of the San Andreas Fault system, runs through Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, bordering Livermore Valley and extending northwest along the Marsh Creek and Clayton faults toward Clayton Valley. **Figure S-1** shows the location of faults and Alquist-Priolo Fault Zones in and around El Cerrito, while **Figure S-2** shows the fault lines in Contra Costa County.

Earthquakes are likely to continue on an occasional basis. Most are expected to cause no substantive damage and may not even be felt by most people. However, a major earthquake along any of the nearby faults could result in substantial casualties and widespread destruction. The greatest risk in El Cerrito is from the Hayward Fault due to its

Figure S-1 Local Fault Lines

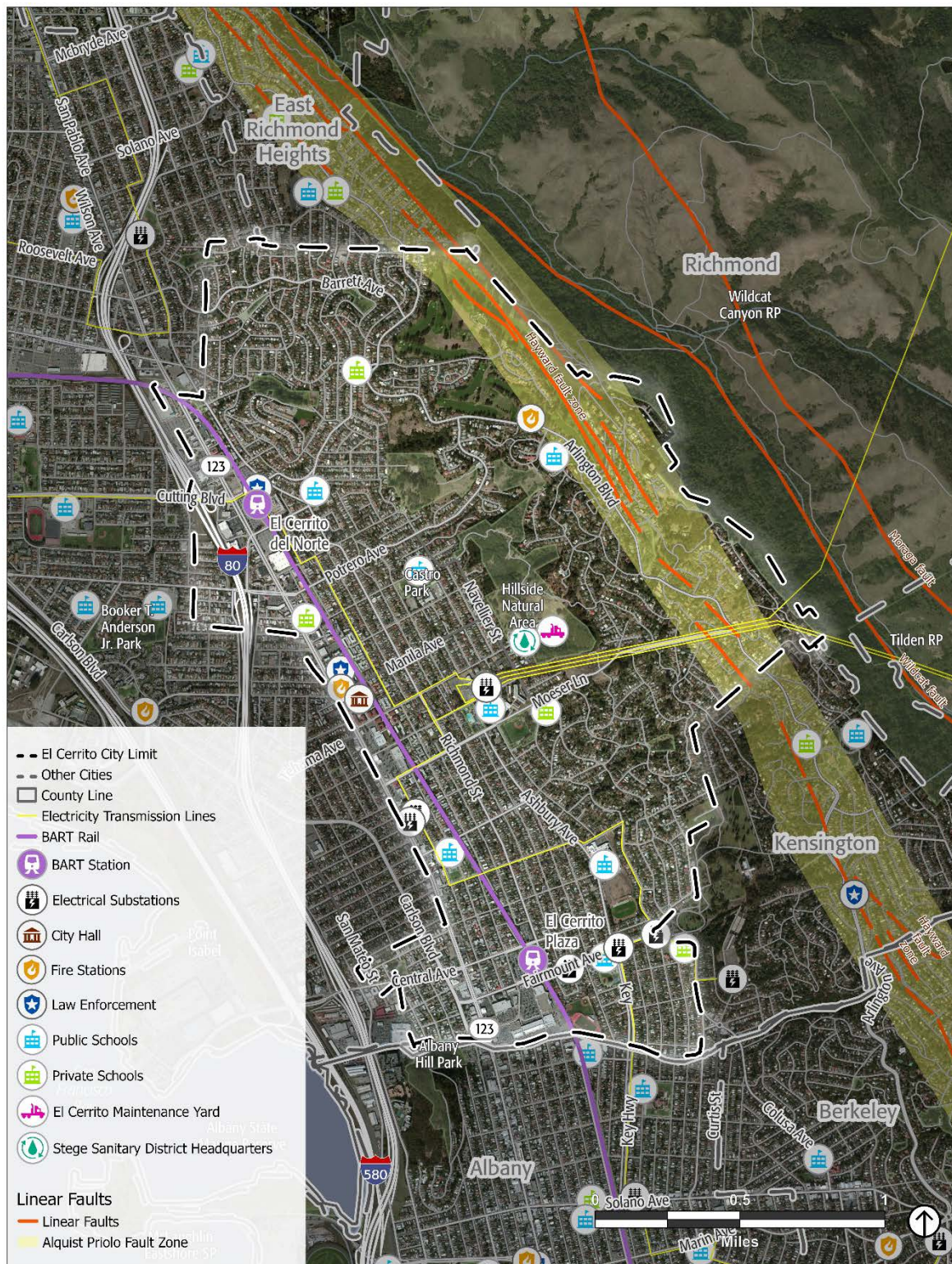
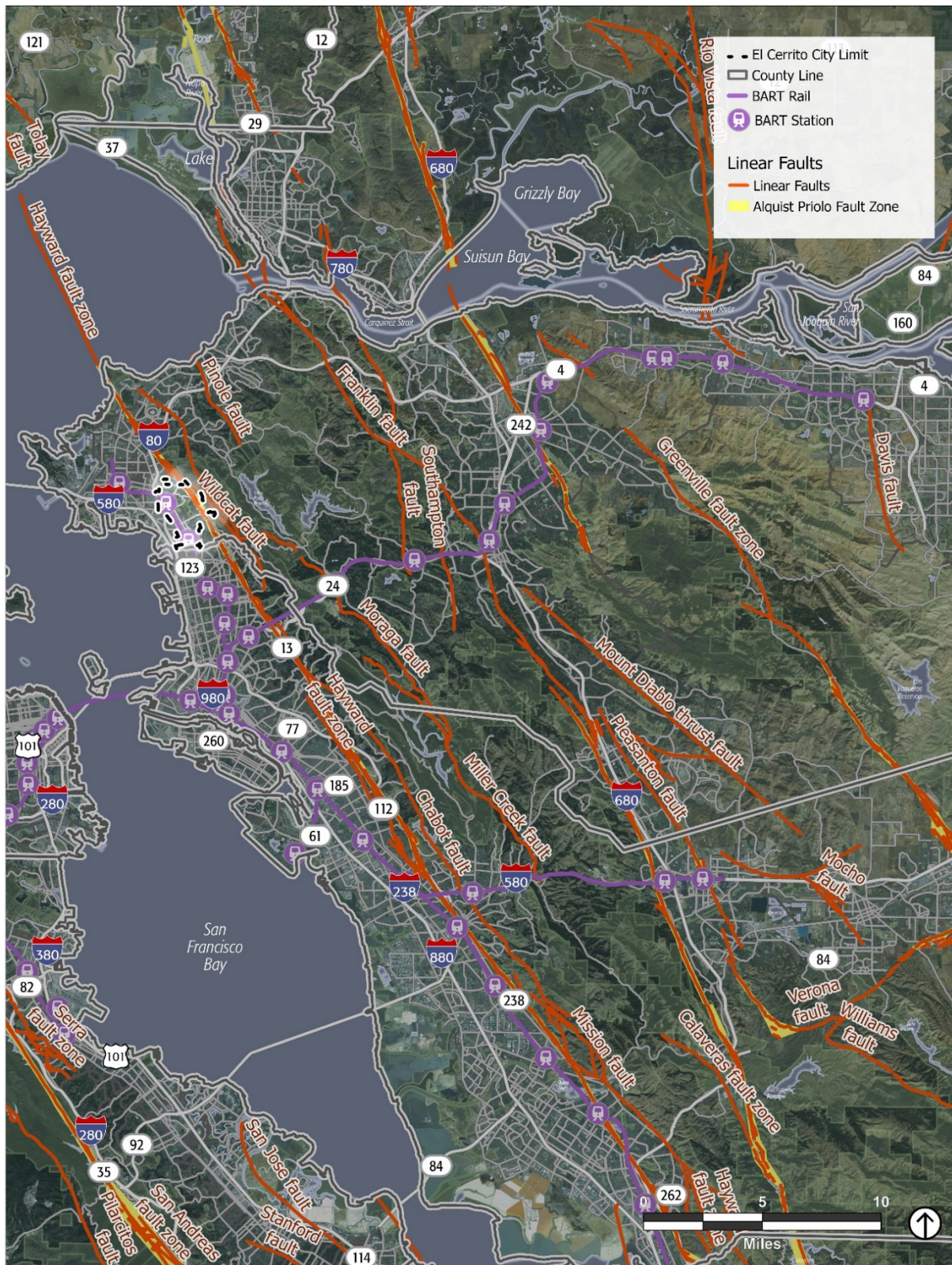


Figure S-2 Regional Fault Lines



Other Seismic Hazards

In addition to the direct physical damage that can result from the shaking of an earthquake, earthquakes can cause secondary hazards. Liquefaction occurs where waterlogged soils near the ground surface lose compaction during strong ground motion, causing the soil to lose strength and behave as liquid. This can cause building foundations to shift and can result in significant structural damage. Soils susceptible to liquefaction are typically found in low-lying current or former floodplains. Portions of the City near the floodplains in the southern part of the City, adjacent to I-80, are likely to face liquefaction during an earthquake. **Figure S-3** shows the areas facing an elevated liquefaction risk in El Cerrito.

Earthquake-induced landslides pose a significant risk due to the presence of landslide-prone areas in the hillsides of eastern El Cerrito and proximity of earthquake faults. Ground shaking from seismic activity can cause rocks, debris, and hillside soils to loosen and fall downslope, harming people, buildings, and infrastructure in their path.

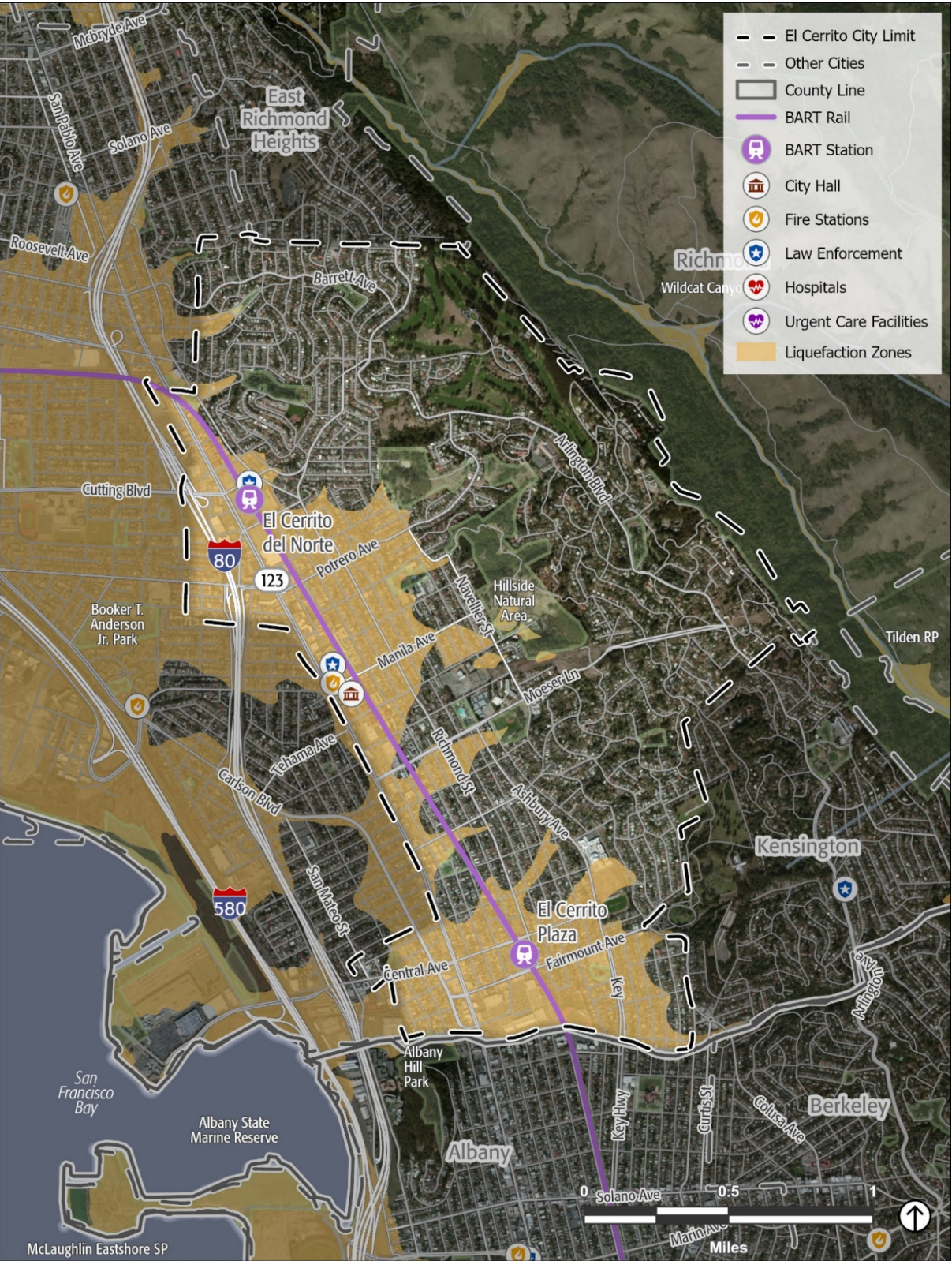
A secondary hazard of earthquakes is a tsunami, which has the potential to affect areas near the shoreline of the Richmond/El Cerrito area. Tsunamis are typically caused by earthquakes in places where ocean plates are forced down into the mantle by plate tectonic forces. These areas are known as subduction zones, although earthquakes in other parts of the ocean may also cause tsunamis. Tsunami waves can travel across entire ocean basins and impact coastal areas that are far from the earthquake's epicenter, including places where the shaking from the earthquake is not felt. Tsunamis can result in severe property damage and loss of life to affected areas near the coast. They can also disrupt emergency

services and transportation routes. Also, tsunami waves can diffract around land masses, and because they are not symmetrical, the wave may be much stronger in one direction than another, depending on the source and the surrounding geography. Earthquakes with magnitudes below 6.5 are very unlikely to trigger a tsunami. Earthquakes of magnitudes between 6.5 and 7.5 do not usually produce destructive tsunamis.

A similar hazard, known as a seiche, may also occur. A seiche is a standing wave that oscillates back and forth across an enclosed or partially-enclosed water body, such as the San Francisco Bay. Earthquakes, landslides, or strong storms may create a seiche wave that repeatedly floods shoreline areas, in a manner similar to a tsunami.

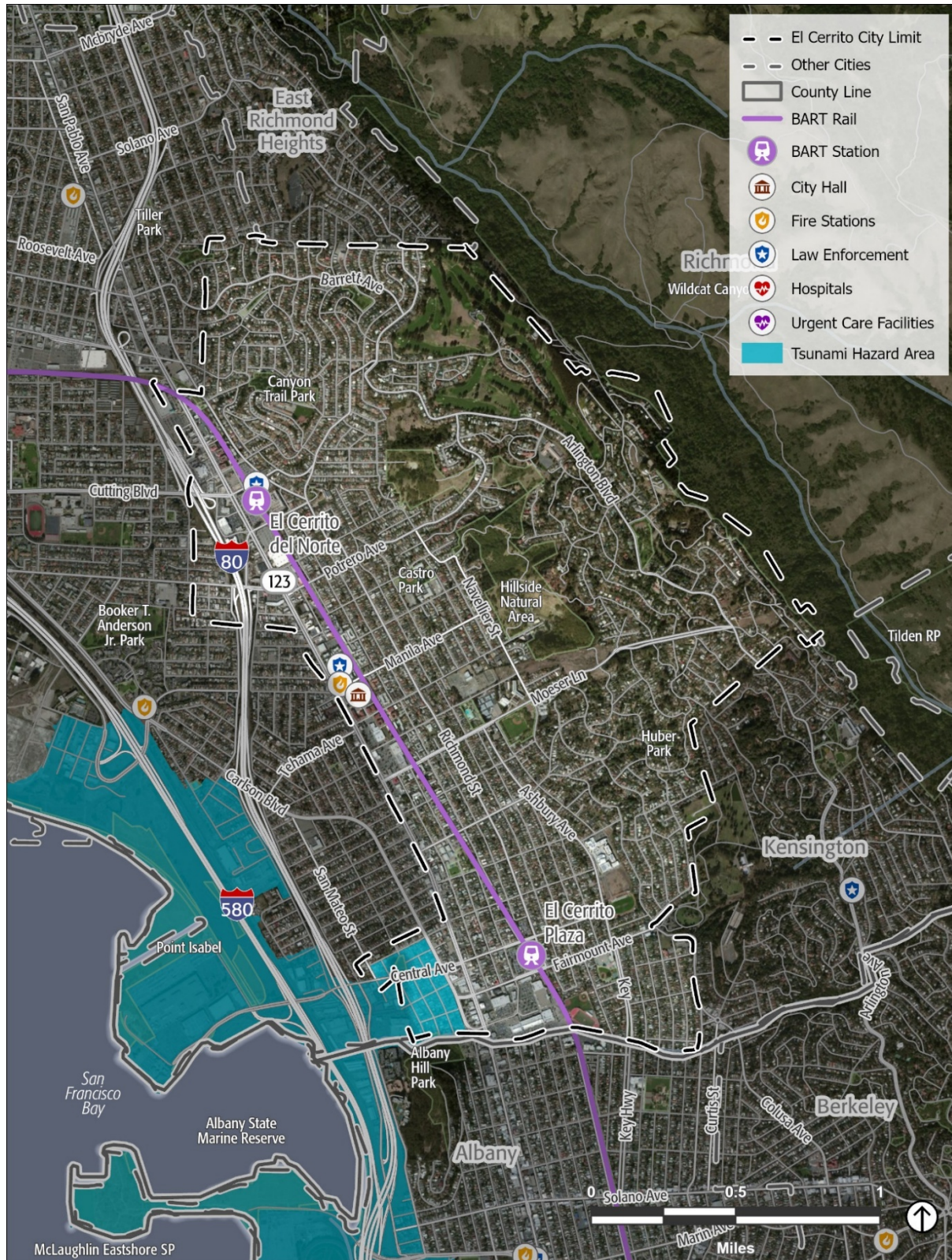
Figure S-4 illustrates the area that may be subject to inundation from a tsunami in El Cerrito.

Figure S-3 Liquefaction Areas



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033; US geological Survey, 2021

Figure S-4 Tsunami Inundation Areas



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; California Geographic Survey, 2022; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024;

Geologic Hazards

Geologic hazards in El Cerrito include landslides and erosion. Landslides, which can occur as debris flows or rock falls, are most common in steep, sloped areas with loose and fragmented soil. While some landslides develop gradually, others happen suddenly, often with severe consequences. Landslides are a continuous natural process affecting all slopes with varying degrees of impact. Landslides are often triggered by other natural hazards, such as earthquakes, heavy rain, floods, or wildfires, so landslide frequency is often related to the frequency of these other hazards. Landslides have occurred on hillsides throughout the City, usually in winter during high rainfall years. Due to the hilly terrain, the eastern portion of the City is in a very high landslide susceptibility class, as shown on **Figure S-5**.

Localized over-steepened slopes in El Cerrito present elevated risk of rockfall, particularly when combined with heavy rainfall or earthquake shaking. For example, over-steepened slopes such as the quarry face near the City's Recycling Center pose a heightened risk of rockfall that could affect nearby facilities and operations. These site-specific conditions illustrate the potential severity of landslide hazards in the city and the importance of ongoing monitoring and mitigation where critical facilities are located near unstable slopes.

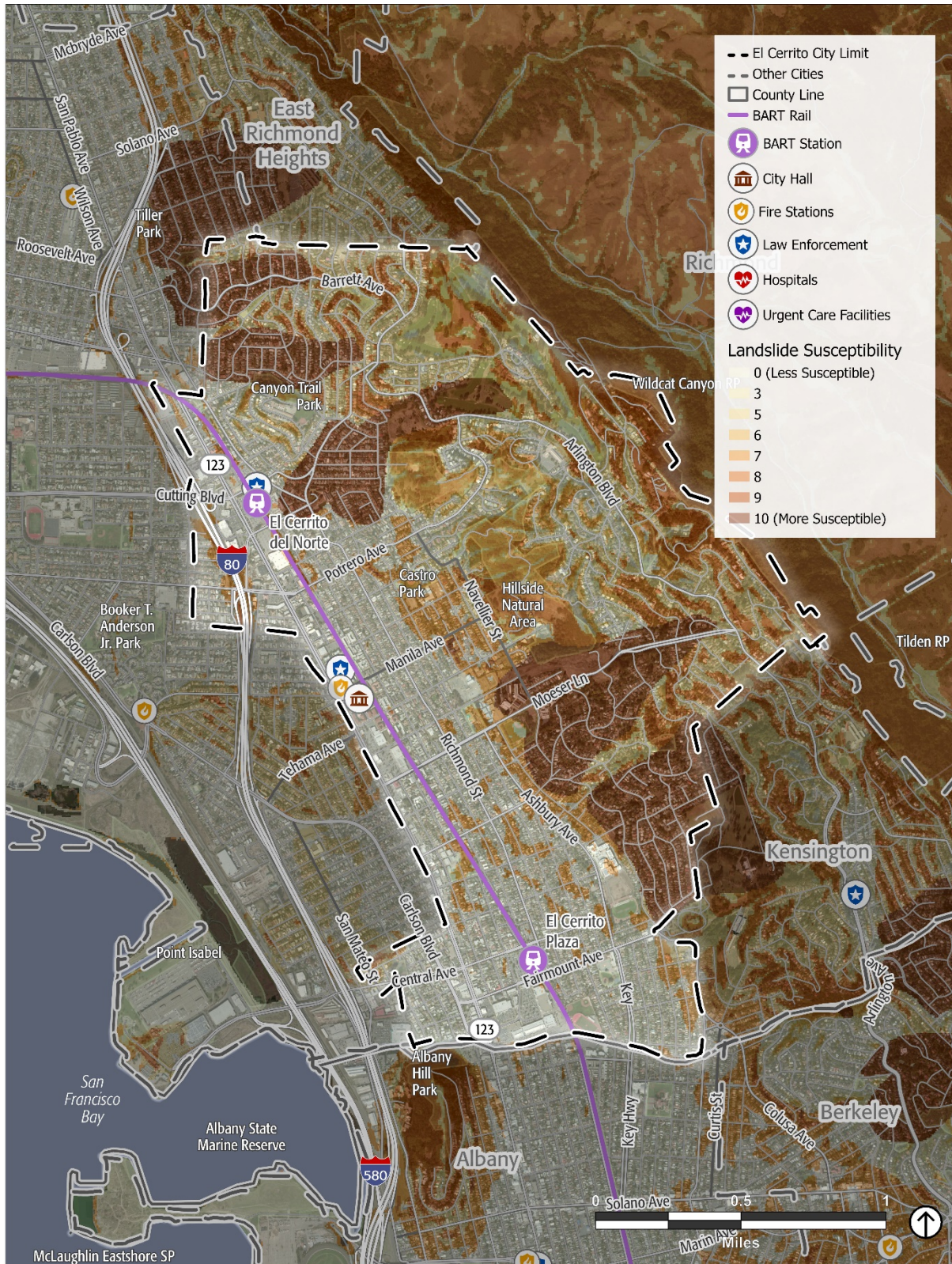
Climate change is expected to result in more precipitation extremes. More frequent periods of heavy rainfall could cause an increase in the number of landslides or make landslides larger than normal. Increased wildfire frequency can destabilize hillsides due to loss of vegetation and change soil composition, which can

contribute to greater runoff and erosion.

Climate change will also cause more frequent and extreme droughts, which dries out soil. When heavy precipitation does occur (another expected effect of climate change), the soil cannot absorb as much water, which creates higher levels of runoff, potentially leading to landslides and mudflows. The combination of more frequent drought and intense rainfall combined with increased wildfire hazards are likely to cause more mudslides and landslides.

El Cerrito is also susceptible to hazards related to erosion, or the geological process in which rocks and soil are worn away by natural forces such as water or wind, causing the soil to deteriorate. The eroded particles can end up in local creeks and San Francisco Bay, creating water quality problems. The eastern hillsides of the City are particularly at risk due to their steep slopes, making them more vulnerable to erosion. Erosion can damage roads, bridges, buildings, and other structures by weakening the foundations of buildings and structures, causing washouts during heavy rains, and increasing the risk of landslides.

Figure S-5 Landslide Susceptibility Areas



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWise 2024, California Geological Survey 2018, CalDES 2019, 2023

Goals and Policies

Goal 1: Mitigate risk from geologic and seismic hazards.

- Policy 1.1: Geotechnical Review.** Require geotechnical studies for development proposals in areas at risk from geologic and seismic hazards (see Figure S-1, Local Fault Lines; Figure S-3, Liquefaction Areas; and Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas), in accordance with City procedures. Such studies should evaluate the extent of geotechnical hazards, optimum location for structures, the advisability of special structural requirements, and the feasibility and desirability of a proposed facility in a specified location.
- Policy 1.2: Erosion Control.** Provide appropriate control measures in conjunction with proposed development in areas susceptible to erosion, including an erosion control plan and revegetation plan as part of grading permits.
- Policy 1.3: Seismic Safety of New Development.** Require new structures to be designed to contemporary standards for seismic safety. Require that new City-owned critical facilities be constructed to the highest possible standard of seismic safety.
- Policy 1.4: Seismic Safety of Existing Development.** Assist occupants and owners of existing structures in identifying seismic risks to their structures and provide support in obtaining appropriate seismic retrofit measures. Evaluate all City-owned facilities to determine seismic risks and implement appropriate seismic retrofit measures.
- Policy 1.5: Seismic Safety of Utilities.** Encourage local gas, water, and sewer providers to review and retrofit their main distribution pipes.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MATERIALS

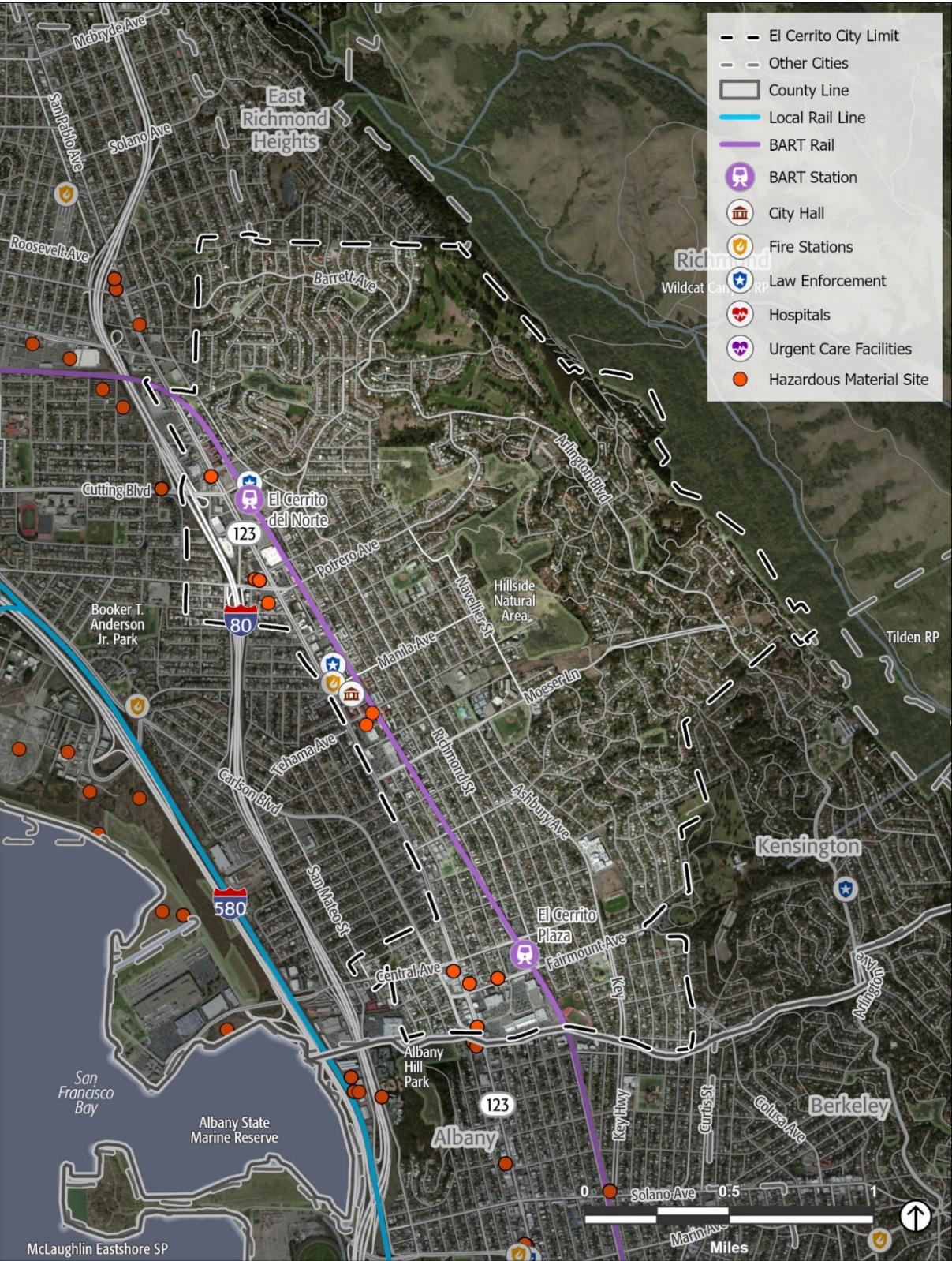
Hazardous materials are materials that pose a significant risk to public safety or to human or environmental health. These include toxic chemicals, flammable or corrosive materials, petroleum products, and unstable or dangerously reactive materials, which may be stored, transported, or processed at dry cleaners, gas stations, automotive repair centers, and similar light industrial facilities in El Cerrito. The release or spill of bulk hazardous materials could result in fire, explosion, toxic clouds, or direct contamination of water, people, and property. The El Cerrito Fire Department, Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division, and Contra Costa Environmental Health Division are responsible for hazardous materials accidents in El Cerrito.

Several State agencies have jurisdiction over hazardous materials sites and oversee the monitoring of hazardous materials and waste facilities. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are responsible for different types of sites. Facilities that use or store hazardous materials, such as industrial plants, laboratories, and storage facilities, must comply with regulations enforced by the DTSC, which ensures proper handling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous substances. Cleanup sites, which include contaminated properties and hazardous waste disposal areas, fall under the oversight of both RWQCB and DTSC. The RWQCB focuses on preventing hazardous materials from contaminating water resources, conducting site inspections, and enforcing water protection regulations. The DTSC maintains records of these contaminated sites, supervises cleanup efforts,

and ensures compliance with hazardous materials laws. Both agencies coordinate with local governments, businesses, and other regulatory bodies to ensure the safe management of hazardous materials and the remediation of contaminated sites.

Figure S-6 identifies potential sites with hazardous materials. DTSC typically acts as the lead agency for sites involving toxic substances and remediation, and the RWQCB leads issues concerning water quality. Additionally, the Contra Costa Environmental Health Division serves as the oversight agency for sites within the City. A review of the leaking underground storage tank list produced by the RWQCB and the DTSC EnviroStor databases indicates 33 cleanup sites (2 open and 31 case closed sites) and 7 cleanup program sites (5 open and 2 case-closed sites). ^{ii,iii} Open cleanup sites for hazardous materials are still undergoing investigation, remediation, or monitoring to address contamination; closed sites have met regulatory cleanup standards and no longer require active remediation.

Figure S-6 Hazardous Materials Sites



Since 1970, there is no recorded history of roadway or rail hazardous materials incidents in El Cerrito.^{iv} While El Cerrito has not experienced such incidents, the broader region has seen hazardous materials transportation incidents in the past, including cities adjacent to El Cerrito. Notably, Berkeley has recorded two roadway incidents; Richmond has recorded 29 roadway and 45 rail incidents; and San Pablo has recorded 21 roadway incidents.^v These events, which involve the release of hazardous materials during transportation by roadway or rail transit, can pose a threat to public health and safety, property, and the environment. Hazardous materials in nearby communities may affect El Cerrito, including through indirect impacts such as closing regional highways. It is possible that these events may occur in El Cerrito and surrounding communities in the future.

Climate change is unlikely to substantially affect hazardous materials transportation incidents. However, increases in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards, such as floods, landslides, and severe storms, may create a greater risk of hazardous material releases during these events. Beyond transportation incidents, climate change increases the risk of hazardous material releases from industrial facilities, storage sites, and other hazardous material locations. Extreme weather can stress infrastructure, causing equipment failures, leaks, or corrosion. Flooding may submerge storage tanks, leading to spills or contamination. Power outages can disrupt cooling systems, heightening explosion risks. Wildfires can ignite hazardous materials, releasing toxins into the environment.

Goals and Policies

Goal 2: Minimize potential damage from existing hazardous materials and prevent future hazardous materials contamination.

- Policy 2.1: Potential Hazardous Soils Conditions of New Development.** Evaluate new development on potentially contaminated sites (such as older fill sites, historical auto service uses, industrial uses, or areas where hazardous materials may have been used, as mapped in **Figure S-6, Hazardous Materials Sites**), and require that development proposals contain adequate measures to mitigate hazardous material exposure prior to development approvals.
- Policy 2.2: Hazardous Soil Conditions in Inundation Hazard Areas.** Work with Contra Costa Health Services and other regional partners to identify hazardous materials sites where proximity to mapped flood hazard zones, sea level rise inundation areas, and other water-based hazards that may spread hazardous materials. Prioritize remediation of these sites.
- Policy 2.3: Hazardous Materials at Municipal Facilities.** Ensure that hazardous materials owned or stored by the City are managed and disposed of appropriately to protect human and environmental health and safety.
- Policy 2.4: Hazardous Materials Storage and Disposal.** Require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials in accordance with all State, federal, and local laws and regulations to prevent leakage, potential explosions, fires, or the escape of harmful gases, and to prevent individually innocuous materials from combining to form hazardous substances, especially at the time of disposal.
- Policy 2.5: Hazardous Materials Usage in Construction.** Require and enforce effective mitigation measures to minimize exposure to toxic and hazardous materials during building renovations and demolitions.
- Policy 2.6: Hazardous Materials Public Education.** Provide information to the community regarding the potential health hazards posed by hazardous materials and possible ways to reduce hazardous materials use and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

FLOOD AND INUNDATION HAZARDS

Flooding

Flooding is when water covers normally dry land, often from poor drainage during heavy precipitation or when a water body overflows its banks. Floods are one of the most frequent natural hazards in El Cerrito and among the costliest natural disasters nationwide in terms of human hardship and economic loss. Floods cause substantial damage to structures, landscapes, and utilities as well as life and safety issues.

Historically, El Cerrito has been at risk of flooding primarily during the winter and spring when stream systems swell with heavy rain. Occasionally, flash flooding results from intense rainfall. In urban areas, flash flooding can be a serious problem due to lack of vegetation and replacement of groundcover with impermeable surfaces such as roads, driveways, and parking lots. These hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the soil, leading to rapid runoff that overwhelms storm drain infrastructure and natural waterways. Without proper drainage, excess water accumulates quickly, increasing the likelihood of localized flooding. Other impacts connected with flooding and associated stormwater runoff include erosion, sedimentation, habitat disruption, and increased pollution in waterways. These effects can degrade water quality, harm aquatic ecosystems, and contribute to long-term environmental degradation.

Areas at an elevated risk of flooding are divided into 100- and 500-year flood zones. A 100-year flood zone has a 1 percent chance of experiencing a major flood in any given year, and a 500-year flood zone has a 0.2 percent

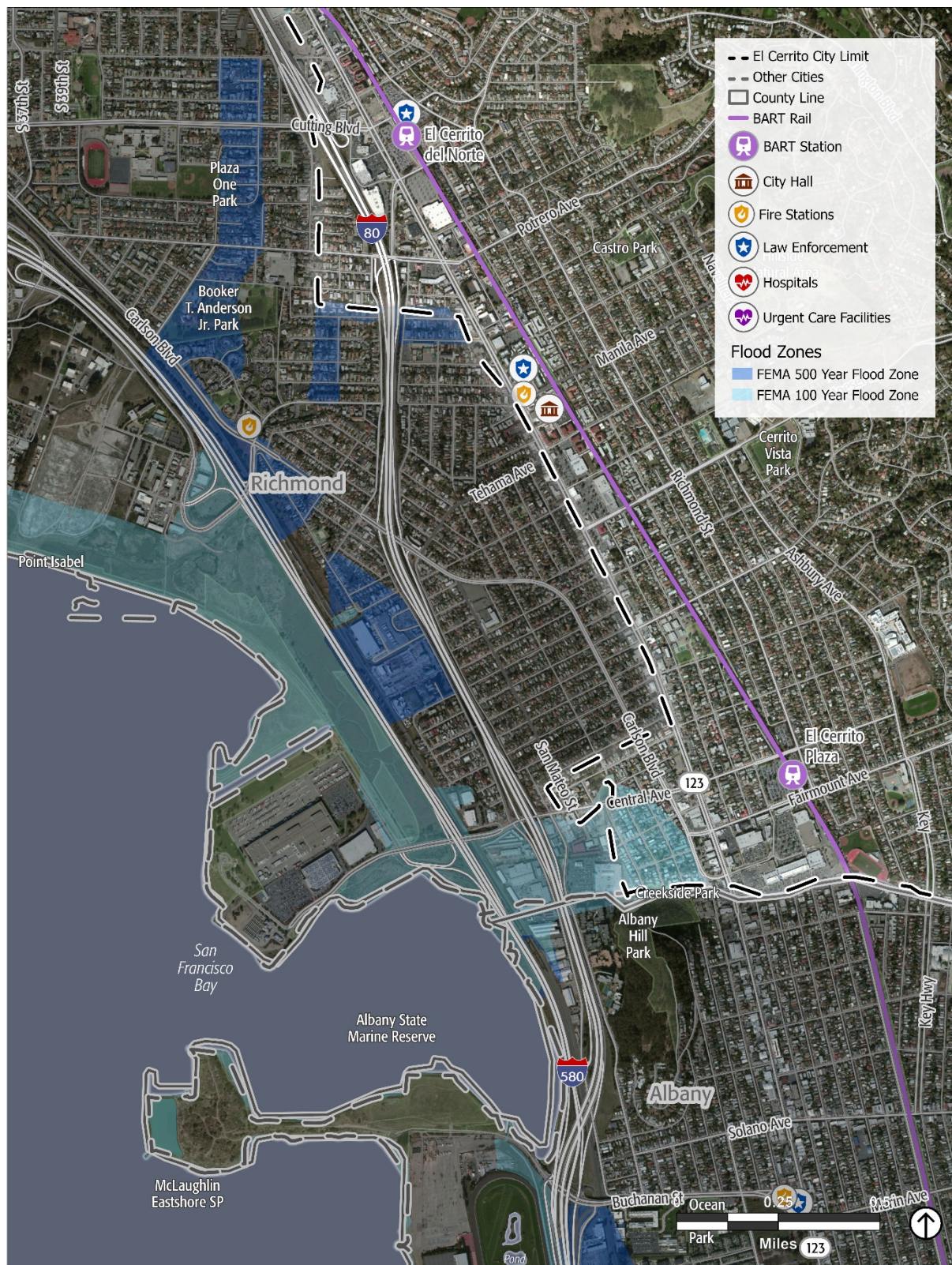
chance of flooding in any given year. The 100-year floodplain in El Cerrito is west of San Pablo Avenue and south of Central Avenue in the southern portion of the City. The City does not have any areas in the 500-year floodplain. However, it is important to note that flooding can still occur outside of these mapped flood zones, especially in low-lying areas with poor drainage. **Figure S-7** shows the mapped flood zones in and around El Cerrito.

Scientists expect that climate change will cause greater shifts in annual rainfall in El Cerrito. This shift toward more extreme events is likely to result in increases in flooding from intense storm systems as well as an increase in regional drought conditions. These intense systems can drop substantial volumes of precipitation over a short period and cause flooding. Because of this, floods are expected to happen more often in El Cerrito, and climate change may expand the parts of the City that are considered prone to flooding. More frequent droughts are also likely to dry out soil, hardening it and increasing the volume of runoff when rainfall does return. **One extreme flooding scenario developed by scientists is known as ARkStorm (and its updated ARkStorm 2.0 model). These scenarios simulate the impacts of prolonged, high-intensity storms comparable to the “Great Flood” of 1862, which inundated much of California. ARkStorm 2.0 imagines a period of extreme rainfall lasting up to a month that would cause extensive flooding across the state, although particularly in the Central Valley. Such events would likely overwhelm flood-protection systems, trigger hundreds of landslides, disrupt power, water, and transportation infrastructure, and result in economic losses estimated at more than \$700 billion statewide.^{vi} Rainfall totals in El Cerrito could be as high as 23 inches over the course**

of the event, with an average rainfall of slightly less than an inch each day, although some days are modeled to see as many as four inches of rainfall in El Cerrito.

The scenario underscores the potential for extreme precipitation events to impact large geographic areas simultaneously, thereby limiting the availability of mutual aid and compounding recovery challenges. This research highlights the importance of local flood preparedness and mitigation, particularly as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

Figure S-7 Flood Hazard Zones



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (AAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017, CalOES 2019, 2023

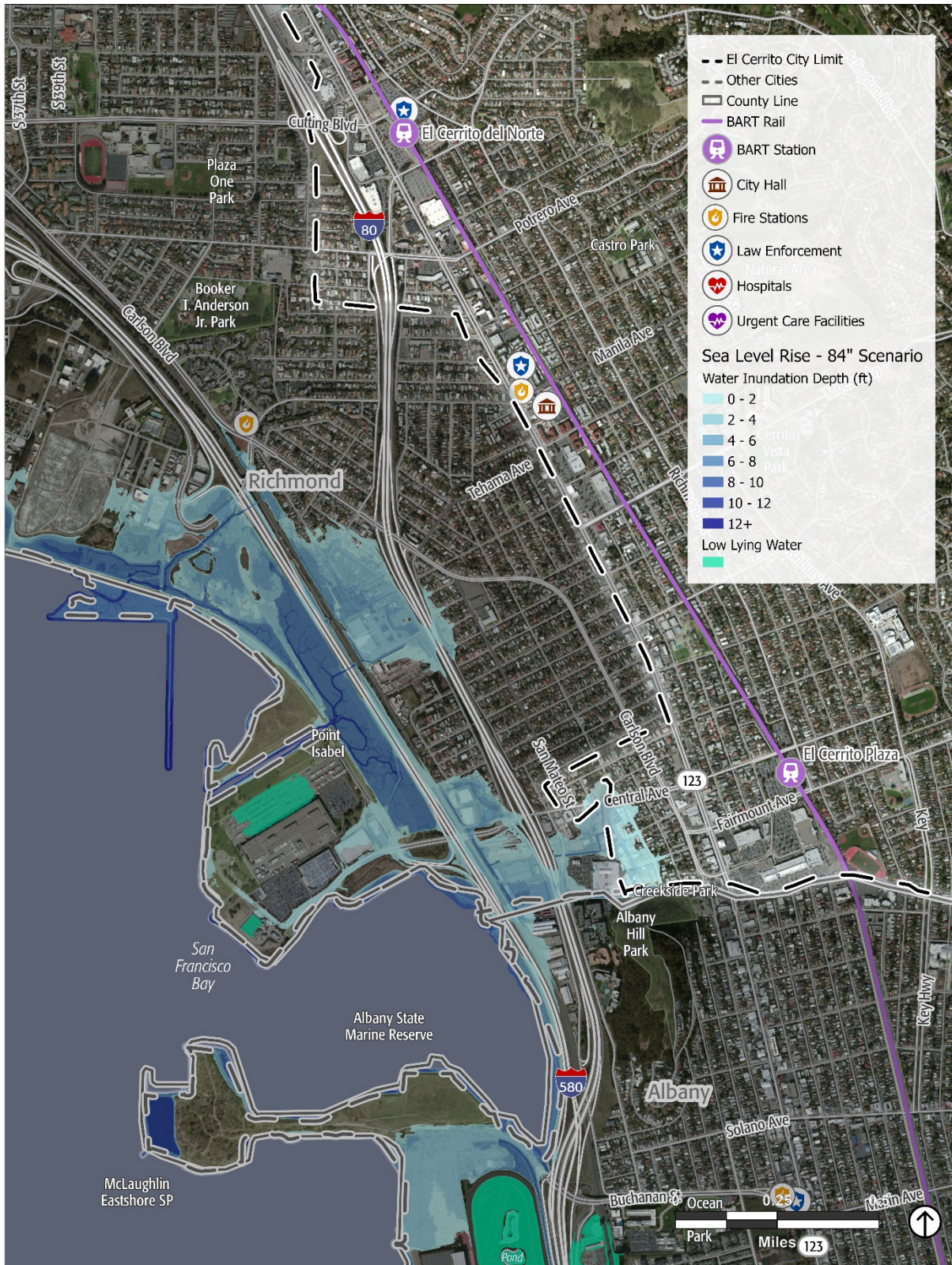
Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise is an increase in the ocean's surface height relative to the land and a direct result of climate change. Sea level rise has the potential to inundate homes, businesses, and infrastructure near shorelines. Along the shoreline, sea levels are projected to rise by as much as 3 feet (36 inches) by 2070 and 6.6 feet (79.2 inches) by 2100.^{vii} However, it is possible that sea levels could rise faster than these projections, which has happened historically. **Figure S-8** shows the permanent flooding that may occur by 2100.

Rising sea levels can cause the shoreline to flood more frequently and severely during storms or king tide events. For example, a storm that has a one in five chance of occurring in a given year (known as a five-year storm) can create a temporary increase in sea levels of approximately two feet. Because sea level rise will cause ocean levels to be higher during normal conditions, shoreline floods will expand and reach further onto land. **Figure S-9** shows the additional temporary flooding that may occur by 2100 from strong storms or high tides.

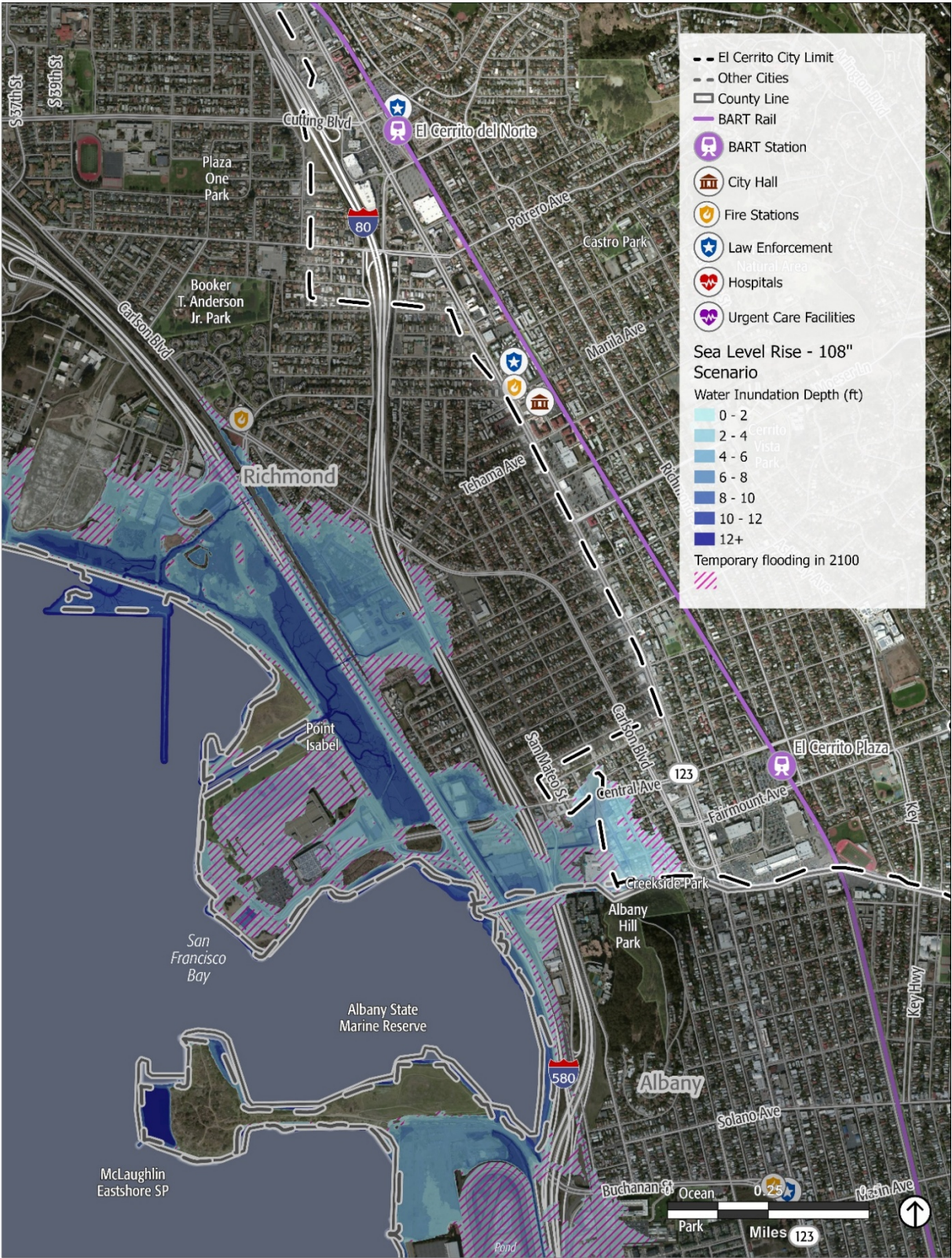
Historical records from the San Francisco tidal gauge show that the sea level in the San Francisco Bay rose eight inches from 1897 to 2006. Sea levels are expected to continue to rise over this century, likely faster than they have historically. Rising sea levels will increase the impacts of other coastal hazards, such as shoreline erosion and tsunamis.

Figure S-8 Sea Level Rise Projections by 2100 for Permanent Flooding



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (AAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017

Figure S-9 Sea Level Rise Projections by 2100 for Permanent and Temporary Flooding



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWorks 2024, Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Area Sea Level Rise & Mapping Project (JAECOM, BCDC, MTC, BATA) 2017

Goals and Policies

Goal 3: Reduce risks from flooding and sea level rise and provide timely and effective flood response.

- Policy 3.1: Flood-responsive Siting of New Critical Facilities.** Prohibit the construction of new critical facilities and infrastructure, including hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communication facilities in mapped flood hazard and sea level rise inundation zones (see **Figures S-7, S-8, and S-9**).
- Policy 3.2: Flood-Proofing New Construction.** Require that new and significantly renovated buildings and structures in the mapped 100-year flood zones be constructed to a higher standard of flood protection to improve resilience, as required by the California Building Code and in accordance with the City's Floodplain Management ordinance.
- Policy 3.3: Flood Hazards from New Construction.** Require new development and significant redevelopment projects, greater than 5,000 square feet of conditioned space, to prepare drainage studies to assess stormwater runoff impacts on the local storm drain system, and to develop recommended detention and drainage facilities as needed to ensure that increased risks of flooding on to neighboring properties do not result from development.
- Policy 3.4: Flood Hazards to Existing Development.** Help property owners identify qualified service providers and obtain financial incentives to floodproof existing buildings. Continue to evaluate new opportunities to help reduce flood hazards to existing development, including development at risk of current or future flooding not in the mapped 100-year floodplain.
- Policy 3.5: Maintenance for the City's Storm Drainage Facilities.** Continue to enforce existing laws prohibiting the dumping of debris, fill, or other waste materials, and illicit discharges into storm drains, creeks and channels, and the littering of garbage. Continue to ensure that local storm drainage facilities are sufficiently maintained. Pursue viable funding sources for local and regional drainage improvements for adequate flood control and protection.
- Policy 3.6: Creek Maintenance Education.** Continue to educate local property owners about their responsibilities to maintain creeks, storm drainpipes, and open channels on private property, including regularly clearing trash and other debris.
- Policy 3.7: Natural Stormwater Management Solutions.** Continue to identify opportunities and funding sources to expand the City's green infrastructure network, as defined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Update Chapter 8.40 of the City's Municipal Code, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control, to require new development to

incorporate natural stormwater management solutions on-site as a condition of approval for discretionary projects, as appropriate.

- Policy 3.8: Permeable Paving and Green Infrastructure.** Continue to require that new development complies with Contra Costa Clean Water Program Stormwater C.3 Guidebook requirements for treatment of stormwater. Encourage new development to reduce impervious areas and use permeable surfaces in paving and landscaping. Promote the use of green infrastructure, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and vegetated swales, to manage stormwater and enhance groundwater infiltration as outlined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Include permeable surfaces and green infrastructure into City construction and improvement projects.
- Policy 3.9: Continuity of public facilities during flooding.** Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding through structural retrofits, flood management, operational improvements, and other appropriate actions.
- Policy 3.10: Sea Level Rise Coordination.** Coordinate with local, regional, State, and federal agencies to plan for the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and groundwater intrusion in the community.
- Policy 3.11: Flood Response.** Coordinate with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and neighboring jurisdictions to address regional flood hazards.
- Policy 3.12: Public Flood Preparedness Information.** Improve public access to information about flood risks, preparedness, and response steps. Revise and expand on existing resources, such as those available on the City's website, to help residents and property owners understand what to do before, during, and after flooding events.
- Policy 3.13: Adopt-A-Drain Program.** Explore the development and funding of an Adopt-A-Drain program. This initiative would encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to voluntarily adopt storm drains and commit to their regular maintenance by removing debris, leaves, and litter to ensure proper stormwater flow.
- Policy 3.14: Central Avenue and I-80 Resilience.** Support efforts to improve flood protection and long-term resilience to sea level rise for Central Avenue and the I-80 interchange area. Ensure flood protection and climate adaptation initiatives prioritize El Cerrito's transportation needs, including emergency access and evacuation needs.

FIRE HAZARDS

Fire hazards include wildfires, urban fires, and structural fires. Historically, the wildfire season extended from early summer through late fall of each year, during the hotter, dryer months, although it is increasingly a hazard that can occur year-round. Fire conditions arise from a combination of high temperatures, dry conditions, plentiful fuel (such as dry plants or other debris), and high winds.

Wildfires

Wildfires start on hillsides, forest, scrub, and grassland environments, but may easily spread into developed areas next to or mixed in with these ecosystems, and from there may spread into more developed urban areas. Fuel, weather, and topography are primary factors that affect how wildfires spread. In and around El Cerrito, natural habitats provide highly flammable fuel that is conducive to wildfires.

Wildfires can occur in areas of natural vegetation, especially forests, brush and scrublands, and grasslands. When vegetation dries out and becomes highly flammable, especially during hot, dry, and windy conditions, it creates a wildfire risk. Historically, wildfires have been most common in late summer and fall, but they have become increasingly a year-round event. Wildfires most often ignite from human activities—such as sparks from vehicles contacting dry vegetation, downed power lines, or electrical equipment failures—or from natural causes like lightning. They may also be set deliberately. The hilly areas of eastern El Cerrito and the undeveloped lands of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park to the east, outside City limits, face an elevated wildfire risk.

There are no records of historic fires within the City or in the immediate vicinity. However, the surrounding East Bay Hills do have a history of wildfire events. One of the most destructive was the Tunnel Fire, also known as the “Oakland Hills Firestorm,” which occurred on October 19, 1991. The fire started on private property near the Caldecott Tunnel, rapidly spreading and burning 1,520 acres. It resulted in 25 fatalities, 150 injuries, and the destruction of approximately 3,000 homes. Other significant events include the 1970 Fish Fire in Oakland, which spread through the East Bay Hills, and the 1923 Berkeley Fire. This fire destroyed about 640 structures, and highlighted vulnerabilities such as insufficient fire breaks and limited water supply in the hills.

Within El Cerrito, the Hillside Natural Area has experienced numerous smaller fires over the past two decades, most ignited by human activity and contained less than two acres. Examples include a 2010 fire near Tamalpais Avenue, a 2012 fire at the entrance to the Recycling Center, and a 2020 lightning-caused fire south of Moeser Lane. Although these incidents were small, they demonstrate the ongoing fire risk within the Hillside Natural Area, particularly in grassland areas near heavily traveled access points. More recent wildfires have also occurred in the region, including two wildfires along Highway 4 east of Hercules in August 2022. Changing climate conditions are expected to increase the wildfire risk in and around El Cerrito. Warmer temperatures brought on by climate change can exacerbate drought conditions. Droughts can kill or dry out plants, creating more fuel for wildfires. Increased winds will result in more erratic fire behavior, making fires harder to predict and contain. Warmer temperatures are also expected to occur later in the year, extending the wildfire season, which is likely to

begin earlier in the year and extend later than it has historically.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) establishes Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), designating each as moderate, high, or very high severity. El Cerrito has 329 acres (14 percent of the City's land area) in the very high severity zone, 147 acres (6 percent) in the high severity zone, and 146 acres (6 percent) in the moderate severity zone. Various State requirements apply in some of these zones, including fire-safe standards for development or redevelopment activities, additional review and approval processes for new development, establishing and maintaining defensible space around buildings and facilities, and disclosing the presence of wildfire hazards during real estate transactions.

To reflect the threats posed by wildfires, the City has adopted local ordinances and programs to reduce wildfire risk. In July 2025, the City amended Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code to adopt the most recently available State-recommended FHSZ maps, and to establish procedures for defensible space and home hardening inspections within the high and very high zones. The ordinance can be accessed here:

https://library.municode.com/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT8HESA_CH8.30FIHASEZODESPHOHARE. Current maps are available at CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program, at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program>. Future updates to the Safety Element will incorporate new mapping data as it becomes available.

State law, established by Assembly Bill (AB) 38 in 2019, requires that properties in high and very high FHSZs be inspected by the El Cerrito Fire Department prior to the close of escrow. A report is issued confirming compliance or identifying corrective actions. Sellers must disclose the results of these inspections, along with any home hardening improvements or vulnerabilities, to buyers before the close of escrow.

While the City already had a robust vegetation management program, this action updated vegetation management standards (including "Zone Zero" standards for the areas within five feet of a building) and repealed outdated roofing requirements for properties in very high FHSZs. It also created a local requirement for owners of real property in high or very high FHSZs to have a home hardening and defensible space inspection completed and to disclose the result of that inspection to buyers prior to the time of sale per State law. These efforts better align the City of El Cerrito with state law, decrease vulnerability to wildfires, and assist residents in maintaining home insurance.

CAL FIRE designates these zones for areas where local agencies have responsibility for fire protection (known as local responsibility areas, or LRAs), and areas where the State is responsible, even if local authorities provide fire protection (known as state responsibility areas, or SRAs). El Cerrito is an LRA, and the unincorporated areas east of the City are a mix of LRAs and SRAs. **Figure S-10** shows the FHSZs in and around El Cerrito. The City's Community View/GIS, available at the following link:

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/154/GIS-Maps>, provides a user-friendly way to view property information, zoning, and land use patterns, and

illustrates how development patterns are aligned with fire safety considerations.

The City's land use and housing plans, including the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and the Housing Element, intentionally concentrate new growth and higher-intensity development outside of the very high FHSZ. This approach reduces risks to people, property, and critical infrastructure. This strategy also helps protect natural hillsides and provides a buffer between residential areas and high fire-risk landscapes.

Wildland-Urban Interface Area

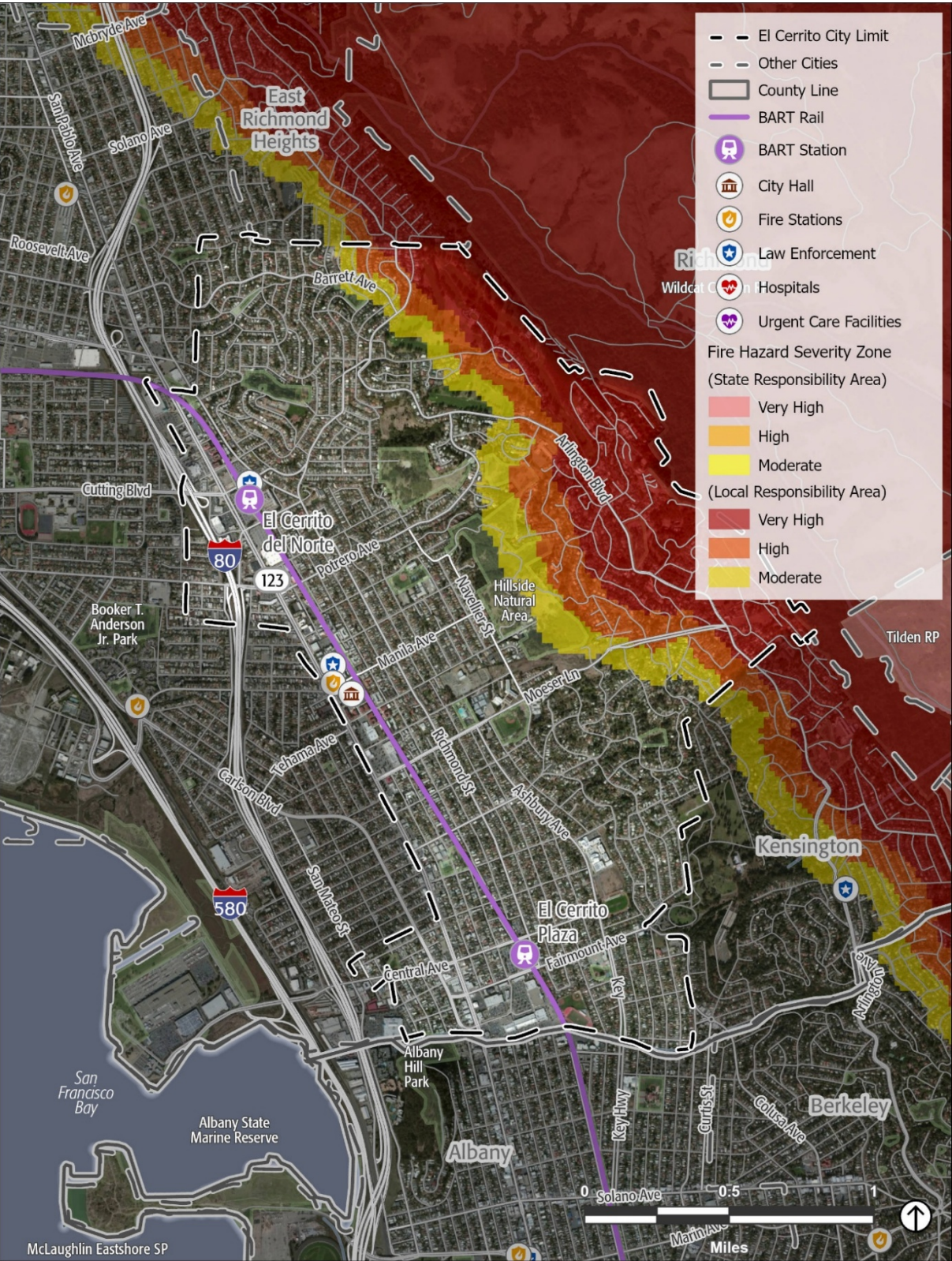
In addition to the FHSZ designations by CAL FIRE, the City contains areas identified as a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is an area where buildings (e.g., housing) and infrastructure (e.g., cell towers and water supply facilities) mix with flammable wildland vegetation, allowing wildland fires to spread to buildings and structures easily.

There are three distinct zones in the WUI.

1. The **intermix zone** contains housing development or improved parcels interspersed in an area dominated by wildland vegetation subject to wildfire.
2. The **interface zone** contains dense housing next to vegetation that can burn in a wildfire but is not dominated by wildland vegetation.
3. The **influence zone** contains wildfire-susceptible vegetation within 1.5 miles from the WUI or wildland-urban intermix zones.

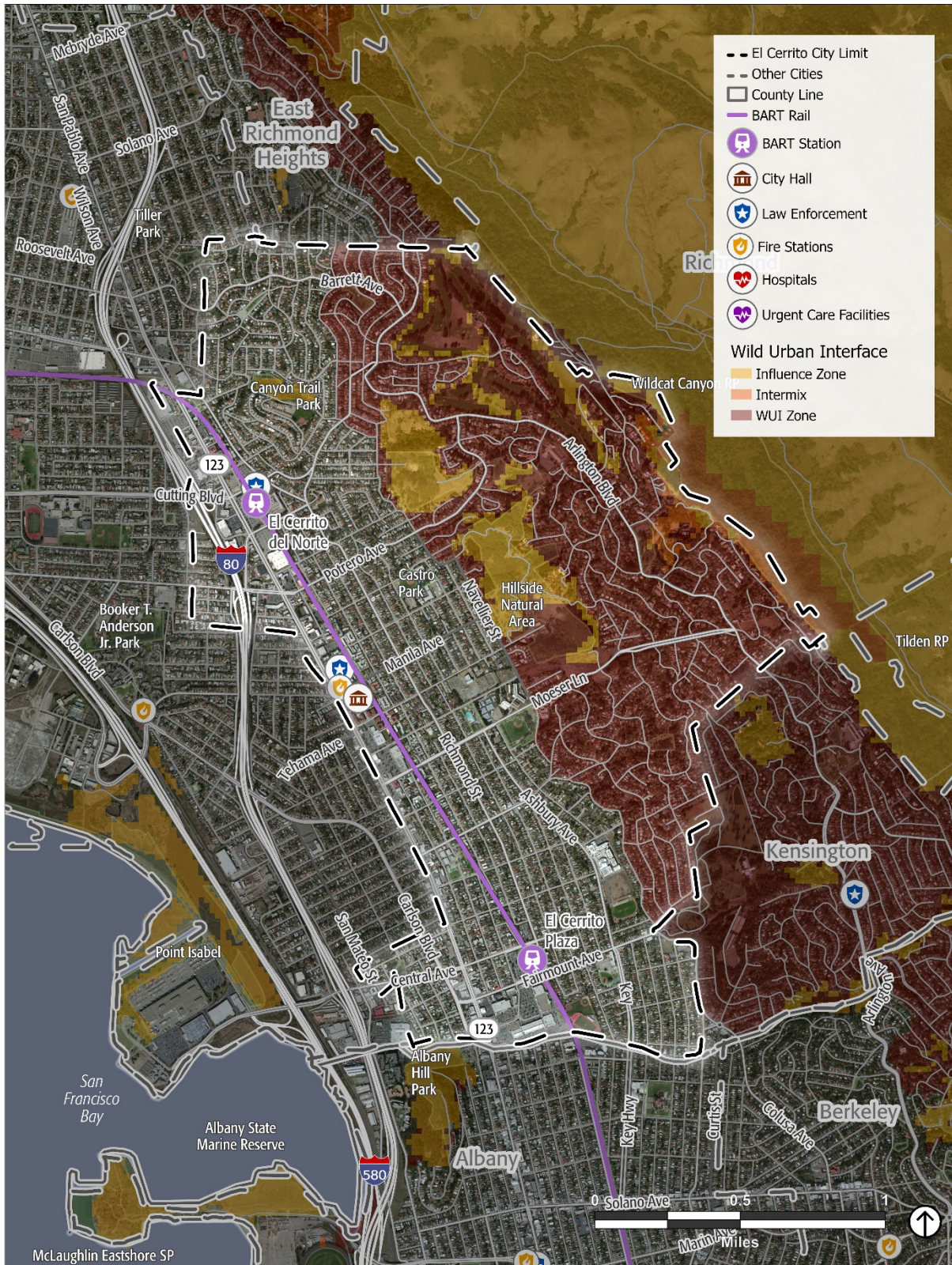
In the WUI area, efforts to prevent ignitions and limit wildfire loss hinge on hardening structures and creating defensible space through a multifaceted approach that includes engineering, enforcement, education, emergency response, and economic incentives. As shown in **Figure S-11**, most of eastern El Cerrito lies within the WUI zone. The WUI zones shown in this map are not formally established by the State or City and are not associated with any regulatory requirements. They are included in this Safety Element to help the City and community understand wildfire risks in different parts of El Cerrito. These zones may also inform insurance rates, evacuation planning, and other associated factors.

Figure S-10 Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid Transit, 2020; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal FIRE, 2025; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033;

Figure S-11 Wildland-Urban Interface Areas



Source: ESRI 2024, BART 2020, PlaceWise 2024, CalFIRE 2019, CalOES 2019, 2023

Structural Fires

El Cerrito is also at risk from structural fires. Structural fires are often due to faulty wiring, mechanical equipment, or combustible construction materials in the built environment. The absence of fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems often exacerbates the damage associated with a structural fire. Structural fires are largely caused by human accidents, although deliberate fires (arson) may cause some events. Older buildings lacking modern fire safety features may face greater risk of fire damage.

Building construction standards help reduce the risk of structural fires. Every proposed construction project in El Cerrito is reviewed by the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department for compliance with the most recent version of the California Fire Code adopted by the City, including City amendments to the code.

Fire Protection

The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department provides fire protection to all areas of El Cerrito. There are no areas in the city that lack fire protection service. The Fire Department operates two fire stations in the City of El Cerrito and one in the unincorporated community of Kensington:

- Station 51 at 10900 San Pablo Avenue
- Station 52 at 1520 Arlington Boulevard, El Cerrito
- Station 55 at 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington

In addition to local fire stations, the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department participates in automatic and mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, Contra Costa County agencies, CAL FIRE, and other regional, State,

and federal partners. These agreements ensure that personnel and equipment can be deployed quickly across jurisdictions to respond to large-scale natural disasters, including wildfires.

Goals and Policies

Goal 4: Reduce El Cerrito's risk of wildfire and provide timely and effective fire response.

- Policy 4.1: Fire-Resilient Existing Development.** Work with property owners and building occupants to raise awareness about potential building and landscape modifications to improve wildfire resilience and work to obtain funding to help property owners make these improvements, in accordance with applicable State requirements and the City's local ordinances and Vegetation Management Program.
- Policy 4.2: Fire-Retardant Landscaping.** Require the use of fire-retardant vegetation for landscaping in new development in high fire hazard areas. Encourage the use of fire-retardant vegetation in all development City-wide. Fire-retardant vegetation, also known as fire-resistant plants, refers to plants that do not readily ignite from flames or other ignition sources and, if exposed to fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire's fuel or intensity.
- Policy 4.3: Hillside Natural Area.** Manage vegetation in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fire hazards in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. The Fire Department and Public Works Department shall share responsibility for implementation. Pursue viable funding sources to implement measures identified in the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan that promote wildfire resilience.
- Policy 4.4: Hazardous Tree Removal on Private Property.** Help residents access resources for removing hazardous trees on private property that threaten residential buildings and critical facilities. Distribute information about available programs and facilitate efforts to connect property owners with external funding sources, local organizations, nonprofits, or state agencies that can provide resources or assistance.
- Policy 4.5: Urban Forest Management for Wildfire Risk Reduction.** Maintain and manage El Cerrito's urban forest to reduce wildfire risk in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Wildfire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan.
- Policy 4.6: Fuel Breaks.** Require property owners of existing and new development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland-Urban Interface (as shown on **Figure S-10** and **Figure S-11**) to create and maintain fuel breaks and defensible space around structures and along roadways that is free from dry brush and other flammable materials and to comply with the 100-foot Defensible Space Requirement in the Public Resources Code Section 4291 and Government Code Section 51182 for fuel modification to reduce fire danger.
- Policy 4.7: Regional Wildfire Prevention.** Continue to collaborate with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, neighboring

jurisdictions, the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, the El Cerrito and Diablo Fire Safe Councils, Hills Emergency Forum, and local community organizations to regularly review regional wildfire hazards and vulnerabilities and develop regional wildfire abatement and response strategies.

Policy 4.8: Wildfire Risk from Energy Infrastructure. Coordinate with PG&E to reduce wildfire risk related to electrical infrastructure, including:

- Maintenance of fire breaks around electrical infrastructure.
- Installation of covered conductors to reduce ignition risk from contact with vegetation or debris.
- Use of Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings that automatically shut off power in high-risk conditions.
- Vegetation management beyond minimum clearance requirements in high-risk areas.
- Implementation of Public Safety Power Shutoffs during extreme fire weather events, with coordination to minimize community disruption.
- Undergrounding electricity infrastructure in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy 4.9: Firefighting Infrastructure. Facilitate the timely and effective provision of firefighting services by:

1. Expanding the availability of fire hydrants in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. This may include installation of sufficiently sized hydrants in areas identified in the Hillside Natural Area.
2. Coordinating with the East Bay Municipal District to ensure that adequate peak load water supplies are available to fight fires. Redundancies in the water storage and capacity distribution network should be considered and implemented in those areas of the City where ground failure could result in breaks to both the water and gas mains, with the potential for significant conflagrations. Ensure that hydrants remain accessible for fire response.
3. Requiring that development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones contain visible street signage, such as reflective signs that clearly indicate street names, addresses, and directional arrows for emergency response,
4. Studying and establishing, as appropriate, Red Flag Day parking restrictions to ensure unobstructed access for emergency vehicles.
5. Requiring that new development provide roadways of adequate width to support emergency response vehicles.
6. Requiring that new development provide adequate water pressure for firefighting.

7. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development.

Policy 4.10: Sufficient Firefighting Services. Regularly review funding, staffing levels, fire station location, equipment availability, water availability, and availability of other key resources of the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department to ensure that the Department is keeping pace with changes in local population.

Policy 4.11: Fire Protection for New Development. Ensure new development is located where fire and emergency services have sufficient capacity to meet project needs and that existing development maintains its current level of protection service. In addition to adequate Fire Department staffing and resources, this may include increased requirements for fire protection systems for residential units, such as roof sprinkler systems or other site-specific fire resilience features.

Policy 4.12: Post-Fire Development. Require redevelopment after wildfires to meet current California Building Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Standards to reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazards through site preparation, layout design, fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-retarding building design and materials. Re-evaluate development standards after a wildfire to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices. In addition, regularly review and update local development standards to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices, independent of local fire events.

Policy 4.13: Post-Fire Displacement. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and local homeless service and emergency support providers to help residents displaced from wildfires to secure housing and other necessary services.

Policy 4.14: Post-Fire Slope Stabilization. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to stabilize and vegetate burned slopes after a wildfire.

Policy 4.15: Wildfire Health Impacts. Work with the Contra Costa County Public Health Division and health service providers to plan for increased levels of illness and injury due to wildfire and to distribute N95 masks during periods of poor air quality.

Policy 4.16: New Development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Encourage new residential development to occur outside of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones identified by CAL FIRE (see **Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones**). Where new construction or significant redevelopment is proposed in such areas, require review by the Community Development Department and El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department prior to the issuance of development permits. Plans for proposed development in such areas shall include, at a minimum:

- Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies.

- Development and maintenance of defensible space and shaded fuel breaks.
- Development of fire protection plans that include at a minimum:
 - Risk analysis;
 - Fire response capabilities;
 - Fire safety requirements, including defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance;
 - Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification;
 - Wildfire education, maintenance, and limitations; and
 - Evacuation planning.
- Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, fire equipment access, and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3, commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).
- Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs.
- Location and source of anticipated water supply.

Policy 4.17: Fire Hazards Response Support. Facilitate firefighting in low-visibility conditions by requiring measures such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).

Policy 4.18: Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment. Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).

Policy 4.19: Retrofitting City-Owned Roadways. Identify existing public and private roadways in fire hazard severity zones that are not in compliance with current fire safety regulations, to the extent resources are available. Work at retrofitting and maintaining City-owned roadways as needed to meet current standards and encourage private property owners to do the same, to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints.

These standards include road standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).

Policy 4.20: Firewise Communities. Work with the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council to publicize the Firewise USA program to neighborhoods in areas with high fire risks and support neighborhoods in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface in pursuing designation as Firewise Communities.

EXTREME HEAT AND SEVERE WEATHER

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest climate-related hazards nationwide; the Center for Disease Control and Prevention noted a rise in heat-related deaths—from 297 in 2004 to over 2,300 in 2023 .^{viii, ix} The rising frequency and intensity of extreme heat events pose significant public health concerns, especially in areas such as El Cerrito that have historically experienced milder temperatures and are home to residents without access to climate-controlled environments. Warmer temperatures and the urban heat island effect can exacerbate extreme heat impacts in densely populated areas, especially those that have limited tree canopy. **Figure S-12** shows the relative levels of extreme heat in different neighborhoods of El Cerrito.

Extreme heat is when temperatures are well above normal conditions. In El Cerrito, the extreme heat threshold is 88.7 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), or hotter than 98 percent of historic days. Five extreme heat days in a row is considered a heat wave. When the daily minimum temperatures remain significantly above normal, warm nights worsen extreme heat days because overnight temperatures do not decrease to provide relief from high temperatures. A warm night occurs when temperatures remain above 60°F in El Cerrito.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize extreme heat as a substantial public health concern. Seniors, persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities, persons experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, low-resourced people of color, immigrant/linguistically isolated communities,

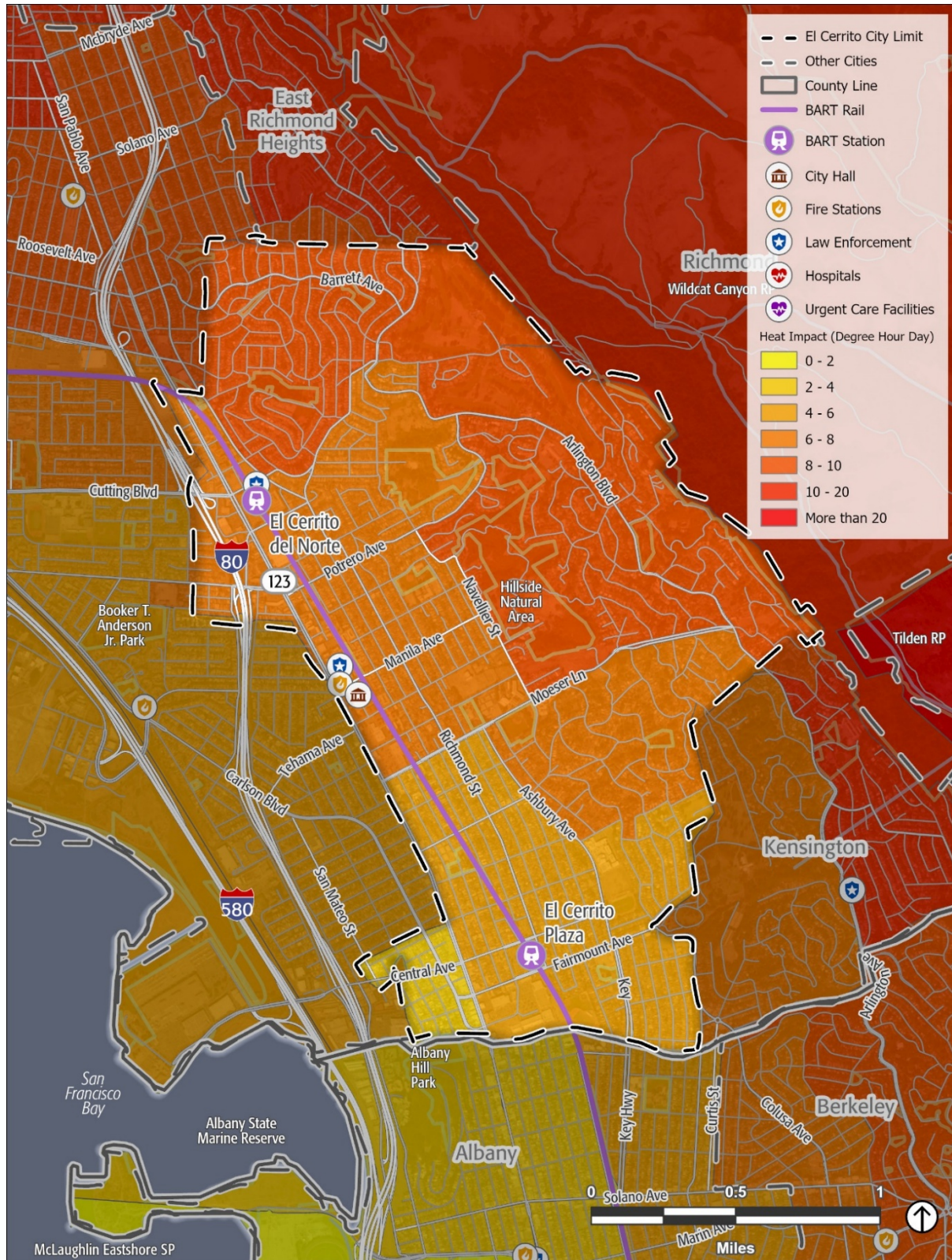
and households in poverty are among those most vulnerable to extreme heat.

According to the U.S. Census, approximately 82 percent of all housing in El Cerrito was built prior to 1980,^x which is unlikely to have air conditioning and may lack effective insulation. During extreme heat days, temperatures in poorly insulated homes may reach uncomfortable or dangerous temperatures. People living in these homes are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses from extreme heat events, especially people who are predisposed to heat-related illnesses.

Walking, biking, and other modes of active transportation become more difficult in extreme heat. These activities carry greater health risks when temperatures are very hot, especially for people who are already vulnerable to extreme heat and in areas with little or no shade coverage. Extreme heat can limit active transportation options and disproportionately affect those who rely on them.

Extreme heat also stresses infrastructure networks. Higher air conditioning demand during extreme heat days risks overloading the electrical grid and causing power outages. Very high heat can degrade transportation systems by softening and buckling asphalt and warping rail lines. These impacts reduce public transit capacity, as trains must operate at lower speeds, resulting in delays and increased risk of damage. Additionally, rising temperatures harm local ecosystems by increasing water temperatures in local lakes and streams, harming fish and plant species.

Figure S-12 Extreme Heat in El Cerrito



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; California Environmental Protection Agency, 2013; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024;

The warmer temperatures brought on by climate change are likely to cause an increase in extreme heat events locally. In El Cerrito, the state projects that the number of extreme heat days is expected to rise from a historical annual average of 3 to 9 days by the middle of the century (2035 to 2064), and an average of 17 days by the end of the century (2070 to 2099). Additionally, the number of warm nights is expected to rise from a historical annual average of 5 to 47 nights by the middle of the century (2035 to 2064), and to an average of 119 nights by the end of the century (2070 to 2099).^{xi}

Severe Weather

Severe weather poses a significant threat to El Cerrito and the greater region, disrupting daily life, compromising safety, and affecting infrastructure and ecosystems. Severe weather is usually caused by intense storm systems, although some strong winds can occur without a storm. The types of dangers posed by severe weather include injuries or deaths, damage to buildings and structures, fallen trees, roads blocked by debris, fires sparked by lightning, downed power lines, flooding, storm drain overflows, and infrastructure failure. Heavy rain can cause widespread flooding, often overwhelming drainage systems and leading to significant disruptions in transportation, emergency response, and access to essential services. Severe weather often produces high winds and lightning that can damage structures and cause power outages. Lightning from these storms can ignite fires and cause explosions that damage buildings and endanger people. High wind events can also exacerbate the risk of wildfires in El Cerrito and across the region.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and other electrical utilities have begun to occasionally “de-energize” or turn off the electricity for power lines that run through areas with an elevated fire risk. Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events are intended to reduce the risk of power lines sparking or being damaged and starting a wildfire. A PSPS event may occur at any time of the year, usually during high wind events and dry conditions. While PSPS events have been smaller and less frequent recently, these events still pose a risk to PG&E customers across Contra Costa County, including El Cerrito. According to records of PSPS events, the hillside neighborhoods of El Cerrito experience an average of one PSPS every two years, and neighborhoods closer to the bayshore experience a PSPS approximately once every five years.

People who depend on medical devices, such as oxygen concentrators or ventilators, are at greater risk during power outages, as are those who need electricity for climate control to keep indoor temperatures safe. The loss of power to communications and other critical infrastructure disrupts access to goods and services.

Climate change is expected to cause an increase in intense rainfall and strong storm systems, such as atmospheric rivers. This increase means that El Cerrito could see more intense weather resulting from these storms in the coming years and decades, although such an increase may not affect all forms of severe weather. Heavy rainfall can increase the frequency and severity of other hazards, including flooding and landslides.

Goals and Policies

Goal 5: Reduce risk from and provide timely and effective response to extreme heat and severe weather.

- Policy 5.1: Urban Tree Canopy.** Maintain the health of the urban tree canopy to increase shaded surfaces and reduce risk of downed trees during severe weather. Expand and renew the urban tree canopy to help reduce the impacts of extreme heat.
- Policy 5.2: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials.** Use heat-mitigating materials and install shade structures, both green and built infrastructure, at parks, schools, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces to reduce ground surface temperatures.
- Policy 5.3: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials at Transit Stops.** Coordinate with local and regional public transportation providers to increase shading and heat-mitigating materials at transit stops.
- Policy 5.4: Resilience Hubs.** Identify existing facilities that can function as community resilience hubs. Maintain these facilities as needed to serve as resilience hubs, ensuring they are well-equipped, accessible, and situated outside of areas at risk from hazards impacts, and that the public is aware of these resources. Work with neighboring jurisdictions to promote awareness and use of these hubs. Evaluate the feasibility of creating new resilience hubs when new facilities are developed or existing facilities are retrofitted, incorporating renewable energy generation, energy storage, and the ability to offer refuge from extreme heat and poor air quality due to regional wildfire smoke.
- Policy 5.5: Resilient Development.** Encourage new and existing development to incorporate building and site design features that reduce the effects of extreme heat, improve indoor air quality, and reduce energy demand. These features could include air conditioning, air filtration, energy-efficient duct work improvements, passive cooling design and amenities, cool roofs, reflective or pervious pavement materials, high-albedo surfaces, shade trees, and other green infrastructure. Help residents connect with contractors and financial assistance programs to implement these improvements.
- Policy 5.6: Resilient Power Supplies.** Work with PG&E, MCE, and local solar energy installers to support resiliency of the local power grid, including distributed generation and microgrids for residents, businesses, and public agencies.
- Policy 5.7: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage at City Facilities.** Maintain, improve, and where fiscally viable expand distributed renewable generation and energy storage at City facilities. Include provisions for the ongoing maintenance and performance monitoring of these systems to ensure long-term reliability. Prioritize buildings and facilities that provide essential City services during extreme weather events for energy storage systems.

- Policy 5.8: Community Solar and Energy Storage.** Work in partnership with MCE, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, and others to support the development of community solar projects, streamline permitting where possible, and prioritize storage systems to ensure community solar could be used during outages.
- Policy 5.9: Planning for Extreme Heat.** Participate in regional planning with neighboring jurisdictions to develop an extreme heat response plan that includes establishment of community cooling centers, weatherization of City buildings, temperature triggers for when cooling centers would open, and cooling strategies for persons engaged in outdoor work and persons experiencing homelessness.
- Policy 5.10: Community Support and Mutual-Aid Networks.** Support residents in developing neighborhood support programs to perform wellness checks on vulnerable neighbors during hazardous events.
- Policy 5.11: Urban Greening Plan.** Implement the Urban Greening Plan to enhance public places and open spaces throughout the City. Open and green spaces provide cooling from heat and are linked to mental health and quality of life benefits.

DROUGHT

A drought is an extended period when precipitation levels are well below normal. Drought may affect domestic water supply, energy production, public health, wildlife, and contribute to wildfire. Like most of California and the western United States, El Cerrito chronically experiences drought cycles. The U.S. Drought Monitor recognizes a five-point scale for drought events: D0 (abnormally dry), D1 (moderate drought), D2 (severe drought), D3 (extreme drought), and D4 (exceptional drought). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the most intensive drought conditions in recent years were during most of 2014 and 2021, when all of Contra Costa County was classified in “extreme” drought. As of March 2025, El Cerrito was not facing drought conditions, but eastern Contra Costa County was classified as abnormally dry, and over half of California was in some level of drought. During severe drought conditions, water shortages are common, and water restrictions may be imposed to meet essential community needs.

El Cerrito’s water supply comes from imported water delivered by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Approximately 90 percent of EBMUD’s water supply begins at the Mokelumne River watershed in the Sierra Nevada and extends 90 miles to the East Bay, passing through the Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Mokelumne Aqueducts convey the Mokelumne River supply to local storage and treatment facilities in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

Drought in California is cyclical, driven by large-scale climate patterns. Although droughts are a regular feature of California’s climate,

climate change is leading to more frequent, prolonged, and intense droughts statewide. Overall, long-term precipitation levels are expected to remain similar to historic levels in El Cerrito, potentially increasing slightly by the end of the century.^{xii} However, there are likely to be more years with extreme levels of rainfall, both high and low, because of climate change. This is expected to cause more frequent and intense droughts, compared to historical norms, which cause soil to dry out, and harden, which can trigger landslides in the subsequent rainy season.

Reduced winter precipitation levels and warmer temperatures have decreased the size of the Sierra Nevada snowpack (the volume of accumulated snow), making less fresh water available for communities throughout California, including the imported water supply for El Cerrito. A continued decline in the volume of the Sierra Nevada snowpack is expected, which may lead to lower volumes of available imported water. More precipitation is expected to fall as rain instead of snow, and the snow that does fall will melt earlier, reducing the Sierra Nevada spring snowpack by as much as 70 to 90 percent.^{xiii} How much snowpack will be lost depends in part on future precipitation patterns, the projections for which remain uncertain. However, even under wetter climate projections, the loss of snowpack would pose potential water shortage issues and exacerbate drought conditions.

Goals and Policies

Goal 6: Secure a resilient water supply and use water supplies sustainably.

- Policy 6.1: Drought-Tolerant Landscaping.** Require drought-tolerant landscaping in new private and municipal development, in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Ensure that new landscaping does not exacerbate wildfire or flood risks and aligns with vegetation and stormwater management standards.
- Policy 6.2: Water-Efficient Development.** Require the installation of water efficiency measures in new private development and at municipal facilities. Encourage the installation of water efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.
- Policy 6.3: Drought Planning.** Work with regional water providers to prepare for reduced long-term water supply resulting from more frequent and severe drought events, and implement extensive water conservation measures and ensure sustainable water supplies, including fire suppression needs.

HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

Human health hazards, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and other pathogens, pose significant concerns in El Cerrito. These conditions can result in physical injuries, fatalities, and mental health issues and exacerbate pre-existing conditions like asthma and allergies. Rats, mice, ticks, and mosquitos are common vectors, meaning they often spread the pathogens that can cause illness. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns due to climate change promote the proliferation of disease-carrying vectors. Many of these pathogens also reproduce more rapidly in warmer conditions, compounding the risk of transmission. Warmer conditions and wetter years allow for increased populations of mosquitoes and ticks, extending their geographic range and spreading diseases like West Nile virus, dengue fever, and Lyme disease.^{xiv} As temperatures rise and extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, become more frequent, these vectors can spread more broadly, transmitting diseases that threaten public health.^{xv}

Populations most vulnerable to human health hazards are those who spend a significant amount of time outdoors (such as outdoor workers or persons experiencing homelessness), those with fragile immune systems or existing illnesses (which may include persons with chronic illnesses and seniors), those who may live in substandard housing, or who do not have access to health insurance and medical care.

Heatwaves, another increasing hazard due to climate change, can directly impact human health by causing heat-related illnesses and deaths while worsening respiratory conditions

due to increased air pollution. The combination of these factors suggests that human health hazards will become more widespread and severe as climate change progresses, making proactive public health measures even more critical. The impacts of these health hazards extend beyond individual well-being.

Widespread disease outbreaks can place strain on healthcare systems, increase economic burdens, and affect community-wide mental health.

Goals and Policies

Goal 7: Protect the health of El Cerrito residents.

- Policy 7.1: Regional Health.** Support Contra Costa County in disseminating information on disease conditions that may affect El Cerrito residents.
- Policy 7.2: Pandemic Planning.** Support Contra Costa County to plan for future pandemic events, including securing necessary public health supplies, preparing effective messaging for preventative actions and treatments, and identifying and evaluating potential public health measures.
- Policy 7.3: Vector-Borne Diseases.** Support the County and the Mosquito and Vector Control District in working with healthcare providers to support free or reduced-cost vaccinations for vector-borne diseases for El Cerrito residents.
- Policy 7.4: Medical Providers.** Support Contra Costa County to coordinate with local medical providers to ensure low-cost medical and emergency medical services are available to all residents in the City.
- Policy 7.5: Outdoor Workers.** Support opportunities to ensure that workers in outdoor industries have the training and resources to be adequately protected from environmental hazards, including extreme heat, poor air quality, pests, and diseases, in alignment with applicable OSHA and Cal/OSHA regulations and standards.
- Policy 7.6: Public Awareness.** Work with local community groups, providers of senior services, and childcare workers to raise awareness about disease prevention and response.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Local Emergency Response

Emergency preparedness and response in El Cerrito is a coordinated effort involving all City departments, which together constitute the City's emergency organization during an emergency, under the leadership of the City Manager, who serves as the Director of Emergency Services, as established in El Cerrito Municipal Code (ECMC) Chapter 2.28 and the City's adopted emergency plan.

The El Cerrito Police Department provides law enforcement services and the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department delivers fire prevention and suppression services. Other departments such as Public Works also play key roles and have important responsibilities during emergency response efforts.

The City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) guides these efforts by outlining roles, responsibilities, and coordination among departments, stakeholder agencies, community-based organizations, the business community, and residents. The EOP is regularly updated by staff and approved by the City Council, and it identifies operational strategies and plans for managing inherently complex and potentially catastrophic events. The EOP is available online at:

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20415/Emergency-Operations-Plan>

During emergency events, or in anticipation of one, the City will activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate response and recovery efforts across departments and with regional, State, and federal partners. The EOC's organizational

structure, as outlined in the City's EOP, serve as a clear hierarchy and system for situational awareness, resource management, and providing public information. The City is committed to maintaining EOC readiness through regular training and drills for City staff, testing communication linkages with external agencies, and reporting on EOC preparedness activities to the community.

The Fire Department also conducts regular training exercises with residents, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. El Cerrito's CERT program is run by a partnership between the City and the Fire Department to provide residents with hands-on training in disaster first aid, disaster preparedness, basic firefighting, light search and rescue, damage assessment, and how to turn off utilities. Through CERT and other preparedness activities, the City equips community members with the skills and knowledge needed to assist themselves, their families, and their neighbors during emergencies.

Emergency planning

The State of California requires all State, regional, and local agencies, including PG&E and EBMUD, to maintain their own emergency plan relating to the infrastructure that they install and maintain. In the event of an emergency, the City relies on PG&E to implement its emergency plan, with City support as needed. When an incident occurs anywhere in El Cerrito, the Police Department and/or the Fire Department is typically the first to arrive at the scene, where they secure the area and then determine which other agencies need to be involved.

The City of El Cerrito website's Alert Center, allows residents to view all issued alerts and emergencies in the area and can be accessed at <https://www.el-cerrito.org/AlertCenter.aspx>. The City also provides various emergency alerts through posts on social media platforms and the City's Nixle system. El Cerrito residents may register with Contra Costa County's Community Warning System, an emergency notification system maintained by Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. This system provides alerts and critical information during emergencies or disasters, including instructions on protective actions such as sheltering in place, lockdowns, evacuations, or avoiding certain areas. Residents receive CWS alerts via phone calls, text messages, emails, sirens, and social media to stay informed about life-threatening hazards.

Emergency Evacuation

With advanced warning, evacuation can effectively reduce injury and loss of life during a catastrophic event. Primary potential emergency access and evacuation routes include San Pablo Avenue, which runs north-south along the western portion of the City, and Arlington Boulevard, runs north-south along the eastern portion of the City. Other potential evacuation routes include Cutting Boulevard, Potrero Avenue, and Moeser Lane, which run east-west and connect Arlington Boulevard to San Pablo Avenue. **Figure S-13** shows the potential evacuation routes throughout the City, although the recommended evacuation routes in any given situation will depend on the specifics of the emergency. These evacuation routes face potential disruption from flooding, wildfire, landslides, or an earthquake, which may block roadways, damage the roadway surface, or collapse bridges and overpasses.

Figure S-14 shows residential parcels with evacuation constraints. All of these parcels are at least a half mile from a major roadway and have access to only one emergency evacuation route. The lack of multiple emergency access points limits roadway access for these properties, which may create difficulties if there is a need to evacuate.

As part of the Safety Element Update, the project team assessed emergency evacuation times, consistent with California AB 747, which requires that all general plan safety elements identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. The study assesses evacuation under different scenarios, evaluating roadway capacity and the time needed to evacuate. The evacuation study is included as an appendix to this Safety Element (**Appendix A**).

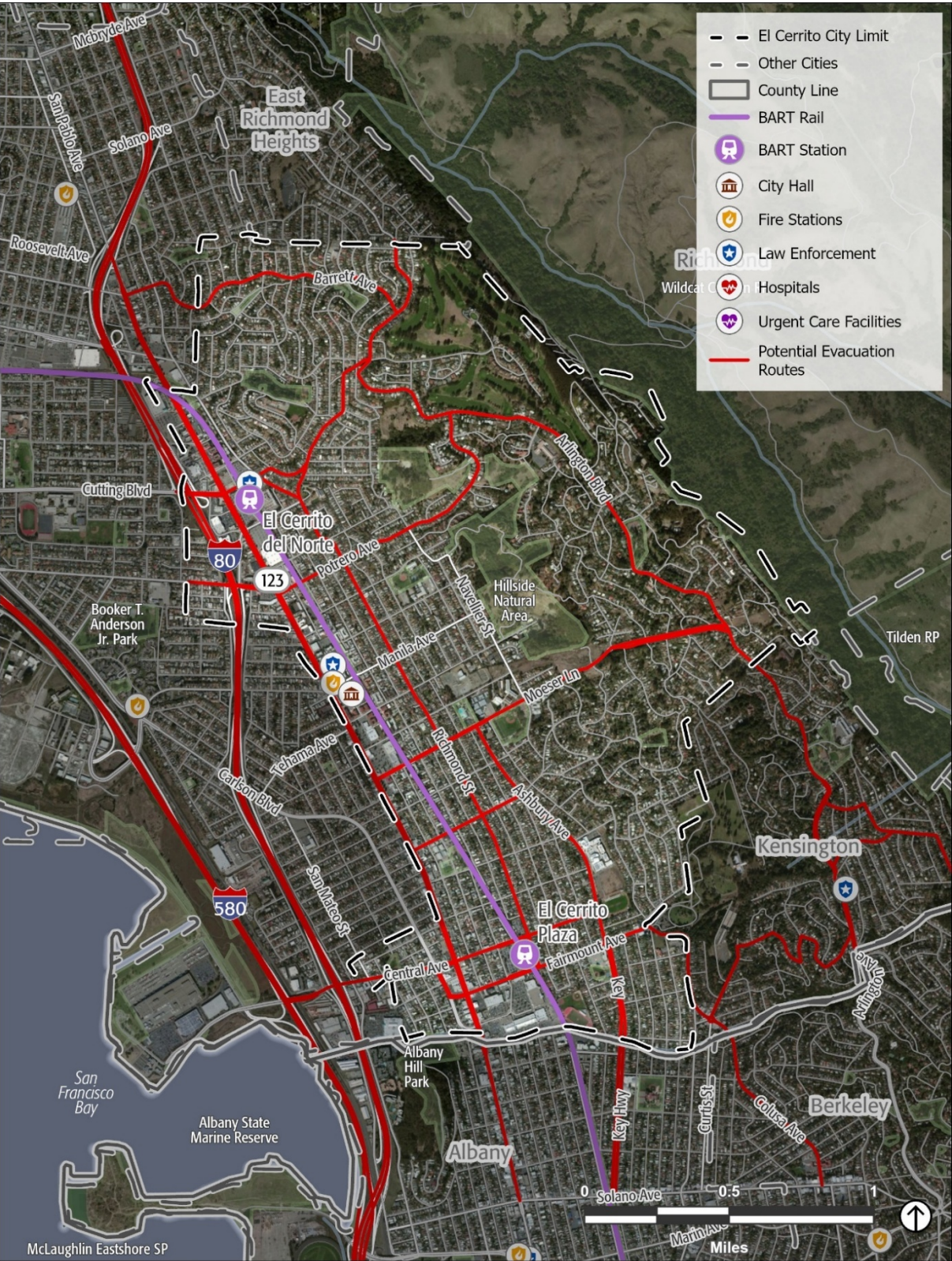
This study focused on the use of private vehicles for evacuations, consistent with the focus on roadways under State law. While private vehicles are likely to be the primary means of evacuation in most scenarios, some El Cerrito residents may lack access to private vehicles. People may evacuate on foot, by bicycle, using public transit or school buses, or other means, depending on their specific circumstances and the nature of the emergency. Additionally, some residents who initially evacuate by car may have to leave their vehicles and evacuate on foot due to roadway congestion or the speed of the hazardous conditions, as has happened in some recent wildfires across California.

The evacuation study modeled an evacuation from three different scenarios: 1) an early-morning hazardous material spill on San Pablo Avenue, 2) a midday wildfire originating near

the Rifle Range Road trailhead, and 3) a midday wildfire in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park that prompts widespread evacuations. This study found that fully evacuating the affected areas may take up to 60 to 140 minutes for the hazardous material spill, up to 70 to 80 minutes for the Rifle Range Road wildfire, and up to 110 to 160 minutes for the Wildcat Canyon wildfire. These are general estimates that may be affected by numerous factors in an actual emergency, and that most persons in affected areas would likely be able to evacuate sooner.

The report provides a set of recommendations based on the results of the analysis, such as identifying multiple evacuation destinations in different locations to allow for more evacuation routes and shorter evacuation times; coordinating with other jurisdictions to maintain the designated evacuation routes that serve the City; prioritizing undergrounding utilities and upgrading power poles on main evacuation routes to minimize downed wires on these routes; and conducting community-wide evacuation exercises to test the recommendations and plans associated with scenarios in the evacuation study. This Safety Element incorporates many of these recommendations into the goals and policies discussed in this section.

Figure S-13 Potential Evacuation Routes



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033;

Figure S-14 Evacuation-Constrained Parcels



Source: ESRI, 2024; Bay Area Rapid transit, 2020; City of El Cerrito, 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024; Cal Office of Emergency Services, 2019, 2033

Goals and Policies

Goal 8: A community prepared for an effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or natural and human-caused disasters.

- Policy 8.1: Hazard Awareness.** Publicize areas at risk of local hazards, emergency preparedness programs, evacuation planning resources, and other efforts to promote resident awareness and caution regarding hazards, including soil instability, earthquakes, flooding, and fire.
- Policy 8.2: Public Facilities.** Avoid construction of new emergency buildings (police, fire, hospital, etc.) and vital utilities, communication systems and other public facilities in identified fire, flood, and geologic hazard zones (see **Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas**; **Figure S-7, Flood Hazard Zones**; and **Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones**) to the extent feasible. Design such buildings and infrastructure to remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster and ensure that existing critical facilities and infrastructure remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster.
- Policy 8.3: Emergency Notification and Communication.** Promote participation in the City's Emergency Alert E-Notifications program, PG&E's emergency alert system, emergency HAM radio operators' network, and other networks that can reach residents in the event of an emergency. Continue to support the County's Community Warning System sirens and explore opportunities to expand emergency warning siren systems in El Cerrito. Use all City social media channels, both citywide accounts and departmental accounts to share timely and accurate emergency information. Ensure that the City can issue emergency warnings and ensure communication between emergency responders even in the absence of electrical and cellular service and update the Emergency Operations Plan to specify these alternatives. Ensure that all official City communications are provided in formats and languages that are reflective of the demographics of El Cerrito. Conduct regular outreach and education so that residents understand how notifications and alerts will be shared during an emergency, what emergency sirens mean, and what protective actions should be taken when they are activated.
- Policy 8.4: Power Outages.** Identify residents whose health and safety may be most severely impacted by power outages and provide support and assistance in obtaining backup power supplies and other safety resources.
- Policy 8.5: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** After update and certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, incorporate the current Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's Annex into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.

- Policy 8.6: Community Emergency Preparedness.** In partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, conduct community emergency response and evacuation drills to increase awareness and support improved community preparedness for future emergencies.
- Policy 8.7: Community Emergency Response Team Training.** Support, encourage, and continue to offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.
- Policy 8.8: Hazard Insurance.** Work with property and rental insurance providers to raise awareness about the latest safety requirements related to seismic, flood, and fire hazards and regularly incorporate these requirements into development codes as necessary, referencing related local ordinances and programs, such as the City's 2025 amendments to Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code. Work with other jurisdictions and local community-based organizations to evaluate opportunities to preserve and improve the cost and quality of property insurance for El Cerrito community members.
- Policy 8.9: Regional Emergency Response and Mutual Aid.** Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and Caltrans in emergency response and evacuation planning. Maintain and participate in mutual aid agreements with these agencies to ensure coordinated response capabilities, adequate medical and emergency services, and effective inter-agency communication. Cooperate with partners to assess and project future emergency service needs and to conduct joint preparedness, training, and exercises.
- Policy 8.10: Multi-Destination Evacuation Planning.** Identify and maintain a list of multiple evacuation destinations in different locations in the vicinity of the city to provide diverse points of refuge and reduce evacuation times. The City should select these sites based on their capacity to accommodate the estimated number of people evacuating from El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington.
- Policy 8.11: Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination for Evacuation Route Maintenance.** Collaborate and plan with the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans to ensure the ongoing maintenance and readiness of potential evacuation routes serving El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington, including making improvements to existing roads to support safe evacuations, as needed. Continue to implement and expand existing agreements where feasible along evacuation routes. These agreements shall include provisions for:
- a. Regular assessment and improvement of existing roads to support safe evacuations.
 - b. Coordinated planning and implementation of traffic management strategies during evacuations.

These efforts will help to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes in the event of an emergency.

Policy 8.12: Evacuation Route Infrastructure Preparedness. To enhance evacuation efficiency and safety, the City will:

- a. Continue to evaluate and to the extent feasible provide back-up power systems for all City-owned traffic signals on potential evacuation routes.
- b. Evaluate and as appropriate develop or update emergency evacuation traffic signal timing plans for all signals on potential evacuation routes, prioritizing outbound traffic flow while maintaining access for emergency vehicles through traffic signal pre-emption.
- c. Identify and designate routes where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained. This will include pre-identifying bottleneck intersections and positioning law enforcement personnel to maintain traffic movement during evacuations.
- d. Identify additional opportunities to preserve and enhance evacuation route infrastructure preparedness as part of regular maintenance activities, including evaluating the expansion of temporary parking restrictions (such as the red flag day pilot program) to enhance public safety during evacuations, as appropriate.

Policy 8.13: Evacuation Route Clearance and Capacity Enhancement. To maximize evacuation route effectiveness:

- a. The City will implement a permanent program that allows restriction of on-street parking on designated evacuation routes during high-risk periods for various hazards based on evaluation of pilot program.
- b. El Cerrito will support efforts by PG&E to prioritize the undergrounding of utilities and the upgrading of power poles with current isolating/shutdown technologies along main evacuation routes to minimize the risk of downed wires during evacuations. The City will also support tree trimming and other regular maintenance conducted by PG&E along utility corridors.

Policy 8.14: Community Evacuation Education and Preparedness. El Cerrito will implement a comprehensive community evacuation education and preparedness program, including:

- a. Regular updates and dissemination of information about how to plan for safe and effective evacuations, in multiple languages and formats accessible to all community members.

- b. Coordination with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and private schools to develop and regularly update evacuation plans that address both safe on-campus procedures and coordinated off-site transport to predetermined refuge locations beyond the disaster area.
- c. Targeted outreach and planning for areas with high concentrations of physically and socially vulnerable residents, including those with age-related, disability-related, or other mobility challenges.
- d. Conducting periodic community-wide evacuation exercises to test and refine evacuation plans and procedures.
- e. Encouraging residents and employees to sign up with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System and Genasys Protect to receive emergency alerts and ensure effective distribution of evacuation notifications (New policy).
- f. Identifying pedestrian paths, including stairs and trails, on evacuation maps.

Policy 8.15: Evacuation Assistance Program. Support and coordinate an evacuation assistance program with Contra Costa Transportation Authority, AC Transit, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies, and care homes to help those with limited mobility, lack of access to a vehicle, and other at-risk populations evacuate safely. Consider training for emergency responders and volunteers in assisting vulnerable populations during evacuations.

Policy 8.16: Hazard Planning in Capital Improvements. As part of the Capital Improvements Program, CIP Budget, and related planning and funding processes for capital improvements, include a forward-looking assessment of how the proposed improvements may be affected by current and anticipated future hazards, including those subject to climate change. Highlight how the project supports community-wide safety, equity, and climate readiness now and in the future. All projects shall incorporate at a minimum standard resilience practices, materials, and other elements to minimize future maintenance. Larger or more complex projects shall include a thorough resilience analysis that describes specific design, material, and construction strategies to ensure long-term durability and adaptability.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation matrix identifies information to support the implementation of the Safety Element policies. For each policy, the implementation matrix includes information on the Department responsible, time frame, and the relative cost to implement the measure (ranging from low to high). The City Manager's Office oversees all departments and leads community outreach and engagement efforts to support these measures.

Table 1: Safety Element Policy Matrix

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 1: Mitigate risk from geologic and seismic hazards.						
1.1: Geotechnical Review. Require geotechnical studies for development proposals in areas at risk from geologic and seismic hazards (see Figure S-1, Local Fault Lines; Figure S-3, Liquefaction Areas; and Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas), in accordance with City procedures. Such studies should evaluate the extent of geotechnical hazards, optimum location for structures, the advisability of special structural requirements, and the feasibility and desirability of a proposed facility in a specified location.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
1.2: Erosion Control. Provide appropriate control measures in conjunction with proposed development in areas susceptible to erosion, including an erosion control plan and revegetation plan as part of grading permits.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing	Public Works		Medium	Permit fees
1.3: Seismic Safety of New Development. Require new structures to be designed to contemporary standards for seismic safety. Require that new City-owned critical facilities be constructed to the highest possible standard of seismic safety.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
1.4: Seismic Safety of Existing Development. Assist occupants and owners of existing structures in identifying seismic risks to their structures and provide support in obtaining appropriate seismic retrofit measures. Evaluate all City-owned facilities to determine seismic risks and implement appropriate seismic retrofit measures.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Mid-term			High	Bonds, General Fund, grants, permit fees

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
1.5: Seismic Safety of Utilities. Encourage local gas, water, and sewer providers to review and retrofit their main distribution pipes.	Public Works Department,	Long-term		EBMUD, PG&E	Low	General Fund, grants
Goal 2: Minimize potential damage from existing hazardous materials and prevent future hazardous materials contamination.						
2.1: Potential Hazardous Soils Conditions of New Development. Evaluate new development on potentially contaminated sites (such as older fill sites, historical auto service uses, industrial uses, or areas where hazardous materials may have been used, as mapped in Figure S-6, Hazardous Materials Sites) and require that development proposals contain adequate measures to mitigate hazardous material exposure prior to development approvals.	Community Development Department	Ongoing			Low	Permit fees
2.2: Hazardous Soil Conditions in Inundation Hazard Areas. Work with Contra Costa Health Services and other regional partners to identify hazardous materials sites where proximity to mapped flood hazard zones, sea level rise inundation areas, and other water-based hazards that may spread hazardous materials. Prioritize remediation of these sites.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Contra Costa Health Services	Medium	General Fund, grants
2.3: Hazardous Materials at Municipal Facilities. Ensure that hazardous materials owned or stored by the City are managed and disposed of appropriately to protect human and environmental health and safety.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, Contra Costa Clean Water Program	Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
2.4: Hazardous Materials Storage and Disposal. Require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials in accordance with all State, federal, and local laws and regulations to prevent leakage, potential explosions, fires, or the escape of harmful gases, and to prevent individually innocuous materials from combining to form hazardous substances, especially at the time of disposal.	Fire Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa Health Services	Low	General Fund, permit fees
2.5: Hazardous Materials Usage in Construction. Require and enforce effective mitigation measures to minimize exposure to toxic and hazardous materials during building renovations and demolitions.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing		Bay Area Air District	Low	Permit fees
2.6: Hazardous Materials Public Education. Provide information to the community regarding the potential health hazards posed by hazardous materials and possible ways to reduce hazardous materials use and properly dispose of hazardous materials.	Public Works	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, Recyclemore	Low	General Fund, grants, permit fees
Goal 3: Reduce risks from flooding and sea level rise and provide timely and effective flood response.						
3.1: Flood-responsive Siting of New Critical Facilities. Prohibit the construction of new critical facilities and infrastructure, including hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communication facilities in mapped flood hazard and sea level rise inundation zones (see Figures S-7, S-8, and S-9).	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.2: Flood-proofing New Construction. Require that new and significantly renovated buildings and structures in the mapped 100-year flood zones be constructed to a higher standard of flood protection to improve resilience, as required by the California Building Code and in accordance with the City's Floodplain Management ordinance.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Ongoing	Public Works		Medium	Permit fees
3.3: Flood Hazards from New Construction. Require new development and significant redevelopment projects, greater than 50,000 square feet of conditioned space, to prepare drainage studies to assess stormwater runoff impacts on the local storm drain system, and to develop recommended detention and drainage facilities as needed to ensure that increased risks of flooding on to neighboring properties do not result from development.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Medium	Permit fees, developer impact fees
3.4: Flood Hazards to Existing Development. Help property owners identify qualified service providers and obtain financial incentives to floodproof existing buildings. Continue to evaluate new opportunities to help reduce flood hazards to existing development, including development at risk of current or future flooding not in the mapped 100-year floodplain.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control District, FEMA	Medium	FEMA grants, General Fund, Community Development Block Grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.5: Maintenance for the City's Storm Drainage Facilities. Continue to enforce existing laws prohibiting the dumping of debris, fill or other waste materials, and illicit discharges into storm drains, creeks and channels, and the littering of garbage. Continue to ensure that local storm drainage facilities are sufficiently maintained. Pursue viable funding sources for local and regional drainage improvements for adequate flood control and protection.	Public Works Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa County Flood Control District	High	Stormwater utility fees, General Fund
3.6: Creek Maintenance Education. Continue to educate local property owners about their responsibilities to maintain creeks, storm drain-pipes, and open channels on private property, including regularly clearing trash and other debris.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Friends of Five Creeks, Contra Costa Clean Water Program	Low	General Fund
3.7: Natural Stormwater Management Solutions. Continue to identify opportunities and funding sources to expand the City's green infrastructure network, as defined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Update Chapter 8.40 of the City's Municipal Code, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control, to require new development to incorporate natural stormwater management solutions on-site as a condition of approval for discretionary projects, as appropriate.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term		San Francisco Estuary Partnership, State Water Resources Control Board	Medium	Green Infrastructure grants, Prop 84/1 Stormwater Grant Program

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.8: Permeable Paving and Green Infrastructure. Continue to require that new development complies with Contra Costa Clean Water Program Stormwater C.3 Guidebook Requirements for treatment of stormwater. Encourage new development to reduce impervious areas and use permeable surfaces in paving and landscaping. Promote the use of green infrastructure, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and vegetated swales, to manage stormwater and enhance groundwater infiltration as outlined in the City's Green Infrastructure Plan. Include permeable surfaces and green infrastructure into City construction and improvement projects.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Near-term			Low	Development impact fees, General Fund
3.9: Continuity of public facilities during flooding. Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding through structural retrofits, flood management, operational improvements, and other appropriate actions.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		Cal OES, FEMA	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, General Fund, infrastructure resilience bonds
3.10: Sea Level Rise Coordination. Coordinate with local, regional, State, and federal agencies to plan for the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and groundwater intrusion in the community.	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	Long-term		BCDC, State Coastal Conservancy	Medium	State Coastal Conservancy grants, regional adaptation funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
3.11: Flood Response. Coordinate with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and neighboring jurisdictions to address regional flood hazards.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	Medium	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, General Fund
3.12: Public Flood Preparedness Information. Improve public access to information about flood risks, preparedness, and response steps. Revise and expand on existing resources, such as those available on the City's website, to help residents and property owners understand what to do before, during, and after flooding events.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	Low	General Fund
3.13: Adopt-A-Drain Program. Explore the development and funding of an Adopt-A-Drain program. This initiative would encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to voluntarily adopt storm drains and commit to their regular maintenance by removing debris, leaves, and litter to ensure proper stormwater flow.	Public Works Department	Near-term		Local schools, community-based organizations	Low	Volunteer services, General Fund
3.14: Central Avenue and I-80 Resilience. Support efforts to improve flood protection and long-term resilience to sea level rise for Central Avenue and the I-80 interchange area. Ensure flood protection and climate adaptation initiatives to prioritize El Cerrito's transportation needs, including evacuation needs.	Public Works Department	Long-term		Caltrans, Contra Costa County Flood Control, Water Conservation District	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, infrastructure resilience bonds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 4: Reduce El Cerrito's risk of wildfire and provide timely and effective fire response.						
4.1: Fire-Resilient Existing Development. Work with property owners and building occupants to raise awareness about potential building and landscape modifications to improve wildfire resilience and work to obtain funding to help property owners make these improvements, in accordance with applicable State requirements and the City's local ordinances and Vegetation Management Program.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Mid-term			Medium	General Fund, FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, State Fire Marshal grants
4.2: Fire-Retardant Landscaping. Require the use of fire-retardant vegetation for landscaping in new development in high fire hazard areas. Encourage the use of fire-retardant vegetation in all development City-wide. Fire-retardant vegetation, also known as fire-resistant plants, refers to plants that do not readily ignite from flames or other ignition sources and, if exposed to fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire's fuel or intensity.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning Division	Near-term			Low	Permit fees, development impact fees
4.3: Hillside Natural Area. Manage vegetation in the Hillside Natural Area to reduce fire hazards in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. The Fire Department and Public Works Department shall share responsibility for implementation. Pursue viable funding sources to implement measures identified in the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan that promote wildfire resilience.	Public Works Department, Fire Department	Ongoing		Friends of the HNA, Friends of Five Creeks, El Cerrito Fire Safe Council, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers	High	General Fund, CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.4: Hazardous Tree Removal on Private Property. Help residents access resources for removing hazardous trees on private property that threaten residential buildings and critical facilities. Distribute information about available programs and facilitate efforts to connect property owners with external funding sources, local organizations, nonprofits, or state agencies that can provide resources or assistance.	Community Development Department, Planning Division	Mid-term			Medium	CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants
4.5: Urban Forest Management for Wildfire Risk Reduction. Maintain and manage El Cerrito's urban forest to reduce wildfire risk in accordance with the recommendations of the Hillside Natural Area Wildfire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Ongoing			Medium	General Fund, CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants
4.6: Fuel Breaks. Require property owners of existing and new development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland-Urban Interface (as shown on Figure S-10 and Figure S-11) to create and maintain fuel breaks and defensible space around structures and along roadways that is free from dry brush and other flammable materials and to comply with the 100-foot Defensible Space Requirement in Public Resources Code Section 4291 and Government Code Section 51182 for fuel modification to reduce fire danger.	Fire Department	Ongoing	Community Development Department, Planning Division		Medium	

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.7: Regional Wildfire Prevention. Continue to collaborate with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, neighboring jurisdictions, the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, the El Cerrito and Diablo Fire Safe Councils, Hills Emergency Forum, and local community organizations to regularly review regional wildfire hazards and vulnerabilities and develop regional wildfire abatement and response strategies.	Fire Department	Ongoing		Contra Costa RCD, Alameda County RCD, neighboring jurisdictions, East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, and local community-based organizations	Low	General Fund, interagency agreements, regional resilience grants
4.8: Wildfire Risk from Energy Infrastructure. Coordinate with PG&E to reduce wildfire risk related to electrical infrastructure, including: ▪ Maintenance of fire breaks around electrical infrastructure. ▪ Installation of covered conductors to reduce ignition risk from contact with vegetation or debris. ▪ Use of Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings that automatically shut off power in high-risk conditions. ▪ Vegetation management beyond minimum clearance requirements in high-risk areas. ▪ Implementation of Public Safety Power Shutoffs during extreme fire weather events, with coordination to help minimize community disruption. ▪ Undergrounding electricity infrastructure in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		PG&E	Medium	PG&E infrastructure hardening funds, CAL FIRE mitigation grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.9: Firefighting Infrastructure. Facilitate the timely and effective provision of firefighting services by: 1. Expanding the availability of fire hydrants in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. This may include installation of sufficiently sized hydrants in areas identified in the Hillside Natural Area. 2. Coordinating with the East Bay Municipal Utility District to ensure that adequate peak load water supplies are available to fight fires. Redundancies in the water storage and capacity distribution network should be considered and implemented in those areas of the City where ground failure could result in breaks to both the water and gas mains, with the potential for significant conflagrations. Ensure that hydrants remain accessible for fire response. 3. Requiring that development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones contain visible street signage, such as reflective signs that clearly indicate street names, addresses, and directional arrows for emergency response, 4. Studying and establishing, as appropriate, Red Flag Day parking restrictions to ensure unobstructed access for emergency vehicles. 5. Requiring that new development provide adequate water pressure for firefighting. 6. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. 7. Identifying opportunities to facilitate access of emergency vehicles to existing development.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Mid-term		EBMUD, PG&E	High	EBMUD partnership funds, CAL FIRE grants, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.10: Sufficient Firefighting Services. Regularly review funding, staffing levels, fire station location, equipment availability, water availability, and availability of other key resources of the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department to ensure that the department is keeping pace with changes in local population.	Fire Department	Ongoing	City Manager's Office		High	General Fund, equipment replacement reserves
4.11: Fire Protection for New Development. Ensure new development is located where fire and emergency services have sufficient capacity to meet project needs and that existing development maintains its current level of protection service. In addition to adequate fire department staffing and resources, this may include increased requirements for fire protection systems for residential units, such as roof sprinkler systems or other site-specific fire resilience features.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Ongoing			Medium	Development impact fees, General Fund
4.12: Post-Fire Development. Require redevelopment after wildfires to meet current California Building Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Standards to reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazards through site preparation, layout design, fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-retarding building design and materials. Re-evaluate development standards after a wildfire to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices. In addition, regularly review and update local development standards to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices, independent of local fire events.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Near-term		California Office of Emergency Services	Medium	Permit fees, General Fund, CAL FIRE resilience grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.13: Post-Fire Displacement. Work with neighboring jurisdictions and local homeless service and emergency support providers to help residents displaced from wildfires to secure housing and other necessary services.	Community Development Department, Housing Division	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, local housing, and emergency assistance nonprofits	Medium	General Fund, Emergency Solutions Grants, Community Services Block Grant
4.14: Post-Fire Slope Stabilization. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to stabilize and vegetate burned slopes after a wildfire.	Public Works, Fire Department	Near-term		CAL FIRE, Cal OES, FEMA	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Cal OES grants, General Fund
4.15: Wildfire Health Impacts. Work with the Contra Costa County Public Health Division and health service providers to plan for increased levels of illness and injury due to wildfire and to distribute N95 masks during periods of poor air quality.	Fire Department, City Manager's Office	Mid-term		Contra Costa County Public Health Division, local healthcare providers	Medium	General Fund, public health grants

4.16: New Development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Encourage new residential development to occur outside of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones identified by CAL FIRE (see Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones). Where new construction or significant redevelopment is proposed in such areas, require review by the Community Development Department and El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department prior to the issuance of development permits. Plans for proposed development in such areas shall include, at a minimum: ▪ Site plan, planting plan, planting palette, and irrigation plan to reduce the risk of fire hazards and with consideration to site conditions, including slope, structures, and adjacencies. ▪ Development and maintenance of defensible space and shaded fuel breaks. ▪ Development of fire protection plans that include at a minimum: - o Risk analysis; - o Fire response capabilities; - o Fire safety requirements, including defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance; - o Mitigation measures and design considerations for non-conforming fuel modification; - o Wildfire education, maintenance, and limitations; and - o Evacuation planning. ▪ Multiple points of ingress and egress to improve evacuation, emergency response, fire equipment access and adequate water infrastructure for water supply and fire flow that meets or exceeds the standards in the	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Fire Department	Ongoing		CAL FIRE	Medium	Permit fees, developer-funded improvements, fire resilience grants
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Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
California Fire Safe Regulations. This specifically includes two sections of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7: Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations). - Class A roof materials for new and replacement roofs. - Location and source of anticipated water supply.						
4.17: Fire Hazards Response Support. Facilitate firefighting in low-visibility conditions by requiring measures such as high-visibility signage for streets and building addresses that meet or exceed the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Articles 2 and 3, Sections 1273 and 1274).	Fire Department	Near-term			Medium	General Fund
4.18: Access for Fire and Emergency Vehicles and Equipment. Require proposed development to provide adequate access for fire and emergency vehicles and equipment that meets or exceeds the standards in the California Fire Safe Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).	Fire Department, Public Works Department, Community Development Department	Ongoing		CAL FIRE	Medium	Development impact fees

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
4.19: Retrofitting City-Owned Roadways. Identify existing public and private roadways in fire hazard severity zones that are not in compliance with current fire safety regulations, to the extent resources are available. Work at retrofitting and maintaining City-owned roadways as needed to meet current standards and encourage private property owners to do the same, to the extent feasible and given the absence of other site constraints. These standards include road standards for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, vegetation clearance, and other requirements of the California Fire Safe Regulations, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7): specifically Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with Section 1270, State Responsibility Area Fire Safe Regulations); and Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299.01, Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Long-term			High	General Fund, state transportation grants, infrastructure resilience grants
4.20: Firewise Communities. Work with the El Cerrito Fire Safe Council to publicize the Firewise USA program to neighborhoods in areas with high fire risks and support neighborhoods in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface in pursuing designation as Firewise Communities.	Fire Department	Near-term		National Fire Protection Association, neighborhood associations	Low	General Fund, Firewise USA program support
Goal 5: Reduce risk from and provide timely and effective response to extreme heat and severe weather.						
5.1: Urban Tree Canopy. Maintain the health of the urban tree canopy to increase shaded surfaces and reduce risk of downed trees during severe weather. Expand and renew the urban tree canopy to help reduce the impacts of extreme heat.	Public Works Department	Mid-term			Medium	Urban Greening Grants, CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.2: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials. Use heat-mitigating materials and install shade structures, both green and built infrastructure, at parks,, along public streets and trails, and at other public spaces under City control. Coordinate with school districts and private schools to encourage similar improvements at school sites to to reduce ground surface temperatures.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		West Contra Costa Unified School District, California Department of Education, private school operators	Medium	Prop 68 funds, General Fund, California Natural Resources Agency grants
5.3: Shading and Heat-Mitigating Materials at Transit Stops. Coordinate with local and regional public transportation providers to increase shading and heat-mitigating materials at transit stops.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Western Contra Costa Transit Authority, Contra Costa Transportation Authority	Medium	Transportation grants, Green Infrastructure funds, Caltrans Active Transportation Program

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.4: Resilience Hubs. Identify existing facilities that can function as community resilience hubs. Maintain these facilities as needed to serve as resilience hubs, ensuring that they are well-equipped, accessible, and are situated outside of areas at risk from hazards impacts, and that the public is aware of these resources. Work with neighboring jurisdictions to promote awareness and use of these hubs. Evaluate the feasibility of creating new resilience hubs when new facilities are developed or existing facilities are retrofitted, incorporating renewable energy generation, energy storage, and the ability to offer refuge from extreme heat and poor air quality due to regional wildfire smoke.	Public Works Department, Operations & Environmental Services Division	Mid-term		Contra Costa County, PG&E, local community-based organizations	High	Community Resilience Centers Program, Resilience Hubs Grant Program, General Fund
5.5: Resilient Development. Encourage new and existing development to incorporate building and site design features that reduce the effects of extreme heat, improve indoor air quality, and reduce energy demand. These features could include air conditioning, air filtration, energy-efficient duct work improvements, passive cooling design and amenities, cool roofs, reflective or pervious paving materials, high-albedo surfaces, shade trees, and other green infrastructure. Help residents connect with contractors and financial assistance programs to implement these improvements.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Mid-term			Medium	BayREN incentives, Green Building grants, Energy-Efficiency Financing programs
5.6: Resilient Power Supplies. Work with PG&E, MCE, and local solar energy installers to support resiliency of the local power grid, including distributed generation and microgrids for residents, businesses, and public agencies.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		PG&E, MCE, local solar energy providers	High	California Energy Commission programs, federal energy resilience funding, General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.7: Renewable Energy and Energy Storage at City Facilities. Maintain, improve, and where fiscally viable expand distributed renewable generation and energy storage at City facilities. Include provisions for the ongoing maintenance and performance monitoring of these systems to ensure long-term reliability. Prioritize buildings and facilities that provide essential City services during extreme weather events for energy storage systems.	Public Works Department	Mid-term		BayREN, California Energy Commission	High	BayREN incentives, state/local infrastructure funds, renewable energy rebates
5.8: Community Solar and Energy Storage. Work in partnership with MCE, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, and others to support the development of community solar projects, streamline permitting where possible, and prioritize storage systems to ensure community solar could be used during outages.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions	Long-term		MCE, BayREN	Medium	BayREN incentives, MCE incentives, state energy grants, infrastructure investment funds
5.9: Planning for Extreme Heat. Participate in regional planning with neighboring jurisdictions to develop an extreme heat response plan that includes establishment of community cooling centers, weatherization of city buildings, temperature triggers for when cooling centers would open, and cooling strategies for persons engaged in outdoor work and persons experiencing homelessness.	Fire Department	Near-term		Contra Costa Health Services, neighboring jurisdictions	Medium	Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants, General Fund
5.10: Community Support and Mutual-Aid Networks. Support residents in developing neighborhood support programs to perform wellness checks on vulnerable neighbors during hazardous events.	Fire Department, Police Department,	Near-term		Neighborhood groups, senior service providers	Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
5.11: Urban Greening Plan. Implement the Urban Greening Plan to enhance public places and open spaces throughout the city. Open and green spaces provide cooling from heat and are linked to mental health and quality of life benefits.	Community Development Department, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Mid-term	Recreation Department		Medium	Urban Greening Program (Prop 84), General Fund
Goal 6: Secure a resilient water supply and use water supplies sustainably.						
6.1: Drought-Tolerant Landscaping. Require drought-tolerant landscaping in new private and municipal development, in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Ensure that new landscaping does not exacerbate wildfire or flood risks, and aligns with vegetation and stormwater management standards.	Community Development Department, Planning Division, Public Works Department	Near-term			Low	EBMUD rebates, General Fund
6.2: Water-Efficient Development. Require the installation of water-efficiency measures in new private development at municipal facilities. Encourage the installation of water-efficiency and graywater measures in existing private development, including by helping residents identify rebates and other financial incentives.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Near-term			Medium	EBMUD rebates, BayREN water-efficiency programs, General Fund
6.3: Drought Planning. Work with regional water providers to prepare for reduced long-term water supply resulting from more frequent and severe drought events, and implement extensive water conservation measures and ensure sustainable water supplies, including fire suppression needs.	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	Mid-term		EBMUD	Medium	Integrated Regional Water Management funds, General Fund, Cal OES drought resilience funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 7: Protect the health of El Cerrito residents.						
7.1: Regional Health. Support Contra Costa County in disseminating information on disease conditions that may affect El Cerrito residents.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Ongoing	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund, public health grants
7.2: Pandemic Planning. Support Contra Costa County to plan for future pandemic events, including securing necessary public health supplies, preparing effective messaging for preventative actions and treatments, and identifying and evaluating potential public health measures.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Near-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund, public health grants
7.3: Vector-Borne Diseases. Support the County and the Mosquito Vector and Control District in working with healthcare providers to support free or reduced-cost vaccinations for vector-borne diseases for El Cerrito residents.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund
7.4: Medical Providers. Support Contra Costa County to coordinate with local medical providers to ensure low-cost medical and emergency medical services are available to all residents in the city.	Contra Costa County, Public Health Division	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Low	General Fund, community health partnerships
7.5: Outdoor Workers. Support opportunities to ensure that workers in outdoor industries have the training and resources to be adequately protected from environmental hazards, including extreme heat, poor air quality, pests, and diseases, in alignment with applicable OSHA and Cal/OSHA regulations and standards.	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	Near-term		Cal/OSHA, labor unions, Public Works contractors	Low	General Fund
7.6: Public Awareness. Work with local community groups, providers of senior services, and childcare workers to raise awareness about disease prevention and response.	City Manager's Office	Near-term		Senior service providers, childcare organizations, local nonprofits	Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Goal 8: A community prepared for an effective response and recovery in the event of emergencies or natural and human-caused disasters.						
8.1: Hazard Awareness. Publicize areas at risk of local hazards, emergency preparedness programs, evacuation planning resources, and other efforts to promote resident awareness and caution regarding hazards, including soil instability, earthquakes, flooding, and fire.	City Manager's Office, Fire Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County	Low	General Fund
8.2: Public Facilities. Avoid construction of new emergency buildings (police, fire, hospital, etc.) and vital utilities, communication systems, and other public facilities in identified fire, flood, and geologic hazard zones (see Figure S-5, Landslide Susceptibility Areas; Figure S-7, Flood Hazard Zones; and Figure S-10, Fire Hazard Severity Zones) to the extent feasible. Design such buildings and infrastructure to remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster and ensure that existing critical facilities and infrastructure remain operational during and after an emergency or disaster.	Community Development, Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department	Long-term			High	General Fund, grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.3: Emergency Notification and Communication. Promote participation in the City's Emergency Alert E-Notifications program, PG&E's emergency alert system, emergency HAM radio operators' network, and other networks that can reach residents in the event of an emergency. Continue to support the County's Community Warning System sirens and explore opportunities to expand emergency warning siren systems in El Cerrito. Use all City social media channels, both citywide accounts and departmental accounts, to share timely and accurate emergency information. Ensure that the City can issue emergency warnings and ensure communication between emergency responders even in the absence of electrical and cellular service, and update the Emergency Operations Plan to specify these alternatives. Ensure that all official City communications are provided in formats and languages that are reflective of the demographics of El Cerrito. Conduct regular outreach and education so that residents understand how notifications and alerts will be shared during an emergency, what emergency sirens mean, and what protective actions should be taken when they are activated.	City Manager's Office, Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term		Contra Costa County, PG&E	Medium	General Fund
8.4: Power Outages. Identify residents whose health and safety may be most severely impacted by power outages and provide support and assistance in obtaining backup power supplies and other safety resources.	Fire Department, Community Development Department, Building Division	Near-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.5: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. After update and certification by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, incorporate the current Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's Annex into this Safety Element by reference, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6.	Community Development Department, Planning Division	Near-term	Fire Department		Low	General Fund
8.6: Community Emergency Preparedness. In partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, conduct community emergency response and evacuation drills to increase awareness and support improved community preparedness for future emergencies.	Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term		0Neighboring jurisdictions	Medium	General Fund
8.7: Community Emergency Response Team Training. Support, encourage, and continue to offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents and members of the business community to increase disaster awareness and emergency response capability.	Fire Department	Ongoing			Low	General Fund
8.8: Hazard Insurance. Work with property and rental insurance providers to raise awareness about the latest safety requirements related to seismic, flood, and fire hazards and regularly incorporate these requirements into development codes as necessary, referencing related local ordinances and programs, such as the City's 2025 amendments to Chapter 8.30 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code. Work with other jurisdictions and local community-based organizations to evaluate opportunities to preserve and improve the cost and quality of property insurance for El Cerrito community members.	Community Development Department, Building Division	Mid-term			Low	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.9: Regional Emergency Response and Mutual Aid. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and Caltrans in emergency response and evacuation planning. Maintain and participate in mutual aid agreements with these agencies to ensure coordinated response capabilities, adequate medical and emergency services, and effective inter-agency communication. Cooperate with partners to assess and project future emergency service needs and to conduct joint preparedness, training, and exercises.	Fire Department, Police Department	Ongoing		Caltrans	Low	Mutual-aid agreements, General Fund
8.10: Multi-Destination Evacuation Planning. Identify and maintain a list of multiple evacuation destinations in different locations in the vicinity of the City to provide diverse points of refuge and reduce evacuation times. The City should select these sites based on their capacity to accommodate the estimated number of people evacuating from El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington.	Fire Department, Police Department	Near-term			Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.11: Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination for Evacuation Route Maintenance. Collaborate and plan with the City of Albany, City of Richmond,, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans to ensure the ongoing maintenance and readiness of potential evacuation routes serving El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington, including making improvements to existing roads to support safe evacuations, as needed. Continue to implement and expand existing agreements where feasible along evacuation routes. These agreements shall include provisions for: a. Regular assessment and improvement of existing roads to support safe evacuations. b. Coordinated planning and implementation of traffic management strategies during evacuations. These efforts will help to ensure adequate capacity, safety, and viability of evacuation routes in the event of an emergency.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term		City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Caltrans	Medium	Transportation planning funds, infrastructure grants

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.12: Evacuation Route Infrastructure Preparedness. To enhance evacuation efficiency and safety, the City will: - Continue to evaluate and to the extent feasible provide back-up power systems for all City-owned traffic signals on potential evacuation routes. - Evaluate and as appropriate develop or update emergency evacuation traffic signal timing plans for all signals on potential evacuation routes, prioritizing outbound traffic flow while maintaining access for emergency vehicles through traffic signal pre-emption. - Identify and designate routes where temporary evacuation capacity can be created through manual traffic direction to optimize traffic flow, including use of available parking lanes, shoulders, and bikeways for traffic while ensuring emergency responder access is maintained. This will include pre-identifying bottleneck intersections and positioning law enforcement personnel to maintain traffic movement during evacuations. - Identify additional opportunities to preserve and enhance evacuation route infrastructure preparedness as part of regular maintenance activities, including evaluating the expansion of temporary parking restrictions (such as the red flag day pilot program) to enhance public safety during evacuations, as appropriate.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term			High	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.13: Evacuation Route Clearance and Capacity Enhancement. To maximize evacuation route effectiveness: - The City will implement a permanent program that allows restriction of on-street parking on designated evacuation routes during high-risk periods for various hazards based on evaluation of pilot program. - El Cerrito will support efforts by PG&E to prioritize the undergrounding of utilities and the upgrading of power poles with current isolating/shutdown technologies along main evacuation routes to minimize the risk of downed wires during evacuations. The City will also support tree trimming and other regular maintenance conducted by PG&E along utility corridors.	Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department	Mid-term		PG&E	Medium	General Fund, PG&E infrastructure hardening funds

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.14: Community Evacuation Education and Preparedness. El Cerrito will implement a comprehensive community evacuation education and preparedness program, including: - Regular updates and dissemination of information about how to plan for safe and effective evacuations, in multiple languages and formats accessible to all community members. - Coordination with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and private schools to develop and regularly update evacuation plans that address both safe on-campus procedures and coordinated off-site transport to predetermined refuge locations beyond the disaster areas. - Targeted outreach and planning for areas with high concentrations of physically and socially vulnerable residents, including those with age-related, disability-related, or other mobility challenges. - Conducting periodic community-wide evacuation exercises to test and refine evacuation plans and procedures. - Encouraging residents and employees to sign up with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System and Genasys Protect to receive emergency alerts and ensure effective distribution of evacuation notifications. - Identifying pedestrian paths, including stairs and trails, on evacuation maps.	Police Department	Near-term	Fire Department, City Manager's Office	West Contra Costa Unified School District	Medium	General Fund

Policy	Responsible Department	Timing	Supporting Department(s)	Supporting Agencies	Relative Cost	Potential Funding Sources
8.15: Evacuation Assistance Program. Support and coordinate an evacuation assistance program with Contra Costa Transportation Authority, AC Transit, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies, and care homes to help those with limited mobility, lack of access to a vehicle, and other at-risk populations evacuate safely. Consider training for emergency responders and volunteers in assisting vulnerable populations during evacuation.	City Manager's Office	Mid-term	Public Works Department, Recreation Department	Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit District, paratransit, dial-a-ride agencies	Medium	General Fund
8.16: Hazard Planning in Capital Improvements. As part of the Capital Improvements Program, CIP Budget, and related planning and funding processes for capital improvements, include a forward-looking assessment of how the proposed improvements may be affected by current and anticipated future hazards, including those subject to climate change. Highlight how the project supports community-wide safety, equity, and climate readiness now and in the future. All projects shall incorporate at a minimum standard resilience practices, materials, and other elements to minimize future maintenance. Larger or more complex projects shall include a thorough resilience analysis that describes specific design, material, and construction strategies to ensure long-term durability and adaptability.	Public Works Department	Mid-term	City Manager's Office		Medium	General Fund

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES GLOSSARY

Capital Improvement Program - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/475/Capital-Improvement-Program>

El Cerrito's multi-year plan for funding and implementing major infrastructure projects, including those that enhance community safety, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/325/Climate-Action-Plan>

El Cerrito's comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts, including measures that overlap with hazard mitigation such as urban forestry, green infrastructure, and wildfire prevention.

Community Collaborations

Partnerships between the City of El Cerrito and local organizations, neighborhood groups, businesses, and service providers to implement safety policies, conduct outreach, and enhance emergency preparedness.

Development Regulations

El Cerrito's set of zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, design guidelines, and other land use controls that govern how property can be developed, including requirements related to hazard mitigation and safety.

Development Review - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/4760/2017-Development-Review-Application?bidId=>

The City of El Cerrito's comprehensive process for evaluating proposals for new construction and significant renovations. This process ensures compliance with applicable zoning regulations, subdivision standards, building codes, design guidelines, environmental requirements, and other municipal policies.

Emergency Preparedness Planning - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/572/Get-Ready--Emergency-Preparedness>

El Cerrito's comprehensive approach to planning for disasters. This covers a wide range of City activities, including maintaining and updating the Emergency Operations Plan that directs the City's emergency response and recovery procedures, evacuation plans and protocols, and coordination with the Contra Costa County Emergency Services.

Geologic, Fire, Flooding, and Other Hazard Maps

Official maps maintained by El Cerrito that identify areas subject to specific hazards, including fault zones, landslide-prone areas, Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and flood zones.

Green Infrastructure Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/1335/Green-Infrastructure-Plan>

El Cerrito's strategy for implementing natural systems to manage stormwater, reduce flooding, and provide multiple environmental benefits, including specific projects and maintenance protocols.

Hazardous Soils Remediation

The process of identifying and cleaning up sites with soils that have been contaminated with hazardous materials or other pollutants in El Cerrito, particularly in areas with historical industrial use or other potential sources of contamination.

Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/21576/HNA-Draft-Final-Plan-020625?bidId=>

A specific plan for El Cerrito's 102-acre Hillside Natural Area that balances fire risk reduction through vegetation management with conservation of native plant communities and wildlife habitat.

Intergovernmental Coordination

El Cerrito's formal and informal relationships with other governmental entities, including Contra Costa County, neighboring cities, special districts, and state agencies to address hazards and emergency planning.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/82601/City-of-El-Cerrito-Annex-2024-HMP>

The Contra Costa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and El Cerrito's Annex (a locally specific appendix), which identify risks from natural and human-caused hazards and outline short-term, detailed strategies to reduce these risks.

Municipal Code - https://library.municode.com/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT1GEPR

The codified ordinances of El Cerrito that establish legal requirements for various activities, including those related to public safety, building standards, and emergency management.

Release of Hazardous Materials - <https://www.cchealth.org/health-and-safety-information/hazmat-programs>

El Cerrito's protocols for responding to and providing public information about hazardous materials incidents, including

coordination with Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs.

Urban Forest Management Plan – <https://www.elcerrito.org/463/Urban-Forest-Management-Plan>

El Cerrito's comprehensive approach to maintaining and expanding the city's tree canopy, including street trees and trees in parks and other public spaces. The tree canopy helps to reduce urban heat island effects and manage stormwater.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ U.S. Geological Survey. 2025, September 22 (accessed). HayWired Scenario: Science Application for Risk Reduction.

<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/science-application-for-risk-reduction/science/haywired-scenario>

ⁱⁱ California State Water Resources Control Board. 2024, August 23 (accessed). GeoTracker

Database. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress>.

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^{iv} U.S. Department of Transportation. 2025, February 14 (accessed). Incident Statistics. <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat-program-management-data-and-statistics/data-operations/incident-statistics>.

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<https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/California-Sea-Level-Rise-Guidance-2024-508.pdf>.

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<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7134a5.htm#:~:text=During%201999%E2%80%932020%2C%20the%20annual,than%20among%20females%20each%20year>.

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^{xi} Cal-Adapt. 2025, March 18 (accessed). Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights.

<https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat>

^{xii} Cal-Adapt. 2025, June 18 (accessed). Annual Averages.

<https://cal-adapt.org/tools/annual-averages>

^{xiii} Cal-Adapt. 2025, June 18 (accessed). Snowpack. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/snowpack/>

^{xiv} California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. 2024. Vector-borne diseases. <https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/epic-2022/impacts-human-health/vector-borne-diseases#>

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APPENDIX A

Evacuation Study



Memorandum

Date: October 29, 2024

To: Eli Krispi, PlaceWorks
Sean Moss, City of El Cerrito

From: Sam Tabibnia and Amy Deng

Subject: **City of El Cerrito 2024 Safety Element Update – Emergency Evacuation Time Assessment**

OK24-0539

Fehr & Peers has prepared an assessment of emergency evacuation times for the City of El Cerrito's 2024 Safety Element Update, consistent with the requirements of California Assembly Bill (AB 747). This analysis provides an assessment of the evacuation capacity under different scenarios.

This memorandum consists of the following sections:

1. **Background** (page 1) – discusses the purpose of the analysis, the legislative background, and some of the limitations of the analysis.
2. **Evacuation Capacity Analysis Overview** (page 2) – presents the methodology and assumptions used in the analysis, including the designated evacuation routes, identified evacuation zones, and the evacuation scenarios analyzed in this memorandum.
3. **Evacuation Capacity Assessment** (page 7) – describes the results of the analysis under the three analyzed evacuation scenarios.
4. **Recommendations** (page 11) – presents potential recommendations that could improve emergency evacuation times.

1. Background

This assessment is intended to provide information to comply with the requirements of AB 747, signed in October 2019, which requires that all General Plan Safety Elements be reviewed and updated to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of



emergency scenarios. This is a requirement for all Safety Elements or updates to a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) completed after January 2022.

As the AB 747 requirement is new, there is no standard methodology or standard of care for this analysis. We have adapted available traffic analysis methodologies and resources that, in our knowledge and experience, we believe meet the intent of the AB 747 requirement. Nevertheless, these methodologies are necessarily limited by the parameters for our work for this project and the current state of our knowledge, as described in this and next section of this memorandum.

This document is intended to provide an assessment of roadway capacity and time needed to evacuate under the described evacuation scenarios and should not be considered an evacuation plan. Emergency evacuation can occur due to any number of events. Additionally, any emergency-caused movement is unpredictable because it has an element of individual behavior related to personal risk assessment for each hazard event as the associated evacuation instructions are provided. As such, this assessment is intended to provide the City of El Cerrito with a broad understanding of the capacity of the transportation system during a hypothetical evacuation scenario; it does not provide a guarantee that evacuations will follow modeling that is used for analysis purposes, nor does it guarantee that the findings are applicable to any or all situations. This memorandum was prepared for the specific and limited purpose of this project. It is not intended to be an exhaustive analysis of evacuation planning in the City of El Cerrito or to be used as a specific evacuation plan.

While this assessment should help the City of El Cerrito better prepare for hazard related events and associated evacuations, the City should take care in planning and implementing any potential evacuation scenario.

2. Evacuation Capacity Analysis Overview

Various aspects of the evacuation capacity analysis, including the designated evacuation routes, the evacuation zones, the evacuation scenarios, and the various assumptions used in completing this analysis are described below.

Evacuation Routes

The *El Cerrito & Kensington Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness & Evacuation* (2019)¹ identifies evacuation routes for the City of El Cerrito and the unincorporated community of Kensington. The City of El Cerrito provides emergency services to the community of Kensington on a contract basis. These routes normally consist of the following corridors, which are shown on **Figure 1**.

¹ <https://www.kppcsd.org/files/9227af8b3/Fire+Pamphlet+7-24-2019.pdf>



- San Pablo Avenue
- Key Boulevard-Elm Street-Richmond Street
- Ashbury Avenue
- Colusa Avenue
- Arlington Boulevard
- Barrett Avenue
- Cutting Boulevard
- Potrero Avenue
- Moeser Lane
- Central Avenue
- Fairmount Avenue-Carlson Boulevard
- Berkeley Park Boulevard-Stratford Road-Coventry Road
- Westminster Avenue/Wellesley Avenue-Kenyon Avenue-Beloit Avenue-Grizzly Peak Boulevard-Spruce Street

These corridors are the primary routes that vehicles would likely use to evacuate the evacuation zones, depending on the specific emergency event. Considering that most of the evacuating population are local residents who are familiar with the local street network, the modeled evacuation scenarios assume that some of the evacuating vehicles would use other routes depending on their proximity to these routes, the level of congestion on the primary routes, and other factors.

Evacuation Zones

Evacuation areas are defined by the Genasys Protect (formerly known as Zonehaven) emergency response zones as directed by emergency responders. **Figure 1** also shows the 16 Genasys Protect zones in the City of El Cerrito, unincorporated Kensington, and the City of Richmond that may be evacuated at the same time and may use the same evacuation routes.

Evacuation Scenarios

As part of the preparation for this work, Fehr & Peers prepared hazard zone maps and reviewed potential emergency events with City staff, including representatives from the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department and the El Cerrito Police Department. Maps showing high fire risk areas and landslide risk zones are shown in **Figures 2 and 3**.

The following three events requiring evacuation were chosen based on emergency responder staff input and evaluated in this memorandum:

- **Scenario 1: Hazardous Material Spill on San Pablo Avenue** – A hazardous material spill occurs on San Pablo Avenue at Blake Street in El Cerrito at 4:00 AM on a Monday morning, necessitating the evacuation of nearby residents. Affected residents in the City of El Cerrito are directed to evacuate to the Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot near the west end of Buchanan Street in the City of Albany or other destinations outside the evacuation zones. **Figure 4** shows the evacuated zones and the primary evacuation routes. The evacuation zones consist of Zones ECK-E016 and ECK-E001 in El Cerrito and Zone RCH-E047 in the City of Richmond. The primary evacuation routes



for the El Cerrito zones consist of Cutting Boulevard to I-80 freeway, Richmond Street south to Moeser Lane and to San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo Avenue south to Buchanan Street or to Central Avenue to either I-80 or I-580 to the south, Jacuzzi Street/Cleveland Avenue, or Pierce Street to Buchanan Street. Affected areas in the City of Richmond are directed to evacuate to the west.

- **Scenario 2: Wildfire Originating Near Rifle Range Road Trailhead (Local Evacuation)** – A brush fire originates in the grassy area near the Rifle Range Road Trailhead at 11:00 AM on a weekday in late September with schools in normal session. Fire spreads in a southwest direction. An evacuation is ordered at noon for portions of El Cerrito and Richmond.² Affected residents are directed to evacuate to the Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot near the west end of Buchanan Street in the City of Albany or other destinations outside the evacuation zones. The fire is contained by 3:00 PM and no further evacuation is necessary. **Figure 5** shows the evacuated zones and the evacuation routes. The evacuation zones consist of Zones ECK-E011 and ECK-E012 in El Cerrito. The primary evacuation routes consist of using Arlington Boulevard to Cutting Boulevard, Potrero Avenue, and Moeser Lane to access San Pablo Avenue and the freeways, and using either I-580 South, Jacuzzi Street/Cleveland Avenue, Pierce Street, or San Pablo Avenue to reach Buchanan Street and then the Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot.
- **Scenario 3: Wildfire Originating in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park (Large Area Evacuation)** – A brush fire originates in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park east of El Cerrito at 11:00 AM on a weekday in late September with schools in normal session. Fire spreads in a west direction. An evacuation is ordered at noon for the very high fire severity zones in El Cerrito, Kensington, and Richmond. **Figure 6** shows the evacuated zones and the evacuation routes. The evacuation zones consist of El Cerrito and Kensington Zones ECK-E001, ECK-E004 through ECK-E012, ECK-E014, ECK-E015, and ECK-E017. The primary evacuation routes consist of the designated evacuation routes in the City of El Cerrito and Kensington that generally evacuate out of the area to the north, west, and south, although additional routes may also be used.

These scenarios were chosen in discussions with City staff based on the likelihood of occurrence, availability of evacuation routes, and the judgment of the project team, including the emergency responder representatives.

² Consisting of residents of Vista Heights Road with only access through Rifle Range Road, which are accounted for in Zone ECK-E012.



Analysis Assumptions

Emergency events and corresponding evacuations can occur in myriad ways, some allowing for a range of advanced logistical planning, and others requiring more immediate responses such as shelter-in-place for certain sites (such as schools). Given the infinite range of potential timelines and event and evacuation characteristics, the following baseline assumptions are used in this analysis:

A. Evacuation Capacity

1. Although the evacuation orders for large area evacuations (such as Scenario 3) are expected to be staggered for different zones, this analysis assumes that the entire evacuation area is directed to evacuate at the same time.
2. The City of El Cerrito and the surrounding areas, including unincorporated Kensington and the City of Richmond, provide multiuse and footpaths that provide non-motorized connectivity between various parts of the area. Although some residents could use these paths during an evacuation, this analysis assumes that all evacuations would be by personal vehicle.
3. Conceptually, the time it takes to evacuate is fundamentally constrained by capacity constraints along the roadway system, otherwise known as “bottlenecks.” Thus, the evacuation times for each route and scenario are assessed on a bottleneck basis, whereby key collection points along each evacuation route are evaluated relative to the capacity and the estimated evacuating vehicles. The capacities incorporate operational assumptions as defined in the Transportation Research Board’s *Highway Capacity Manual (HCM, 6th Edition)*, including the following range of per-lane flow rates by lane type and capacity limits based on opposing flows. The HCM-based capacity assumptions were reduced to account for some of the potential capacity reductions during an evacuation due to reduced visibility, traffic signals not working properly, or other causes. The analysis assumes that during the evacuation events, the evacuation roadways would continue to have the same lane designations and intersection controls as during normal operations (i.e., no contra-flow lanes or special lane designations). The bottleneck capacities are presented as a range to account for these potential reductions. Evacuation times for each route include the following range of bottleneck-based time (measured as a flow rate of vehicles per hour) required to serve the entire evacuating flow to reach the designated evacuation destination:
 - Through lane: 750-850 vehicles/hour
 - Channelized right turn lane: 750-850 vehicles/hour.
 - Right turn lane: 450-500 vehicles/hour



- Left turn lane: 450-500 vehicles/hour.
- Shared lane (left-through-right, left-through, through-right, left-right): 450-500 vehicles/hour.
- Freeway on-ramps: 800-900 vehicles/hour

The analysis assumes that the background traffic on major evacuation routes, such as San Pablo Avenue, would be diverted to other routes upstream of the evacuation zones to ensure adequate capacity for the evacuating traffic.

B. Evacuating Population

4. For scenarios that require evacuation of schools, parents/guardians will pick-up students at the schools before evacuating.
5. Evacuating public school students are based on 2022-2023 enrollment numbers and evacuating private school students are based on 2018-2019 enrollment numbers as published by the California Department of Education.
6. The analysis also accounts for the adjacent areas in Kensington and the City of Richmond that would likely need to be evacuated at the same time and would likely use the same evacuation routes. The affected zones in unincorporated Kensington and the City of Richmond for each scenario are described in the previous section of this memorandum.
7. The number of existing residents and employees that would evacuate are based on the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates data by census tract. Correspondence between the census tracts and the Genasys Protect zones, and determination of best available evacuation routes, is estimated by Fehr & Peers; in many cases, the estimated evacuating vehicles are distributed to multiple evacuation routes.
8. Based on US Census data, the average vehicle ownership in El Cerrito and the neighboring areas of Kensington and Richmond is about 1.8 vehicles per household. Therefore, this analysis assumes an average of 1.8 vehicles per household for all evacuating households. This is a conservative assumption.
9. For scenarios that include evacuation of employment uses, it is assumed that every employee has their own vehicle and will generate a trip during an evacuation.
10. This analysis adjusts the US Census employment numbers to not include residents that work from home.
11. To ensure a conservative analysis, and because reliable data on the number of adult residents who would be at work during daytime evacuation scenarios is not available, this analysis assumed that all adult residents would be at home during an evacuation and



therefore no reduction in residential evacuating vehicles is made for the daytime scenarios (Scenarios 2 and 3).

3. Evacuation Capacity Assessment

This section discusses the results of the evacuation analysis for Scenarios 1, 2, and 3 based on the methodology and assumptions presented in the previous section.

Scenario 1: Hazardous Material Spill on San Pablo Avenue

Table 1 summarizes the land uses and estimated number of vehicles that would be evacuating under Scenario 1 based on the assumptions and sources described above.

Table 2 shows the estimated evacuation times for Scenario 1. This analysis assumes that all El Cerrito evacuating vehicles would leave the evacuation zones and either evacuate to the designated evacuation area at the Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot or to other destinations to the south, west, and north of the evacuation zones.

It is assumed that the evacuation zone in Richmond would evacuate to the west, primarily through streets such as Carlson Boulevard and Potrero Avenue, and the El Cerrito evacuees would have minimal use of these evacuation routes to the west. Since the El Cerrito evacuees would not meaningfully affect the evacuation times for the Richmond evacuees, Table 2 does not report the evacuation times for the Richmond residents. It is estimated that it would take about 2.1 to 2.4 hours for all evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation zones in El Cerrito.

Table 1: Land Uses and Evacuating Vehicles – Scenario 1

Land Use	Amount	Vehicles ¹
Households	2,770 ²	4,986
Employment ³	0	0
School Students ³	0	0
Total Vehicles		4,986

Note:

1. Assume 1.8 vehicles per household.
2. Consists of the evacuation zones in El Cerrito only (Zones ECK-E016 and ECK-E001).
3. No employment or school students included in this scenario because evacuation is at 4:00 AM when most employment locations and schools are closed.

Source: US Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates; Fehr & Peers, 2024.



Table 2: Estimated Evacuation Times by Route – Scenario 1

Evacuation Route	Total Time to Evacuate (Hours) ¹
Cutting Boulevard to I-80	1.6-1.8
San Pablo Avenue south to either Central Avenue or Buchanan Street	2.1-2.4

Note:

1. The reported range of times represents the estimated time for all the evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation area based on the estimated capacity range of the evacuation routes (it is not the travel time between the evacuation zone and destination).

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.

Scenario 2: Wildfire Originating Near Rifle Range Road Trailhead (Local Evacuation)

Table 3 summarizes the land uses and estimated number of vehicles that would be evacuating under Scenario 2 based on the assumptions and sources described above.

Table 4 shows the estimated evacuation times for Scenario 2. This analysis assumes that all evacuating vehicles would primarily use Arlington Boulevard to the north and south and Cutting Boulevard, Potrero Avenue, and Moeser Lane to the west to leave the evacuation zones (in addition to taking other routes if those are more feasible) and either evacuate to the Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot or to other destinations to the south, west, and north of the evacuation zones. It is estimated that it would take about 1.1 to 1.3 hours for all evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation zones.

Table 3: Land Uses and Evacuating Vehicles – Scenario 2

Land Use	Amount	Vehicles ¹
Households	873	1,572
Employment	136	136
School Students ²	0	0
Total Vehicles		1,707

Note:

1. Assume 1.8 vehicles per household and 1.0 vehicle per employment.
 2. No school students included in this scenario because no schools are in the evacuation zones.
- Source: US Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates; Fehr & Peers, 2024.



Table 4: Estimated Evacuation Times by Route – Scenario 2

Evacuation Route	Total Time to Evacuate (Hours) ¹
Arlington Boulevard to Cutting Boulevard, Potrero Avenue, or Moeser Lane	1.1-1.3

Note:

1. The reported range of times represents the estimated time for all the evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation area based on the estimated capacity range of the evacuation route (it is not the travel time between the evacuation zone and destination).
 2. Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.
- Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.

Scenario 3: Wildfire Originating in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park (Large Area Evacuation)

Table 5 summarizes the land uses and estimated number of vehicles that would be evacuating under Scenario 3 based on the assumptions and sources described above. The totals include both the City of El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington that would evacuate at the same time and use the same evacuation routes.

Table 6 shows the estimated evacuation times for Scenario 3. This analysis assumes that all evacuating vehicles would primarily use the designated evacuation routes along with other side routes as appropriate, and evacuate either to I-80 in the west, north to Richmond along San Pablo Avenue, Barrett Avenue or Arlington Boulevard, or south to Berkeley and Albany along San Pablo Avenue, Ashbury Avenue, Colusa Avenue, Arlington Boulevard, or Grizzly Peak Boulevard. It is estimated that it would take about 2.3 to 2.6 hours for all evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation zones.

Table 5: Land Uses and Evacuating Vehicles – Scenario 3

Land Use	Amount	Vehicles ¹
Households	8,751	17,752
Employment	3,440	3,440
School Students ²	4,828	0
Total Vehicles		19,192

Note:

1. Assume 1.8 vehicles per household and 1.0 vehicle per employment.
2. Since students would be picked up by parents/guardians first and parent/guardian trips are included in the household numbers, no additional vehicle trips assumed for the school students to avoid double-counting vehicles at bottlenecks.

Source: US Census, 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates; Fehr & Peers, 2024.



Table 6: Estimated Evacuation Times by Route – Scenario 3

Evacuation Route	Total Time to Evacuate (Hours) ¹
Arlington Avenue to Unincorporated Contra Costa County	2.2-2.5
Barrett Avenue to City of Richmond	2.2-2.5
Cutting Boulevard to I-80	2.1-2.4
Potrero Avenue to I-80	2.2-2.5
Moeser Lane to San Pablo Avenue	2.3-2.6
Central Avenue to I-80	2.3-2.6
Ashbury Avenue to City of Albany	2.1-2.4
Colusa Avenue to City of Berkeley	2.0-2.2
Arlington Avenue to City of Berkeley	1.9-2.2
Grizzly Peak Boulevard to City of Berkeley	1.9-2.2

Note:

1. The reported range of times represents the estimated time for all the evacuating vehicles to leave the evacuation area based on the estimated capacity range of the evacuation routes (it is not the travel time between the evacuation zone and destination).
2. Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.
3. .

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.

Analysis Limitations

Note that the evacuation time estimates presented above may not capture the following conditions:

- Evacuation times would vary depending on directions residents and employees may receive from emergency responders and individual decisions regarding which route to take or which destination to evacuate to, which may include primary evacuation routes or other feasible routes.
- Emergency scenarios are unpredictable and driver behavior can be disorderly.



- There is also general unpredictability in operational issues such as traffic signal timing coordination issues, or power issues that could trigger traffic signals to operate in “red flash.”
 - Smoke generated by wildfires could limit visibility and result in slower travel speeds by evacuees.
- 12.** Evacuation events are not linear in nature (that is, having an even distribution during the evacuation time period) and it is anticipated that evacuees would vacate at a rate that more closely resembles a bell curve from the time that the evacuation order is issued. These are conditions which would affect the total evacuation time estimated in our assessment that are not captured in the methodology used in this assessment since this analysis assumes that all evacuees would evacuate at once when the evacuation order is issued.

4. Recommendations

The City of El Cerrito maintains resources to inform residents and employees about emergency preparedness and evacuation procedures. These resources should be updated as technologies and best practices evolve. The results of the above analysis indicate the following potential improvements and enhancements to existing resources could reduce evacuation times:

1. Identify multiple evacuation destinations in different locations to allow for more evacuation routes and shorter evacuation times. Ensure each evacuation destination can accommodate the estimated evacuating traffic.
2. Coordinate with other jurisdictions including City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, City of Albany, City of Berkeley, and Caltrans to maintain the designated evacuation routes that serve the City of El Cerrito and unincorporated Kensington.
3. Ensure traffic signals on evacuation routes have back-up power, and develop emergency evacuation traffic signal timing plans for traffic signals on evacuation routes, prioritizing evacuation flows and minimizing opposing traffic flows. Emergency response vehicle access into evacuation areas can be maintained through traffic signal pre-emption. Coordinate with Caltrans to develop corridor evacuation timing plans for San Pablo Avenue.
4. Identify corridors where temporary evacuation capacity, such as reversible (contra-flow) traffic lanes, temporary use of parking lanes, shoulders, two-way-left-turn lanes, transit-only lanes or bikeways could be provided while maintaining emergency responder access in the opposite direction.



5. Continue the recently implemented pilot program and if necessary, adjust the program limiting on-street parking on designated evacuation routes either permanently or during high fire risk periods to reduce potential conflicts with evacuating vehicles.
6. Prioritize undergrounding utilities and upgrading power poles with current isolating/shut down technologies on main evacuation corridors to minimize downed wires on these corridors.
7. As part of evacuation messaging, ensure evacuees are informed of the availability of multiple evacuation routes, to allow effective use of all available capacity.
8. Work with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and private schools to coordinate evacuation plans for the schools in El Cerrito and Kensington.
9. Consider staggering the evacuation orders for citywide or large area evacuations for different zones and account for the impact on potential bottleneck locations when determining the timing for evacuation of different zones.
10. When considering roadway or intersection design modifications, especially in areas that have less accessibility and on key evacuation routes, consider evacuation capacity and consider design treatments that could allow reversible lanes or temporary use of parking lanes, shoulders, transit-only lanes, and/or bikeways as auxiliary lanes to provide additional capacity during an evacuation event.
11. Close major routes upstream from the evacuation zones and divert traffic to other routes to decrease demand on the primary evacuation routes. If necessary, coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and Caltrans to plan and implement potential roadway closures.
12. Educate residents and employees about the importance of carpooling in evacuations to reduce the number of evacuating vehicles and minimize evacuation times.
13. Examine areas that have a high concentration of residents with social vulnerability indicators such as age, disability, and other mobility factors to determine other potential barriers to evacuation besides distance to and capacity of evacuation routes. Advanced coordination between first responders to ensure an efficient and well-communicated process for evacuation may be needed in response to various hazard scenarios.
14. Conduct community-wide evacuation exercises to test the recommendations and plans associated with these scenarios.

Please contact us if you have questions about this analysis.



Attachments:

Figure 1: Evacuation Zones and Evacuation Routes

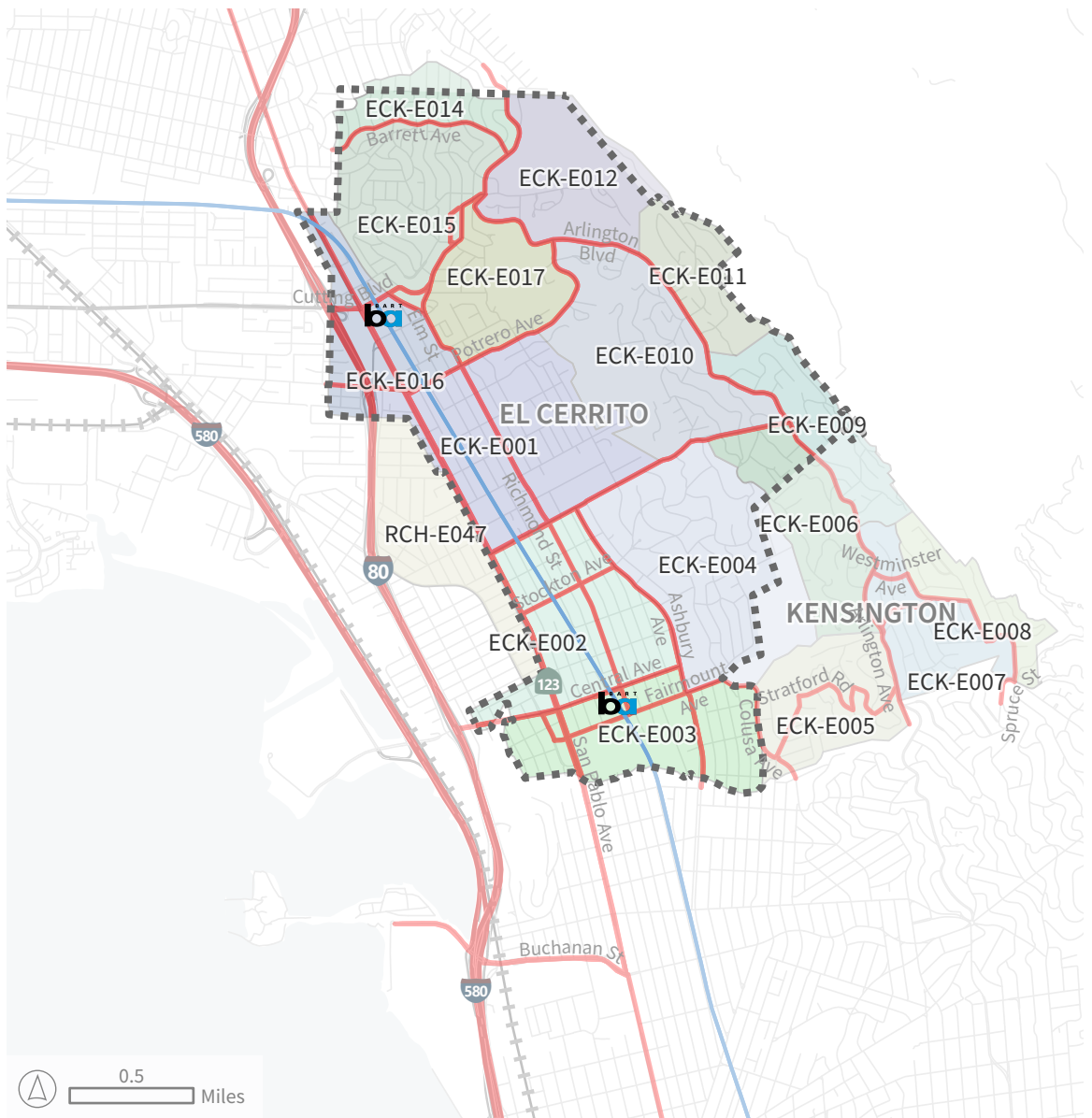
Figure 2: Very High Fire Severity Zones

Figure 3: High Landslide Susceptibility Classes

Figure 4: Scenario 1 (Hazardous Material Spill on San Pablo Avenue)

Figure 5: Scenario 2 (Wildfire Originating Near Rifle Range Road Trailhead, Local Evacuation)

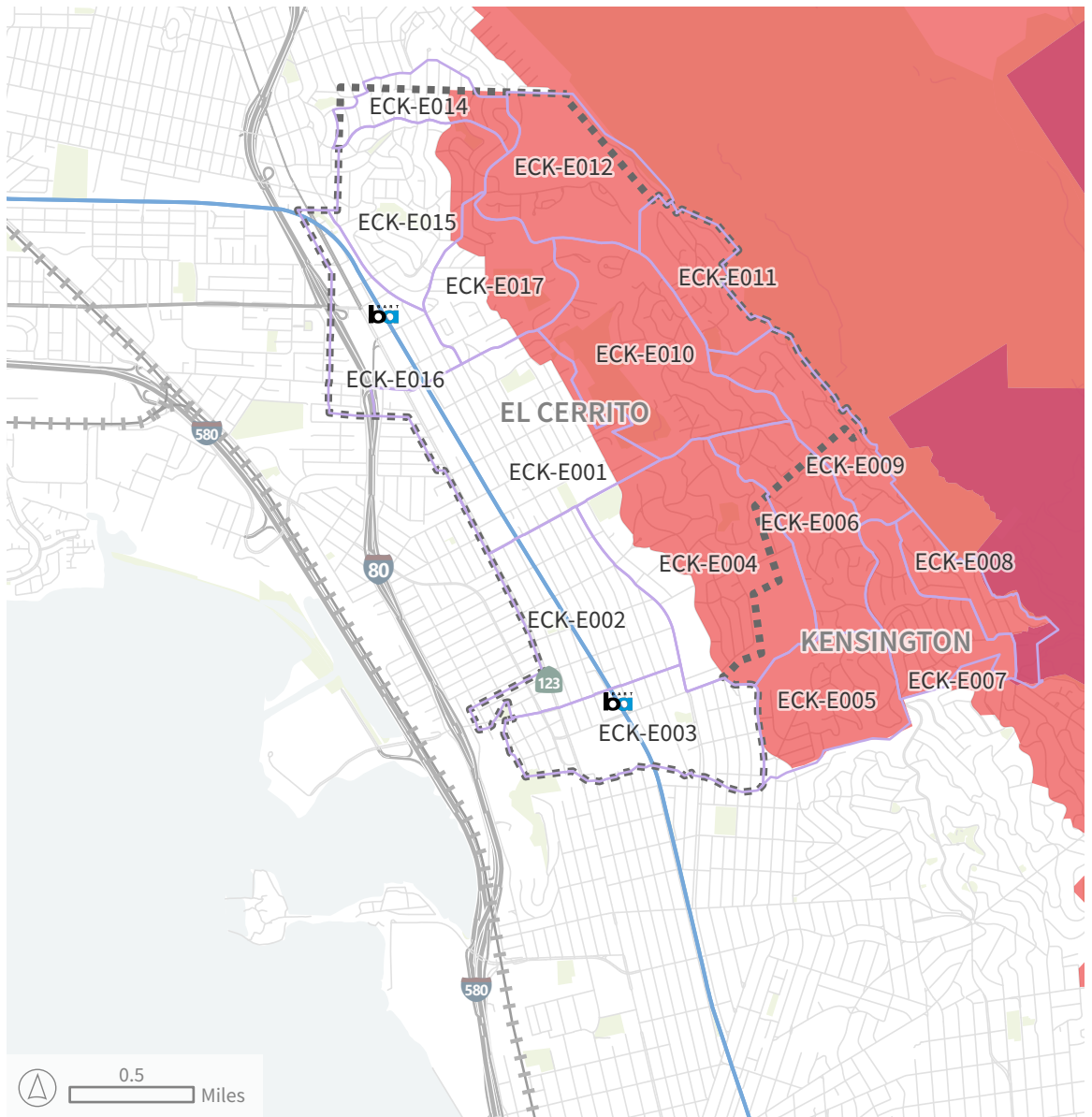
Figure 6: Scenario 3 (Wildfire Originating in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Large Area Evacuation)



-  City of El Cerrito
-  BART Stations
-  BART Line
-  Primary Evacuation Routes
-  Evacuation Zones

Figure 1 – Evacuation Zones and Evacuation Routes

Source: El Cerrito and Kensington Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/12931/Fire-Pamphlet-FINAL>, 2019. Genasys Protect, 2023.

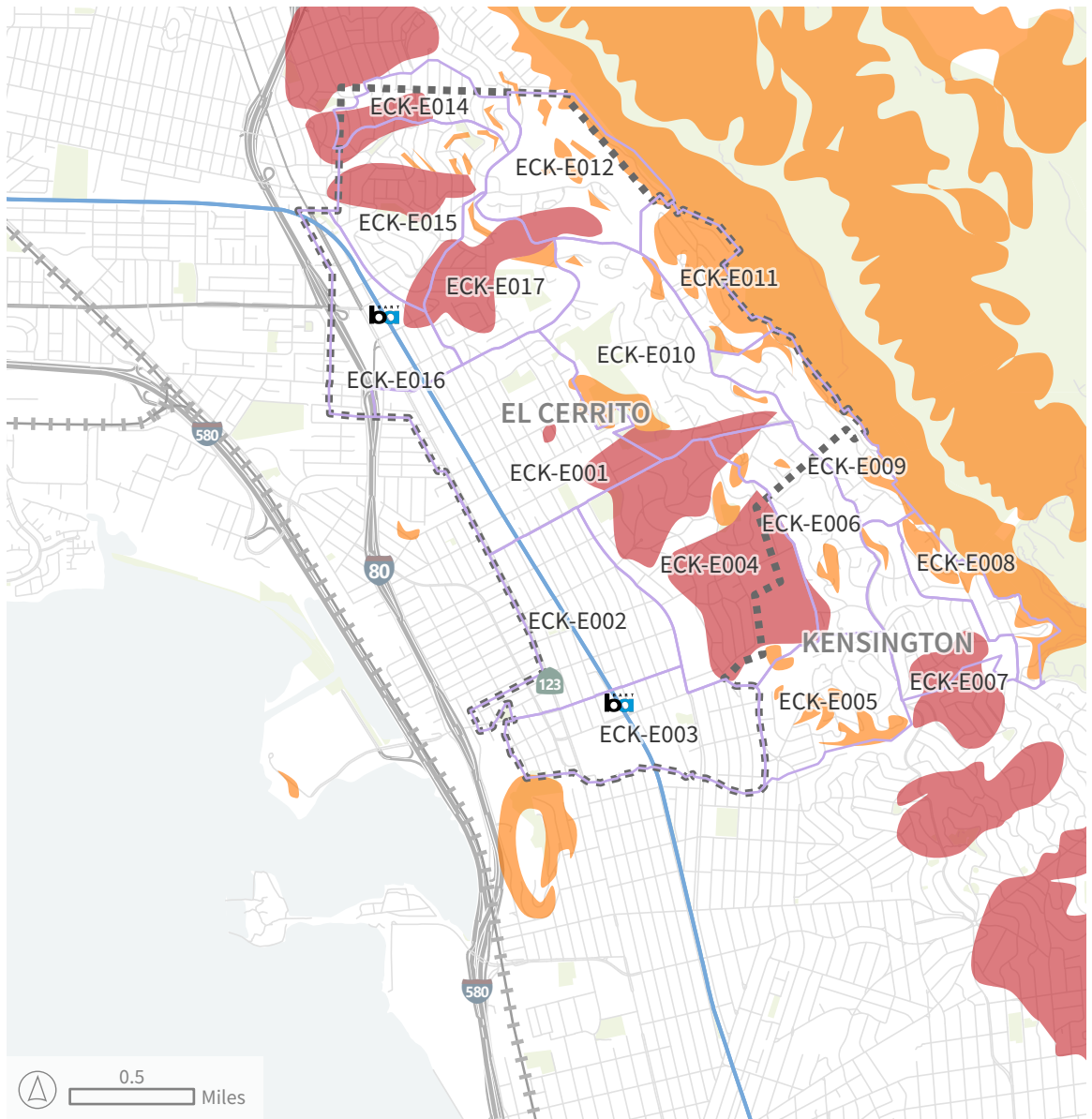


-  City of El Cerrito
-  BART Stations
-  BART Line
-  Evacuation Zones

- Fire Severity Zones**
-  Very High (Local Responsibility Area)
-  Very High (State Responsibility Area)

Figure 2 – Very High Fire Severity Zones

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection,
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03beab8511814e79a0e4eabf0d3e7247>, 2024. Genasys Protect, 2023.



-  City of El Cerrito
-  BART Stations
-  BART Line
-  Evacuation Zones

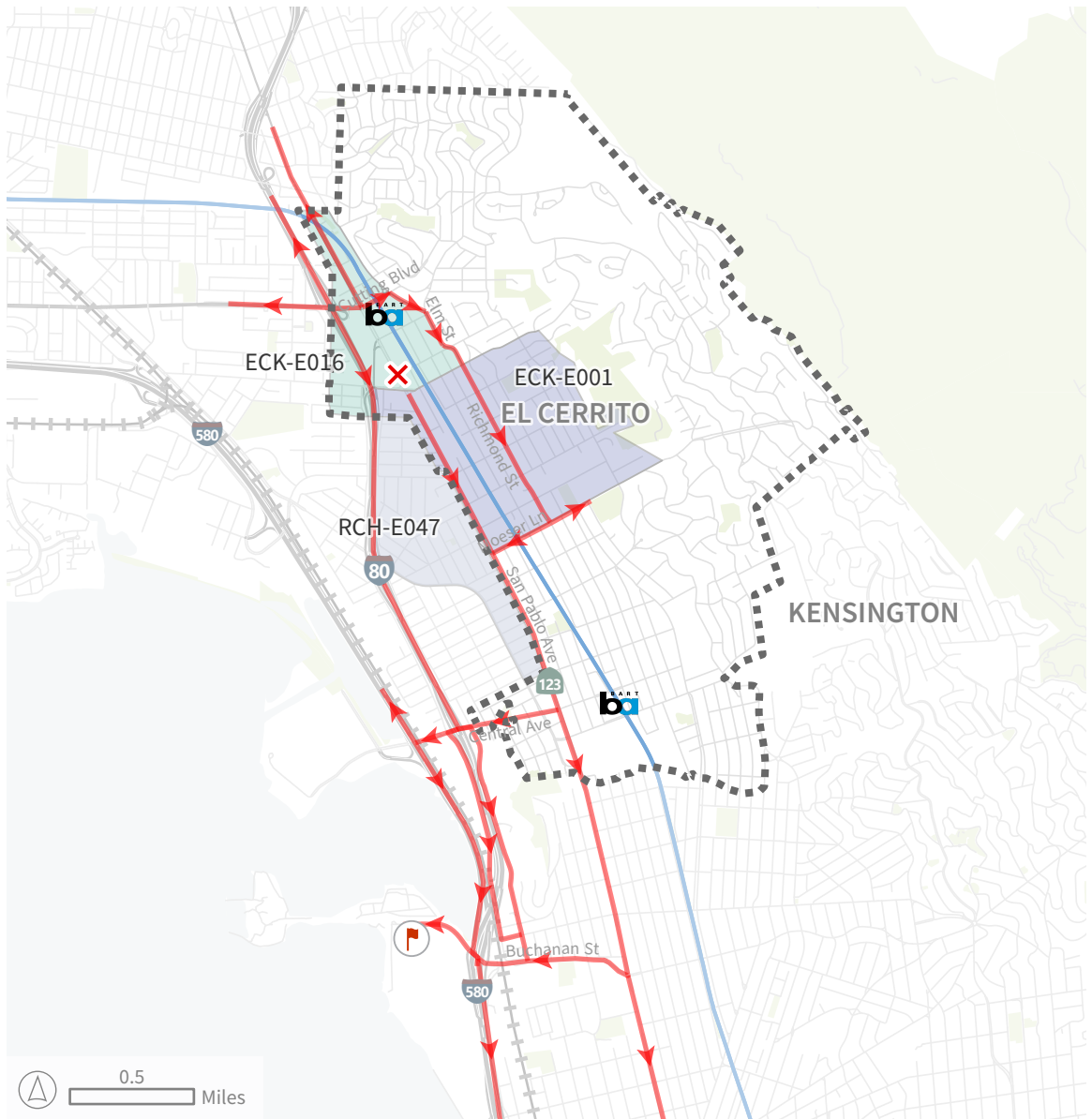
High Landslide Susceptibility Classes

-  Class 9
-  Class 10

Only the highest landslide susceptibility classes shown.

Figure 3 – High Landslide Susceptibility Classes

Source: California Department of Conservation, <https://maps-cnra-cadoc.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/cadoc::cgs-map-sheet-58-deep-seated-landslide-susceptibility>, 2010. Genasys Protect, 2023.



City of El Cerrito

BART Stations

BART Line

Primary Evacuation Routes

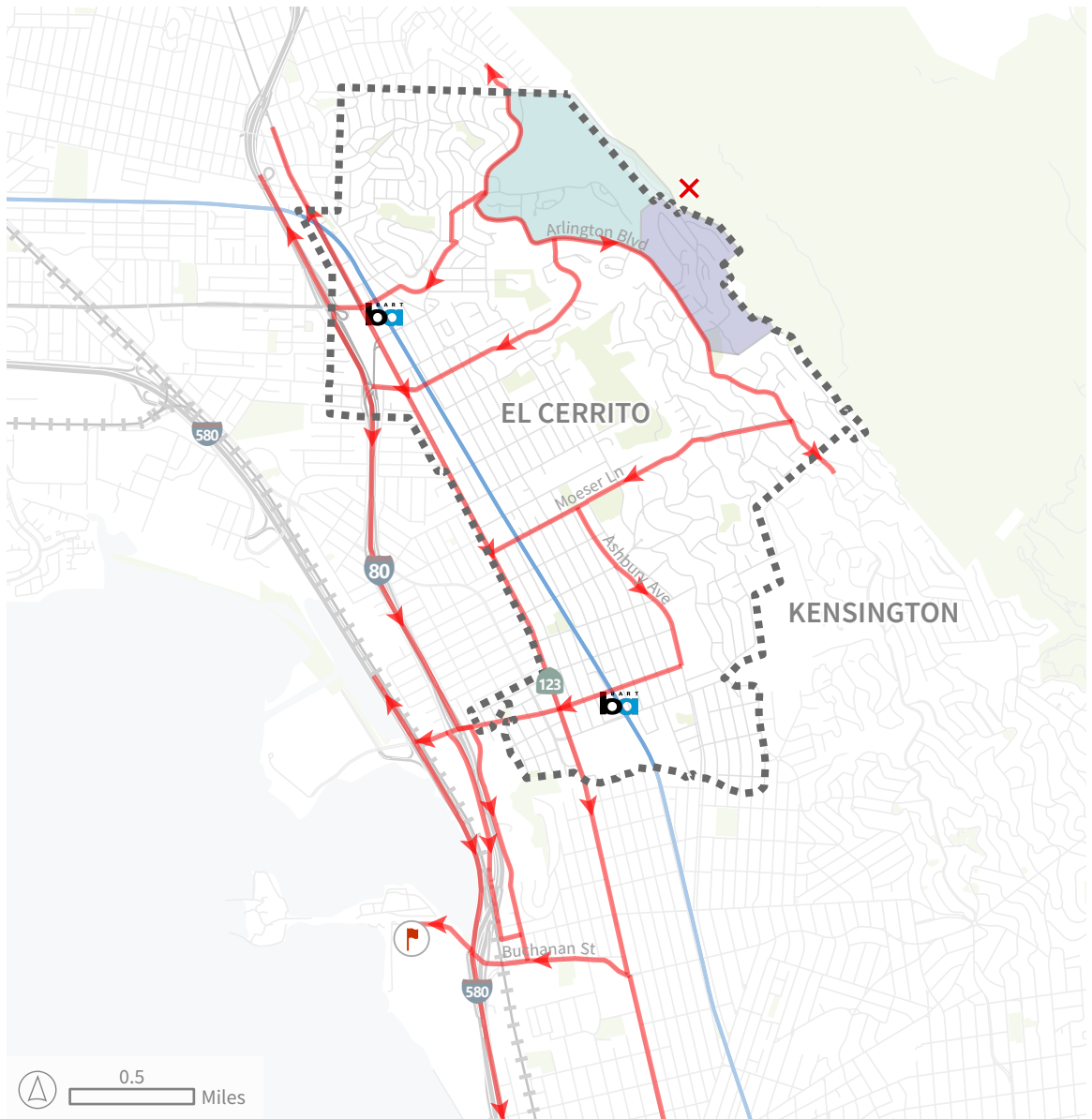
Evacuation Zones

Hazardous Material Spill

Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot

Figure 4 – Scenario 1 (Hazardous Material Spill on San Pablo Avenue)

Source: El Cerrito and Kensington Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/12931/Fire-Pamphlet-FINAL>, 2019. Genasys Protect, 2023.



 City of El Cerrito

 BART Stations

 BART Line

 Primary Evacuation Routes

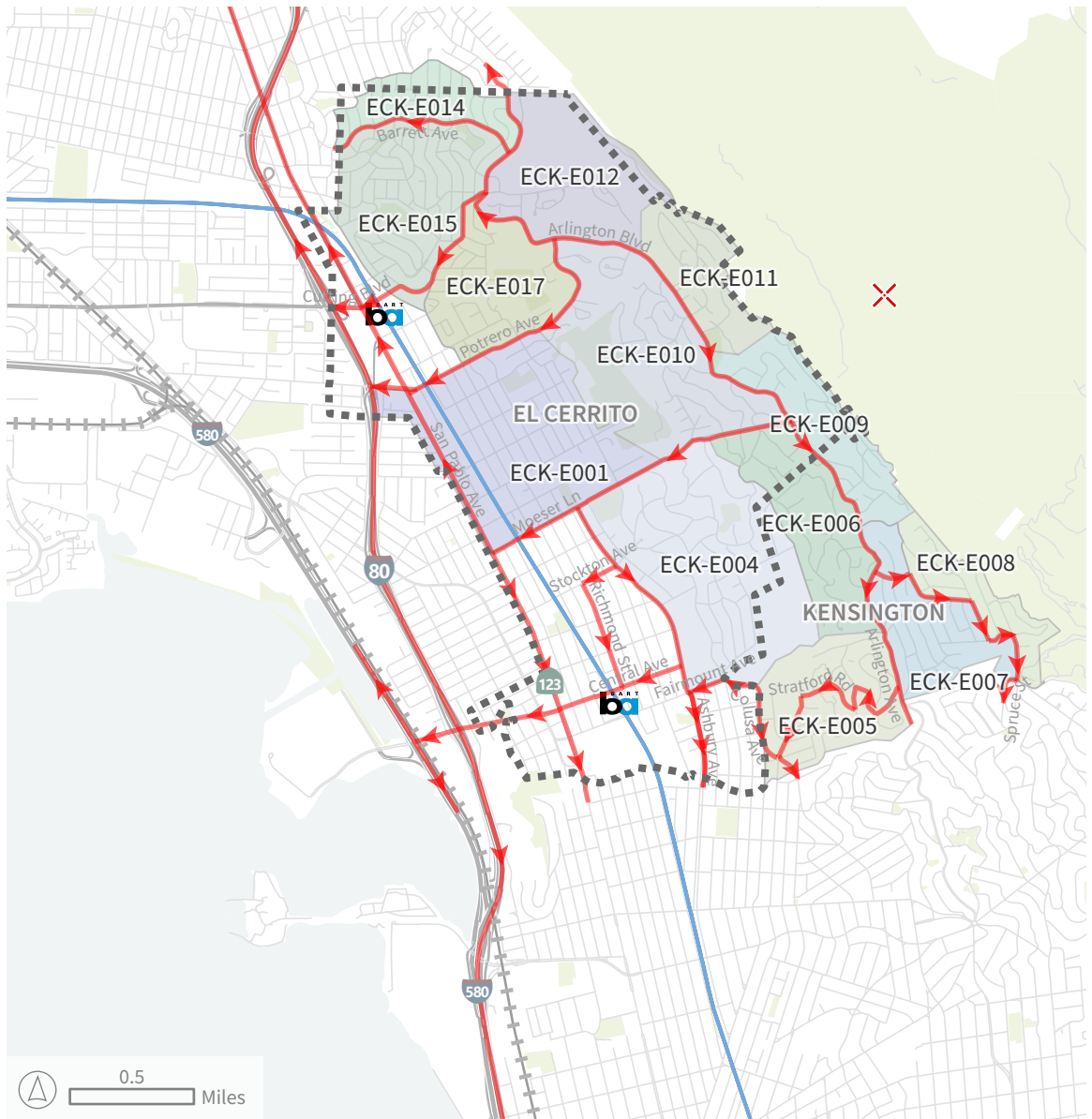
 Evacuation Zones

 Origin of Fire

 Golden Gate Fields Parking Lot

Figure 5 – Scenario 2 (Wildfire Originating Near Rifle Range Road Trailhead, Local Evacuation)

Source: El Cerrito and Kensington Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/12931/Fire-Pamphlet-FINAL>, 2019. Genasys Protect, 2023.



City of El Cerrito

BART Stations

BART Line

Primary Evacuation Routes

Evacuation Zones

Origin of Fire

Figure 6 – Scenario 3 (Wildfire Originating in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Large Area Evacuation)

Source: El Cerrito and Kensington Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, <https://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/12931/Fire-Pamphlet-FINAL>, 2019. Genasys Protect, 2023.

Construction Contract Award for Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering, City Project No. C3050.9

El Cerrito City Council

December 2, 2025



Proposed Actions

Award	Award the construction contract for the Swim Center Lap Pool Replastering Project to Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc.
Authorize	Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$228,103 and to approve potential change orders in an amount not to exceed \$34,215
Appropriate	Appropriate a one-time allocation from the General Fund in the amount of \$183,300



Background Swim Center Improvements

City Council Overview

- To address failures and required upgrades
- Presented on August 19 and October 21, 2025
- Approved Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool Replaster and Parking Lot ADA & Related Items (\$2,311,000)

Phased Implementation of Approved Projects

- Replastering (Current Project)
 - December 2, 2025: Award
 - Anticipated Construction: January to March
- Parking Lot ADA & Related Improvements
 - December-February: Bid & Award
 - Anticipated Construction: February to June

Replastering Project Scope

- Demolition of the existing plaster and tiles
- Retiling & Replastering
- Additive Alternative No. 1:
Waterproofing of Pool Surge Tank



Bid Summary

Burkett's

- Apparent Low Bidder at time of Bid Opening
- Sole Responsive Bid
- Well below Engineer's Estimate
- Pool Specialty Contractor
- Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder

Name and Location of Bidder	Base Bid	Additive Alternate 1
Engineer's Estimate	\$540,000.00	\$35,000.00
Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc. Ripon, CA	\$224,133.00	\$3,970.00
Adams Pool Solutions Pleasanton, CA	\$249,216.00	Non-Responsive
Dave Gros Enterprise Inc. Sacramento, CA	\$462,677.00	Non-Responsive
USA Construction LLC San Francisco, CA	\$528,460.00	Non-Responsive

Funding for
Swim Center
Improvements:

Replaster plus Parking
Lot ADA & Path of
Travel, Stormwater
Bioretention & Electric
Vehicle Charging

Cost Estimate	
Original Estimate (August 2025)	\$2,311,131
Current Estimate (November 2025)	\$1,994,851
Difference	-\$316,280

Requested Budget Appropriation	
Expenditures for Construction of Replastering Project plus Continued Design & Bid	\$883,264
Previously Approved Funding	\$700,000
Funding Currently Needed	\$183,264

Questions?

