General Plan Guidelines, 2017 Update

Technical Advisory Council

March 27, 2017 | Sacramento, CA

General Plan Guidelines

A General Plan is a local government's long term blueprint for the community's vision of future growth

- Starts with Community Vision, created through public engagement
  - Look back to identify past challenges and accomplishments
  - Examine current data and emerging data trends
  - Consider future issues, challenges, and goals
- Set goals, objectives, and policies in each element or topic area related to future growth

Why Update Guidelines?

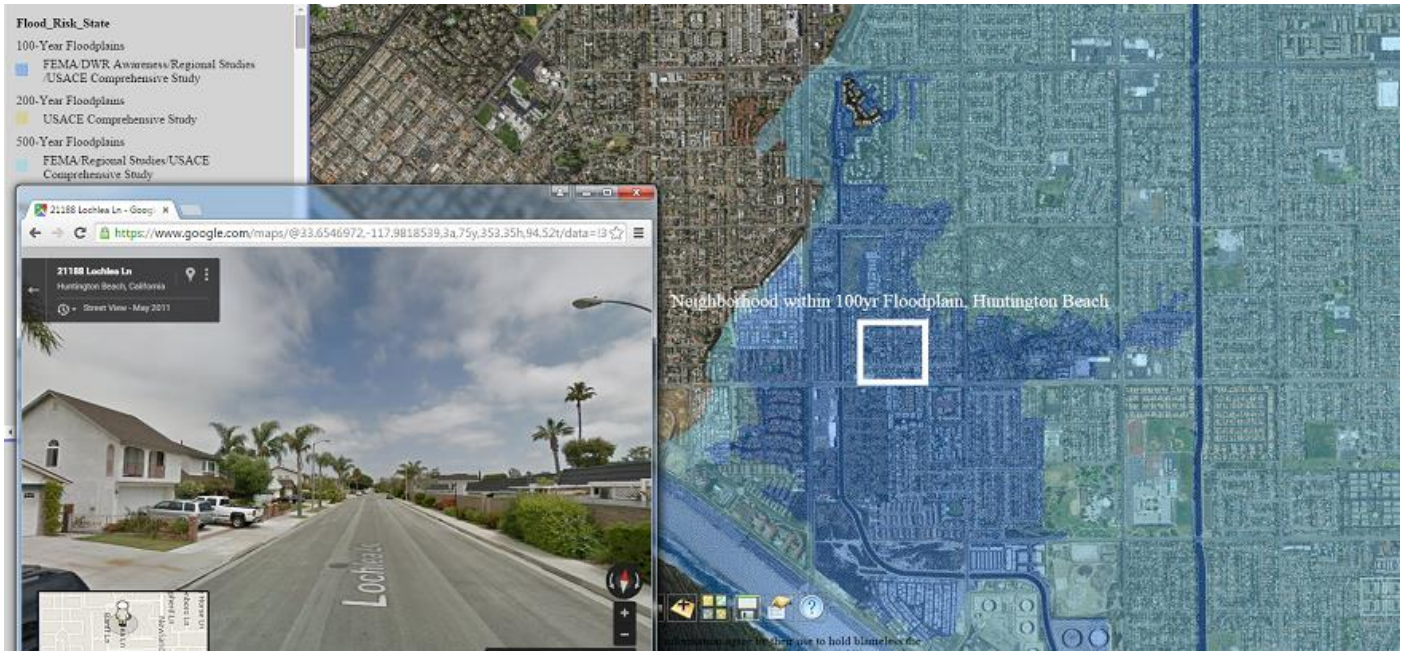
The last update to the General Plan Guidelines was in 2003, and there have been numerous new laws, requirements, resources, and research that affect general planning

- SB 1000 - Environmental Justice
- SB 379 - Climate Change
- SB 375 - Sustainable communities strategies
- SB 5 - Flood management
- SB 743 - VMT
- SB 244 - Island or fringe communities
- AB 52 - Tribal consultation
- AB 2140 - Local hazard mitigation plans
- Many more!!

Vision for the GPG Update

a suite of tools

1. Policy Document: General Plan Guidelines
2. General Plan Data Tool
3. Updated Website



General Plan Elements

Required Elements

- Land use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Conservation
- Open Space
- Noise
- **Safety**
- **Environmental Justice***
- Air Quality*

New Chapters

- Public Engagement
- Healthy communities
- **Climate Change**
- Economic Development
- **Social Equity/Resilience**

Environmental Justice

- SB1000 requires Environmental Justice be addressed in General Plans
  - Stand alone element
  - Integrated throughout
  - Requires community engagement
  - In EJ communities, Air quality analysis must be completed
  - Strong linkage with climate change adaptation

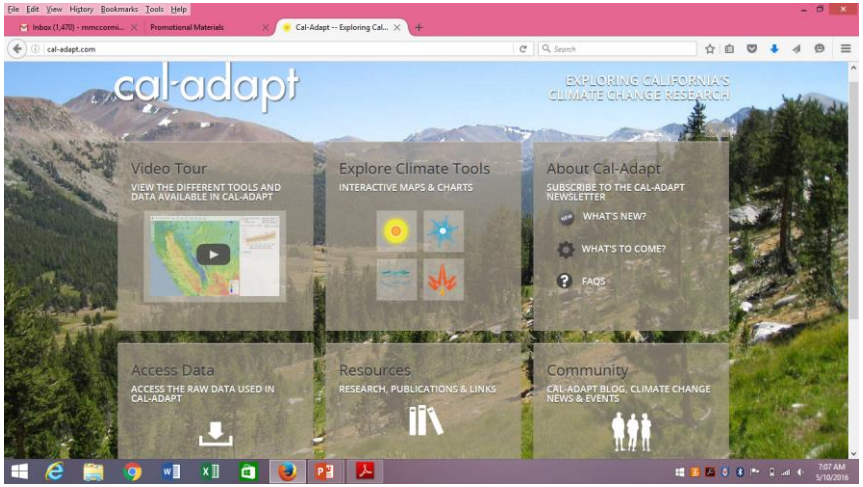
Safety Element

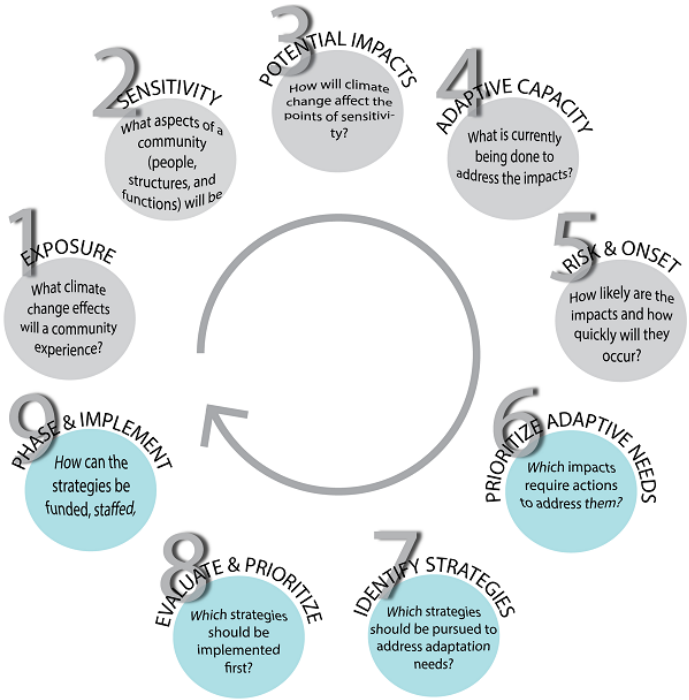
- Safety element requires hazards be addressed in general plans:
  - Flood
  - Fire
  - Earthquakes
  - Climate change (new!)
  - And others
- AB2140 encourages incorporation of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans in to Safety Element

Safety Element - Adaptation

- Climate change adaptation is now required in Safety Elements
  - Does not preclude incorporation into other areas
  - Encourages cross-linkages and co-benefits
- Three distinct steps:
  - Assess community vulnerability
  - Create a set of goals, policies and objectives
  - Create a set of “feasible” implementation measures

Process – In Brief





Next Steps for GPG

- **Release in April 2017**
- Public release and outreach/pilots
- Dozens of workshops in 2017/2018
- One-on-one technical support
- Case study support
- Continued improvement of tool and website
- Living document – update as needed

Discussion Questions

1. What role should the TAC play in helping to track and communicate progress towards local implementation of existing legislation and policy?

1. How can the TAC support alignment of state and local policy efforts that advance local implementation?