



General Plan New Environmental Justice Element and Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

Initial Study – Negative Declaration

prepared by

City of Berkeley

Planning and Development Department

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September 2026

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Initial Study

1 Project Title

General Plan New Environmental Justice Element and Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

2 Lead Agency/Project Sponsor Name, Address, and Contact Person

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3 Project Location and Setting

The City of Berkeley is located in northwestern Alameda County in the East Bay portion of the San Francisco Bay Area region. The regional location is shown in Figure 1. Berkeley is bordered by the city of Albany and the unincorporated Contra Costa County community of Kensington to the north, by unincorporated Contra Costa County and the city of Oakland to the east, the cities of Oakland and Emeryville to the south, and San Francisco Bay to the west. Berkeley encompasses approximately 17.7 square miles, of which approximately 7.2 square miles is underwater in the San Francisco Bay. The city limits (exclusive of the portions of the city limits within the San Francisco Bay) are shown on Figure 2.

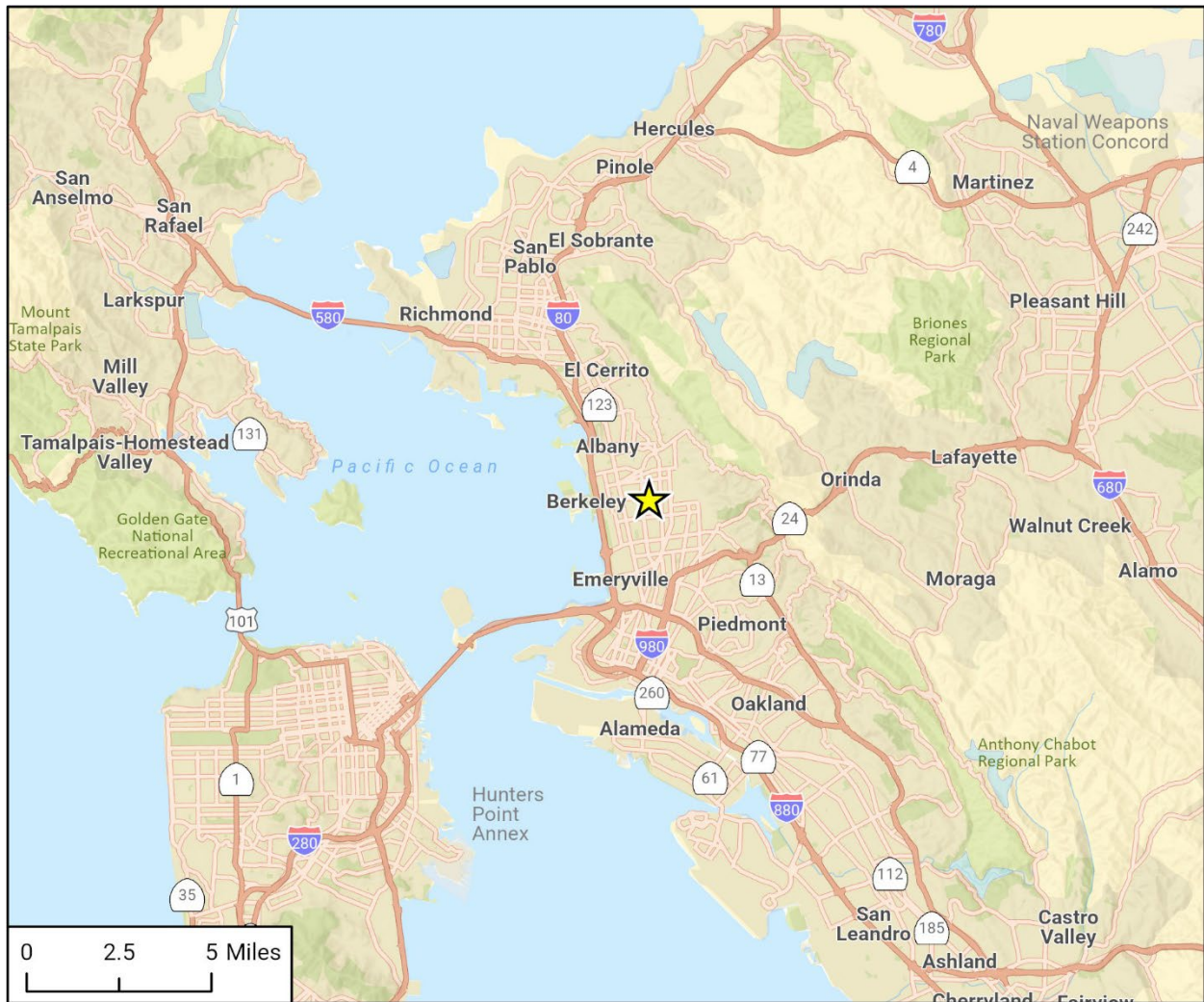
Vehicular access to Berkeley is provided primarily via Interstate (I) 580, I-80, State Route (SR) 123, SR 13, and SR 24. Key local roadways such as Ashby Avenue (SR 13), Shattuck Avenue, College Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr Way, Telegraph Avenue, University Avenue, San Pablo Avenue (SR 123), Alcatraz Avenue, and Dwight Way form the backbone of Berkeley's internal circulation network, linking neighborhoods, parks, commercial centers, and institutional uses while providing access to the regional highway system. Berkeley is also served by regional transit providers including commuter rail service provided by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and Amtrak (Capitol Corridor and the San Joaquin routes) and bus service provided by Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit).

Berkeley is highly urbanized and developed with a mix of land uses, including single-family residential neighborhoods, mixed-use and multi-family residential areas, offices, retail, manufacturing, faith-based and cultural institutions, schools, hotels, parking, recreational uses, and public streets.

Commercial activity is primarily distributed between Downtown; West Berkeley; the neighborhood and avenue commercial districts of North Shattuck, Elmwood, Solano, Shattuck Avenue/Adeline Street, and Telegraph Avenue; and the commercial corridors along San Pablo and University Avenues. Manufacturing areas are primarily located in West Berkeley, although Research and Development (R&D) is allowed in commercial districts and these uses are being established adjacent to the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) campus. Institutional uses are largely located around UC Berkeley and Downtown but are also distributed throughout Berkeley. Residential development and accompanying commercial services and public facilities are located throughout Berkeley.

Currently, Berkeley has a population of approximately 128,348 residents and 55,138 housing units (California Department of Finance [DOF] 2026).

Figure 1 Regional Location



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Map created by Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2026.

21-10847 Berkeley Housing Element
Fig 1 Regional Location

★ Project Location

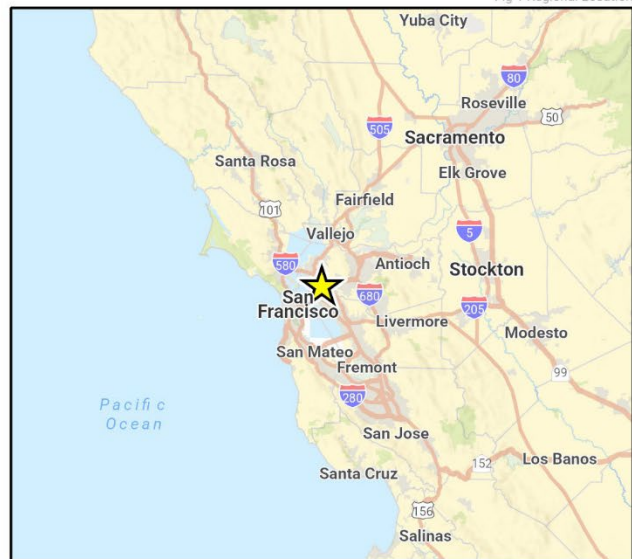
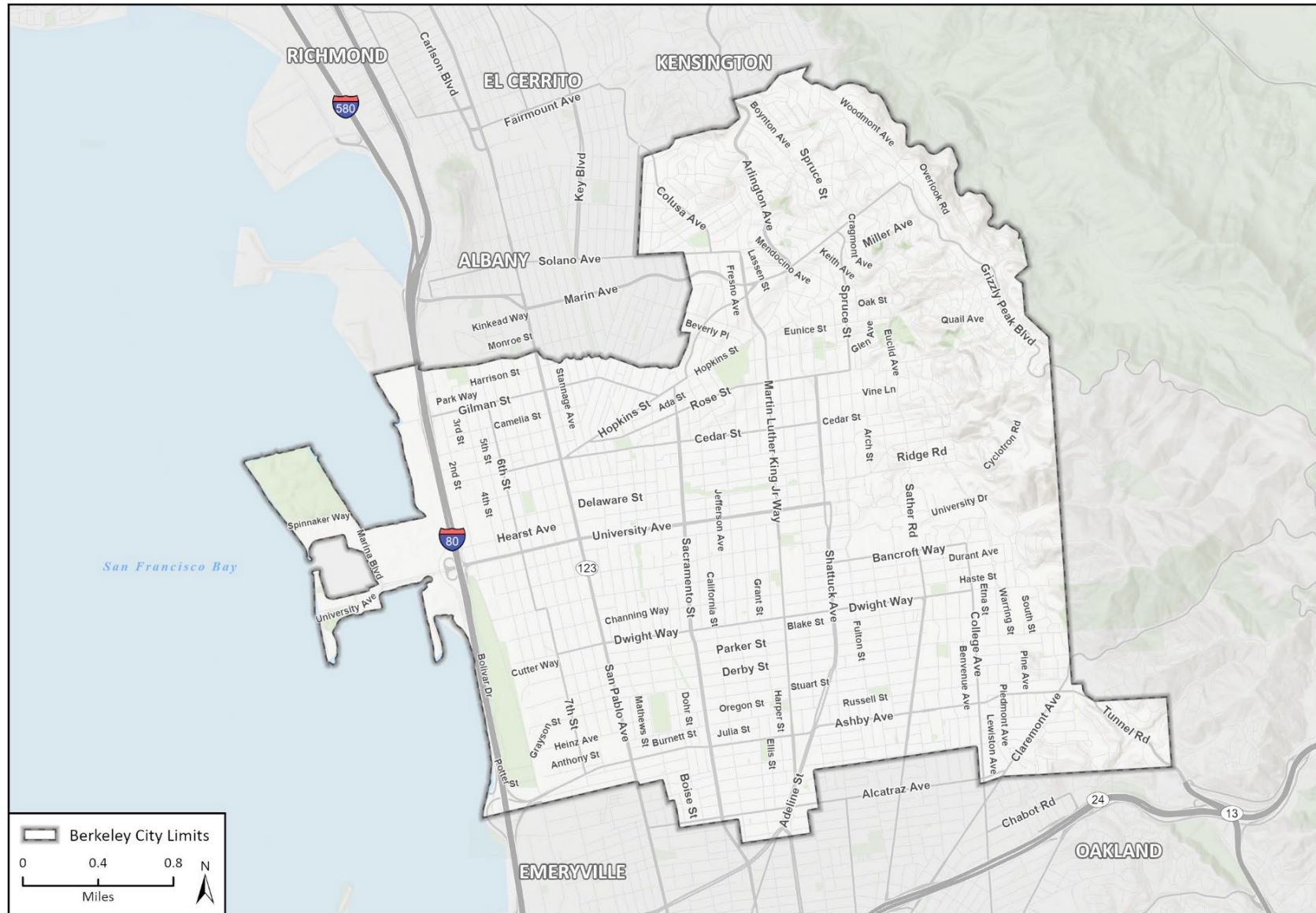


Figure 2 City of Berkeley City Limits

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 Additional data provided by City of Berkeley, 2026.

23-15392 EPS
 Fig 2 Project Location

4 Project Description

The proposed project consists of a focused update to the City of Berkeley General Plan to update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and add a new Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. The following describes both General Plan elements. For the purposes of this analysis, the “proposed project” refers to adoption of the new EJ Element and adoption of the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element.

4.1 Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

Background and Setting

The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element is one of seven State-required elements of the General Plan and specifically addresses natural and environmental hazards to the community. The element must address environmental hazards applicable to the jurisdiction, such as fires, floods, drought, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other human-made hazards. California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires all local jurisdictions to review and update as necessary their Safety Element upon each revision of the Housing Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Berkeley completed an update to its Housing Element in 2023 for the 2023–2031 planning cycle and its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2024, thereby triggering the need to update its Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element. State law describes specific topics that must be incorporated into the updated element, with a strong emphasis on climate change resilience and hazard mitigation strategies.

While Berkeley’s existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes policies related to these issues, the proposed project involves an update to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element that incorporates new data, hazard mapping, scientific findings, and community priorities.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element is to protect Berkeley’s residents, businesses, and natural environment from the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards while building long-term resilience to climate change. It establishes a clear framework for reducing risk, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and ensuring that emergency preparedness and recovery efforts are equitable and effective.

Objectives include:

- Strengthen community preparedness, awareness, and partnerships through training, resources, and inclusive outreach.
- Identify, assess, and reduce risks from hazards to protect life, property, and essential services.
- Reduce vulnerability through land use planning, building safety, and hazard mitigation programs.
- Maintain effective, well-coordinated emergency response, communication, and mutual aid systems to ensure timely and reliable public safety services based on evolving risks and community needs.
- Strengthen coordination, communication, and community alert systems to ensure community members receive clear and timely emergency alerts.
- Prepare the City organization and community for evacuation, sheltering, and recovery through outreach, coordinated regional planning, and equitable recovery policies.
- Integrate climate adaptation into planning to address long-term risk, such as sea level rise, extreme heat and drought
- Promote equitable preparedness, response, and recovery by prioritizing support for communities facing higher hazard exposure and social vulnerability.

These objectives are informed by the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Existing Conditions Report, which provides an analysis of natural and human-caused hazards that impact communities in Berkeley.

Natural and Human-Caused Hazards

Berkeley is exposed to a wide range of natural and human-caused hazards, including earthquakes, wildfires, flooding and sea level rise, and extreme heat. Berkeley's geologic setting is strongly influenced by active regional and local earthquake faults, most notably the Hayward Fault, which runs directly through Berkeley and poses one of the most significant seismic risks in the Bay Area, as well as the San Andreas Fault to the west of the city. Earthquakes are among the primary hazards confronting the community, with the potential to cause severe ground shaking and substantial damage to buildings and infrastructure.

The City of Berkeley identifies wildfire as another major hazard, especially in hillside areas where steep slopes, proximity to dense vegetation, and periods of strong Diablo winds create conditions for rapid wildfire spread. Berkeley's wildfire risk is heightened in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) due to narrow structure separation distance, topography, and narrow winding roads.

Berkeley's climate and terrain also contribute to other natural hazards. The hillside areas are susceptible to landslides, particularly during intense winter and spring storms, while low-lying western areas near the shoreline and along creek corridors are vulnerable to localized flooding during heavy rainfall events.

Climate change is expected to further increase the frequency and severity of natural hazards affecting Berkeley, resulting in heightened risks associated with sea level rise, extreme heat, drought, flooding, and wildfire. Further, Berkeley faces complex challenges related to emergency preparedness, response, evacuation, and recovery, including aging infrastructure, disparities in access to resources, and the need for coordinated systems.

Overview of Goals, Policies, and Programs

While it is impossible to completely avoid natural and human-caused hazards, the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element establishes goals, policies, and programs aimed at protecting life, supporting community education and preparedness, and minimizing property damage during future emergencies and disaster events. The goals, policies, and programs address regional hazards mitigation, seismic and geologic hazards, climate change, flood hazards, rising sea levels, wildland fires, emergency preparedness and response, and evacuation route and safety and include the following overarching themes:

1. **Community Resilience and Hazard Awareness.** Encourage community awareness, preparation, and training as well community partnerships to reduce household vulnerability and ensure community readiness.
2. **Natural and Human-Caused Hazards.** Reduce risks from earthquakes, wildfires, flooding and groundwater contamination, and extreme heat by strengthening buildings and infrastructure, guiding safer development, lowering fuel loads, and expanding cooling and green infrastructure.
3. **Resilient Built Environment.** Strengthen buildings, utilities, and critical facilities to be resilient to hazards and remain safe and functional during disasters by assessing and improving facilities and creating redundancy in critical systems.
4. **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.** Strengthen the City's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters by integrating the latest science, maintaining well-trained emergency services, coordinated response systems, robust emergency planning, and using climate-adaptive practices.
5. **Emergency Evacuation.** Equip the City organization and the Berkeley community to be prepared for effective evacuation and leaving early public education, refining strategies with the latest science, strengthening partnerships and technology, and upgrading roadway infrastructure to support both resident evacuation and first-responder access.

4.2 New Environmental Justice Element

Background and Setting

EJ is a concept focused on addressing the systemic causes of the unequal environmental burdens placed on disadvantaged communities, especially minority and low-income populations. Efforts towards environmental justice have aimed to improve the status of disadvantaged communities through effective planning and policy decisions. In California, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 1000), was established to address the role of EJ in local and regional planning practice. Formally, California law defines “environmental justice” as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Government Code Section 65040.12[e]). Through Senate Bill 1000, jurisdictions are now required to identify EJ communities within their planning area and incorporate environmental justice into their general plans.

EJ in Berkeley has been shaped by a history of discriminatory land use practices, including racially restrictive covenants, redlining, and exclusionary zoning, which concentrated environmental hazards in South and West Berkeley while limiting access to opportunity and public investment in historically marginalized communities. The impacts of these historical practices continue to influence health, safety, and quality of life in Berkeley today. Environmental impacts are directly linked to one another and thus can result in a compounded environmental burden on certain populations.

The EJ Element aims to repair these harms through equitable policies and targeted programs that uplift disproportionately affected communities. The EJ Element defines “EJ Communities” as the communities of people in Berkeley who have been historically impacted by structural EJ issues and the term “EJ Areas” as the physical locations that have experienced disproportionate EJ harms (South and West Berkeley).

Purpose and Objectives

The EJ Element fulfills the City’s obligation under Senate Bill (SB) 1000 to incorporate EJ goals, policies, and programs into its General Plan. Specifically, Berkeley’s new EJ Element sets goals to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality, with a focus on census tracts and block groups identified as EJ Areas.
- Revitalize and equitably distribute public facilities, including parks, community centers, and libraries.
- Improve access to healthy food, clean drinking water, and essential services.
- Strengthen housing stability and ensure that residents can remain in their communities as conditions improve.
- Promote physical activity and active transportation by enhancing safe routes, sidewalks, bicycle networks, and recreation spaces.
- Expand civic engagement and decision-making power for communities historically excluded from planning processes.
- Center cultural belonging and preserve community identity, particularly for communities facing displacement.

These objectives are informed by the environmental determinants of health assessment in the Berkeley EJ Existing Conditions Report which documents the spatial concentration of pollution, social vulnerability, and inequitable access to resources.

EJ Areas

As described in the new EJ Element, the highest cumulative environmental burden is concentrated in South and West Berkeley, particularly in neighborhoods adjacent to I-80 and along transit corridors.

CalEnviroScreen (a mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency) identified the Gilman District, Northwest Berkeley, the Fourth Street commercial area, and portions of the Berkeley Marina as areas that meet the Statewide designation of a “disadvantaged community” or DAC. Under California Senate Bill 1000, jurisdictions must identify DACs when developing their EJ elements and many jurisdictions default to CalEnviroScreen’s designation. Berkeley’s process included starting with the State’s CalEnviroScreen data, layering income-based thresholds, identifying areas of social vulnerability, and incorporating local indicators that better reflect the City’s compact geography, unique built environment, and community-identified concerns.

Berkeley’s methodology (further described in the EJ Element and Existing Conditions Report) identified areas within the City experiencing an elevated combination of pollution exposure, social vulnerability, and income-based vulnerability. Results of this analysis went beyond the CalEnviroScreen DACs to include portions of South Berkeley near Adeline Street, Ashby Avenue, Sacramento Street, and San Pablo Avenue. These areas, collectively referred to as Berkeley’s EJ Areas, are shown in Figure 3. They contain 75 percent or more of cumulative environmental burdens and vulnerabilities and serve as the geographic focus for the EJ Element goals, policies, and programs.

Overview of Goals, Policies, and Programs

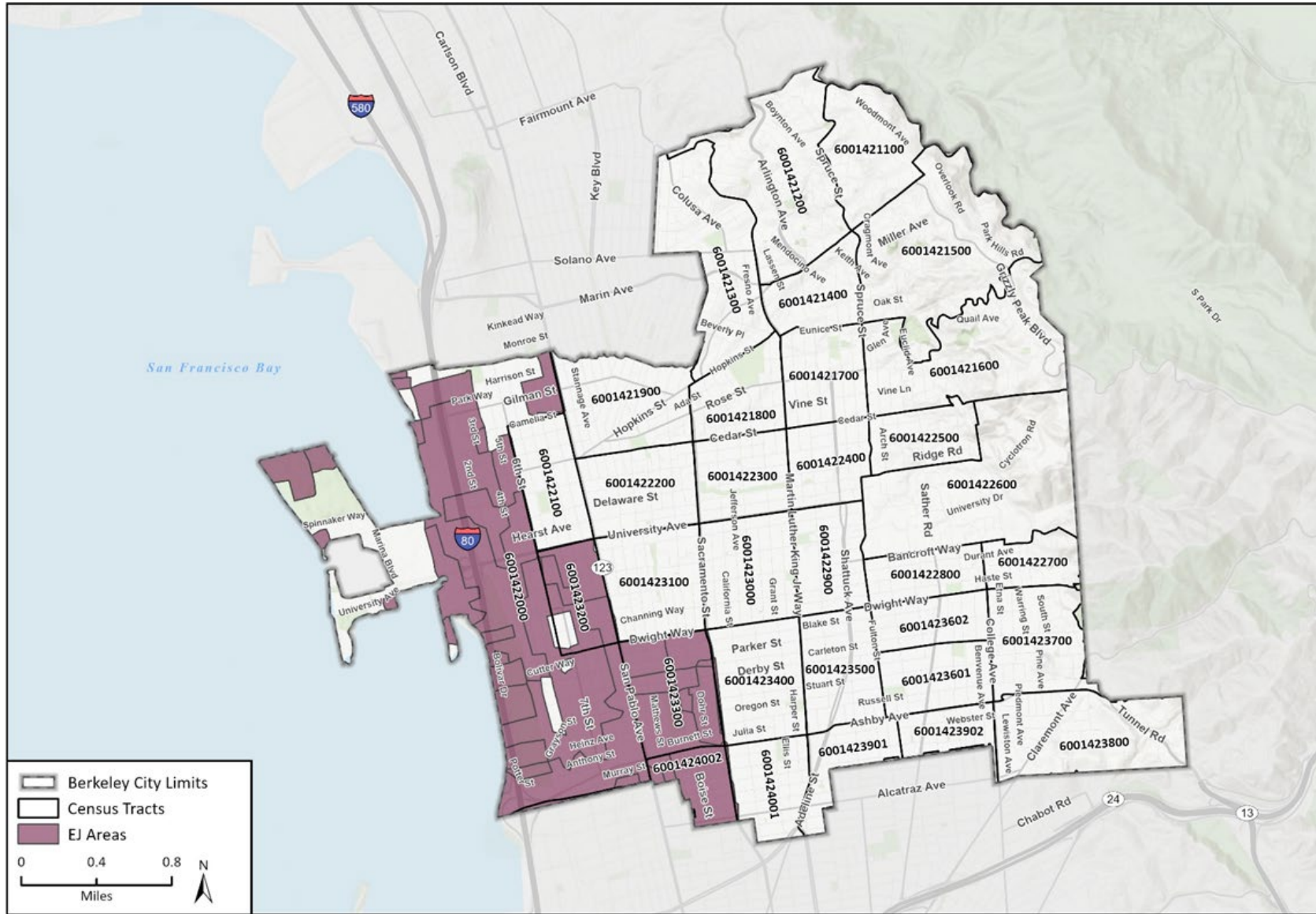
The City of Berkeley is committed to promoting environmental justice through the effective implementation of the EJ Element. The EJ Element contains a comprehensive set of goals, policies, and programs aimed at increasing the role and influence of historically marginalized populations within their communities and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards. The goals, policies, and programs are centered around six focus areas identified by the California Government Code Section 65302(h) as policy topics necessary for reducing the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities. The six focus areas are as follows:

1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
2. Public Facilities
3. Food Access
4. Housing Stability
5. Physical Activity and Active Transportation
6. Civic and Community Engagement

The EJ Element is organized into three primary sections. The first section is a summary of the public participation opportunities included as part of the Element development process. The second section describes the demographic analysis and methodology used to identify environmental justice communities and areas within Berkeley. The third section describes the City’s environmental justice goals, policies, programs, and corresponding implementation plan. Together, these goals, policies, and programs establish how the City of Berkeley will integrate environmental justice considerations into decision making processes and promote equitable outcomes for affected residents, and include the following overarching themes:

1. **EJ Framework:** Provide Berkeley’s commitment to advancing environmental justice by aiming to embed equity into all City actions, prioritize EJ-focused investments, transparently track progress, and ensure staff and a new Office of Community Engagement and Collaboration are equipped to collaborate effectively with and serve all communities.
2. **Belonging, Equity, and Civic Empowerment:** Empower residents by removing barriers to participation, partnering with and strengthening community organizations, empowering youth, and celebrating the city’s cultural diversity to ensure all residents can fully engage in public life.
3. **Pollution Exposure and Air Quality:** Prioritize reducing cumulative pollution burdens in EJ Areas by advancing pollution reduction, supporting clean energy transitions, coordinating with regional agencies, mitigating pollution in homes, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and providing reliable sanitation services and clean water for all residents.

Figure 3 EJ Areas in Berkeley



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026.
 EJ Communities based on a Locally Specific Methodology provided by City of Berkeley, 2025.

23-15392 EPS E1
 Fig.3 EJ Areas

1. **Equitable Access to Healthy and Affordable Food:** Build a resilient, culturally appropriate, and equitable food system by expanding access to fresh and affordable foods, strengthening education and outreach, ensuring food security during emergencies, and supporting community-based food production and preparation spaces.
2. **Equitable Access to Services and Facilities:** Ensure EJ Communities have equitable and safe access to public facilities and services by identifying community priorities, ensuring the Zoning Ordinance allows for establishment of facilities in areas they are needed, creating non-traditional locations and methods to deliver services, strengthening partnerships, and supporting right-of-way improvements.
3. **Parks, Green Space, and Civic Infrastructure:** Expand equitable access to parks and green space, strengthen green infrastructure requirements, and improve park amenities, programming, and maintenance.
4. **Housing Equity and Resilience:** Ensure stable, safe, and dignified housing for all residents by upgrading aging/existing affordable housing stock, expanding the reach of the Rental Housing Safety Program, addressing gentrification and displacement, and supporting housing with integrated mental-health, employment, and supportive services.

4.3 CEQA Analysis Approach

This CEQA document evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with adoption of the proposed General Plan amendments, including the update to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and the addition of the EJ Element.

The proposed project is a policy level action that establishes goals, policies, and implementation measures. Adoption of, or updates to, these elements do not approve or commit the City to specific physical developments, infrastructure projects or land use changes. The elements provide a framework that may inform or influence future discretionary actions, and future activities undertaken to implement these policies would be subject to separate environmental review under CEQA, if necessary.

Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies, and programs of the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element could include infrastructure upgrades or identifying hazards, which could influence land use patterns to avoid hazardous areas. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies, and programs of the EJ Element could include improving housing conditions, revitalizing community centers and libraries, or enhancing transportation networks to increase access to services. However, no specific projects or physical improvements are approved as part of this action. Accordingly, adoption of the proposed General Plan amendments in and of itself would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect significant environmental impacts.

5 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

Implementation of the project would require the following discretionary actions by the City of Berkeley City Council:

- Adoption of a General Plan Amendment to incorporate the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update
- Adoption of a General Plan Amendment to incorporate the new EJ Element

In addition, in accordance with Government Code Section 65302.5, the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element would require review approval by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project would not require discretionary approval by other public agencies.

6 Have California Native American Tribes Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated with the Project Area Requested Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?

Three tribes requested consultation pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 and Senate Bill 18. A summary of the results of consultation is provided in Section 18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*, of this Initial Study.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant” or “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology and Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| ☐ Hydrology and Water Quality | ☐ Land Use and Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population and Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities and Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Determination

Based on this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “less than significant with mitigation incorporated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

General Plan New Environmental Justice Element and Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature



Printed Name



Date



Title

Environmental Checklist

1 Aesthetics



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Scenic views generally refer to visual access to, or the visibility of, a particular natural or man-made visual resource from a given vantage point or corridor. Focal views focus on a particular object, scene, setting, or feature of visual interest. Panoramic views, or vistas, provide visual access to a large geographic area, for which the field of view can be wide and extend into the distance. Panoramic views are usually associated with vantage points looking out over urban or natural areas that provide a geographic orientation and view not commonly available. Examples of panoramic views might include an urban skyline, a valley, a mountain range, the ocean, or other water bodies.

Scenic Vistas

The City of Berkeley General Plan lists significant views in Berkeley, including views toward the Bay, the hills, and significant landmarks such as the Campanile on the University of California, Berkeley campus, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Alcatraz Island. Scenic vistas within Berkeley are generally limited to the hillside areas where some locations provide panoramic views southward towards downtown Oakland and westward toward the San Francisco Bay. Views of Marin County, San Francisco, and the Golden Gate Bridge are visible on the horizon to the west. There are a number of scenic viewpoints from places in the hills, especially at public viewpoints on Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Other roadways in the hills may also provide scenic views, though views are generally intermittent and fleeting, and some east-west oriented streets within the flat area of Berkeley provide narrow views of the San Francisco Bay. Some east-west oriented streets within the flatter areas of Berkeley also provide scenic views towards hillside areas which are dominated by mature trees with glimpses of residential development through the trees.

Visual Character

Berkeley is a dense, urbanized area with the built environment set against the backdrop of the East Bay hills. Most of Berkeley sits on a flat plain (commonly known as the “flats”) that increases slightly in elevation from sea level near the Bay to the bottom of hillside areas. The elevation increases more sharply along the base of hillside areas. Development in Berkeley began in the late nineteenth century. The visual character of Berkeley is characterized by a mix of land use types, including residential, commercial, institutional, office, warehouse/industrial, mixed-use, and parks and recreational spaces with mature trees throughout Berkeley and historic buildings present in some locations. Berkeley includes a mix of building types and architectural styles.

Berkeley has a number of distinct neighborhoods. The most densely populated areas are the neighborhoods surrounding the University of California, Berkeley campus. These include the Downtown area west of campus, which is Berkeley’s commercial core, and the Southside area south of campus, which includes student housing and the commercial corridor along Telegraph Avenue. Other neighborhoods include the Claremont District in the southeastern corner of Berkeley, the Elmwood District along College Avenue, South Berkeley, West Berkeley, North Berkeley, and hillside areas.

Light and Glare

Major sources of light in Berkeley include street lighting along major streets and highways and nighttime lighting of residences, commercial buildings, and industrial buildings. Typically, light from residences is screened by trees or other structures. More significant sources of light include locations where nighttime events occur and large amounts of lighting are needed such as at sports fields, though this lighting is typically temporary and only when events occur.

Impact Analysis

a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

A scenic vista is a view from a public place (roadway, designated scenic viewing spot, etc.) that is expansive and considered important by a jurisdiction or a community. It can be obtained from an elevated position (such as from the top of a hillside) or it can be seen from a roadway with a longer-range view of the landscape. An adverse effect would occur if a proposed project would alter, block, or otherwise damage a scenic vista upon implementation.

Scenic vistas in Berkeley are available from hillside areas towards the flat part of Berkeley and towards the San Francisco Bay. Scenic views are also available from the western part of Berkeley towards the hills. City of Berkeley General Plan Urban Design and Preservation Element Policy UD-31 lists significant views in Berkeley as including views toward the Bay, the hills, and significant landmarks such as the Campanile on the University of California, Berkeley campus, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Alcatraz Island.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs. However, future activities would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, adoption of the two General Plan elements would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

The proposed project would not result in impacts related to scenic vistas and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

The closest designated State Scenic Highway to Berkeley is I-580 in Oakland approximately 1.6 miles from the city limits (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2019). The closest eligible State Scenic Highway is SR 13 located approximately 0.5 miles from the city limits (Caltrans 2019). No parts of the city are clearly visible from these locations. Because of Berkeley's location, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to damaging scenic resources in or within a State Scenic Highway, and the EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element would not specifically propose the development of infrastructure that would adversely affect scenic resources, such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway, and therefore no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 21071, an incorporated city with a population of at least 100,000 is considered an "urbanized area." Because Berkeley is an incorporated city with a population over 100,000, the entire city of Berkeley is located within an urbanized area. The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be required to comply with zoning and BMC requirements governing scenic quality. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to conflict with zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?*

Berkeley is an urbanized city with commensurate levels of light and glare.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to light and glare and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Berkeley is highly urbanized and is classified as Urban and Built-Up Land according to the California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring program (DOC 2026a).

Impact Analysis

- Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*
- Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?*
- Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?*
- Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*
- Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The City of Berkeley lacks agricultural lands or forest resources as defined under CEQA. Neither agriculture nor forestry lands are a General Plan designation, zoning classification or use in Berkeley (City of Berkeley 2002). According to the DOC Farmland Mapping and Monitoring program, Berkeley is classified as Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC 2026a). Additionally, there is no Williamson Act contract land within Berkeley (DOC 2016).

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents and would not lead to the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract; conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland; result in loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or otherwise convert Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There would be no impacts on agriculture and forestry resources.

NO IMPACT

3 Air Quality



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The federal and State Clean Air Acts mandate the control and reduction of certain air pollutants. Under these laws, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for “criteria pollutants” and other pollutants. Some pollutants are emitted directly from a source (e.g., vehicle tailpipe, an exhaust stack of a factory, etc.) into the atmosphere, including carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter with diameters of ten microns or less (PM₁₀) and 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}), sulfur dioxide, and lead. Other pollutants are created indirectly through chemical reactions in the atmosphere, such as ozone, which is created by atmospheric chemical and photochemical reactions primarily between VOC and NO_x. Secondary pollutants include oxidants, ozone, and sulfate and nitrate particulates (smog). Air pollutants can be generated by the natural environment, such as when high winds suspend fine dust particles. Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are a broad class of compounds known to cause morbidity or mortality, usually because they cause cancer. TACs include, but are not limited to, the criteria air pollutants. TACs are found in ambient air, especially in urban areas, and are caused by industry, agriculture, fuel combustion, and commercial operations (e.g., dry cleaners).

Berkeley is in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB). The SFBAAB does not meet State or federal ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and State standards for respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀). The area is considered in attainment or unclassified for all other pollutants.

There are groups of people more affected by air pollution than others. The Bay Area Air District (Air District), formerly known as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District [BAAQMD]) defines sensitive receptors as facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of uses with these types of populations include schools, hospitals and residential areas (Air District 2022).

The Air District is the regional air quality agency with jurisdiction over the SFBAAB. The Air District and other agencies prepare clean air plans as required under the state and federal CAAs. The Bay Area 2017 Clean Air Plan (2017 Plan) focuses on two related Air District goals: protecting public health and protecting the climate. The 2017 Plan lays the groundwork for the Air District’s long-term effort to reduce Bay Area greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below

1990 levels by 2050. The 2017 Plan includes a wide range of control measures designed to decrease emissions of methane and other super-GHGs that are potent climate pollutants in the near-term, and to decrease emissions of carbon dioxide by reducing fossil fuel combustion.

A significant adverse air quality impact may occur when a project individually or cumulatively interferes with progress toward the attainment of the ozone standard by releasing emissions that equal or exceed the established long term quantitative thresholds for pollutants or causes an exceedance of a state or federal ambient air quality standard for any criteria pollutant. The Air District has adopted guidelines for quantifying and determining the significance of air quality emissions in its *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines* (Air District 2023). The Air District recommends that lead agencies determine appropriate air quality emissions thresholds of significance based on substantial evidence in the record. The Air District's significance thresholds in the updated guidelines are the most appropriate thresholds for use in determining air quality impacts of the project.

This air quality analysis conforms to the methodologies recommended by the Air District's *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines* (Bay Area Air District 2023). Table 1 shows the significance thresholds that have been recommended by the Air District for project operations and construction in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin.

Table 1 Air Quality Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant/ Precursor	Construction-Related Thresholds	Operation-Related Thresholds	
	Average Daily Emissions (pounds per day)	Maximum Annual Emissions (tpy)	Average Daily Emissions (lbs/day)
ROG	54	10	54
NO _x	54	10	54
PM ₁₀	82 (exhaust)	15	82
PM _{2.5}	54 (exhaust)	10	54

Notes: tpy = tons per year; lbs/day = pounds per day; NO_x = oxides of nitrogen; PM_{2.5} = fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less; PM₁₀ = respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 10 micrometers or less; ROG = reactive organic gases; tpy = tons per year.

Source: Air District 2023, Table 3-1

In addition, the Air District provides a preliminary screening methodology to conservatively determine whether a proposed project would exceed CO thresholds at the local level. If the following criteria are met, a project would result in a less than significant impact related to local CO concentrations:

1. Project is consistent with an applicable congestion management program established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, regional transportation plan, and local congestion management agency plans.
2. The project traffic would not increase traffic volumes at affected intersections to more than 44,000 vehicles per hour.
3. The project traffic would not increase traffic volumes at affected intersections to more than 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal mixing is substantially limited (e.g., tunnel, parking garage, bridge underpass, natural or urban street canyon, below-grade roadway).

Impact Analysis

a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

A project that supports the 2017 Plan's goals would be considered consistent with the 2017 Plan. On an individual project basis, consistency with the Air District's quantitative thresholds is interpreted as demonstrating support with the 2017 Plan's goals. The project would not result in exceedances of the Air

District's thresholds for criteria air pollutants as shown above for construction and operational activities and thus would not conflict with the 2017 Plan's goal to attain air quality standards.

The 2017 Plan includes goals and measures to promote building decarbonization, conservation of water, use of on-site renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Electricity for future development that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs in the new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, would be supplied by Ava Community Energy (Ava), which currently supplies 100 percent renewable energy under its Renewable 100 program, and is anticipated to provide 100 percent carbon neutral power by 2030 (Ava 2026). In June 2021, the Berkeley City Council voted to set the default electricity option for Berkeley residents (except those on California Alternate Rates for Energy [CARE], Family Electric Rate Assistance [FERA], and/or Medical Baseline rates) to Ava's Renewable 100 service starting in March 2022 and for commercial customers starting in October 2022. Future activities would also be required to comply with the most recent iteration of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen), including but not limited to, installation of energy-efficient equipment and lighting, incorporation of onsite solar renewable energy, electric vehicle (EV) charging, and Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value 13 (or equivalent) filters for heating/cooling systems and ventilation systems. This would ensure that future projects are consistent with the 2017 Clean Air Plan.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to conflict with an air quality plan and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

c. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable.

Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, would also be required to comply with requirements described in the most recent iteration of CALGreen as well as Air District Regulation 8 Rule 3 for architectural coatings and Regulation 6 Rule 3 for wood-burning devices.

In addition, the new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at reducing air and transportation pollution in disadvantaged communities.

Policy EJ-3.1: Equity-Driven Pollution Reduction. Apply an equity-focused approach to pollution reduction that prioritizes EJ Areas, directing clean air investments that reduce pollution exposure to sensitive receptors (such as schools, childcare centers, senior facilities), and ensuring that EJ Communities meaningfully contribute to decision-making.

Policy EJ-3.2: Clean Energy. Encourage clean energy in Berkeley's manufacturing districts.

Program EJ-3.2-A: Evaluate potential economic development incentives and business assistance strategies to encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of low- or zero-emission and green economy uses in Berkeley, with a focus on the Manufacturing and Mixed-Manufacturing districts. Incentives may include grants, financing, fee reductions or other financial incentives, technical assistance, business attraction and retention programs, and leveraging available regional, State, and federal resources.

Program EJ-3.2-B: Research and evaluate updates to the local Building Code, consistent with State law, that reduce pollution exposure from manufacturing uses and support the transition of existing businesses to clean energy and low-emission operations. This may include stricter performance-based building standards, electric-ready design measures, requirements for living walls and roofs, and additional indoor air quality, ventilation and filtration standards.

Policy EJ-3.3: Regional Air Quality Coordination. Coordinate with the Bay Area Air District and other regional agencies to reduce air pollution and related health risks in communities with the highest cumulative pollution burdens, using data-driven strategies and meaningful EJ Community input.

Program EJ-3.3-A: Partner with regional, state, and other stakeholders to expand localized air quality and heat monitoring networks in EJ Areas.

Program EJ-3.3-B: Research options to improve reporting of air monitoring data. Consider disaggregating data by neighborhood, publishing data on a public-facing dashboard, increasing frequency of updates, and crowd-sourcing data.

Policy EJ-3.4: Air Pollution Mitigation in Homes. Support home improvements that reduce indoor exposure to outdoor air pollution, such as air filtration systems, window upgrades, and weatherization, particularly in EJ Communities near major transportation infrastructure.

Program EJ-3.4-A: Enhance outreach to renters and homeowners in EJ Areas, following the programs in Policy EJ-2.1 (Meaningful and Equitable Community Participation) to increase education about indoor air quality risks and strategies to reduce exposure, including filtration, weatherization, and building upgrades.

Program EJ-3.4-B: Coordinate with agencies and organizations that provide housing and weatherization programs, such as Rebuilding Together and Center for Independent Living, to expand access to income-qualified financial assistance to low-income households in EJ Areas.

Program EJ-3.4-C: Continue to partner with local contractors and community-based organizations through projects like Rebuilding Together's "Just Transition Pilot" to deliver retrofits mentioned in Program EJ-3.4-B to low-income households living in EJ Areas.

Policy EJ-3.5: Lower Vehicle Miles Traveled. Reduce vehicle miles traveled by focusing on public transit and safe active transportation infrastructure improvements in the City's right of way and zero-emission travel modes, consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-A: Expand first- and last-mile mobility options and innovative delivery services through bike, scooter, and e-bike lending programs and affordable car-share services that serve EJ Communities or are identified as one of MTC's Equity Priority Communities or subject to the MTC Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-B: Update Berkeley's Transportation Demand Management regulations (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 23.334) to reduce transportation-related pollution and health disparities through measurable, equity-focused performance targets.

Policy EJ-3.6: Transportation Pollution Mitigation. Reduce transportation-related air pollution impacts in EJ Areas and in neighborhoods adjacent to high-traffic corridors and freeways.

Program EJ-3.6-A: Advocate to the state legislature to require Caltrans to plant trees near or install air filtration systems in schools and housing near freeways in and adjacent to EJ Areas. Require monitoring to track improvements.

Program EJ-3.6-B: Advocate to the state legislature that Caltrans implement pollution-exposure-reduction strategies along major corridors throughout Berkeley, focusing on locations where sensitive receptors are present. Consider vegetative buffers consistent with Policy EJ-8.2 (Sustainable Green Infrastructure).

Implementation of new policies under the EJ Element would aim to reduce exposure to air pollution for sensitive receptors, particularly in EJ Areas that experience higher cumulative pollution burdens. These policies emphasize cleaner land use, reduced emissions from industry and transportation, and improvements to indoor air quality in homes and community-serving facilities. Together, they would help protect vulnerable populations such as children and seniors by reducing health risks and improving overall environmental conditions. However, implementation of these policies could guide changes to infrastructure. Such activities may include building retrofits to improve indoor air quality, installation of filtration and ventilation systems, development of active transportation infrastructure, and modifications to industrial or commercial uses to reduce emissions. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, while implementation may result in some localized physical environmental effects, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved air quality, reduced exposure to pollutants, and enhanced protection of public health, particularly for sensitive and vulnerable populations.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant or exposure sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to -specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, would be subject to Air District Regulation 7, Odorous Substances, which requires abatement of a nuisance generating an odor complaint. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to odor emissions and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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4 Biological Resources



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Land Cover

Berkeley is highly urbanized, although there is open space along the San Francisco Bay shoreline and within the Berkeley hills. As such, vegetation is limited largely to ornamental landscaping and trees in commercial areas, residential neighborhoods, and along park strips and street medians. Plant species in urban areas are highly variable, and vegetation structure includes shade/street trees, lawns, and shrub cover.

Ruderal vegetation occurs along roadsides and vacant lots. Ruderal vegetation is associated with urban areas where substantial ground disturbance activities occur. Ruderal areas are often found along roadsides, fence-lines, and in areas undergoing urban development.

The western boundary of Berkeley includes the marine environment of the San Francisco Bay. The foothills on the eastern boundary of Berkeley include annual and perennial grasslands and various woodlands (City of Berkeley 2022).

Wetlands and Waterways

Berkeley contains five principal creeks: Derby, Potter, Strawberry, Schoolhouse, and Codornices, all of which flow west from hillside areas into the San Francisco Bay. In addition, there are eight other creeks that are at least partially within the city limits (City of Berkeley 2022). Due to urban development, once natural watercourses now flow through concrete ditches and culverts, in many cases flowing underground, and ultimately draining into the San Francisco Bay. As shown in Figure 4, there are estuarine and marine wetlands as well as lakes and freshwater ponds along the western portion of Berkeley along San Francisco Bay.

Special Status Species

As discussed in the City of Berkeley Housing Element Update Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a total of 59 special-status plants and 48 special-status animals were identified within five miles of Berkeley. Many of these species have sensitivity ratings below the threshold for significant impacts from development in urban settings under CEQA, or there are no recent records of the species occurring within Berkeley in the past ten years. Berkeley is urbanized and developed and lacks suitable habitats for special-status plants, and with the exception of avian taxa, lacks suitable habitat for special-status animals. However, the eastern and western borders of Berkeley feature marine and estuarine habitats and foothill woodlands and grasslands, respectively, where special-status species are more likely to occur (City of Berkeley 2022).

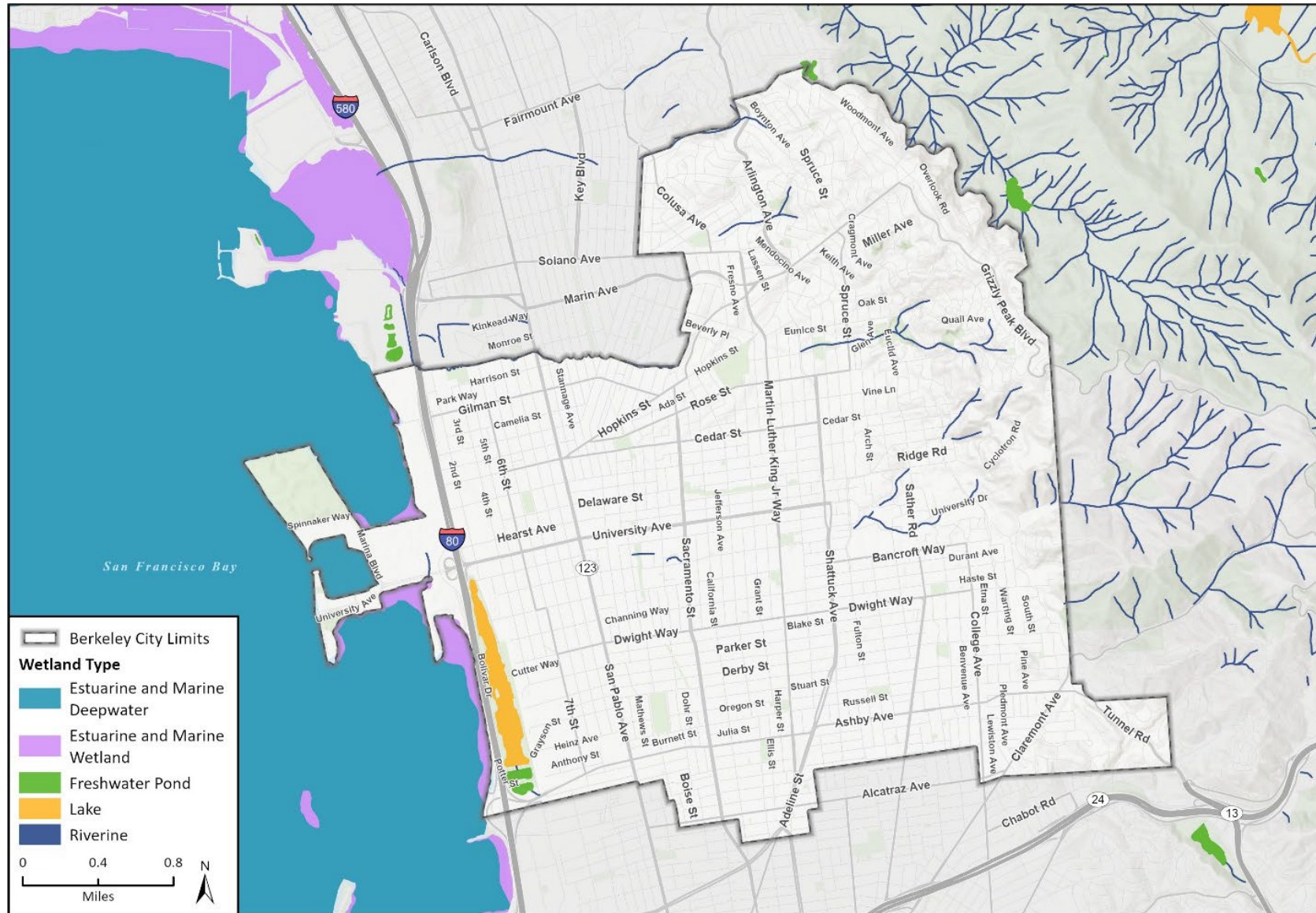
Wildlife Movement Corridors

Wildlife movement corridors, or habitat linkages, are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated animal populations. Such linkages may serve a local purpose, such as providing a linkage between foraging and denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. Some habitat linkages may serve as migration corridors, wherein animals periodically move away from an area and then subsequently return. Others may be important as dispersal corridors for young animals. A group of habitat linkages in an area can form a wildlife corridor network.

The habitats within the link do not necessarily need to be the same as the habitats that are being linked. Rather, the link merely needs to contain sufficient cover and forage to allow temporary inhabitation by ground-dwelling species. Typically, habitat linkages are contiguous strips of natural areas, though dense plantings of landscape vegetation can be used by certain disturbance-tolerant species. Depending upon the species using a corridor, specific physical resources (such as rock outcroppings, vernal pools, or oak trees) may need to be located within the habitat link at certain intervals to allow slower-moving species to traverse the link. For highly mobile or aerial species, habitat linkages may be discontinuous patches of suitable resources spaced sufficiently close together to permit travel along a route in a short period of time.

Wildlife movement corridors can be both large and small scale. The eastern border of Berkeley is an essential connectivity area, mapped by the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2026). The corridor connects several natural landscape blocks in the east San Francisco Bay Area. From the foothills southeast of San Pablo Bay it extends southeast, parallel with the San Francisco Bay, and connects with the Diablo Range east of Fremont. This essential connectivity area as a part of the bay area hills may serve as a movement corridor for the state provisionally protected Southern California/Central Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of mountain lion. CDFW characterizes the value of essential connectivity areas based on permeability to wildlife movements. As mapped in BIOS, the edges of the nearest connectivity area become increasingly less permeable as they extend toward Berkeley and developed areas of Alameda County.

Figure 4 Wetlands in Berkeley



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026.
Additional data provided by City of Berkeley, 2026; NWI, 2026.

23-15392.EPS
Fig X Wetlands

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Special status species are those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA); those considered “Species of Concern” by the USFWS; those listed or candidates for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); animals designated as “Fully Protected” by the California Fish and Game Code (CFGF); animals listed as “Species of Special Concern” (SSC) by the CDFW; CDFW Special Plants, in the California Native Plants Society’s (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations based on site-specific locations and development design. Future activities would also be required to comply with local and State regulations related to sensitive species. The proposed project would not result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special status species and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Berkeley is generally urbanized and developed. The dominant vegetation types include ornamental vegetation and ruderal areas. No natural vegetation communities considered sensitive by the CDFW and limited riparian areas occur in Berkeley (City of Berkeley 2022).

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to riparian habitats or sensitive natural communities. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to riparian habitats or sensitive natural communities. The proposed project would not result in impacts to riparian habitats or sensitive natural communities and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

As discussed above under Setting and shown in Figure 4, there are estuarine and marine wetlands as well as lakes and freshwater ponds along the western portion of Berkeley proximate to the San Francisco Bay. The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents

that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to State or federally protected wetlands. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to wetlands and waterbodies.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to State or federally protected wetlands and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Berkeley is adjacent to a designated essential connectivity area but Berkeley is not within, and does not function as, a significant regional or local wildlife movement corridor. Codornices Creek along the northern border of Berkeley is one of the last remaining unchannelized perennial streams within or adjacent to Berkeley. It provides a natural run for the threatened salmonid fish species (City of Berkeley 2022).

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to wildlife movement or migratory corridors. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to wildlife movement or migratory corridors. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to wildlife movement or migratory corridors and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the City's tree ordinance and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans adopted in Berkeley. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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5 Cultural Resources



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Berkeley retains a wide variety of prehistoric and historic-era cultural resources that are of benefit to the community as a tangible record of Berkeley's past and identity. Most of its buildings were constructed between 1875 and 1940. According to correspondence with Allison Reimer, Senior Planner at the City of Berkeley, as of 2026, Berkeley has 318 listed Berkeley Landmarks, 41 Structures of Merit, and four Historic Districts designated by the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission: Delaware Street Historic District, Civic Center Historic District, La Loma Historic District, and Oceanview Sistrana Historic District (City of Berkeley 2026a; Allison Reimer 2026).

CEQA requires that a lead agency determine whether a project could have a significant effect on historical resources (Public Resources Code [PRC], Section 21084.1), unique archaeological resources (PRC Section 21083.2 [g]), and tribal cultural resources (PRC Section 21074 [a][1][A]-[B]). A historical resource is a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (Section 21084.1), a resource included in a local register of historical resources (Section 15064.5[a][2]), or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (Section 15064.5[a][3]).

Impacts to significant cultural resources that affect the characteristics of any resource that qualify it for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or adversely alter the significance of a resource listed in or eligible for listing in the CRHR are considered a significant effect on the environment. These impacts could result from physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 [b][1]). Material impairment is defined as demolition or alteration in an adverse manner [of] those characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion or eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[b][2][A]).

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to historical resources. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to historical resources. The City also has provisions in place for projects that would involve the

demolition of non-residential buildings over 40 years old that require use permits or administrative use permits to be forwarded to Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. The City's zoning project application requires an historical resource evaluation for zoning projects that are subject to environmental review and include the proposed demolition or substantial change to any building more than 40 years old. In most cases, mitigation of impacts to historical resources would be carried out through the existing procedures of the permit review process. These regulations are intended to reduce impacts on historical resources by ensuring that proposed changes to buildings do not negatively impact the resource through encouraging the preservation and maintenance of historical materials and ensuring work performed is consistent with the resource's historical character.

The proposed project would not result in impacts on historical resources and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

According to the City's Housing Element Update EIR, a high potential for Native American cultural resources exists within the city limits, and archaeological sites are present within Berkeley and in surrounding areas (City of Berkeley 2022). The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts to archaeological resources. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA to determine potential concerns related to archaeological resources.

The proposed project would not result in impacts on archaeological resources and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Human burials outside of formal cemeteries can occur in prehistoric archaeological contexts. While no known burial sites have been identified in Berkeley, excavations during construction activities could have the potential to disturb these resources, which could include Native American burial sites. Human burials, in addition to being potential archaeological resources, have specific provisions for treatment in PRC Section 5097. The California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5, 7051, and 7054) has specific provisions for the protection of human burial remains. Existing regulations address the illegality of interfering with human burial remains, and protect them from disturbance, vandalism, or destruction. They also include established procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered. PRC Section 5097.98 also addresses the disposition of Native American burials, protects such remains, and established the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to resolve any related disputes. Further, all development projects are subject to State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 which states that, if human remains are unearthed, no further disturbance can occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and disposition of the remains pursuant to the PRC Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site and make recommendations to the landowner within 48 hours of being granted access.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in impacts on human remains, and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

6 Energy



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

As a State, California is one of the lowest per capita energy users in the United States, ranked 47th in the nation, due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate (United States Energy Information Administration 2026). Electricity and natural gas are primarily consumed by the built environment for lighting, appliances, heating and cooling systems, fireplaces, and other uses such as industrial processes in addition to being consumed by alternative fuel vehicles. Most of California's electricity is generated in-state with approximately 28 percent imported from the northwest and southwest in 2019; however, the State relies on out-of-state natural gas imports for nearly 90 percent of its supply (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2026a). In addition, approximately 32 percent of California's electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (CEC 2021). In 2018, Senate Bill 100 accelerated the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards Program, codified in the Public Utilities Act, by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy and zero-carbon resources to 60 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2045. Electricity would be provided to future development by Ava Community Energy (Ava) through Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) infrastructure. In June 2021, the Berkeley City Council voted to set the default electricity option for Berkeley residents (except those on California Alternate Rates for Energy, Family Electric Rate Assistance, and/or Medical Baseline rates) to Ava's Renewable 100 service starting in March 2022 and for commercial customers starting in October 2022. Table 2 summarizes the electricity and natural gas consumption for Alameda County, in which the project site would be located, and for PG&E, as compared to statewide consumption.

Table 2 2024 Electricity and Natural Gas Consumption

Energy Type	Alameda County	PG&E	California	Proportion of PG&E Consumption	Proportion of Statewide Consumption ¹
Electricity (GWh)	11,700	75,338	282,783	15.5%	4.1%
Natural Gas (millions of therms)	350.5	4,256	11,104	8.2%	3.2%

GWh = gigawatt-hours

¹ For reference, the population of Alameda County (1,662,482 persons) is approximately 4.2 percent of the population of California (39,529,101 persons) (California Department of Finance 2026).

Source: CEC 2026b

Petroleum fuels are primarily consumed by on-road and off-road equipment in addition to some industrial processes, with California being one of the top petroleum-producing states in the nation (CEC 2026c). Gasoline, which is used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles, is the most used transportation fuel in California with 13.4 billion gallons sold in 2024 (CEC 2026d). Diesel, which is used primarily by heavy duty-trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment,

and heavy-duty construction and military vehicles, is the second most used fuel in California with 3.5 billion gallons sold in 2024 (CEC 2026e). Table 3 summarizes the petroleum fuel consumption for Alameda County in which the project site would be located, as compared to statewide consumption.

Table 3 2024 Annual Gasoline and Diesel Consumption

Fuel Type	Alameda County (gallons)	California (gallons)	Proportion of Statewide Consumption ¹
Gasoline	456	13,423	3.4%
Diesel	51	2,212	2.3%

¹ For reference, the population of Alameda County (1,662,482 persons) is approximately 4.2 percent of the population of California (39,529,101 persons) (California Department of Finance 2026).

Source: CEC 2026f

Energy consumption is directly related to environmental quality in that the consumption of nonrenewable energy resources releases criteria air pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere. The environmental impacts of air pollutant and GHG emissions associated with energy consumption are discussed in in Section 3, *Air Quality*, and Section 8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, respectively.

Impact Analysis

- Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*
- Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Construction of future projects would be required to comply with applicable California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations that restrict the idling of heavy-duty diesel motor vehicles and govern the accelerated retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of heavy-duty diesel on- and off-road equipment. Construction contractors would be required to comply with the provisions of 13 California Code of Regulations Sections 2449 and 2485, which prohibit diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles and off-road diesel vehicles from idling for more than five minutes, which would minimize unnecessary fuel consumption. Construction equipment would be subject to the U.S. EPA Construction Equipment Fuel Efficiency which would minimize inefficient fuel consumption. These construction equipment standards (i.e., Tier 4 efficiency requirements) are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1039, 1065, and 1068. Electrical power would be consumed during demolition and construction activities, and the demand, to the extent required, would be supplied from existing electrical infrastructure in the region. Contractors would also be required to comply with construction waste management practices to divert a minimum of 65 percent of construction and demolition debris and to recycle and salvage 100 percent of excavated soil and land-clearing debris, concrete, and of asphalt during construction and demolition activities pursuant to CALGreen and BMC Chapter 19.37.

Operation of future projects would be required to comply with the most recent versions of CALGreen and the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards which establish requirements for energy efficient lighting and appliances, high efficiency water fixtures, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, solar photovoltaic systems, and overall building energy performance.

Furthermore, the new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

Policy EJ-3.2: Clean Energy. Encourage clean energy in Berkeley's manufacturing districts.

Program EJ-3.2-A: Evaluate potential economic development incentives and business assistance strategies to encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of low- or zero-emission and green economy uses in Berkeley, with a focus on the Manufacturing and Mixed-Manufacturing districts. Incentives may include grants, financing, fee reductions or other financial incentives, technical assistance, business attraction and retention programs, and leveraging available regional, State, and federal resources.

Program EJ-3.2-B: Research and evaluate updates to the local Building Code, consistent with State law, that reduce pollution exposure from manufacturing uses and support the transition of existing businesses to clean energy and low-emission operations. This may include stricter performance-based building standards, electric-ready design measures, requirements for living walls and roofs, and additional indoor air quality, ventilation and filtration standards.

Policy EJ-9.1: Safe and Healthy Housing Conditions. Promote healthy housing by focusing on existing housing stock.

Program EJ-9.1-B: Identify funding to upgrade Berkeley's aging/existing affordable housing stock with necessary infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, including focus on energy efficiency and electrification. Focus on housing in EJ Areas.

Policy S-6.4: Promote Backup Power and Renewables. Promote backup power and renewable energy options for non-City buildings.

Program S-6.4-A: Identify and connect community members to externally funded programs, grants, and rebate opportunities that enable Berkeley residents, community organizations, and businesses to install backup energy systems to maintain power during outages and emergencies. Identify options that are accessible to low-income households and organizations.

Program S-6.4-B: Work with partners to develop neighborhood-scale microgrids that provide renewable, reliable energy during grid outages or extreme heat events, prioritizing installations in communities facing high social vulnerability.

Program S-6.4-C: Advance policies and programs that reduce reliance on natural gas and other fossil fuels by promoting electrification, renewable energy integration, and energy efficiency standards in both new construction and retrofits of existing buildings, consistent with the Berkeley Climate Action Plan.

These policies and programs would promote a transition to clean energy and low-emission operations across Berkeley's industrial and residential sectors by updating zoning and building standards, supporting electrification, and expanding access to renewable and backup energy systems. They also prioritize investment in existing and affordable housing, particularly in EJ Areas, to improve energy efficiency, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and enhance reliability during outages through measures such as microgrids and distributed renewable energy. Together, these actions would reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality, and increase energy resilience, providing environmental and public health benefits while ensuring that vulnerable communities have equitable access to cleaner, safer energy resources.

Implementation of these policies could guide prehabilitation of existing buildings or infrastructure upgrades. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be long term environmental benefits through reduced emissions and energy demand, improved air quality, and increased resilience of the energy system.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy and would not conflict with a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

7 Geology and Soils

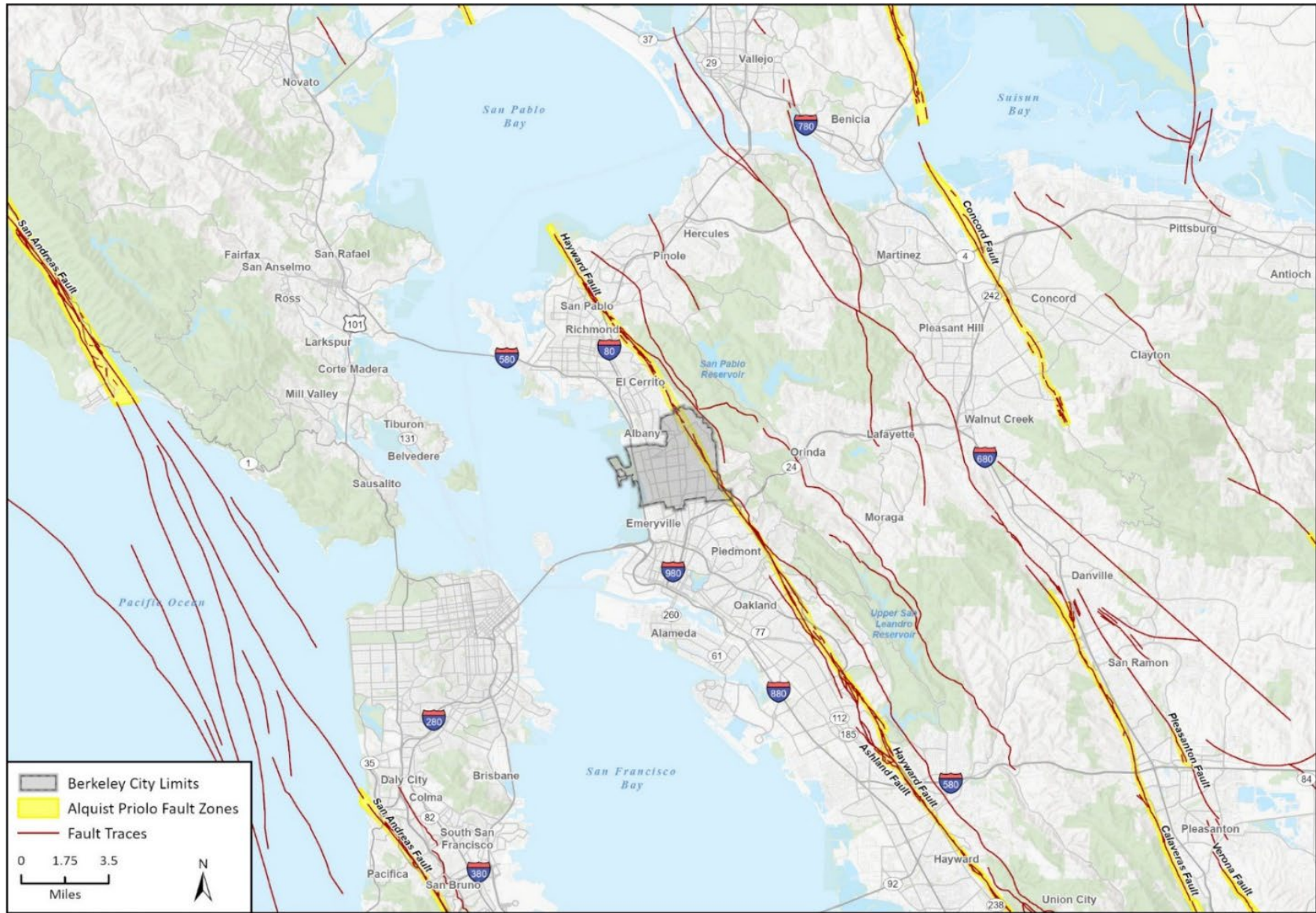


	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	☐	☒
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
4. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Berkeley is located near major active faults, including the Hayward Fault, which runs through Berkeley, and the San Andreas Fault to the west. Figure 5 shows the location of these faults and the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, which are regulatory areas designed to reduce risks from surface fault rupture. As shown in Figure 6, areas in Berkeley with high liquefaction risk include the Marina, Eastshore State Park, Aquatic Park, and shoreline zones extending inland to San Pablo Avenue and McGee Avenue; while areas with high landslide risk are characterized by steep slopes such as those in the hills and along creek banks.

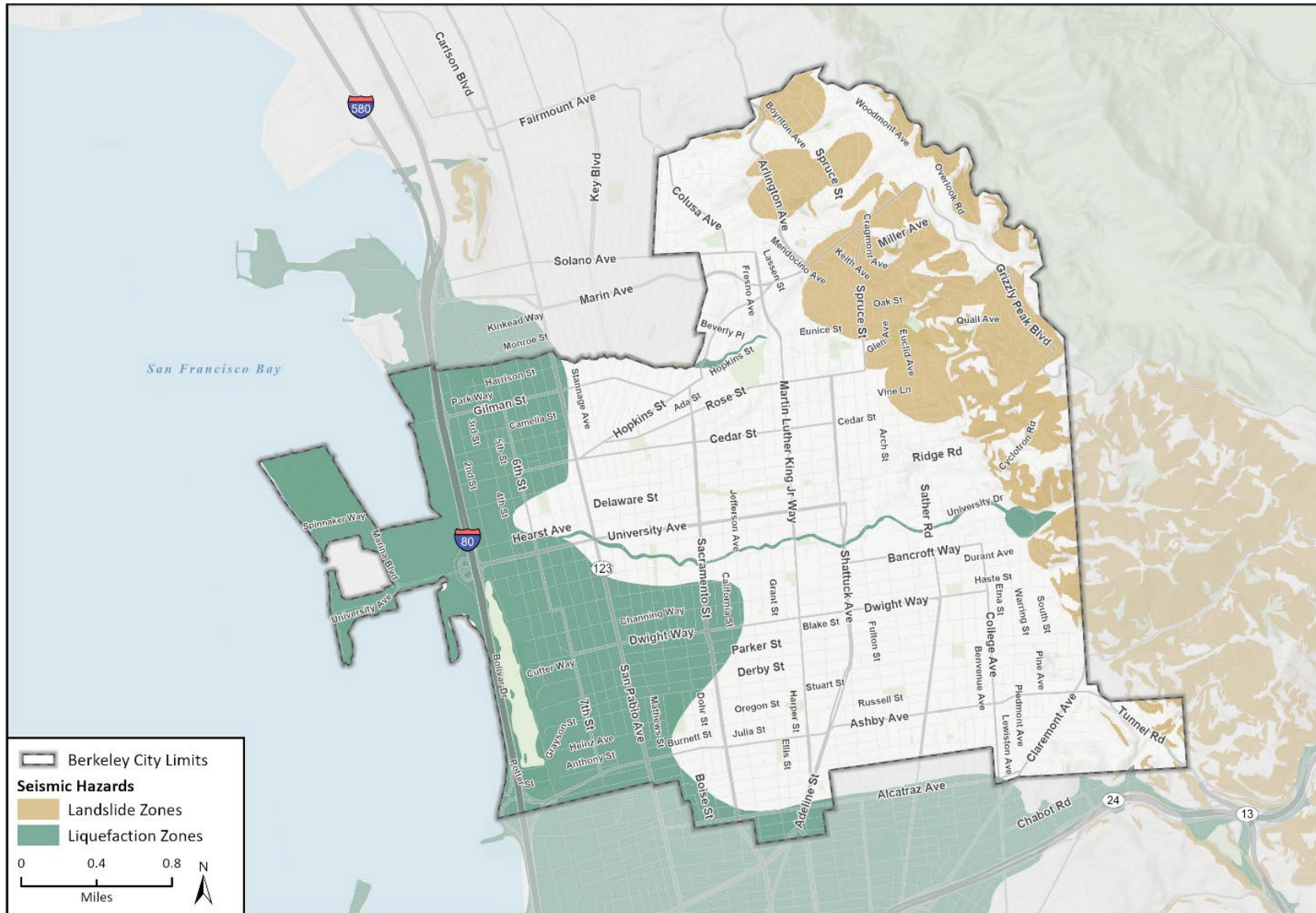
Figure 5 Faults in Berkeley and Surrounding Areas



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2025.
Additional data provided by CGS, 2024; USGS, 2022.

23-15392 EPS Safety Element
Fig X Faults Zoomed Out

Figure 6 Landslide and Liquefaction Zones in Berkeley



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026.
Additional data provided by CGS, 2017.

23-15392 EPS
Fig 5 Liquefaction and Landslide Zones

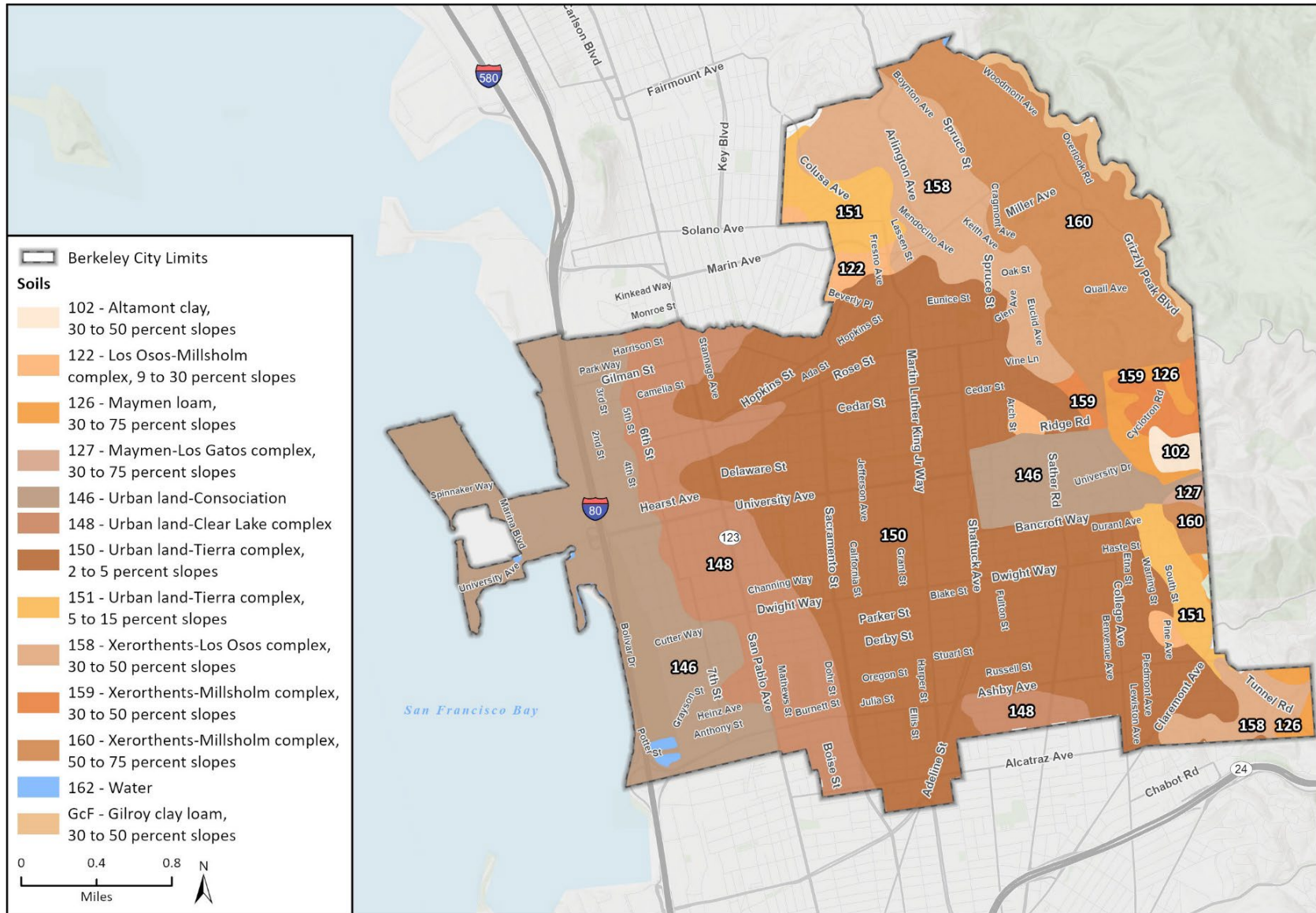
As mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Berkeley features 12 soil types (USDA 2026). Table 4 presents soil characteristics related to water holding capacity, permeability, shrink-swell potential, rate of surface runoff, and erosion hazard. Figure 7 shows soils in Berkeley.

Table 4 Berkeley Soil Parameters

Map Unit #	Name	Water Holding Capacity (in.)	Permeability (in/hr)	Shrink-Swell Potential	Rate of Surface Runoff	Erosion Hazard
102	Altamont Clay, 30 to 50 percent slopes	3.5-7	Slow	High	Medium to High	Moderate/High
122	Los Osos-Millsholm Complex, 9 to 30 percent slopes	3.5-6.5	Slow	Moderate/High	High	High
126	Maymen Loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes	1-3	Moderate	Low	High	High/ Very high
127	Maymen-Los Gatos complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes	1-3	Moderate	Low/ Moderate	Very High	High/ Very high
146	Urban land-Consociation	n/a	Slow	n/a	High	None
148	Urban Land-Clear Lake Complex	7.0-9.5	Moderately low to Moderately high	High	Medium	None
150	Urban land-Tierra Complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	1.8	Very low/ Moderately low	High	High	Slight
151	Urban land Tierra Complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes	6-8	Slow	High	Medium	Moderate
158	Xerorthents-Los Osos Complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	3.5-6.5	Slow	Moderate/High	High	High
159	Xerorthents- Millsholm Complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	1.5-3.5	Moderate	Low	High	High
160	Xerorthents- Millsholm Complex, 50 to 75 percent slopes	9.5-11	Moderate	Low	Slow	None
GcF	Gilroy Clay Loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes	3-6	Moderately slow	Moderate	Very high	High

Sources: USDA 2026

Figure 7 Berkeley Soils Map



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026.
Additional data provided by City of Berkeley, 2026; SSURGO, 2025.

Impact Analysis

- a.1. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?*
- a.2. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*
- a.3. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*
- a.4. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?*
- c. *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?*

As shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6, the Hayward Fault traverses Berkeley and certain areas are subject to high and very high liquefaction and landslide risk. The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at protecting people and property against geologic hazards.

Policy S-1.1: Expand Natural Hazard Awareness. Expand public awareness of Berkeley's risk of exposure to natural hazards and how that risk is projected to worsen with climate change. Recommend steps to reduce household vulnerabilities, emphasizing low-cost, high-impact actions.

Program S-1.1-A: Maintain up-to-date hazard mapping to support understanding of Berkeley's hazard vulnerabilities.

Program S-1.1-B: Provide hazard and readiness information in a variety of formats. Partner with community-based organizations and neighborhood groups to deliver information through multiple channels. Identify and share information about financial and technical assistance resources to support residents in taking readiness actions.

Program S-1.1-C: Coordinate with housing and health agencies to reach renters, people experiencing homelessness, and other groups that they serve.

Program S-1.1-D: Partner with utility providers to share education and resources on utility outage preparedness.

Policy S-2.1: Reduce Seismic Vulnerabilities. Reduce seismic vulnerabilities for non-City-owned buildings throughout Berkeley by adopting data-driven strategies, prioritizing high-occupancy and community-serving structures, and engaging property owners, tenants, and community partners to ensure equitable implementation.

Program S-2.1-A: Evaluate and adopt retrofit guidelines and building codes that address structural and nonstructural mitigation in order to facilitate the retrofit of all vulnerable buildings.

Program S-2.1-B: Maintain the Soft Story Retrofit Program, which requires owners of buildings with five or more units to retrofit their buildings and to inform tenants that the building is potentially hazardous.

Program S-2.1-C: Maintain the Seismic Retrofit Grants Program, to financially incentivize retrofit of potentially hazardous structures, and prioritize financial assistance for vulnerable buildings with high occupancy and/or community benefit.

Program S-2.1-D: Track the development, passage, and implementation of new mandatory seismic retrofit requirements for concrete buildings at the State level, trade industry standards, and peer jurisdictions. Analyze emerging regulations and best practices to inform Berkeley's future policies and compliance strategies.

Program S-2.1-E: Identify and share information on local, State, and federal funding opportunities to facilitate seismic retrofitting programs. Disseminate information to building owners, property managers, and community-based organizations, with targeted outreach to owners of affordable housing and high-occupancy buildings.

Therefore, proposed project would not result in impacts related to seismic ground shaking, landslides, and liquefaction, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Soil types in Berkeley are shown in Figure 7. Table 4 lists soil characteristics related to water holding capacity, permeability, shrink-swell potential, rate of surface runoff, and erosion hazard. Berkeley soils are characterized by having "moderate" or a "high" potential for erosion-related hazards.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Figure 7 shows the soil types in Berkeley which include 12 different soil types. As indicated in Table 4, of the soil types within Berkeley have "moderate" to "high" potential for shrink-swell behavior, or expansiveness. The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at protecting people and property against geologic hazards.

Policy S-1.1: Expand Natural Hazard Awareness. Expand public awareness of Berkeley's risk of exposure to natural hazards and how that risk is projected to worsen with climate change. Recommend steps to reduce household vulnerabilities, emphasizing low-cost, high-impact actions.

Program S-1.1-A: Maintain up-to-date hazard mapping to support understanding of Berkeley's hazard vulnerabilities.

Program S-1.1-B: Provide hazard and readiness information in a variety of formats. Partner with community-based organizations and neighborhood groups to deliver information through multiple channels. Identify and share information about financial and technical assistance resources to support residents in taking readiness actions.

Program S-1.1-C: Coordinate with housing and health agencies to reach renters, people experiencing homelessness, and other groups that they serve.

Program S-1.1-D: Partner with utility providers to share education and resources on utility outage preparedness.

Policy S-2.1: Reduce Seismic Vulnerabilities. Reduce seismic vulnerabilities for non-City-owned buildings throughout Berkeley by adopting data-driven strategies, prioritizing high-occupancy and community-serving structures, and engaging property owners, tenants, and community partners to ensure equitable implementation.

Program S-2.1-A: Evaluate and adopt retrofit guidelines and building codes that address structural and nonstructural mitigation in order to facilitate the retrofit of all vulnerable buildings.

Program S-2.1-B: Maintain the Soft Story Retrofit Program, which requires owners of buildings with five or more units to retrofit their buildings and to inform tenants that the building is potentially hazardous.

Program S-2.1-C: Maintain the Seismic Retrofit Grants Program, to financially incentivize retrofit of potentially hazardous structures, and prioritize financial assistance for vulnerable buildings with high occupancy and/or community benefit.

Program S-2.1-D: Track the development, passage, and implementation of new mandatory seismic retrofit requirements for concrete buildings at the State level, trade industry standards, and peer jurisdictions. Analyze emerging regulations and best practices to inform Berkeley's future policies and compliance strategies.

Program S-2.1-E: Identify and share information on local, State, and federal funding opportunities to facilitate seismic retrofitting programs. Disseminate information to building owners, property managers, and community-based organizations, with targeted outreach to owners of affordable housing and high-occupancy buildings.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to expansive soil and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

- e. *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) is responsible for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater within Berkeley. Future projects would not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to adverse effects due to soil incompatibility and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

As discussed in the Berkeley Housing Element Update EIR, three geologic units are assigned high sensitivity in Berkeley; these include Pleistocene alluvial fan and fluvial deposits, Orinda Formation and Knoxville Formation. The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable.

Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to paleontological resources and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

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8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period. The term "climate change" is often used interchangeably with the term "global warming," but climate change is preferred because it conveys that other changes are happening in addition to rising temperatures. The baseline against which these changes are measured originates in historical records that identify temperature, rainfall, and other weather conditions, such as during previous ice ages. The global climate is changing continuously, as evidenced in the geologic record which indicates repeated episodes of substantial warming and cooling. The rate of change has typically been incremental, with warming or cooling trends occurring over the course of thousands of years. The past 10,000 years have been marked by a period of incremental warming, as glaciers have steadily retreated across the globe. However, scientists have observed acceleration in the rate of warming over the past 150 years. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expressed that the rise and continued growth of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations is unequivocally due to human activities in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (2021). Human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land, which has led the climate to warm at an unprecedented acceleration rate in the last 2,000 years. It is estimated that between the period of 1850 through 2019, that a total of 2,390 gigatonnes of anthropogenic (manmade) CO₂ was emitted. It is likely that anthropogenic activities have increased the global surface temperature by approximately 1.07 degrees Celsius (°C) between the years 2010 through 2019 (IPCC 2021). Furthermore, since the late 1700s, estimated concentrations of CO₂, methane, and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere have increased by over 43 percent, 156 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, primarily due to human activity (U.S. EPA 2026). Emissions resulting from human activities are thereby contributing to an average increase in Earth's temperature.

Gases that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation in the atmosphere are called GHGs. The gases widely seen as the principal contributors to human-induced climate change include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxides (N₂O), fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). Water vapor is excluded from the list of GHGs because it is short-lived in the atmosphere, and natural processes, such as oceanic evaporation, largely determine its atmospheric concentrations.

GHGs are emitted by natural processes and human activities. Of these gases, CO₂ and CH₄ are emitted in the greatest quantities from human activities. Emissions of CO₂ are usually by-products of fossil fuel combustion, and CH₄ results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. Human-made GHGs, many of which have greater heat-absorption potential than CO₂, include fluorinated gases and SF₆ (U.S. EPA 2026).

Different types of GHGs have varying global warming potential (GWP). The GWP of a GHG is the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere over a specified timescale (generally, 100 years).

Because GHGs absorb different amounts of heat, a common reference gas (CO₂) is used to relate the amount of heat absorbed to the amount of the gas emitted. This is referred to as “carbon dioxide equivalent” (CO₂e) and is defined as the amount of GHG emitted multiplied by its GWP. Carbon dioxide has a 100-year GWP of one. By contrast, methane has a GWP of 30, meaning its global warming effect is 30 times greater than CO₂ on a molecule per molecule basis (IPCC 2021).¹

The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the earth’s temperature. Without the natural heat-trapping effect of GHGs, the earth’s surface would be about 91 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) cooler (World Meteorological Organization 2022).

Significance Threshold

The Air District recently adopted updated thresholds for evaluating the significance of climate impacts from development projects (Air District 2023). The new project-level thresholds state that development projects must either include the following project design elements, or be consistent with a local GHG reduction strategy that meets the criteria under *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15183.5(b):

1. Buildings

- a. The project will not include natural gas appliances or natural gas plumbing (in both residential and nonresidential development).
- b. The project will not result in any wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy use as determined by the analysis required under CEQA Section 21100(b)(3) and Section 15126.2(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

2. Transportation

- a. The project will achieve a reduction in project-generated vehicle miles traveled (VMT) below the regional average consistent with the current version of the California Climate Change Scoping Plan (currently 15 percent) or meet a locally adopted Senate Bill 743 VMT target that reflects the recommendations provided in the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research’s Technical Advisory: *Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA*:
 - i. Residential projects: 15 percent below the existing VMT per capita
 - ii. Office projects: 15 percent below the existing VMT per employee
 - iii. Retail projects: no net increase in existing VMT
- b. The project will achieve compliance with off-street EV requirements in the most recently adopted version of CALGreen Tier 2.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

¹ The IPCC’s (2021) *Sixth Assessment Report* determined that methane has a GWP of 30. However, the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan published by the California Air Resources Board uses a GWP of 25 for methane, consistent with the IPCC’s (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report*. Therefore, this analysis utilizes a GWP of 25.

Construction of future projects would be required to comply with applicable CARB regulations, such as accelerated retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of heavy-duty diesel on-road and off-road equipment. Construction equipment would be subject to the U.S. EPA Construction Equipment Fuel Efficiency Standard, which would minimize inefficient fuel consumption and thus GHG emissions. These construction equipment standards (i.e., Tier 4 efficiency requirements) are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1039, 1065, and 1068. Pursuant to applicable regulatory requirements of CALGreen, future activities would be required to comply with construction waste management practices to divert construction and demolition debris from landfills. These practices would result in efficient use of energy during construction and, therefore, would minimize unnecessary GHG emissions. Furthermore, in the interest of cost efficiency, construction contractors would not utilize fuel in a manner that is wasteful or unnecessary, which would also have the effect of minimizing GHG emissions.

Electricity for future activities would be supplied by Ava, which currently supplies 100 percent renewable energy under its Renewable 100 program, and is anticipated to provide 100 percent carbon neutral power by 2030 (Ava 2026). Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, would also be required to comply with the most recent iteration of the CALGreen, including but not limited to, installation of energy-efficient equipment and lighting, incorporation of onsite solar renewable energy, and EV charging spaces.

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions in disadvantaged communities.

Policy EJ-3.1: Equity-Driven Pollution Reduction. Apply an equity-focused approach to pollution reduction that prioritizes EJ Areas, directing clean air investments that reduce pollution exposure to sensitive receptors (such as schools, childcare centers, senior facilities), and ensuring that EJ Communities meaningfully contribute to decision-making.

Policy EJ-3.2: Clean Energy. Encourage clean energy in Berkeley's manufacturing.

Program EJ-3.2-A: Evaluate potential economic development incentives and business assistance strategies to encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of low- or zero-emission and green economy uses in Berkeley, with a focus on the Manufacturing and Mixed-Manufacturing districts. Incentives may include grants, financing, fee reductions or other financial incentives, technical assistance, business attraction and retention programs, and leveraging available regional, State, and federal resources.

Program EJ-3.2-B: Research and evaluate updates to the local Building Code, consistent with State law, that reduce pollution exposure from manufacturing uses and support the transition of existing businesses to clean energy and low-emission operations. This may include stricter performance-based building standards, electric-ready design measures, requirements for living walls and roofs, and additional indoor air quality, ventilation and filtration standards.

Policy EJ-3.3: Regional Air Quality Coordination. Coordinate with Bay Area Air District (Air District) and other regional agencies to reduce air pollution and related health risks in communities with the highest cumulative pollution burdens, using data-driven strategies and meaningful EJ Community input.

Program EJ-3.3-A: Partner with regional, state, and other stakeholders to expand localized air quality and heat monitoring networks in EJ Areas.

Program EJ-3.3-B: Research options to improve reporting of air monitoring data. Consider disaggregating data by neighborhood, publishing data on a public-facing dashboard, increasing frequency of updates, and crowd-sourcing data.

Policy EJ-3.4: Air Pollution Mitigation in Homes. Support home improvements that reduce indoor exposure to outdoor air pollution, such as air filtration systems, window upgrades, and weatherization, particularly in EJ Communities near major transportation infrastructure.

Program EJ-3.4-A: Enhance outreach to renters and homeowners in EJ Areas, following the programs in Policy EJ-2.1 (Meaningful and Equitable Community Participation) to increase education about indoor air quality risks and strategies to reduce exposure, including filtration, weatherization, and building upgrades.

Program EJ-3.4-B: Coordinate with agencies and organizations that provide housing and weatherization programs, such as Rebuilding Together and Center for Independent Living, to expand access to income-qualified financial assistance to low-income households in EJ Areas.

Program EJ-3.4-C: Continue to partner with local contractors and community-based organizations through projects like Rebuilding Together's "Just Transition Pilot" to deliver retrofits mentioned in Program EJ-3.4-B to low-income households living in EJ Areas.

Policy EJ-3.5: Lower Vehicle Miles Traveled. Reduce vehicle miles traveled by focusing on public transit and safe active transportation infrastructure improvements in the City's right of way and zero-emission travel modes, consistent with MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-A: Expand first- and last-mile mobility options and innovative delivery services through bike, scooter, and e-bike lending programs and affordable car-share services that serve EJ Communities or are identified as one of MTC's Equity Priority Communities or subject to the MTC Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-B: Update Berkeley's Transportation Demand Management regulations (BBMC Chapter 23.334) to reduce transportation-related pollution and health disparities through measurable, equity-focused performance targets.

Policy EJ-3.6: Transportation Pollution Mitigation. Reduce transportation-related air pollution impacts in EJ Areas and in neighborhoods adjacent to high-traffic corridors and freeways.

Program EJ-3.6-A: Advocate to the state legislature to require Caltrans to plant trees near or install air filtration systems in schools and housing near freeways in and adjacent to EJ Areas. Require monitoring to track improvements.

Program EJ-3.6-B: Advocate to the state legislature that Caltrans implement pollution-exposure-reduction strategies along major corridors throughout Berkeley, focusing on locations where sensitive receptors are present. Consider vegetative buffers consistent with Policy EJ-8.2 (Sustainable Green Infrastructure).

Policy EJ-9.1: Safe and Healthy Housing Conditions. Promote healthy housing by focusing on existing housing stock.

Program EJ-9.1-B: Identify funding to upgrade Berkeley's aging/existing affordable housing stock with necessary infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, including focus on energy efficiency and electrification. Focus on housing in EJ Areas.

Policy S-6.4: Promote Backup Power and Renewables. Promote backup power and renewable energy options for non-City buildings.

Program S-6.4-A: Identify and connect community members to externally funded programs, grants, and rebate opportunities that enable Berkeley residents, community organizations, and businesses to install backup energy systems to maintain power during outages and emergencies. Identify options that are accessible to low-income households and organizations.

Program S-6.4-B: Work with partners to advance neighborhood-scale microgrids that provide renewable, reliable energy during grid outages or extreme heat events, prioritizing installations in communities facing high social vulnerability.

Program S-6.4-C: Advance policies and programs that reduce reliance on natural gas and other fossil fuels by promoting electrification, renewable energy integration, and energy efficiency

standards in both new construction and retrofits of existing buildings, consistent with the Berkeley Climate Action Plan.

These policies and programs would reduce GHG emissions by promoting cleaner land use patterns, transitioning industrial and building operations to low- and zero-emission energy sources, and reducing reliance on fossil fuel-based transportation. These efforts emphasize electrification, energy efficiency, expanded transit and active transportation options, and renewable energy adoption, while prioritizing investments in EJ Areas to ensure equitable climate benefits. Together, these actions would lower GHG emissions citywide, support Berkeley's climate goals, and provide co-benefits such as improved air quality and reduced climate-related health risks for vulnerable communities. However, implementation of these policies could potentially involve physical changes to the built environment and infrastructure systems that could result in environmental effects. Such activities may include building retrofits to support electrification and energy efficiency, installation of renewable energy systems and battery storage, and construction or modification of transportation and active mobility infrastructure. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, while implementation may result in some localized physical environmental effects, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be a substantial net reduction in GHG emissions and long term environmental and public health benefits.

The proposed project would not result in impacts related to directly or indirectly generating GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future projects would be evaluated for consistency with CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan, the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (ABAG/MTC) Plan Bay Area 2050, the City's Climate Action Plan, and General Plan policies. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. For a project located in an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The management of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes is regulated at federal, State, and local levels, including through programs administered by the U.S. EPA; agencies within the California Environmental Protection Agency, such as the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); federal and State occupational safety agencies; and the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), which for Berkeley is the Toxics Management Division (TMD).

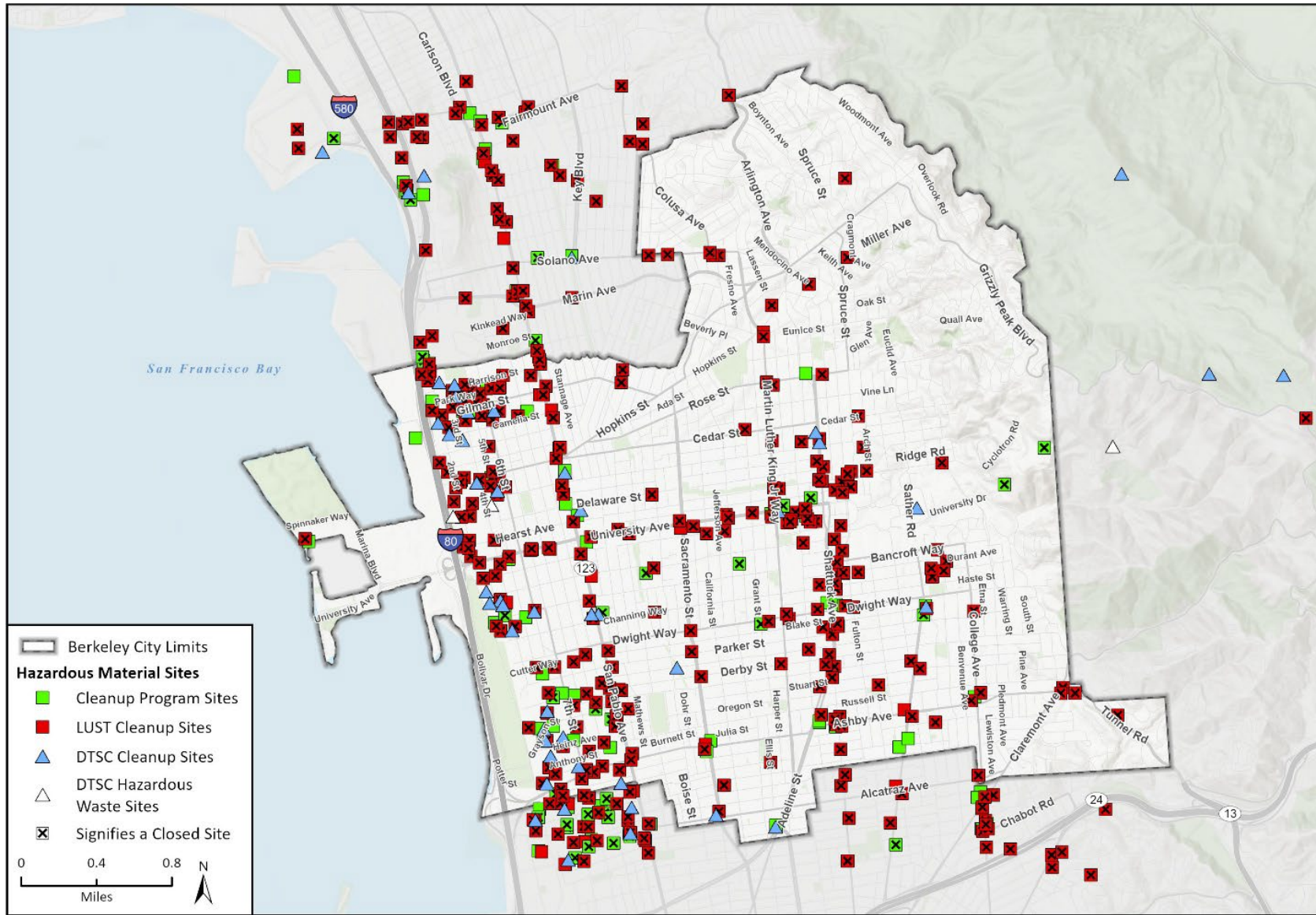
As a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC is the primary agency in California that regulates hazardous waste, assumes authority for clean-up of the most serious existing contamination sites, and looks for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. The DTSC regulates hazardous waste in California primarily under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the California Health and Safety Code. The DTSC also administers the California Hazardous Waste Control Law to regulate hazardous wastes. The Hazardous Waste Control Law lists 791 chemicals and approximately 300 common materials that may be hazardous; establishes criteria for

identifying, packaging, and labeling hazardous wastes; prescribes management controls; establishes permit requirements for treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation; and identifies some wastes that cannot be disposed of in landfills.

California Government Code Section 65302(g) mandates that the general plan of a community address safety issues, including but not limited to hazardous materials. Responsibility for regulating and monitoring the management, disposal, labeling, and use of toxic and hazardous materials lies with a variety of federal, State, and local agencies, including the U.S. EPA, the California Office of Health Planning and Development, and the TMD. Assembly Bill (AB) 2948 (AB 2948, Chapter 1504, Statutes of 1986), commonly known as the Tanner Bill, authorizes counties to prepare Hazardous Waste Management Plans (HWMP) in response to the need for safe management of hazardous materials and waste products.

The SWRCB GeoTracker database and DTSC's EnviroStor database identifies Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) cleanup sites; Cleanup Program Sites, formerly known as Spills, Leaks, Investigations, and Cleanups sites; military sites; land disposal sites, or landfills; permitted underground storage tank sites; Waste Discharge Requirement sites; Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program sites; and DTSC cleanup and hazardous waste permit sites. A search of the databases was conducted in June 2026. According to GeoTracker and EnviroStor, Berkeley has the following types of hazardous sites that are still active or need further investigation: voluntary cleanup, corrective action, and tiered permit (DTSC 2026; SWRCB 2026). These sites are dispersed throughout Berkeley. Existing sites that may potentially contain hazardous land uses in Berkeley include large and small-quantity generators of hazardous waste, such as dry cleaners, gas stations and other industrial uses. According to DTSC and SWRCB, there are 248 open sites containing or potentially containing hazardous materials contamination located within Berkeley, including 61 SWRCB cleanup program sites, 18 LUST cleanup sites, and 11 DTSC cleanup sites (DTSC 2026; SWRCB 2026). Figure 8 shows the hazardous material sites within and adjacent to Berkeley.

Figure 8 Hazardous Material Sites Within and Adjacent to Berkeley



23_15392 EPS
Fig 6 Known Hazardous Material Sites

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*
- b. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element contains the following proposed policies and programs aimed at ensuring safe management for hazardous and toxic materials in the city.

Policy S-4.4: Mitigate Groundwater Contamination. Identify and mitigate contamination risks exacerbated by groundwater rise.

Program S-4.4-A: Coordinate with environmental oversight agencies by registering for and regularly reviewing database notifications and updates related to high-priority contaminated sites to stay informed of new findings, status changes, and remediation progress.

Program S-4.4-B: Reevaluate projected groundwater rise and contaminated site risks on a five-year cycle to account for updated sea level rise projections, new or reclassified contaminated sites, and evolving scientific knowledge or predictive tools.

Program S-4.4-C: Consider mitigation measures for City capital improvement projects located near sites with known, historically documented, or potential contamination identified through EnviroStor, GeoTracker, or the City's Environmental Management Area (EMA) map to prevent the creation of preferential pathways for soil vapor or groundwater migration. (Best Practice based on findings from the Groundwater Rise Memo)

Policy S-6.1: Maintain Modern Construction Standards. Promote safe and resilient growth by maintaining and implementing current construction standards, including adoption of State building code updates with locally-tailored amendments, along with consistent plan review and inspection practices, to protect residents, property, and neighborhoods from environmental, climate-related, and other hazards in both new and existing buildings.

Policy S-8.3: Build Staff Hazard Awareness. Build organizational awareness of Berkeley hazards, areas of exposure, and potential impacts, to ensure that hazard considerations are integrated into staff's day-to-day work

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element acknowledges that sea level rise and groundwater rise pose hazards to Berkeley's shoreline and low-lying areas. Rising groundwater can flood basements, damage foundations, and infiltrate underground utilities, increasing risks of corrosion, service disruptions, and methane leaks. It can also mobilize contaminants at existing cleanup sites, creating exposure pathways through soil, basements, and utility corridors. The policies and programs outlined above aim to integrate groundwater considerations into hazard mitigation and land use planning to address this emerging hazard. Therefore, the updated element would reduce the potential for projects to create hazards to the public from hazardous materials by improving contamination monitoring, incorporating protective design measures, and maintaining modern construction standards. Together, these actions would help minimize exposure risks and enhance overall public health and safety, particularly in areas vulnerable to groundwater rise and contamination.

Further, the new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be

subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Development proposals and the construction and operation of individual projects would be subject to applicable federal, State, and local regulations governing contaminated sites; the transportation, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous waste; and emergency response to leaks or spills. Hazardous materials would be required to be transported in accordance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, including the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 Code of Federal Regulations), which specifies container types, labeling, and handling requirements for interstate transport. Compliance with hazardous materials regulations codified in Titles 8, 22, and 26 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and their enabling legislation under Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code, would also be required for hazardous waste handling and transport.

The DTSC regulates hazardous waste generation, handling, transportation, treatment, disposal, and cleanup under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5), as implemented through Title 22 of the CCR. DTSC oversees permitting, inspections, compliance, and corrective actions to ensure that hazardous waste management activities adhere to federal and State requirements and related laws addressing hazardous waste reduction, remediation, and emergency planning.

Portions of Berkeley are located in the Environmental Management Areas (EMA) as identified by the City's TMD that are areas known or suspected to have groundwater and/or soil contamination (City of Berkeley 2026a). Potential health and environmental concerns related to contaminated groundwater and soil may occur during excavation and dewatering for new construction. Future activities that are in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, may be subject to regulatory programs overseen by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and DTSC and/or the Alameda County Environmental Health Local Oversight Program which require applicants of developments of contaminated properties to perform investigation and cleanup activities. In addition, development in the EMA requires project review by TMD prior to issuance of permits.

The proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or the reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs which would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, that handle or have on-site storage of hazardous materials would be required to comply with the provisions of the California Fire Code and the HHMD CUPA requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.95, Articles 1 and 2. All businesses that handle more than a specified amount of hazardous materials are required to submit a hazardous materials business plan to a regulating agency, in this case, the TMD. Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, would also be subject to the federal, State, and local regulations described above under Checklist Questions (a) and (b) and policies described in the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element. Therefore, the proposed

project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school, and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

- d. Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

As noted in the Setting above, there are 248 documented open sites containing or potentially containing hazardous materials contamination in underlying soil and/or groundwater in Berkeley. As described under Checklist Questions (a) and (b), the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes policies and programs to address groundwater rise and potential impacts associated with contaminated groundwater.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Future projects located within or adjacent to known hazardous waste sites would be required to undergo site investigation, remediation, and cleanup under the oversight of the City's TMD, RWQCB, or DTSC prior to the commencement of construction activities. These measures would ensure that any contamination is addressed in accordance with applicable State and regional standards for the proposed land use.

If an unidentified underground storage tank (UST) is discovered during future construction activities, the tank would be removed or closed in place under permit, consistent with regulatory requirements. In instances where tank removal could compromise the structural integrity of existing buildings, foundations, or utilities, closure in place may be permitted. Although UST removal activities can pose potential health and safety risks related to exposure to tank contents or vapors, such risks would be minimized through compliance with the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapters 6.7 and 6.75 (Underground Storage Tank Program), as enforced and monitored by the TMD. If groundwater contamination associated with a UST is identified, the RWQCB would require characterization of the vertical and lateral extent of contamination and implementation of appropriate remediation prior to any subsurface-disturbing construction activities. Where contamination exceeds regulatory action levels, remediation would be required before ground disturbing activities (such as grading) or development could proceed, under RWQCB oversight. Through compliance with these regulatory requirements, potential hazards associated with contaminated soils or USTs would be effectively minimized.

Future projects would be subject to the federal, State, and local regulations described above under Checklist Questions (a) and (b) and policies described in the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to hazardous waste sites, and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

- e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

There are no public or private airports within Berkeley. The nearest airport is the Oakland International Airport which is located 14 miles south of the city limits. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact related to safety or excessive noise hazards within airport land use plan areas or in proximity to airports.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

As discussed in the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, University Avenue, Ashby Avenue (SR 13), San Pablo Avenue (SR 123), and I-80 were identified as key evacuation routes with the highest capacity and viability. These routes were found to be relatively safe, well-connected, and capable of serving high evacuation demand, especially compared to narrower, winding roads in the hillside areas. Improving roadway connectivity and accessibility can reduce congestion and support faster, safer evacuations. Enhancements such as targeted infrastructure upgrades, traffic signal improvements, and real-time monitoring technologies will help manage evacuation flow and maintain route viability under high demand. These actions would be subject to their own environmental review process if and when proposed and would ensure that major corridors and hillside routes remain functional during emergencies, providing residents with dependable pathways to safety.

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element contains the following proposed policies and programs related to emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Policy S-1.1: Expand Natural Hazard Awareness. Expand public awareness of Berkeley's risk of exposure to natural hazards and how that risk is projected to worsen with climate change. Recommend steps to reduce household vulnerabilities, emphasizing low-cost, high-impact actions.

Program S-1.1-A: Maintain up-to-date hazard mapping to support understanding of Berkeley's hazard vulnerabilities.

Program S-1.1-B: Provide hazard and readiness information in a variety of formats. Partner with community-based organizations and neighborhood groups to deliver information through multiple channels. Identify and share information about financial and technical assistance resources to support residents in taking readiness actions.

Program S-1.1-C: Coordinate with housing and health agencies to reach renters, people experiencing homelessness, and other groups that they serve.

Program S-1.1-D: Partner with utility providers to share education and resources on utility outage preparedness.

Policy S-1.2: Track Engagement Impact. Measure and share the impact of community engagement efforts, including populations served and tangible disaster readiness measures completed.

Policy S-1.3: Increase Training Access. Improve and expand access to disaster preparedness trainings, prioritizing communities with high hazard exposure, high social vulnerability, and/or those have not yet received City training.

Program S-1.3-A: Offer and promote regularly scheduled disaster readiness training that helps people take clear, practical steps that make them safer.

Program S-1.3-B: Integrate preparedness education into existing events hosted by the City and external partners, such as community organizations, schools, and youth organizations. Prioritize events serving communities with high hazard exposure and/or high social vulnerability.

Program S-1.3-C: Use community feedback to explore nontraditional training and outreach offerings and formats to better engage wider audiences in the Berkeley community. Create opportunities for community-based organizations representing communities facing high social vulnerability to provide feedback on disaster education approaches and to recommend opportunities for increased engagement with the communities they serve.

Program S-1.3-D: Continue to grow the disaster preparedness training and education curriculum based on new understanding of hazards and vulnerabilities, new approaches from other related fields, and community expertise, engagement, and participation.

Program S-1.3-E: Increase neighborhood-based connections and engagement, collaborating closely with neighborhood groups, community-based organizations, businesses, schools, and other partners.

Policy S-1.4: Strengthen Community Partnerships. Collaborate with the Berkeley community to maintain and expand a network of distributed community-based, private, and organizational partners to bolster the municipal government capacity for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Program S-1.4-A: Expand partnerships with community-based organizations and identify priority areas of collaboration. Establish a sustainable communication process and channel between the City and partners, including a regular cadence and protocols for disaster response. Create opportunities for coordination and resource sharing among partners. Identify and share funding opportunities for supplies and infrastructure upgrades for community-based organizations.

Policy S-8.1: Monitor Latest Hazard Science. Continually monitor the latest science and research about Berkeley's vulnerability to hazards for integration into policies, plans, and procedures.

Policy S-8.2: Integrate Lessons from Disasters. Systematically review and integrate lessons learned from disasters in peer jurisdictions to update policies, plans, and procedures.

Policy S-8.3: Build Staff Hazard Awareness. Build organizational awareness of Berkeley hazards, areas of exposure, and potential impacts, to ensure that hazard considerations are integrated into staff's day-to-day work.

Policy S-8.4: Embed Equity in Disaster Planning. Establish a shared organizational understanding that disasters disproportionately affect individuals, households, and communities with the least power and fewest resources. Integrate this awareness—and a commitment to equitably serving all members of the Berkeley community—into every aspect of disaster policy, planning, response, and recovery.

Policy S-9.1: Maintain Modern Police–Fire Communications. Maintain an effective, resilient, accessible, and modern Police–Fire Communications Center capable of timely 911 response and emergency information sharing.

Program S-9.1-A: Evaluate and implement protocol-based call-taking and dispatch software for police, fire, emergency medical, and behavioral health incidents to standardize caller assessments, ensure consistent and evidence-based service delivery, and support the dispatch of the most appropriate resources for each call for service.

Policy S-9.2: Staff and Equip Fire Stations. Continue to staff and equip fire stations and emergency apparatus. Monitor response time from initial call to arrival and pursue a 90th percentile dispatch time of one minute and 30 seconds, turnout time of two minutes, and travel time of five minutes.

Policy S-9.3: Use Fire Response Data for Planning. Enhance the City's use of Fire Department response data to better understand evolving community needs and to inform deployment and response priorities, with a focus on high-acuity incidents and critical patient interventions (e.g., CPR, airway management, life-saving medication administration, hemorrhage control).

Policy S-9.4: Expand Alternative 911 Service Options. Strengthen the Fire Department's capacity to provide alternative service delivery options for non-acute 911 callers who require care and follow-up but do not need a traditional fire department or ambulance response. Examples include telehealth consultations, nurse triage services, and scheduling pre-booked appointments with appropriate clinics or community care providers.

Policy S-9.5: Enhance First Responder Training. Continually enhance first responder training curricula to incorporate best practices and changes in Berkeley's risk, population, and service demands.

Policy S-10.1: Maintain Emergency-Ready Police Department. Continue to maintain a fully staffed, trained, and equipped Police Department capable of performing emergency and disaster response functions.

Policy S-10.2: Ensure Emergency-Accessible Roadways. Ensure roadways can support timely emergency response.

Program S-10.2-A: Develop and implement a methodology to measure emergency response time changes due to specific roadway design features and use this information to contribute to roadway design processes.

Policy S-10.3: Strengthen Local Medical and Health Coordination. Maintain and expand partnerships with local and regional medical, public health, and emergency medical service providers to enhance community preparedness, coordinate operational response, and support long-term disaster recovery.

Program S-10.3-A: Maintain capability to deploy medical/health volunteers through Disaster Health Volunteers and Medical Reserve Corps.

Program S-10.3-B: Formalize partnerships with healthcare facilities, transport agencies and providers to prepare for, respond to, and recover from local emergencies or disasters.

Policy S-11.1: Coordinate with Local Community Partners. Continue to build and maintain relationships and coordinate disaster readiness and response with Berkeley partners including community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, schools and the Berkeley Unified School District, businesses, UC Berkeley, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

Policy S-11.2: Collaborate with Government Partners. Continue to build and maintain relationships and coordinate disaster readiness and response with government partners from neighboring jurisdictions, special districts, and regional, State, and federal governmental agencies, including those with responsibility for flood and fire protection and hazard mitigation.

Policy S-11.3: Engage in Regional Hazard Planning. Represent City interests in regional hazard mitigation and response planning and capacity building efforts. Conduct regular joint planning, training, and exercises with external partners.

Policy S-11.4: Maintain Emergency System Interoperability. Coordinate with regional partners to maintain interoperability across equipment, data, and emergency communication systems.

Policy S-11.5: Ensure Mutual Aid Resource Capability. Ensure the City can effectively request, provide, and coordinate mutual aid resources during emergencies through established regional, County, State, and federal systems.

Policy S-11.6: Fulfill Fire Suppression Mutual Aid. Continue to fulfill legal obligations and support mutual aid efforts to coordinate fire suppression within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, adjacent cities, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the State of California to prevent and suppress major wildland and urban fire destruction.

Policy S-11.7: Maintain Medical Mutual Aid Capability. Maintain the capability to request medical and health mutual aid through the existing mutual aid system in California and if necessary, at the federal level

Policy S-12.1: Maintain Redundant Alert Systems. Maintain redundant alert and warning systems, procedures, and training to ensure protective action messages can be sent to the community during hazard events, with special consideration for communities facing social vulnerability and accessibility needs.

Program S-12.1-A: Ensure that alert and warning systems use multiple delivery channels and messaging types to increase accessibility, comprehension, and prompt protective action.

Policy S-12.2: Update Alert Templates and Policies. Maintain and regularly update emergency alerting templates and policies to use the latest messaging best practices to facilitate timely and effective alerting delivery, incorporating community feedback to improve clarity and relevance for all populations.

Program S-12.2-A: Maintain pre-scripted, approved emergency alerting templates, including versions in multiple languages. Ensure messages use simple language to be understood by community members with varying English proficiency and reading levels.

Policy S-12.3: Expand Alert Access via Outreach. Facilitate access to emergency alerts by all community members, prioritizing outreach to communities facing high social vulnerability and delivering outreach through trusted community-based organizations.

Program S-12.3-A: Encourage and facilitate emergency notification signups and identify ways to increase signups, including targeted outreach through community-based organizations.

Program S-12.3-B: Use emerging technologies to expand the reach of emergency alerting systems without requiring system signup.

Program S-12.3-C: Explore and pursue feasible options to push out emergency alerts through trusted community-based organizations and affordable housing providers.

Policy S-13.1: Maintain and Update Emergency Plans. Maintain City emergency plans that are actionable, equitable, and responsive to organizational and community needs. Regularly update them using the latest hazard information and social vulnerability data.

Policy S-13.2: Develop Continuity of Operations Plans. Continually develop and maintain plans to support the City's emergency response activities and ensure City departments can continue performing their essential functions (those ensuring life safety or meeting legal requirements) during emergencies and disasters.

Policy S-13.3: Train Staff for Large-Scale Emergencies. Organize and train City staff to respond effectively to large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Program S-13.3-A: Prepare staff for their roles in the City's emergency response organization in compliance with State and federal standards.

Program S-13.3-B: Maintain resilient and redundant municipal facilities, equipment, technology, and systems necessary for emergency response and coordination, including Emergency Operations Center, backup power, communications, and IT infrastructure.

Program S-13.3-C: Assess and project future emergency service needs to ensure that staffing, facilities, and resources remain adequate under evolving climate, hazard, and population scenarios.

Policy S-13.4 Maintain Primary and Backup Facilities for Emergency Operations Center. Maintain primary and backup facilities to coordinate emergency operations during large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Policy S-13.5 Ensure Safe Post-Disaster Care Sites. Improve and maintain capacity to provide and support safe and accessible sites for post-disaster mass care, shelter, and community gathering.

Program S-13.5-A: Maintain accessible City facilities to serve as disaster shelters, mass care sites, and/or community gathering sites.

Program S-13.5-B: Maintain relationships with institutional and community partners to ensure pre-identified schools and other non-City sites can serve as shelters, mass care sites, and/or community gathering sites during disasters, including extreme heat and poor air quality events, to align outreach and service.

Program S-13.5-C: Maintain shelter supplies and equipment for initial response.

Program S-13.5-D: Continue partnering with the American Red Cross to support mass care and shelter planning, capacity-building and response.

Program S-13.5-E: Educate community members on post-disaster sheltering, including what services will be available where they could be located, and how they will be publicized during an emergency or disaster. Provide associated guidance and resources to help households plan ahead to identify their own best options, which may include staying with friends, family, or at a hotel.

Policy S-15.1: Public Education on Evacuation. Maintain and expand community education on evacuation protocols, including where to sign up for emergency alert updates and how to prepare.

Policy S-15.2: Refine Evacuation Strategies. Continually update and refine evacuation readiness and response strategies based on the latest data, community input, and lessons learned from local, state, and national disaster research.

Policy S-15.3: Build Evacuation Partnerships. Continue to build partnerships for evacuation planning and capacity building.

Program S-15.3-A: Represent Berkeley in regional evacuation planning efforts to develop and refine strategies and capacity for large-scale evacuation.

Program S-15.3-B: Support Berkeley schools in developing policies for extreme fire weather, including potential relocation or closure of schools in high wildfire hazard areas.

Policy S-15.4: Use Technology for Evacuation Monitoring. Utilize emerging technologies, including drones, automated mapping, and real-time environmental information, to monitor roadways, identify obstructions, and support informed evacuation decisions during fast-moving incidents.

Policy S-15.5: Maintain Field Operations for Evacuation. Maintain field operations capabilities that support evacuation, perimeter control, and protection of evacuated neighborhoods.

Policy S-15.6: Maintain Evacuation Traffic Operations. Maintain traffic management capabilities for use during evacuations, including road closures, traffic management planning, and emergency vehicle access.

Policy S-15.7: Promote Walking and Cycling for Evacuation. Explore and promote cycling and walking for evacuation where and when appropriate.

Policy S-15.8: Ensure Evacuation Strategies Reflect Community Needs. Collaborate with trusted community-based organizations serving households facing barriers to safe evacuation to ensure emergency evacuation strategies reflect household needs.

Policy S-15.9: Maintain Extreme Fire Weather Standards Using Latest Science. Leverage the latest science to continually update and refine Extreme Fire Weather thresholds, using transparent methodology and criteria that are replicable by other jurisdictions.

Policy S-15.11: Promote Leave Early Policy for Fire Weather. Maintain, refine, advocate for, and provide education about the Leave Early policy for Extreme Fire Weather, which recommends residents leave areas with greatest exposure to wildfire risk before a fire starts under extremely hazardous fire weather.

Policy S-16.1: Improve Roadway Infrastructure. Based on SB 99, AB 747, and Evacuation Time Study analyses, improve roadway infrastructure to support safe, reliable, and efficient mobility during emergencies. Prioritize improvements for communities at greatest exposure to hazards requiring evacuation.

Policy S-16.2: Plan all streets for evacuation, appropriate to their typology. Plan for all Berkeley streets, including collector and residential streets, to function as potential evacuation routes.

Policy S-16.3: Improve emergency access. Enhance emergency access and evacuation reliability in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-16.3-A: Maintain WUI Code to define requirements for road widths, vegetation clearance, signage, and emergency access in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Ensure any new roads in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet requirements of WUI Code and Fire Code.

Program S-16.3-B: Explore targeted parking restrictions, prioritizing arterial roadways in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to ensure unimpeded emergency response vehicle ingress during Extreme Fire Weather.

Policy S-16.4: Integrate Evacuation Efficiency in Roadway Planning. Consider evacuation efficiency during the planning and implementation phases of roadway infrastructure development.

Program S-16.4-A: To improve vehicular flow during evacuation, implement improvements to traffic signal infrastructure, including signal timing plans, battery backup systems, emergency vehicle preemption, communications infrastructure, transit signal priority for public transit vehicles, coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, and traffic signal software for centralized control.

Program S-16.4-B: Ensure that private access roads are kept in good condition by a responsible party so that Fire Department vehicles can reach people quickly at all times. Ensure that any gates or locking devices remain compatible with emergency access needs.

Program S-16.4-C: Implement practical mitigation measures to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards. Consider roadway improvements where feasible, signage, and/or strategic vegetation management where appropriate. Prioritize investments based on overall risk.

These policies and programs would strengthen emergency response and evacuation readiness by improving coordination, communication, and operational efficiency across City departments and regional partners. By maintaining modern emergency communications systems, enhancing first responder training, and leveraging real-time data and technology, the City can provide faster, more effective emergency response and better-informed evacuation decisions. Investments in roadway infrastructure, interoperability, and mutual aid agreements help ensure that emergency access and large-scale evacuations can occur safely and efficiently. Together, these actions reduce risks to public safety during disasters by minimizing response times, improving evacuation effectiveness, and enhancing the City's ability to protect vulnerable populations and support overall community resilience.

Further, the new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

- g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?*

Please refer to Section 20, *Wildfire*, for a discussion on impacts related to the exposure of people or structures to wildland fires. As discussed in Section 20, *Wildfire*, there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

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10 Hydrology and Water Quality



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Berkeley is under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay RWQCB. Berkeley is located in the San Francisco Bay hydrologic region that extends from southern Santa Clara County north to San Pablo Bay in Sonoma County, and inland to the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The water in the region flows to the San Francisco Bay estuary or directly to the Pacific Ocean.

Berkeley is within the East Bay Plain Subbasin. This Subbasin covers approximately 71,000 acres (EBMUD 2022). The EBMUD Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) oversees the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for this subbasin for Berkeley. The most recent GSP, released in 2022, found that the Intermediate and Deep Aquifer Zones (depth intervals greater than 200 feet below ground surface) are generally not impacted by contaminants attributed to environmental sites (EBMUD 2022).

Berkeley is vulnerable to flooding from storm drain overflow and creek flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. Storm drain overflow occurs when rainfall exceeds the design capacity of the City's stormwater

system, which is generally sized for a 10-year storm, or when blockages and infrastructure failures occur. The City maintains approximately 93 miles of stormwater infrastructure, including storm drain pipelines and culverted creeks, that may be nearing or past their expected useful life. As discussed in the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, Berkeley includes areas located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 100-year floodplain and 500-year floodplain. 100-year floodplain includes areas along the Bay shoreline, Aquatic Park lagoon, and portions of Codornices and Strawberry Creeks, while the 500-year floodplain expands to include the Marina, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, and additional areas in West and Central Berkeley. Berkeley's tsunami inundation zone includes the Marina, Aquatic Park, Eastshore State Park, parts of I-80, and nearby commercial areas.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Future construction activities would be required to comply with State and local water quality regulations designed to control erosion and protect water quality during construction. This includes compliance with the requirements of the SWRCB Construction General Permit, which requires preparation and implementation of a SWPPP for projects that disturb one acre or more of land. The SWPPP must include erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that would meet or exceed measures required by the Construction General Permit, as well as those that control hydrocarbons, trash, debris, and other potential construction-related pollutants. Construction BMPs would include scheduling inlet protection, silt fencing, fiber rolls, stabilized construction entrances, stockpile management, solid waste management, and concrete waste management. Post-construction stormwater performance standards are also required to specifically address water quality and channel protection events. Implementation of these BMPs would prevent or minimize environmental impacts and ensure that discharges during future construction would not cause or contribute to the degradation of water quality in receiving waters.

Future projects requiring dewatering during construction would be subject to the San Francisco Bay RWQCB Order No. R2-2012-0060, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge or Reuse of Extracted Brackish Groundwater, Reverse Osmosis Concentrate Resulting from Treated Brackish Groundwater, and Extracted Groundwater from Structural Dewatering Requiring Treatment (Groundwater General Permit). The Groundwater General Permit requires dischargers to obtain an Authorization to Discharge, treat effluent to meet water quality-based effluent limitations, and comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program. Pumped groundwater must be tested and if determined to be contaminated, the water must be collected and either treated or disposed of according to waste discharge requirements of Order No. R2-2012-0060. Future applicants are required to comply with the requirements of the Groundwater General Permit.

Operationally, future activities would be required to be implemented in compliance with existing programs and permits, including the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (No. CAS612008). Development design would include BMPs to avoid adverse effects associated with stormwater runoff quality. Specifically, future activities would be required to implement Low Impact Development (LID) measures and on-site infiltration, as required under the C.3 provisions of the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP). Implementation of LID measures would reduce water pollution from stormwater runoff as compared to existing conditions. For example, on-site infiltration may improve the water quality of stormwater prior to infiltration or discharge from the site.

The proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*
- e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

Water supply for Berkeley is provided by the EBMUD. The groundwater aquifer beneath Berkeley is not currently used for water storage or drinking water supply, and future activities would not include installation of new groundwater wells or use of groundwater from existing wells, and would not deplete groundwater resources. The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element contains the following proposed policy and programs aimed at protecting groundwater quality.

Policy S-4.4: Mitigate Groundwater Contamination. Identify and mitigate contamination risks exacerbated by groundwater rise.

Program S-4.4-A: Coordinate with environmental oversight agencies by registering for and regularly reviewing database notifications and updates related to high-priority contaminated sites to stay informed of new findings, status changes, and remediation progress.

Program S-4.4-B: Reevaluate projected groundwater rise and contaminated site risks on a five-year cycle to account for updated sea level rise projections, new or reclassified contaminated sites, and evolving scientific knowledge or predictive tools.

Program S-4.4-C: Consider mitigation measures for City capital improvement projects located near sites with known, historically documented, or potential contamination identified through EnviroStor, GeoTracker, or the City's Environmental Management Area (EMA) map to prevent the creation of preferential pathways for soil vapor or groundwater migration. (Best Practice based on findings from the Groundwater Rise Memo)

This policy and associated programs aim to proactively address risks associated with groundwater contamination by improving monitoring, coordination, and planning around emerging groundwater hazards. By tracking high-priority contaminated sites, regularly updating groundwater rise projections, and incorporating mitigation measures into capital improvement projects, the City can better prevent the spread of contaminants and reduce pathways for exposure. Together, these actions would reduce the potential for groundwater-related hazards by strengthening contamination oversight and ensuring that infrastructure projects are designed to protect public health and safety, particularly in areas vulnerable to rising groundwater and legacy contamination.

Berkeley is under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay RWQCB, which is responsible for preparing the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of water in the region and establishes narrative and numerical water quality objectives. The Basin Plan serves as the basis for the San Francisco Bay RWQCB's regulatory programs and incorporates an implementation plan for achieving water quality objectives. With adherence to State regulations described under Checklist Question (a) above, future activities would not have an adverse effect on water quality and would not interfere with the objectives and goals in the Basin Plan.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed

project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not decrease groundwater supplies or obstruct implementation of the Basin Plan, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c.(i) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*
- c.(ii) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*
- c.(iii) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*
- c.(iv) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be required to comply with the same State regulations for construction and operation as discussed under Checklist Question (a). Improvements to sewer and stormwater infrastructure would generally take place in existing utility corridors. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts related to drainage alterations.

NO IMPACT

- d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

As discussed above under Setting, the western portion of Berkeley is subject to flooding and inundation. The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs focused on flooding.

Policy S-4.1: Upgrade Climate-Resilient Infrastructure. Create plans and expand programs to improve and maintain City infrastructure, incorporating analysis of climate change impacts, such as more intense rainfall, sea level rise, and rising groundwater.

Program S-4.1-A: Continue to rehabilitate the City's storm drain system to reduce local flooding caused by inadequate storm drainage, prioritizing areas with aging infrastructure and high flood exposure such as West Berkeley and neighborhoods along Strawberry and Codornices Creeks.

Program S-4.1-B: Continue and strengthen programs promoting storm drain maintenance by community members and businesses to address climate-related increases in debris and sediment loads, with targeted outreach in flood-prone areas identified in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.

Program S-4.1-C: Continue development of a Stormwater Master Plan, identifying system deficiencies, and establish a Capital Stormwater Improvement Plan focused on infrastructure vulnerable to flooding.

Program S-4.1-D: Pursue funding opportunities to expand and sustain existing programs that mitigate flood risks in mapped flood hazard areas, with focus on neighborhoods with high social vulnerability.

Program S-4.1-E: Adopt and maintain a Sea Level Rise Plan that addresses projected sea level rise hazards, including flooding and groundwater rise, and outline adaptation measures for exposed areas such as the Berkeley Waterfront, Marina Boulevard, and University Avenue west of Interstate 580. The Plan will be informed by updated local flood hazard mapping that incorporates sea level rise scenarios, extreme rainfall events, and projected groundwater rise conditions, using best available science and publicly available datasets and other regional or federal climate resilience tools. It will be coordinated with the Sub-Regional Adaptation Plan being developed as part of the SB1 Ocean Protection Council funding in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, Albany, Emeryville, and Oakland.

Policy S-4.2: Ensure Flood-Safe Development. Use development review to ensure that new development does not increase community flood potential and is designed to remain resilient to future climate-driven flood hazards.

Program S-4.2-A: Research new development standards and local building codes that could be adopted to reduce flood risks to development in areas exposed to flooding. Consider projected sea level rise and extreme storms in development decisions.

Program S-4.2-B: Ensure that new development conforms to requirements and guidelines of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and integrate projected climate change impacts on flood risk, using publicly available datasets and other regional or federal climate resilience tools where possible.

Program S-4.2-C: Research new development standards and local building codes that could be adopted to reduce flood risk to development 30 feet of an exposed streambed as required by the Preservation and Restoration of Natural Watercourses (Creeks) Ordinance, while considering likely increased stream flows and flooding driven by climate change.

Program S-4.2-D: Require appropriate levels of onsite detention and/or retention of stormwater in qualifying new development to ensure it is designed for more intense rainfall events expected with climate change.

Program S-4.2-E: Explore development of requirements for sea level rise vulnerability assessments and conditions of approval for projects located in areas vulnerable to inundation, including the Berkeley Waterfront, Marina Boulevard, and University Avenue west of Interstate 580. Reassess vulnerability regularly and coordinate adaptation planning across jurisdictions.

Program S-4.2-F: Explore development of requirements for groundwater rise assessments for new development in areas with known or projected groundwater rise hazards, such as in West Berkeley with conditions of approval that ensure appropriate siting and design.

Policy S-4.3: Lower Flood Insurance Costs. Reduce the cost of flood insurance to property owners in the City by maintaining eligibility for national programs and promoting activities that reflect both current and projected flood risks under climate change.

Program S-4.3-A: Incorporate FEMA guidelines and suggested activities into City plans and procedures for managing flood hazards, ensuring consistency with climate adaptation strategies.

Program S-4.4-B: Reevaluate projected groundwater rise and contaminated site risks on a five-year cycle to account for updated sea level rise projections, new or reclassified contaminated sites, and evolving scientific knowledge or predictive

Policy S-4.5: Maintain Flood Protection Partnerships. Maintain cooperative working relationships among public agencies with responsibility for flood protection to reduce existing inundation hazards and prevent unnecessary exposure of people and property to risks of damage, injury, or loss from flood hazards.

These policies and programs are designed to strengthen resilience through proactive infrastructure planning and climate adaptation through expanding community-based maintenance programs, promoting onsite stormwater retention, and securing funding for long-term improvements further enhance system capacity. Targeted outreach and assistance for socially vulnerable communities ensure that preparedness and mitigation efforts address equity alongside technical solutions. Overall, the policies and programs reduce flood risk, protect public health, and strengthen Berkeley's ability to adapt to future climate conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would reduce the risk of release of pollutants due to flooding.

Implementation of these policies could involve rehabilitation of existing buildings, infrastructure upgrades, and improvements to housing. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be a reduction in flood hazards, improved water quality protection, and increased long term resilience to flooding and inundation.

Further, the new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

The proposed project would not result in the release of pollutants during inundation and there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

11 Land Use and Planning



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The general distribution of land uses within Berkeley is shown in Table 5. Residential uses and streets occupy almost three-quarters of the overall land area of Berkeley. Institutional uses, such as the University of California, schools, churches, public facilities, and hospitals occupy approximately nine percent of the total land area. Commercial uses make up approximately seven percent of the City's land area, open space six percent, and manufacturing four percent. Approximately two percent of Berkeley's land is vacant, and most of the vacant land is located in an area purchased by the East Bay Regional Park District for the Eastshore State Park (City of Berkeley 2002).

Table 5 Approximate Land Use Summary

Land Use	Percentage of Total Land Use (%)
Residential	48
Streets	24
Institutional	9
Commercial	7
Open Space	6
Manufacturing	4
Vacant	2
Total	100

Source: City of Berkeley 2002

Impact Analysis

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not physically divide a community and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

Future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, would be required to comply with the City's General Plan Land Use Element, which includes goals, policies and actions that support context-sensitive infill development, historic preservation, transit-oriented development, mobility and access that prioritizes alternative modes of transportation, "complete neighborhoods" that are well-served by a balance of commercial, community-serving/institutional and residential uses, and zoning changes to incentivize affordable housing. The City of Berkeley has adopted multiple area plans in order to provide guidance for development in each specific area and set forth policies relating to land use, housing, transportation, economic development, community character, and public safety. Area plans include the South Berkeley Area Plan (adopted in 1990), the Downtown Plan (adopted in 1990), the West Berkeley Plan (adopted in 1993), the University Avenue Strategic Plan (adopted in 1996), the South Shattuck Strategic Plan (adopted in 1997), the Southside Plan (adopted in 2011), the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan (adopted in 2020), and the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (expected to be adopted by the end of 2026).

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to land use.

Policy EJ-6.4: Community-Based Food Production and Kitchens. Expand neighborhood-based food production such as community gardens and community-based food preparation such as community kitchens by removing financial and administrative barriers and incentivizing the creation and operation of these spaces.

Program EJ-6.4-A: Assess vacant or underutilized parcels for potential use as community gardens and if found to be feasible, consider establishing City–community-based organization agreements for the long-term stewardship and maintenance of these spaces.

Program EJ-6.4-B: Partner with community-based organizations and senior housing facilities to adapt underused kitchen spaces for shared community use..

Policy EJ-7.2: Land Use for Public Facilities. Ensure that the Zoning Ordinance allows for the establishment of public facilities in the areas they are needed.

Program EJ-7.2-A: Update the Zoning Ordinance to expand public and quasi-public uses in residential and mixed-use districts. Reduce permitting thresholds for public facilities serving Environmental Justice Areas and disseminate information following the direction in Policy EJ-2.2 (Partner with Community).

Policy EJ-8.1: Green Space. Expand access to green space with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities.

Program EJ-8.1-A: Assess City-owned vacant or underutilized parcels for potential use as parks and green spaces for public enjoyment, prioritizing resources in areas of Berkeley that lack open and green space, as directed in Policy EJ-1.3 (Investments in Environmental Justice).

Program EJ-8.1-B: Consider joint-use agreements with Berkeley Unified School District and other public institutions to allow for community use of fields, playgrounds, and outdoor learning areas during evenings, weekends and other unprogrammed hours.

Policy EJ-9.3: Address Gentrification and Displacement. Address gentrification by preventing and mitigating displacement pressures and using local histories and cultural legacies to inform land use, housing, and public investment decisions.

Program EJ-9.3-A: Work with community-based organizations, cultural leaders, and historians to formally designate cultural districts and community landmarks that honor EJ Communities and to (re)name public spaces and streets to reflect cultural heritage.

Policy EJ-9.4: Housing with Wraparound Services. Facilitate the development of housing projects that provide mental health, employment, and supportive services to residents.

Program EJ-9.4-A: Evaluate the successes and challenges of the Insight Housing Hope Center to inform development of a community-centered Safe Housing and Services Hub that co-locates services to support residents. Work with County partners to align funding, contracting, and service delivery frameworks with this model, consistent with Federal Coordinated Entry requirements, and pursue state and federal funding sources (e.g., No Place Like Home, CalAIM).

These policies and programs aim to improve land use and planning outcomes by promoting safe, healthy, and stable housing conditions, fostering equitable access to affordable, healthy food, and providing equitable access to green space and public services, particularly in EJ communities. By mitigating displacement pressure, encouraging housing with wraparound services, supporting neighborhood-based food production, ensuring that regulations allow public facilities and services in areas of greatest need, expanding green space, enhancing education and outreach, and strengthening partnerships, the City can reduce exposure to unsafe living conditions, support long-term community stability, and improve health and quality of life for all residents. Additionally, integrating cultural preservation, equitable access to housing resources, and supportive services into planning decisions helps ensure development benefits existing residents. Together, these actions would reduce land use-related risks to public health and welfare by improving housing quality, preventing displacement, and fostering more equitable and resilient neighborhoods.

Implementation of these policies could lead to rehabilitation of existing buildings, infrastructure upgrades, improvements to housing, improvement of community serving facilities and services, and expansion of green space. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved housing conditions and reduced displacement risk.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be reviewed for consistency with the City's General Plan, the BMC, and other applicable plans and policies. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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12 Mineral Resources



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

According to the DOC's California Geological Survey, there are no known mineral resources within Berkeley (DOC 2026b).

Impact Analysis

- Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*
- Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?*

Berkeley does not contain known mineral resources (DOC 2026b). The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents and would not create the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, there would be no impact to mineral resources.

NO IMPACT

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13 Noise



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Environmental noise levels typically fluctuate over time, and different types of noise descriptors are used to account for this variability. The unit of measurement used to describe a noise level is the decibel (dB). Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale that quantifies sound intensity. A doubling of the energy of a noise source, such as a doubling of traffic volume, would increase the noise level by 3 dB; similarly, dividing the energy in half would result in a decrease of 3 dB. Noise-sensitive land uses generally include residences, hospitals, schools, churches, libraries, and parks. The Day-Night Average Level (Ldn) is the energy-average of A-weighted sound levels occurring over a 24-hour period, with a 10-dB penalty applied to A-weighted sound levels occurring during nighttime hours (10 p.m.–7 a.m.) (ABAG/MTC 2021)

Typical outdoor sources of perceptible groundborne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. The primary concern from vibration is that it can be intrusive and annoying to building occupants and vibration-sensitive land uses. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean square (RMS) vibration velocity. The PPV and RMS velocity are normally described in inches per second (in./sec.). PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of a vibration signal. A PPV of 0.035 is considered barely noticeable while a PPV of 2.00 is considered severe (Caltrans 2020). Vibration-sensitive receivers, which are similar to noise-sensitive receivers, include residences and institutional uses, such as hospitals, schools, and churches. However, vibration-sensitive receivers also include buildings where vibrations may interfere with vibration-sensitive equipment that is affected by vibration levels that may be well below those associated with human annoyance (e.g., recording studios or medical facilities with sensitive equipment).

As shown in Table 6, the City has adopted land use compatibility standards for assessing the compatibility of various land use types that are exposed to noise levels. According to the City's standards shown in Table 6, ambient noise up to 60 dBA Ldn is normally acceptable for low density residences whereas ambient noise up to 65 dBA Ldn is normally acceptable for medium density residences. Ambient noise up to 65 dBA Ldn is normally acceptable for commercial uses and 70 dBA Ldn is normally acceptable for industry uses. These standards also establish maximum interior noise levels for new residential development, requiring that sufficient insulation be provided to reduce interior ambient noise levels to 45 dBA Ldn (BMC Chapter 13, Section 40).

Table 6 Recommended Maximum Noise Levels

Land Use Category	Time Period	Exterior Normally Acceptable ³ (dBA L _{dn})	Exterior Normally Unacceptable (dBA L _{dn})	Interior Acceptable (dBA L _{dn})
Low Density Residential ¹	10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.	55	Above 55	40
	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	45	Above 45	45
Medium Density Residential ²	10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.	60	Above 60	40
	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	55	Above 55	45
Commercial	10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.	65	Above 65	40
	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	60	Above 60	45
Industry	10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.	70	Above 70	40
	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.			45

¹ Low density consists of the following zoning districts: R-1, R-2, R-1A, R-2A, and ESR.

² Medium density includes R-3 and above.

³ Levels not to be exceeded more than 30 minutes any hour.

Source: BMC Chapter 13, Section 40

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the noise ordinance and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Future activities would be analyzed for consistency with the vibration limits contained in the 2018 Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*, which are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Groundborne Vibration Architectural Damage Criteria

Building Category	PPV (in/sec)
I. Reinforced concrete, steel, or timber (no plaster)	0.5
II. Engineered concrete and masonry (no plaster)	0.3
III. Non-engineered timber and masonry buildings	0.2
IV. Buildings extremely susceptible to vibration damage	0.12

in/sec = inches per second; PPV = peak particle velocity
Source: FTA 2018

Based on FTA recommendations, limiting vibration levels to below 0.2 inches per second peak particle velocity (in/sec PPV) at non-engineered timber and masonry buildings (residential buildings) and 0.3 in/sec PPV at engineered concrete and masonry (no plaster) (commercial structures) would prevent minor architectural damage.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

There are no public or private airports within Berkeley. The nearest airport is the Oakland International Airport which is located 14 miles south of the city limits. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact related to excessive noise hazards within airport land use plan areas or in proximity to airports.

NO IMPACT

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14 Population and Housing



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Berkeley had an estimated population of 128,348 residents and 55,138 housing units as of January 2025 (DOF 2026). The ABAG produces growth forecasts in four-year cycles so other regional agencies, including the MTC and the Air District can use the forecasts to make funding and regulatory decisions. The ABAG projections are the basis for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), regional Ozone Attainment Plan, the Air District's Clean Air Plan, and the EBMUD's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). ABAG/MTC adopted Plan Bay Area 2050 on October 21, 2021, and projects a 57 percent increase in population for the Northwest Alameda County region, which includes Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville (ABAG/MTC 2021).

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

The new EJ Element includes policies and programs described in other sections of this document that are intended to address environmental justice concerns, reduce existing environmental and health disparities, and improve outcomes for historically disadvantaged communities. The new EJ Element focuses on promoting equitable access to environmental benefits, such as clean air, water, and open space; reducing exposure to environmental hazards; improving mobility and access to essential services; improving and preserving existing housing; and enhancing community engagement in land use decision making. In addition, the EJ Element provides a policy framework to guide future improvements and investments in a manner that accommodates existing residents and anticipated population and development growth already accounted for in adopted plans. It does not include new or altered land use or zoning designations that could increase the potential for substantial direct or indirect population growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at improving housing equity and resilience.

Policy EJ-9.1: Safe and Healthy Housing Conditions. Promote healthy housing by focusing on existing housing stock.

Program EJ-9.1-A: Provide broader education on healthy housing to EJ Communities by leveraging the Rental Housing Safety Program and ensuring the protocols developed in the programs listed under Policy EJ-2.1 (Meaningful and Equitable Community Participation) are followed. Update printed and online materials and consider additional avenues for outreach, including “office hours” in the Permit Service Center and public workshops.

Program EJ-9.1-B: Identify funding to upgrade Berkeley's aging/existing affordable housing stock with necessary infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, including focus on energy efficiency and electrification. Focus on housing in EJ Areas.

Policy EJ-9.2: Berkeley Rent Board Services. Explore opportunities to increase partnership with Berkeley Rent Board and promote their programs to new and existing property owners and renters.

Policy EJ-9.3: Address Gentrification and Displacement. Address gentrification by preventing and mitigating displacement pressures and using local histories and cultural legacies to inform land use, housing, and public investment decisions.

Program EJ-9.3-A: Work with community-based organizations, cultural leaders, and historians to formally designate cultural districts and community landmarks that honor EJ Communities and to (re)name public spaces and streets to reflect cultural heritage.

Program EJ-9.3-B: Strengthen the City's policies to promote community stability and mitigate displacement, including supporting opportunities for residents to remain in or return to their communities. Pair these efforts with proactive outreach and equitable access to housing programs for households in EJ Areas and neighborhoods experiencing market pressure.

Policy EJ-9.4: Housing with Wraparound Services. Facilitate the development of housing projects that provide mental health, employment, and supportive services to residents.

Program EJ-9.4-A: Evaluate the successes and challenges of the Insight Housing Hope Center to inform development of a community-centered Safe Housing and Services Hub that co-locates services to support residents. Work with County partners to align funding, contracting, and service delivery frameworks with this model, consistent with Federal Coordinated Entry requirements, and pursue state and federal funding sources (e.g., No Place Like Home, CalAIM).

These policies and programs aim to enhance population and housing conditions by improving the safety, stability, and quality of housing, especially for EJ communities. By investing in the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing, expanding education and tenant support services, and addressing displacement pressures, the City can help maintain stable communities and reduce vulnerability among residents. Additionally, integrating supportive services and strengthening partnerships helps ensure residents have access to comprehensive resources that support long term well-being. Together, these

actions would reduce risks related to population and housing by preserving affordability, preventing displacement, and promoting safe and healthy living environments for all residents.

Implementation of these policies could lead to rehabilitation of existing buildings, infrastructure upgrades, and improvements to housing. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved public health outcomes, reduced exposure to environmental and housing related hazards, and more equitable access to safe and healthy living conditions.

The proposed project does not include new or altered land use or zoning designations that could directly or indirectly incentivize or increase the potential for displacing substantial numbers of people. Therefore, the proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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15 Public Services



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
1 Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
2 Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
3 Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
4 Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
5 Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Fire Protection

The Berkeley Fire Department (BFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services for Berkeley. This service area represents 11 square miles and approximately 124,563 residents. The BFD operates seven fire stations including seven engine companies, two truck companies, and four ambulances (City of Berkeley 2026b). The BFD is organized into five divisions, including: Office of the Fire Chief, Administrative and Fiscal Services, Operations, Fire Prevention, and Special Operations. The BFD is responsible for protecting life and property. As needed, these Fire Officers are available 24/7 to respond to fire incidents. The eastern edge of Berkeley is in a very high severity fire hazard zone, as discussed in more detail in Section 20, *Wildfire*.

Police Protection

The Berkeley Police Department (BPD) provides police protection services to Berkeley. The BPD is organized into five divisions, including: Office of the Chief, Operations, Investigations, Professional Standards, and Support Services. The BPD is headquartered at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Schools

The Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) operates three preschools, 11 elementary schools (grades K-5), three middle schools (grades 6-8), one large comprehensive high school (grades 9-12), a continuation high school (grades 9-12), and an adult school. The District's overall enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year was 9,398 students (California Department of Education 2026).

BUSD is divided into three elementary school zones: Central, Northwest, and Southeast. Two of the middle schools are zoned, while one is a magnet school. Parents of students entering the District fill out an enrollment form and list their preferences for schools. Parents may request any school in the district, but first priority will be given to students living within a school's attendance zone.

Impact Analysis

- a.1. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to fire protection and service.

Policy S-3.3: Collaborate on Wildfire Preparedness. Collaborate with regional partners in wildfire mitigation and preparedness, including organizations that serve households in communities facing high social vulnerability in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy S-3.4: Pursue Regional Fire Grants. Work with external partners to develop regional projects and leverage collaborative relationships to pursue grant funding.

Policy S-3.5: Pilot Fire Safety Programs. Collaborate with community-based organizations in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to pilot programs that enhance fire safety.

Policy S-3.6: Coordinate with State Forestry. Maintain close coordination with the California Department of Forestry to minimize the risk of wildland fire in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy S-7.4: Ensure Firefighting Infrastructure Resilience. Ensure firefighting infrastructure, including water supply systems, fire stations, communication and dispatch systems, and backup power sources, are resilient to climate change impacts including drought, extreme heat, and extended wildfire seasons.

Program S-7.4-A: Continually evaluate access to water supplies for fire suppression. Maintain equipment to improve the supply and reliability of water for fire suppression under future climate conditions. Continue to assess, and improve as indicated, the water supply for firefighting to assure peak load water supply capabilities. Continue to work with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to coordinate water supply improvements.

Policy S-9.1: Maintain Modern Police–Fire Communications. Maintain an effective, resilient, accessible, and modern Police–Fire Communications Center capable of timely 911 response and emergency information sharing.

Program S-9.1-A: Evaluate and implement protocol-based call-taking and dispatch software for police, fire, emergency medical, and behavioral health incidents to standardize caller assessments, ensure consistent and evidence-based service delivery, and support the dispatch of the most appropriate resources for each call for service.

Policy S-9.2: Staff and Equip Fire Stations. Continue to staff and equip fire stations and emergency apparatus. Monitor response time from initial call to arrival and pursue a 90th percentile dispatch time of one minute and 30 seconds, turnout time of two minutes, and travel time of five minutes.

Policy S-9.3: Use Fire Response Data for Planning. Enhance the City's use of Fire Department response data to better understand evolving community needs and to inform deployment and response priorities, with a focus on high-acuity incidents and critical patient interventions (e.g., CPR, airway management, life-saving medication administration, hemorrhage control).

Policy S-9.4: Expand Alternative 911 Service Options. Strengthen the Fire Department's capacity to provide alternative service delivery options for non-acute 911 callers who require care and follow-up but do not need a traditional fire department or ambulance response. Examples include telehealth consultations, nurse triage services, and scheduling pre-booked appointments with appropriate clinics or community care providers.

Policy S-9.5: Enhance First Responder Training. Continually enhance first responder training curricula to incorporate best practices and changes in Berkeley's risk, population, and service demands.

Policy S-11.2: Collaborate with Government Partners. Continue to build and maintain relationships and coordinate disaster readiness and response with government partners from neighboring jurisdictions, special districts, and regional, State, and federal governmental agencies, including those with responsibility for flood and fire protection and hazard mitigation.

Policy S-11.3: Engage in Regional Hazard Planning. Represent City interests in regional hazard mitigation and response planning and capacity building efforts. Conduct regular joint planning, training, and exercises with external partners.

Policy S-11.4: Maintain Emergency System Interoperability. Coordinate with regional partners to maintain interoperability across equipment, data, and emergency communication systems.

Policy S-11.5: Ensure Mutual Aid Resource Capability. Ensure the City can effectively request, provide, and coordinate mutual aid resources during emergencies through established regional, County, State, and federal systems.

Policy S-11.6: Fulfill Fire Suppression Mutual Aid. Continue to fulfill legal obligations and support mutual aid efforts to coordinate fire suppression within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, adjacent cities, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the State of California to prevent and suppress major wildland and urban fire destruction.

These policies and programs aim to enhance fire protection services by strengthening coordination, infrastructure resilience, and emergency response capabilities. By collaborating with State and regional partners, pursuing grant funding, and piloting community-based fire safety programs, the City can improve wildfire preparedness and reduce fire risk in high hazard areas. Investments in reliable firefighting infrastructure, modern communications systems, and well-staffed and equipped fire stations help ensure timely and effective emergency response. Together, these actions would reduce risks associated with fire hazards by improving response efficiency, increasing system reliability, and enhancing the City's ability to protect public safety and adapt to changing climate and wildfire conditions.

Implementation of these policies could lead to infrastructure or facility upgrades. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved fire protection services and public health outcomes.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future projects would be required to comply with the California Fire Code, as adopted pursuant to Chapter 19.48 of the BMC. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the expansion or construction of new fire protection facilities and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- a.2. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to police protection and service.

Policy S-9.1: Maintain Modern Police–Fire Communications. Maintain an effective, resilient, accessible, and modern Police–Fire Communications Center capable of timely 911 response and emergency information sharing.

Program S-9.1-A: Evaluate and implement protocol-based call-taking and dispatch software for police, fire, emergency medical, and behavioral health incidents to standardize caller assessments, ensure consistent and evidence-based service delivery, and support the dispatch of the most appropriate resources for each call for service.

Policy S-10.1: Maintain Emergency-Ready Police Department. Continue to maintain a fully staffed, trained, and equipped Police Department capable of performing emergency and disaster response functions.

Policy S-10.2: Ensure Emergency-Accessible Roadways. Ensure roadways can support timely emergency response.

Program S-10.2-A: Develop and implement a methodology to measure emergency response time changes due to specific roadway design features and use this information to contribute to roadway design processes.

Policy S-10.3: Strengthen Local Medical and Health Coordination. Maintain and expand partnerships with local and regional medical, public health, and emergency medical service providers to enhance community preparedness, coordinate operational response, and support long-term disaster recovery.

Program S-10.3-A: Maintain capability to deploy medical/health volunteers through Disaster Health Volunteers and Medical Reserve Corps.

Program S-10.3-B: Formalize partnerships with healthcare facilities, transport agencies and providers to prepare for, respond to, and recover from local emergencies or disasters.

Policy S-11.4: Maintain Emergency System Interoperability. Coordinate with regional partners to maintain interoperability across equipment, data, and emergency communication systems.

Policy S-11.5: Ensure Mutual Aid Resource Capability. Ensure the City can effectively request, provide, and coordinate mutual aid resources during emergencies through established regional, County, State, and federal systems.

Policy S-11.7: Maintain Medical Mutual Aid Capability. Maintain the capability to request medical and health mutual aid through the existing mutual aid system in California and if necessary, at the federal level.

These policies and programs aim to strengthen police services by enhancing emergency readiness, coordination, and response effectiveness. By maintaining a fully staffed, trained, and equipped BPD and ensuring roadways support timely emergency access, the City can improve response times and operational efficiency during emergencies and disasters. Expanding coordination with medical and public health partners further supports integrated emergency response and community preparedness. Together, these actions would reduce risks to public safety by improving emergency response capabilities, strengthening interagency collaboration, and ensuring that the City is prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of incidents.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the expansion or construction of new police protection facilities and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- a.3. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, or the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?*

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

To offset a project's potential impact to schools, Government Code 65995(b) establishes the base amount of allowable developer fees a school district can collect from development projects located within its boundaries. The fees obtained by BUSD are used to maintain the desired school capacity and the maintenance and/or development of new school facilities. Future projects would be required to pay applicable school impact fees which, pursuant to Section 65995(3)(h) of the California Government Code (Senate Bill 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), are "deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." Additionally, BUSD utilizes an "controlled choice" student assignment system to meet zone-wide diversity goals and to ensure appropriate seating capacity at schools (BUSD 2026). BUSD will continue to evaluate demand, capacity, and plans for facility needs as future projects are built out, including any required adjustments to the zones in the controlled choice program relative to new student population generated from additional housing development in Berkeley.

Therefore, the proposed project would not require the expansion or construction of schools and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- a.4. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, or the need for new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?*

Please refer to Section 16, *Recreation*, for a discussion of parks and recreational facilities.

NO IMPACT

- a.5. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of other new or physically altered public facilities, or the need for other new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to equitable access to public services and facilities.

Policy EJ-7.1: Community-Centered Public Facilities. Ensure public facilities are designed and maintained to foster safety, belonging, and accessibility for all by integrating community-led planning and engagement into operations and programming.

Program EJ-7.1-A: Conduct participatory workshops and/or focus groups, informed by facility-use surveys, to identify community priorities and gaps related to personal safety, cultural representation, and accessibility in public facilities. Ensure accountability through transparent documentation and reporting and by implementing the policies and programs under Goal EJ-2 (Belonging, Equity and Civic Empowerment).

Program EJ-7.1-B: Conduct a funding gap analysis to determine the capital investment required to meet City facility and program needs identified Program EJ-7.1-A, including an assessment of capital costs and existing funding sources. Partner with community-based organizations to pursue federal, state, and philanthropic funding.

Policy EJ-7.2: Land Use for Public Facilities. Ensure that the Zoning Ordinance allows for the establishment of public facilities in the areas they are needed.

Program EJ-7.2-A: Update the Zoning Ordinance to expand public and quasi-public uses in residential and mixed-use districts. Reduce permitting thresholds for public facilities serving EJ Areas and disseminate information following the direction in Policy EJ-2.2 (Partner with Community).

Policy EJ-7.3: Flexible Service Delivery. Reduce barriers to City services by creating non-traditional delivery locations and methods.

Program EJ-7.3-A: Pilot a pop-up service model to deliver mobile City services (such as health screenings, rental housing safety assistance, citation payment, recreation sign-ups, job recruitment and permitting assistance) to Environmental Justice Communities.

Program EJ-7.3-B: Work with community and community-based organizations to explore feasibility of “one-stop” service facilities that co-locate childcare, food access, health care, and housing-related services in Environmental Justice Areas. Determine steps the City needs to take to facilitate or incentivize “one-stop” service hubs.

These policies and programs aim to improve public facilities by ensuring they are accessible, equitable, and responsive to community needs, particularly in EJ areas. By integrating community led planning, expanding allowable locations for public facilities through zoning updates, and identifying funding to address facility gaps, the City can better align public infrastructure with local priorities related to safety, accessibility, and cultural inclusion. Strengthening partnerships and outreach helps ensure that underserved communities benefit from these investments. Together, these actions would reduce risks to public health and safety by enhancing the availability, quality, and inclusiveness of public facilities and services.

Implementation of these policies could lead to rehabilitation of existing buildings. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved

access to high-quality public facilities, and more equitable and inclusive community infrastructure that supports long term public health, safety, and well-being.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the expansion or construction of public facilities and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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16 Recreation



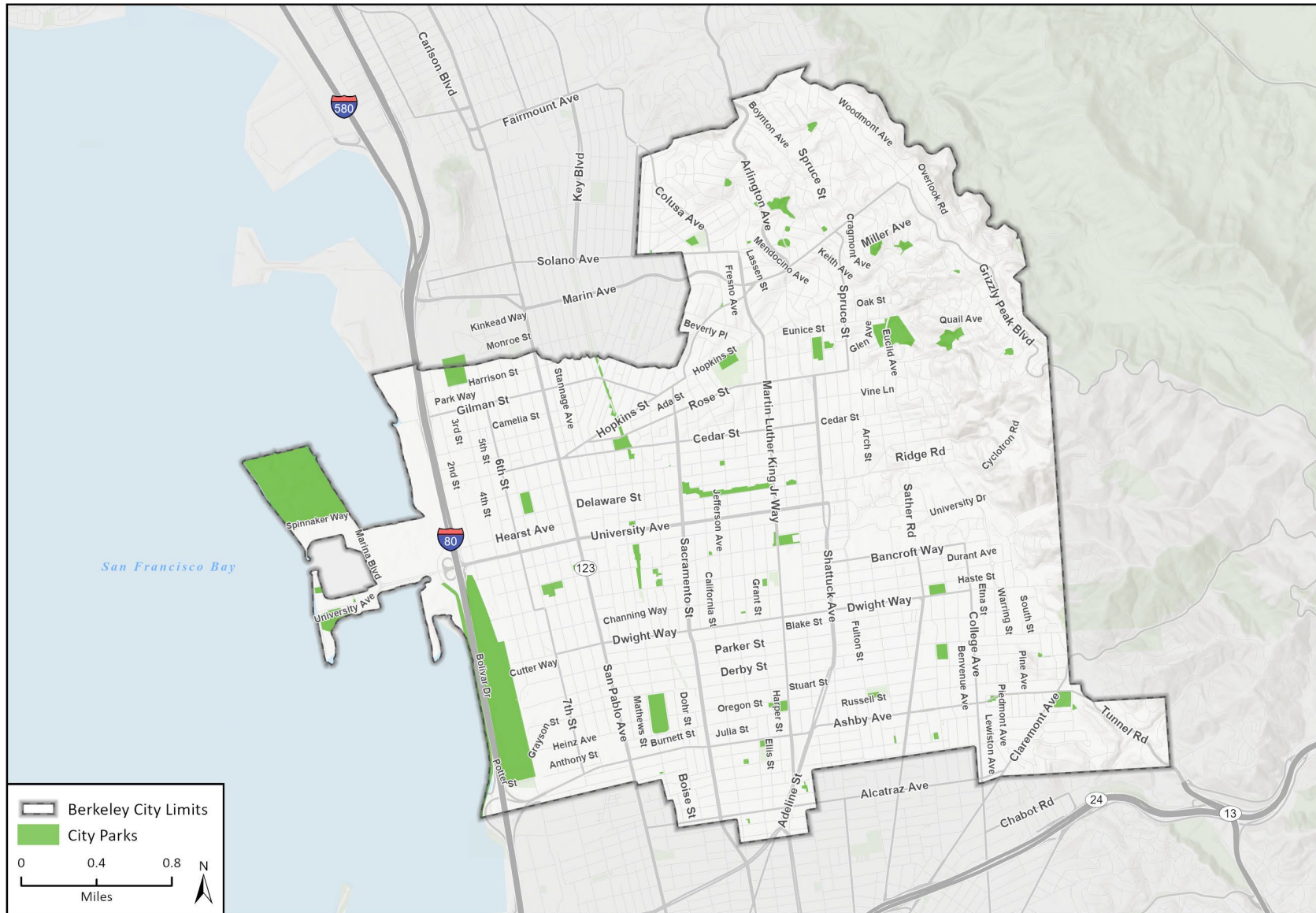
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The City of Berkeley's Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department administers recreation centers and maintains the parks, waterfront, and urban forest within the city limits. In this department, the Parks Division maintains 54 parks; 21 turf medians, triangles, and dividers; 44 parking and vacant lots; 75 paths, walks and steps; 40 undeveloped paths; and the Berkeley Marina (City of Berkeley 2002). Pursuant to BMC 6.42.020.C, the City has established a standard of two acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents. There are 250 acres of parkland within city limits, which is a ratio of approximately two park acres per 1,000 residents (City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission 2023). In addition to the public open space managed by the City's Parks Divisions, Berkeley contains parts of the Bay Trail and the 1,854-acre McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, and residents are adjacent to the East Bay Regional Park District's 2,079-acre Tilden Regional Park and 208-acre Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve. Including these additional parklands, Berkeley's park acres-to-persons ratio increases to approximately 25.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Parks are shown in Figure 9.

Several recreational facilities within the University of California, Berkeley campus may also serve as parks and recreational uses for residents. The University has a general philosophy of keeping the campus open for the public to utilize open spaces.

Figure 9 Parks in Berkeley



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026.
 Additional data provided by City of Berkeley, 2026.

23-15392 EPS
 Fig X Parks

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*
- b. *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to parks and recreation.

Policy EJ-8.1: Green Space. Expand access to green space with a focus on EJ Communities.

Program EJ-8.1-A: Assess City-owned vacant or underutilized parcels for potential use as parks and green spaces for public enjoyment, prioritizing resources in areas of Berkeley that lack open and green space, as directed in Policy EJ-1.3 (Investments in EJ).

Program EJ-8.1-B: Consider joint-use agreements with Berkeley Unified School District and other public institutions to allow for community use of fields, playgrounds, and outdoor learning areas during evenings, weekends and other unprogrammed hours.

Policy EJ-8.3: Increase Park Usage. Increase usage and enjoyment of existing parks by improving programming, accessibility, and amenities.

Program EJ-8.3-A: Conduct a survey on community needs to develop strategies that may increase community use of existing parks, especially in EJ Areas where facilities are underutilized.

Program EJ-8.3-B: Partner with cultural organizations, schools, and community-based organizations to host events, performances, and festivals in parks to increase usage and build belonging, consistent with Policy EJ-2.5 (Celebrate Berkeley's Diversity and Culture).

Policy EJ-8.4: Improve Park Safety and Facilities. Ensure existing park facilities are well-maintained, safe, and welcoming for all residents through physical improvements and maintenance.

Program EJ-8.4-A: Conduct an audit of existing park facilities to identify gaps in necessary park infrastructure. Consider Policy EJ-1.2 when prioritizing findings.

These policies and programs aim to improve parks and recreation services by expanding access to green space and enhancing the quality and usability of existing parks, particularly in EJ communities. By prioritizing new park development in underserved areas, exploring shared use of existing public spaces, and investing in facility upgrades and maintenance, the City can increase equitable access to safe and accessible recreational opportunities. Efforts to strengthen programming and partner with community organizations further support greater use and enjoyment of parks. Together, these actions would reduce disparities in access to open space by improving availability, safety, and inclusiveness, while promoting community health, well-being, and social cohesion.

Implementation of these policies could lead to improved park facilities. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, while implementation may result in some localized physical environmental effects, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be improved would be expanded access to high-quality parks and recreational facilities, reduced disparities in access to open space, and more equitable and resilient community amenities that support long term public health and well-being. The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design

could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not require the expansion or construction of parks and recreational facilities and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

17 Transportation



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Street Network

Regional access to Berkeley is provided through several freeways and state highways, including Interstate 80/580 (I-80/580), State Route 24 (SR 24), and State Routes 13 (Ashby Avenue) and 123 (San Pablo Avenue). Major streets and arterials include San Pablo Avenue (SR 123), a major north-south state highway that runs between I-580 in Oakland in the south and I-80 in Richmond in the north; Ashby Avenue (SR 13), an east-west major state highway that runs between I-580 in Oakland in the south and I-80 in Berkeley in the west; Adeline Street, a northeast-southwest major street with four to six automobile lanes and a center median; Shattuck Avenue, a north-south four lane major street that connects with Adeline Street; Martin Luther King Jr. Way, a north-south major street with two lanes in each direction; Dwight Way, an eastbound two-lane one-way major street north of the Ashby station; Sacramento Street, a north-south major street with two lanes in each direction with a raised center median; and University Avenue, an east-west arterial with two travel lanes in both directions and a raised center median.

Transit and Circulation

Transit service providers in the city include the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), a passenger railroad service that provides intercity service across the United States; Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), which provides regional rail service; and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), which provides local and Transbay bus service with connections to the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco.

Pedestrian Network

Pedestrian facilities include crosswalks, sidewalks, pedestrian signals, and off-street paths, which provide safe and convenient routes for pedestrians to access destinations such as institutions, businesses, public transportation, and recreation facilities. A sidewalk network is provided in Berkeley connecting to nearby residential, commercial, and retail facilities. Crosswalks and pedestrian signals are provided at many major intersections.

Bicycle Network

Based on the City of Berkeley Bicycle Plan, bicycle facilities are classified into several types, including:

- **Class 1 Multi-Use Paths** – provide a completely separated, exclusive right-of-way for bicycling, walking, and other non-motorized uses.
- **Class 2 Bicycle Lanes** – are striped, preferential lanes for one-way bicycle travel on roadways. Some Class 2 bicycle lanes include striped buffers that add a few feet of separation between the bicycle lane and traffic lane or parking aisle.
- **Class 3 Bicycle Routes** – are signed bicycle routes where riders share a travel lane with motorists. Bicycle boulevards (Class 3E) are a special type of Class 3 bicycle route where the shared travel way has low motor vehicle volumes and low speed that prioritize convenient and safe bicycle travel through traffic calming strategies, wayfinding signage, and traffic control adjustments
- **Class 4 Cycletrack** – is an on-street bicycle lane that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by a vertical element or barrier, such as a curb, bollards, or parking aisle.

According to the City of Berkeley Bicycle Plan, Berkeley has the fourth highest bicycle commute mode share (8.5 percent) of any city in the United States. Total, there is an estimated 51 miles of bikeways throughout Berkeley (City of Berkeley 2017).

Vehicle Miles Travelled

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) indicates that land use projects would have a significant impact if the project resulted in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding an applicable threshold of significance. In June 2020, the City of Berkeley adopted the following thresholds of significance for VMT analysis according to the guidance from Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation:

- A residential project's VMT impact is considered less-than-significant if its household VMT per capita is at least 15 percent below the regional average household VMT per capita.
- An employment-generating project's VMT impact is considered less-than-significant if its home-work VMT per worker is at least 15 percent below the regional average home-work VMT per worker.

In addition, the City of Berkeley has developed screening criteria to provide project applicants with a conservative indication of whether a project could result in potentially significant VMT impacts. If the screening criteria are met by a project, the applicant would not need to perform a detailed VMT assessment for their project. The City's screening criteria include the following (City of Berkeley 2020):

- Projects within Transit Priority Areas
- Low-income housing projects
- Small Projects: Projects defined as generating 836 daily VMT or less
- Locally Serving Public Facility: Projects that generally encompass government, civic, cultural, health, and infrastructure uses which contribute to and support community needs and mostly generate trips within the local area
- Projects in low VMT Areas: Projects that are located in low-VMT areas and that have characteristics similar to other uses already located in those areas can be presumed to generate VMT at similar rates. The low-VMT areas in Berkeley are defined based on the results of the Alameda County Transportation Commission model and include the following:
 - Residential projects will be screened out if located in an area that has household VMT per capita that is 15 percent lower than the baseline regional average.
 - Office and industrial projects will be screened out if located in an area that has homework VMT per worker that is 15 percent lower than the baseline regional average.

General Plan Transportation Element Policy T-18 indicates that for the purposes of CEQA, VMT shall be the metric used to analyze the transportation impacts of a plan or project. The City shall also focus on elements such as safety, site access, and circulation when assessing a plan or project's impact.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed program related to transportation and circulation.

Program EJ-7.4-B: Support AC Transit and BART efforts to improve and expand transit operations and transit access in Berkeley, consistent with MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy. Work with transit providers to improve and expand service and access in Environmental Justice Areas as part of ongoing service planning and transit operations coordination meetings and as an integral goal of the City's transportation capital projects and routine roadway operations activities related to development projects and routine streets maintenance.

Policy EJ-7.5: Design Safe and Healthy Streets. Support right of way improvements in areas with high traffic volume and poor air quality, following Berkeley's adopted Complete Streets Policy.

Program EJ-7.5-A: Evaluate bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure in the public right of way to ensure active transportation modes and transit attracts people of all ages and abilities, per the City's adopted Vision Zero Plan, the Berkeley Bicycle Plan and the Pedestrian Plan.

These policies and programs aim to improve transportation access and mobility by guiding investments in transit, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure toward areas of greatest need, particularly within EJ Areas. By enhancing connectivity between neighborhoods and supporting safe, accessible routes for all users, the City can increase equitable access to services and opportunities. Efforts to coordinate with regional agencies and address transportation barriers further support a more connected and inclusive transportation network.

In addition, the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to transportation and circulation.

Policy S-10.2: Ensure Emergency-Accessible Roadways. Ensure roadways can support timely emergency response.

Program S-10.2-A: Develop and implement a methodology to measure emergency response time changes due to specific roadway design features and use this information to contribute to roadway design processes.

Policy S-16.1: Improve Roadway Infrastructure. Based on SB 99, AB 747, and Evacuation Time Study analyses, improve roadway infrastructure to support safe, reliable, and efficient mobility during emergencies. Prioritize improvements for communities at greatest exposure to hazards requiring evacuation.

Policy S-16.2: Plan all streets for evacuation, appropriate to their typology. Plan for all Berkeley streets, including collector and residential streets, to function as potential evacuation routes.

Policy S-16.3: Improve emergency access. Enhance emergency access and evacuation reliability in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-16.3-A: Maintain WUI Code to define requirements for road widths, vegetation clearance, signage, and emergency access in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Ensure any new roads in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet requirements of WUI Code and Fire Code.

Program S-16.3-B: Explore targeted parking restrictions, prioritizing arterial roadways in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to ensure unimpeded emergency response vehicle ingress during Extreme Fire Weather.

Policy S-16.4: Integrate Evacuation Efficiency in Roadway Planning. Consider evacuation efficiency during the planning and implementation phases of roadway infrastructure development.

Program S-16.4-A: To improve vehicular flow during evacuation, implement improvements to traffic signal infrastructure, including signal timing plans, battery backup systems, emergency vehicle preemption, communications infrastructure, transit signal priority for public transit vehicles, coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, and traffic signal software for centralized control.

Program S-16.4-B: Ensure that private access roads are kept in good condition by a responsible party so that Fire Department vehicles can reach people quickly at all times. Ensure that any gates or locking devices remain compatible with emergency access needs.

Program S-16.4-C: Implement practical mitigation measures to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards. Consider roadway improvements where feasible, signage, and/or strategic vegetation management where appropriate. Prioritize investments based on overall risk.

These policies and programs aim to enhance the transportation network's capacity to support emergency response and evacuation by guiding roadway design, infrastructure improvements, and operational strategies. By planning all streets as part of the evacuation network, maintaining access standards in high hazard areas, and integrating evacuation efficiency into transportation planning, the City can improve system-wide connectivity and functionality during emergencies.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be required to comply with the City's General Plan policies; Complete Street Policy; Bicycle Plan; Pedestrian Plan; and BMC requirements regarding Transportation Demand Management, bicycle parking, and pedestrian access. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

In addition to the policies described above under Checklist Question (a), the new EJ Element also includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at reducing VMT.

Policy EJ-3.5: Lower Vehicle Miles Traveled. Reduce vehicle miles traveled by focusing on public transit and safe active transportation infrastructure improvements in the City's right of way and zero-emission travel modes, consistent with MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-A: Expand first- and last-mile mobility options and innovative delivery services through bike, scooter, and e-bike lending programs and affordable car-share services that serve EJ Communities or are identified as one of MTC's Equity Priority Communities or subject to the MTC Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.

Program EJ-3.5-B: Update Berkeley's Transportation Demand Management regulations (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 23.334) to reduce transportation-related pollution and health disparities through measurable, equity-focused performance targets.

Policy EJ-3.6: Transportation Pollution Mitigation. Reduce transportation-related air pollution impacts in EJ Areas and in neighborhoods adjacent to high-traffic corridors and freeways.

Program EJ-3.6-A: Advocate to the state legislature to require Caltrans to plant trees near or install air filtration systems in schools and housing near freeways in and adjacent to EJ Areas. Require monitoring to track improvements.

Program EJ-3.6-B: Advocate to the state legislature that Caltrans implement pollution-exposure-reduction strategies along major corridors throughout Berkeley, focusing on locations where sensitive receptors are present. Consider vegetative buffers consistent with Policy EJ-8.2 (Sustainable Green Infrastructure).

These policies and programs aim to reduce VMT by improving access to transit, active transportation, and low emission travel options, particularly in EJ communities. By expanding first and last mile connections, updating transportation demand management requirements, and promoting equitable mobility services, the City can reduce reliance on single occupant vehicles. Efforts to address transportation-related pollution through targeted mitigation strategies and advocacy further support improved air quality in areas with high exposure. Together, these actions would reduce transportation related impacts by lowering emissions, decreasing travel demand, and improving access to cleaner and more efficient mobility options.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. The proposed project does not include new or altered land use or zoning designations that could directly increase VMT from increasing travel distances, more reliance on vehicles or substantial population growth. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be analyzed in accordance with the City's VMT screening criteria and thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to VMT and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Circulation components and geometric design features for future projects would be reviewed by the City Engineering division and would be designed in accordance with all applicable City standards and the building plan check process to minimize design hazards. Design review standards include standards for project access points, location, and design, sight lines, roadway modifications, provisions for bicycle and pedestrian transportation connections, and emergency access.

The proposed project would not result in impacts related to traffic or circulation hazards and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to emergency access and evacuation.

Policy S-15.1: Public Education on Evacuation. Maintain and expand community education on evacuation protocols, including where to sign up for emergency alert updates and how to prepare.

Policy S-15.2: Refine Evacuation Strategies. Continually update and refine evacuation readiness and response strategies based on the latest data, community input, and lessons learned from local, state, and national disaster research.

Policy S-15.3: Build Evacuation Partnerships. Continue to build partnerships for evacuation planning and capacity building.

Program S-15.3-A: Represent Berkeley in regional evacuation planning efforts to develop and refine strategies and capacity for large-scale evacuation.

Program S-15.3-B: Support Berkeley schools in developing policies for extreme fire weather, including potential relocation or closure of schools in high wildfire hazard areas.

Policy S-15.4: Use Technology for Evacuation Monitoring. Utilize emerging technologies, including drones, automated mapping, and real-time environmental information, to monitor roadways, identify obstructions, and support informed evacuation decisions during fast-moving incidents.

Policy S-15.5: Maintain Field Operations for Evacuation. Maintain field operations capabilities that support evacuation, perimeter control, and protection of evacuated neighborhoods.

Policy S-15.6: Maintain Evacuation Traffic Operations. Maintain traffic management capabilities for use during evacuations, including road closures, traffic management planning, and emergency vehicle access.

Policy S-15.7: Promote Walking and Cycling for Evacuation. Explore and promote cycling and walking for evacuation where and when appropriate.

Policy S-15.8: Ensure Evacuation Strategies Reflect Community Needs. Collaborate with trusted community-based organizations serving households facing barriers to safe evacuation to ensure emergency evacuation strategies reflect household needs.

Policy S-16.1: Improve Roadway Infrastructure. Based on SB 99, AB 747, and Evacuation Time Study analyses, improve roadway infrastructure to support safe, reliable, and efficient mobility during emergencies. Prioritize improvements for communities at greatest exposure to hazards requiring evacuation.

Policy S-16.2: Plan all streets for evacuation, appropriate to their typology. Plan for all Berkeley streets, including collector and residential streets, to function as potential evacuation routes.

Policy S-16.3: Improve emergency access. Enhance emergency access and evacuation reliability in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-16.3-A: Maintain WUI Code to define requirements for road widths, vegetation clearance, signage, and emergency access in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Ensure any new roads in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet requirements of WUI Code and Fire Code.

Program S-16.3-B: Explore targeted parking restrictions, prioritizing arterial roadways in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to ensure unimpeded emergency response vehicle ingress during Extreme Fire Weather.

Policy S-16.4: Integrate Evacuation Efficiency in Roadway Planning. Consider evacuation efficiency during the planning and implementation phases of roadway infrastructure development.

Program S-16.4-A: To improve vehicular flow during evacuation, implement improvements to traffic signal infrastructure, including signal timing plans, battery backup systems, emergency vehicle preemption, communications infrastructure, transit signal priority for public transit vehicles, coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, and traffic signal software for centralized control.

Program S-16.4-B: Ensure that private access roads are kept in good condition by a responsible party so that Fire Department vehicles can reach people quickly at all times. Ensure that any gates or locking devices remain compatible with emergency access needs.

Program S-16.4-C: Implement practical mitigation measures to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards. Consider roadway improvements where feasible, signage, and/or strategic vegetation management where appropriate. Prioritize investments based on overall risk.

These policies and programs aim to improve emergency access and evacuation effectiveness by enhancing planning, infrastructure, and community preparedness. By expanding public education, refining evacuation strategies, and strengthening partnerships across agencies and community organizations, community members will be better prepared to evacuate safely. Investments in roadway improvements, traffic management systems, and real time monitoring technologies may support efficient movement during emergencies. Together, these actions may reduce risks to public safety by improving evacuation education, making roadway improvements and increasing emergency access for responders.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Future activities would be required to comply with roadway and access designs and standards as mandated by the Berkeley Fire Code, and would be subject to developmental review from the City's Building and Safety Division, the Transportation Division, and BFD for compliance with egress requirements and other fire safety features. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to emergency access and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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18 Tribal Cultural Resources



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

AB 52 was enacted in 2015 and expanded CEQA by defining a new resource category, "tribal cultural resources." AB 52 established that "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.2). It further stated that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Section 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) defines tribal cultural resources as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" and is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to "begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project." Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the lead agency.

California Government Code Section 65352.3 (adopted in 2004 pursuant to the requirements of SB 18) requires local governments to contact, refer plans to, and consult with tribal organizations prior to making a decision to adopt or amend a general or specific plan. The tribal organizations eligible to consult have traditional lands in a local government's jurisdiction, and are identified, upon request, by the NAHC. As noted in the California Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's Tribal Consultation Guidelines (2005),

“The intent of SB 18 is to provide California Native American tribes an opportunity to participate in local land use decisions at an early planning stage, for the purpose of protecting, or mitigating impacts to, cultural places.”

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?*
- b. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1?*

As part of its tribal cultural resource identification process under SB 18, the City sent letters to 13 Native American Tribal representatives on June 17, 2024 and January 31, 2025 based on a list provided from the NAHC. The SB 18 notification letters are included in Appendix A. The City received requests for consultation from the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of San Juan Bautista, Wilton Rancheria, and the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation. Wilton Rancheria confirmed they do not have comments on the project and consultation has concluded. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of San Juan Bautista provided comments but did not request a meeting and consultation has concluded. The City met with tribal representatives from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation on November 13, 2024 and January 22, 2025 to discuss the project. As part of the tribal cultural resource identification process under AB 52, the City sent letters to 24 Native American Tribal representatives on April 20, 2026, based on a list provided from the NAHC to be informed through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Tribes. The AB 52 notification letters are included in Appendix A. The City received one request for consultation from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation and met with tribal representatives on June 10, 2026. The tribal representatives requested to review the draft elements. Tribal consultation with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation is ongoing as of the date of publication of this document.

The new EJ Element and updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to tribal cultural resources and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

19 Utilities and Service Systems



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Water Service

Water supply to the project site and surrounding area is provided by EBMUD. Approximately 90 percent of the water used by EBMUD comes from the Mokelumne River watershed, and EBMUD transports it through pipe aqueducts to temporary storage reservoirs in the East Bay hills. EBMUD has water rights that allow for delivery of up to a maximum of 325 million gallons per day (mgd) from this source, subject to the availability of runoff and to the senior water rights of other users, downstream fishery flow requirements, and other Mokelumne River water uses. EBMUD is obligated to meet multiple operating objectives, including providing municipal water supply benefits, stream flow regulation, fishery/public trust interests, flood control, temperature management and obligations to downstream diverters. Among these factors, EBMUD's Mokelumne River flow commitments are generally tied to the variability in the Mokelumne River watershed rainfall and runoff patterns which govern the release requirements for the year.

Northern California's water resources, including EBMUD's supplies, have been stressed by periodic drought cycles. Historical multi-year droughts have significantly diminished the supplies of water available to EBMUD's customers. During the early stages of a drought and throughout a drought period, EBMUD imposes drought management programs to reduce customer demands, thereby saving water for the following year in case drought conditions continue. EBMUD has established a goal of reducing water use by 20 percent district-wide.

EBMUD completed development of a revised Water Supply Management Program (WSMP) 2040 in April of 2012, which is the District's plan for providing water to its customers through 2040. According to the WSMP, EBMUD's water supplies are estimated to be sufficient during the planning period (2010-2040) in normal and single dry years. The WSMP 2040 emphasizes maximum conservation and recycling, with a total of 50 mgd of future supply to be provided from those two strategies. However, looking toward 2040, EBMUD's current supply is insufficient to meet customer needs during multi-year droughts despite EBMUD's aggressive water conservation and recycled water programs. Supplemental supply will also be needed to reduce the degree of rationing and to meet the need for water in drought years.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983 amended California Water Code to require all urban water suppliers in California to prepare and adopt an UWMP and update it every five years. This requirement applies to all suppliers providing water to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet per year of water. EBMUD adopted its first UWMP in 1985 and has been updating the plan every five years since then, adjusting for current and projected water usage, water supply programs, and conservation and recycling programs. Water demand projections described in the UWMP account for anticipated future water demands within the EBMUD service territory, and changes in land uses including but not limited to densification and associated increases in water usage. EBMUD's 2020 UWMP estimated the average daily water demand in its service area to be approximately 150 million gpd (EBMUD 2020).

Wastewater

EBMUD also provides wastewater treatment services to the project site and the rest of Berkeley. EBMUD operates the large diameter interceptor sewer generally running along the shoreline of the San Francisco Bay, and the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP) in Oakland. Each property owner in Berkeley is responsible for delivering their sewage to the City's wastewater collection system. The City's wastewater collection system includes the lower lateral and the sewer mainlines in the street or in easements on private property. Berkeley has approximately 254 miles of sanitary sewer mains, seven sewage pump stations, and approximately 31,600 service laterals (City of Berkeley 2024). The City operates and maintains its sewage collection system in accordance with the NPDES Permit No. CA0038466, Order R2-2025-0009 issued by the San Francisco Bay RWQCB that expires on April 30, 2030 (SWRCB 2025).

Wastewater from the project site enters the City's wastewater collection system which is then conveyed to EBMUD's WWTP. The WWTP provides primary treatment for up to 320mgd) and secondary treatment for up to 168 mgd, and storage basins provide plant capacity for a short-term hydraulic peak of 415 mgd. On average, about 63 million gallons of wastewater is treated every day at the WWTP (EBMUD 2026).

Solid Waste, Recycling, and Compost

Berkeley is one of the few cities in Northern California to operate its own refuse, dual stream recycling and green/food waste curbside collection system as well as material recovery/drop-off and buyback facilities. The City provides curbside recycling, green/food waste, and refuse collection services. The City's Solid Waste Management Division is a part of Public Works and contracts through third-party entities. Some of the programs offered by the City's Solid Waste Division include recycling collection programs for businesses as well as residential and commercial refuse and organic waste collection. Solid waste, recyclable, and compostable materials collected by the City and its contracted companies are transported from the Berkeley Transfer Station, located at 1201 Second Street, for sorting or disposal at off-site facilities. The Berkeley Transfer Station currently has a permitted capacity of 620 tons per day (CalRecycle 2021). One permitted landfill in Alameda County has the capacity to accommodate solid waste generated in Berkeley, the Altamont Landfill. The remaining capacity for solid waste at this landfill is approximately 52.3 million cubic yards (CalRecycle 2026). Currently, the City sends all solid waste for disposal to the Altamont Landfill, which is located near the Altamont Pass, northeast of Livermore. Recyclables are sorted and baled at Community Conservation Centers (Berkeley Recycling), and compostable/organic materials are currently processed at Recology Blossom Valley Organics in Vernalis, CA.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*
- b. *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*
- c. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to utilities and infrastructure.

Policy S-4.1: Upgrade Climate-Resilient Infrastructure. Create plans and expand programs to improve and maintain City infrastructure, incorporating analysis of climate change impacts, such as more intense rainfall, sea level rise, and rising groundwater.

Program S-4.1-A: Continue to rehabilitate the City's storm drain system to reduce local flooding caused by inadequate storm drainage, prioritizing areas with aging infrastructure and high flood exposure such as West Berkeley and neighborhoods along Strawberry and Codornices Creeks.

Program S-4.1-B: Continue and strengthen programs promoting storm drain maintenance by community members and businesses to address climate-related increases in debris and sediment loads, with targeted outreach in flood-prone areas identified in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.

Program S-4.1-C: Continue development of a Stormwater Master Plan, identifying system deficiencies, and establish a Capital Stormwater Improvement Plan focused on infrastructure vulnerable to flooding.

Policy S-6.3: Reduce Risk to Water Systems. Collaborate with EBMUD to reduce risk to water systems from natural and climate-related hazards and utility disruptions.

Policy S-6.4: Promote Backup Power and Renewables. Promote backup power and renewable energy options for non-City buildings.

Program S-6.4-A: Identify and connect community members to externally funded programs, grants, and rebate opportunities that enable Berkeley residents, community organizations, and businesses to install backup energy systems to maintain power during outages and emergencies. Identify options that are accessible to low-income households and organizations.

Program S-6.4-B: Work with partners to develop neighborhood-scale microgrids that provide renewable, reliable energy during grid outages or extreme heat events, prioritizing installations in communities facing high social vulnerability.

Program S-6.4-C: Advance policies and programs that reduce reliance on natural gas and other fossil fuels by promoting electrification, renewable energy integration, and energy efficiency standards in both new construction and retrofits of existing buildings, consistent with the Berkeley Climate Action Plan.

Policy S-7.4: Ensure Firefighting Infrastructure Resilience. Ensure firefighting infrastructure, including water supply systems, fire stations, communication and dispatch systems, and backup power sources, are resilient to climate change impacts including drought, extreme heat, and extended wildfire seasons.

Program S-7.4-A: Continually evaluate access to water supplies for fire suppression. Maintain equipment to improve the supply and reliability of water for fire suppression under future climate conditions. Continue to assess, and improve as indicated, the water supply for firefighting to assure peak load water supply capabilities. Continue to work with EBMUD to coordinate water supply improvements.

In addition, the new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to utilities and infrastructure.

Policy EJ-3.2: Clean Energy. Encourage clean energy in Berkeley's manufacturing districts.

Program EJ-3.2-A: Evaluate potential economic development incentives and business assistance strategies to encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of low- or zero-emission and green economy uses in Berkeley, with a focus on the Manufacturing and Mixed-Manufacturing districts. Incentives may include grants, financing, fee reductions or other financial incentives, technical assistance, business attraction and retention programs, and leveraging available regional, State, and federal resources.

Program EJ-3.2-B: Research and evaluate updates to the local Building Code, consistent with State law, that reduce pollution exposure from manufacturing uses and support the transition of existing businesses to clean energy and low-emission operations. This may include stricter performance-based building standards, electric-ready design measures, requirements for living walls and roofs, and additional indoor air quality, ventilation and filtration standards.

Policy EJ-5.1: Water Quality Reporting. Require periodic testing of water quality in rental properties, including checks for lead, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and other contaminants where feasible and authorized, and ensure results are provided directly to renters.

Program EJ-5.1-A: Evaluate inclusion of water quality testing into the Rental Housing Safety Program inspections. This would include identifying chemicals of concern, fee increases to cover expenses, and reporting mechanisms for property owners and tenants.

Policy EJ-5.2: Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation. Support upgrades and maintenance of public right of way connections to residential water systems to ensure long-term water safety and resilience by prioritizing older housing stock in EJ Areas.

Policy EJ-5.3: Home Water Safety Assistance. Provide funding or subsidies for plumbing and water system upgrades in rental and owner-occupied housing, prioritizing low-income renters in older buildings, multifamily properties, and historically disinvested EJ Areas. Ensure clear eligibility and a simple application process, and deliver outreach and navigation support through trusted community-based organizations and tenant organizations to protect affordability and facilitate access to repairs.

Policy EJ-5.4: Water Affordability and Access. Ensure all households have affordable access to clean and safe water through improved education and outreach to low-income households that may be eligible for assistance programs offered by public agencies and non-profits.

Program EJ-5.4-A: Identify opportunities to educate the community on existing water affordability programs that provide discounted rates or bill forgiveness for low-income renters and homeowners. Partner with community-based organizations and trusted partners, such as those referred to in Policy EJ-2.2 (Partner with Community) to increase participation of EJ Communities.

These policies and programs aim to strengthen utilities and service systems by improving reliability, resilience, and safety across water, wastewater, stormwater, energy, and communication infrastructure. By investing in climate resilient upgrades, enhancing stormwater management, and coordinating with regional partners to protect water supplies, the City can reduce the risk of service disruptions and infrastructure failure under changing environmental conditions. Efforts to expand access to backup power, support renewable energy, and promote system upgrades in vulnerable communities further improve continuity during emergencies. Together, these actions would reduce risks to public health and safety by increasing system dependability, improving water quality and access, and ensuring that essential services remain operational during climate-related and emergency events. However, implementation of these policies could potentially lead to construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of storm drain systems, water supply infrastructure, energy systems, and related facilities. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall implementation of these policies and programs would support long term environmental benefits and improved system resilience.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Developers are responsible for funding infrastructure improvements that are required to serve future projects and have not been previously identified as part of a capital improvement program covered by the development impact fees. Consistent with applicable State law, the City's development fees ensure that the developers pay the cost attributable to the increased demand for the affected public facilities reasonably related to the development project in order to refurbish the existing facilities to maintain the existing level of service and achieve an adopted level of service that is consistent with the City's General Plan (California Government Code Section 66001(g)). Furthermore, future developers that wish to construct a new connection to sewer services to the City's sanitary sewer system would be required to pay a connection fee in the amount as established by City Council resolution. All costs of operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of the City's sanitary sewers would be paid by the users of the City's sanitary sewers.

The proposed project would not result in impacts related to water, wastewater, stormwater, electricity, natural gas, or telecommunication systems, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*
- e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

The new EJ Element includes the following proposed policies and programs related to waste disposal.

Policy EJ-4.1: Reduce Illegal Dumping. Address structural barriers to proper waste disposal, prioritizing overburdened streets and neighborhoods in EJ Areas.

Program EJ-4.1-A: Host community clean-up events in EJ Areas that provide education on disposal options for bulky items and hazardous materials. Consider pairing these with "pop-up" drop-off locations or reduced-cost vouchers for use at the Berkeley Transfer Station.

Program EJ-4.1-B: Continue to partner with regional agencies, shelters, and community-based (health) organizations to safely collect sharps in areas occupied by people experiencing

homelessness. Positively frame services as harm-reduction interventions, utilizing a trauma-informed approach.

Policy EJ-4.2: Waste Reduction. Partner with StopWaste and other community-based organizations focused on waste reduction and recycling to ensure outreach campaigns that promote zero-waste behaviors reach EJ Communities.

Program EJ-4.2-A: Evaluate existing outreach and education to Berkeley restaurants about reusable food-ware and food-litter reduction methods. Identify additional education, technical assistance, and compliance-focused approaches that will advance the City's efforts to reduce food-related waste.

Program EJ-4.2-B: Use data collected through 311's reporting of illegal dumping and litter hot spots to guide targeted outreach, clean-up actions, and service adjustments developed in coordination with community-based organizations and neighborhood stakeholders.

These policies and programs aim to improve waste management systems by reducing illegal dumping, increasing proper disposal practices, and promoting waste reduction, particularly in EJ communities. By expanding community clean up efforts, improving access to safe disposal options, and using data to target high need areas, the City can reduce exposure to hazardous materials and unsanitary conditions. Partnerships with community based organizations and regional agencies further support education and outreach to encourage sustainable behaviors and safe waste handling. Together, these actions would reduce risks to public health and environmental quality by improving waste system performance, minimizing illegal dumping, and promoting cleaner and safer neighborhoods.

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

In accordance with California's Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, cities and counties are required to divert 50 percent of all solid wastes from landfills. According to City staff, Berkeley has achieved a diversion rate of 79 percent, which substantially exceeds this State requirement. Future activities would also be required to comply with SB 1383 which mandates recycling of organic wastes. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to waste disposal and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

20 Wildfire



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

In California, State and local agencies share responsibility for wildfire prevention and suppression and federal agencies take part as well. Federal agencies are responsible for federal lands in Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA). The State of California has determined that some non-federal lands in unincorporated areas with watershed value are of statewide interest and have classified those lands as State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) manages SRAs. All incorporated areas and unincorporated lands not in FRAs or SRAs are classified as Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).

While nearly all of California is subject to some degree of wildfire hazard, there are specific features that make certain areas more hazardous. CAL FIRE is required by law to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors (PRC 4201-4204, California Government Code 51175-89). The primary factors that increase an area's susceptibility to fire hazards include slope, vegetation type and condition, and atmospheric conditions. CAL FIRE maps fire hazards based on zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). There are three levels of severity: 1) moderate FHSZs; 2) high FHSZs; and 3) very high FHSZs (VHFHSZ). Each of the zones influence how people construct buildings and protect property to reduce risk associated with wildland fires. However, none of the FHSZ s specifically prohibit development or construction. To reduce fire risk under State regulations, development within VHFHSZs must comply with specific building and vegetation management requirements intended to reduce property damage and loss of life in those areas.

As shown in Figure 10, much of the hillside areas in the eastern portion of Berkeley lies in HFHSZ and VHFHSZ. Berkeley is also within an LRA and the areas adjacent to the east of Berkeley are within an SRA.

Impact Analysis

- a. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*
- b. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*
- c. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*
- d. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

The updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element includes the following proposed policies and programs aimed at reducing wildfire risk.

Policy S-3.1: Limit Development in Fire-Prone Areas. Prioritize development in areas with lower wildfire hazard risk and reduce the vulnerability of people, homes, and assets located within Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to future disasters. Ensure that future growth does not compromise public safety or evacuation capacity during emergencies.

Program S-3.1-A: Develop and maintain a local ordinance requiring development standards that meet or exceed Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations).

Program S-3.1-B: Update and maintain the local ordinance to continue to meet and exceed requirements of Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01 (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structure Regulations) for High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-3.1-C: Evaluate allowed land uses and consider amendments to the General Plan Land Use Map and/or Zoning Map and/or Zoning Ordinance that minimize new residential commercial development in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-3.1-D: Per State law, require fire protection plans for any new development proposed within Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). Plans must include the following enhanced fire mitigation measures:

- Use of fire-resistant building materials
- Compliance with defensible space requirements outlined in the Berkeley Municipal Code § 19.48 (Berkeley Fire Code) Section 4907 Defensible Space
- Demonstration of adequate water supply for fire suppression, including:
- Identification of the location and capacity of the nearest reliable water source (such as hydrants, tanks, or aboveground systems)
- A long-term maintenance and reliability plan for fire suppression water infrastructure, including inspection schedules and contingency measures
- Emergency vehicle access and evacuation route analysis, including vegetation clearance and maintenance along public and private roads to ensure safe ingress and egress for fire response and evacuation

- Installation of visible home and street addressing and signage using fire-safe materials
- Inclusion of community fire breaks and a plan for their ongoing maintenance

Policy S-3.2: Reduce Fire Fuel Loads. Reduce fire fuel in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to limit the spread and intensity of wildfires, with consideration for changing fuel conditions due to climate change, through education, financial support, technical assistance, inspections, and enforcement.

Program S-3.2-A: Continue to educate residents on the value of defensible space and home hardening. Identify and develop strategies to reach communities located in areas with high hazard exposure, prioritizing households with high social vulnerability, such as those with seniors, people living disabilities, and people from linguistically diverse communities, ensuring that those in high fire risk areas understand fire mitigation programs and code requirements.

Program S-3.2-B: Maintain and expand financial support, technical assistance, and grant programs to help households and communities harden homes against wildfire hazards. Prioritize resources for households in communities facing high social vulnerabilities and properties facing the greatest barriers to compliance in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-3.2-C: Continue inspections of structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to verify compliance with defensible space and home hardening requirements. Emphasize education and collaboration.

Policy S-3.3: Collaborate on Wildfire Preparedness. Collaborate with regional partners in wildfire mitigation and preparedness, including organizations that serve households in communities facing high social vulnerability in the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy S-3.4: Pursue Regional Fire Grants. Work with external partners to develop regional projects and leverage collaborative relationships to pursue grant funding.

Policy S-3.5: Pilot Fire Safety Programs. Collaborate with community-based organizations in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to pilot programs that enhance fire safety.

Policy S-3.6: Coordinate with State Forestry. Maintain close coordination with the California Department of Forestry to minimize the risk of wildland fire in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Policy S-7.1: Site Critical Facilities Safely. Use development review to site critical facilities outside areas with high hazard exposure, where possible.

Program S-7.1-A: Require that new essential public facilities, such as hospitals, fire stations, critical infrastructure, and public-facing sites with disaster functions are sited outside of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs), flood hazard zones, areas vulnerable to sea level rise, and areas vulnerable to seismic hazards when feasible. When avoidance is not possible, incorporate fire-resistant design and defensible space standards, flood resistant construction standards, and seismic safety standards to ensure long-term resilience.

Policy S-11.6: Fulfill Fire Suppression Mutual Aid. Continue to fulfill legal obligations and support mutual aid efforts to coordinate fire suppression within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, adjacent cities, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the State of California to prevent and suppress major wildland and urban fire destruction.

Policy S-13.1: Maintain and Update Emergency Plans. Maintain City emergency plans that are actionable, equitable, and responsive to organizational and community needs. Regularly update them using the latest hazard information and social vulnerability data.

Policy S-13.2: Develop Continuity of Operations Plans. Continually develop and maintain plans to support the City's emergency response activities and ensure City departments can continue performing their essential functions (those ensuring life safety or meeting legal requirements) during emergencies and disasters.

Policy S-13.3: Train Staff for Large-Scale Emergencies. Organize and train City staff to respond effectively to large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Program S-13.3-A: Prepare staff for their roles in the City's emergency response organization in compliance with State and federal standards.

Program S-13.3-B: Maintain resilient and redundant municipal facilities, equipment, technology, and systems necessary for emergency response and coordination, including Emergency Operations Center, backup power, communications, and IT infrastructure.

Program S-13.3-C: Assess and project future emergency service needs to ensure that staffing, facilities, and resources remain adequate under evolving climate, hazard, and population scenarios.

Policy S-13.4: Maintain Primary and Backup Facilities for Emergency Operations Center. Maintain primary and backup facilities to coordinate emergency operations during large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Policy S-13.5: Ensure Safe Post-Disaster Care Sites. Improve and maintain capacity to provide and support safe and accessible sites for post-disaster mass care, shelter, and community gathering.

Program S-13.5-A: Maintain accessible City facilities to serve as disaster shelters, mass care sites, and/or community gathering sites.

Program S-13.5-B: Maintain relationships with institutional and community partners to ensure pre-identified schools and other non-City sites can serve as shelters, mass care sites, and/or community gathering sites during disasters, including extreme heat and poor air quality events, to align outreach and service.

Program S-13.5-C: Maintain shelter supplies and equipment for initial response.

Program S-13.5-D: Continue partnering with the American Red Cross to support mass care and shelter planning, capacity-building and response.

Program S-13.5-E: Educate community members on post-disaster sheltering, including what services will be available where they could be located, and how they will be publicized during an emergency or disaster. Provide associated guidance and resources to help households plan ahead to identify their own best options, which may include staying with friends, family, or at a hotel.

Policy S-15.1: Public Education on Evacuation. Maintain and expand community education on evacuation protocols, including where to sign up for emergency alert updates and how to prepare.

Policy S-15.2: Refine Evacuation Strategies. Continually update and refine evacuation readiness and response strategies based on the latest data, community input, and lessons learned from local, state, and national disaster research.

Policy S-15.3: Build Evacuation Partnerships. Continue to build partnerships for evacuation planning and capacity building.

Program S-15.3-A: Represent Berkeley in regional evacuation planning efforts to develop and refine strategies and capacity for large-scale evacuation.

Program S-15.3-B: Support Berkeley schools in developing policies for extreme fire weather, including potential relocation or closure of schools in high wildfire hazard areas.

Policy S-15.4: Use Technology for Evacuation Monitoring. Utilize emerging technologies, including drones, automated mapping, and real-time environmental information, to monitor roadways, identify obstructions, and support informed evacuation decisions during fast-moving incidents.

Policy S-15.5: Maintain Field Operations for Evacuation. Maintain field operations capabilities that support evacuation, perimeter control, and protection of evacuated neighborhoods.

Policy S-15.6: Maintain Evacuation Traffic Operations. Maintain traffic management capabilities for use during evacuations, including road closures, traffic management planning, and emergency vehicle access.

Policy S-15.7: Promote Walking and Cycling for Evacuation. Explore and promote cycling and walking for evacuation where and when appropriate.

Policy S-15.8: Ensure Evacuation Strategies Reflect Community Needs. Collaborate with trusted community-based organizations serving households facing barriers to safe evacuation to ensure emergency evacuation strategies reflect household needs.

Policy S-15.9: Maintain Extreme Fire Weather Standards Using Latest Science. Leverage the latest science to continually update and refine Extreme Fire Weather thresholds, using transparent methodology and criteria that are replicable by other jurisdictions.

Policy S-15.11: Promote Leave Early Policy for Fire Weather. Maintain, refine, advocate for, and provide education about the Leave Early policy for Extreme Fire Weather, which recommends residents leave areas with greatest exposure to wildfire risk before a fire starts under extremely hazardous fire weather.

Policy S-16.1: Improve Roadway Infrastructure. Based on SB 99, AB 747, and Evacuation Time Study analyses, improve roadway infrastructure to support safe, reliable, and efficient mobility during emergencies. Prioritize improvements for communities at greatest exposure to hazards requiring evacuation.

Policy S-16.2: Plan all streets for evacuation, appropriate to their typology. Plan for all Berkeley streets, including collector and residential streets, to function as potential evacuation routes.

Policy S-16.3: Improve emergency access. Enhance emergency access and evacuation reliability in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Program S-16.3-A: Maintain WUI Code to define requirements for road widths, vegetation clearance, signage, and emergency access in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Ensure any new roads in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet requirements of WUI Code and Fire Code.

Program S-16.3-B: Explore targeted parking restrictions, prioritizing arterial roadways in Berkeley's High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to ensure unimpeded emergency response vehicle ingress during Extreme Fire Weather.

Policy S-16.4: Integrate Evacuation Efficiency in Roadway Planning. Consider evacuation efficiency during the planning and implementation phases of roadway infrastructure development.

Program S-16.4-A: To improve vehicular flow during evacuation, implement improvements to traffic signal infrastructure, including signal timing plans, battery backup systems, emergency vehicle preemption, communications infrastructure, transit signal priority for public transit vehicles, coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, and traffic signal software for centralized control.

Program S-16.4-B: Ensure that private access roads are kept in good condition by a responsible party so that Fire Department vehicles can reach people quickly at all times. Ensure that any gates or locking devices remain compatible with emergency access needs.

Program S-16.4-C: Implement practical mitigation measures to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards. Consider roadway improvements where feasible, signage, and/or strategic vegetation management where appropriate. Prioritize investments based on overall risk.

These policies and programs aim to reduce wildfire risk by guiding safer land use decisions, strengthening fire prevention measures, and improving emergency preparedness and response. By limiting development in the HFHSZ and VHFHSZ, requiring fire resistant design and defensible space, and reducing fuel loads through education, funding, and inspections, the City can decrease the likelihood and severity of wildfire impacts. Coordination with regional and State partners, along with investments in emergency planning, evacuation readiness, and resilient infrastructure, further enhances the City's ability to respond to and recover from wildfire events. Together, these actions would reduce risks to public safety and property by minimizing exposure to wildfire hazards, improving evacuation and response effectiveness, and supporting long term community resilience in areas most vulnerable to fire.

Implementation of these policies could lead to modification of roadways to improve evacuation capacity, fuel reduction activities, and improvements to emergency facilities, communications systems, and energy infrastructure. These actions could result in localized and temporary construction-related impacts. Nonetheless, these potential impacts would be addressed through project-specific environmental review and compliance with applicable State and local regulations. As a result, the overall outcome of these policies and programs would be a reduction in wildfire risk and improved long term safety and resilience of the community and its infrastructure.

Further, the new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to wildfire and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project:				
a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

- a. *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Through the City's development review process, future development projects would be evaluated for potential direct and indirect impacts on biological and cultural resources. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory and no impacts would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Because both elements are policy documents, they would not result in incremental environmental effects that could contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts. On the contrary, the elements include policies and programs specifically intended to reduce environmental burdens, improve public health outcomes, increase resilience to environmental hazards, and enhance equitable access to environmental benefits, particularly for disadvantaged communities. These policies are designed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects associated with development and would further support consistency with applicable State regulations, General Plan policies, and the Berkeley Municipal Code.

In addition, development proposals would be subject to the City’s established development review process, during which potential environmental effects, including cumulative impacts, would be evaluated, and appropriate mitigation measures would be identified and implemented as necessary. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable environmental impacts, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

The new EJ Element and the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element are both policy documents that establish goals, policies, and implementation programs and do not approve, authorize, or commit the City to specific physical development, infrastructure improvements, or land use changes. Rather, the elements provide a planning framework that guides future activities that are called for in, or whose design could be influenced by, the proposed goals, policies and programs, and that would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts.

Instead, the elements include policies and programs specifically designed to reduce environmental and public health risks, including those related to air quality, noise, hazardous conditions, climate-related hazards, and emergency preparedness. The new EJ Element emphasizes improving conditions in disadvantaged communities by reducing existing environmental burdens and enhancing equitable access to environmental benefits, while the updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element strengthens policies related to hazard mitigation, emergency response, and community safety. Collectively, these policies are intended to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on human health and safety.

Future activities or implementation actions guided by these elements would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA, as applicable, during which potential impacts to human beings would be evaluated and mitigated as necessary. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in environmental effects that could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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List of Preparers

Rincon Consultants prepared this IS-ND under contract to the City of Berkeley. Persons involved in data gathering analysis, project management, and quality control are listed below.

Rincon Consultants

Abe Leider, Principal
 Karly Kaufman, Project Manager
 Nichole Yee, Environmental Planner

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Appendix A

Tribal Consultation Letters



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Valentin Lopez, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
P.O Box 5272
Galt, CA 95632

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Lopez:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project will require a General Plan Amendment and, therefore, must comply with California Public Resources Code § 65352.3 – 65352.4 (Senate Bill 18), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

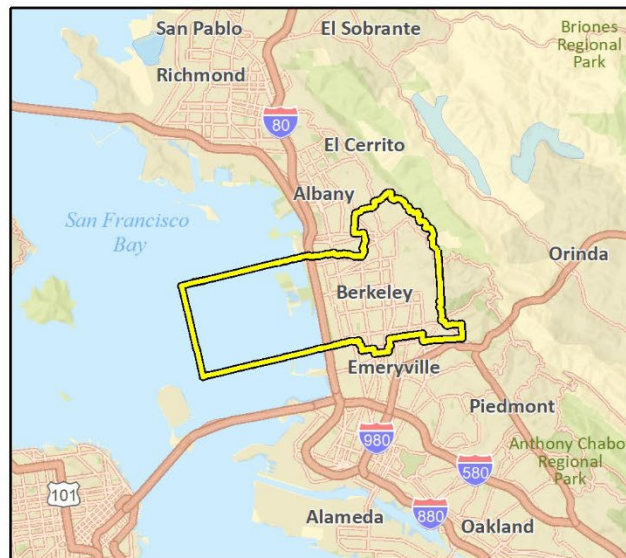


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Irenne Zwierlein, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
3030 Soda Bay Road
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Zwierlein:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

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SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

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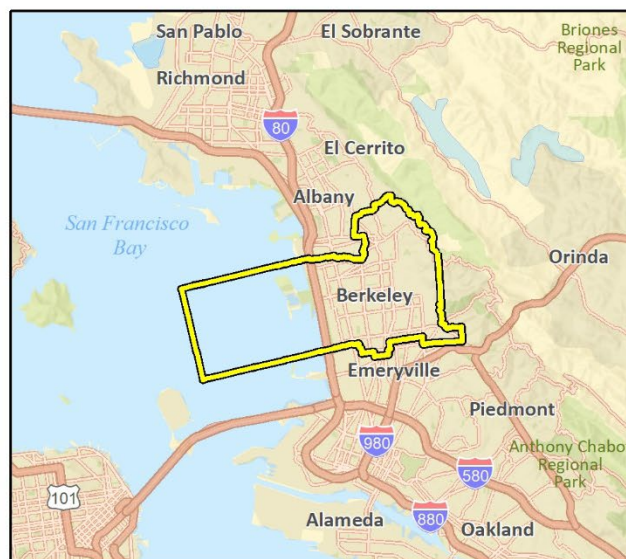


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Carla Munoz, Chairperson
Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe
604 W Fernleaf Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Munoz:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project will require a General Plan Amendment and, therefore, must comply with California Public Resources Code § 65352.3 – 65352.4 (Senate Bill 18), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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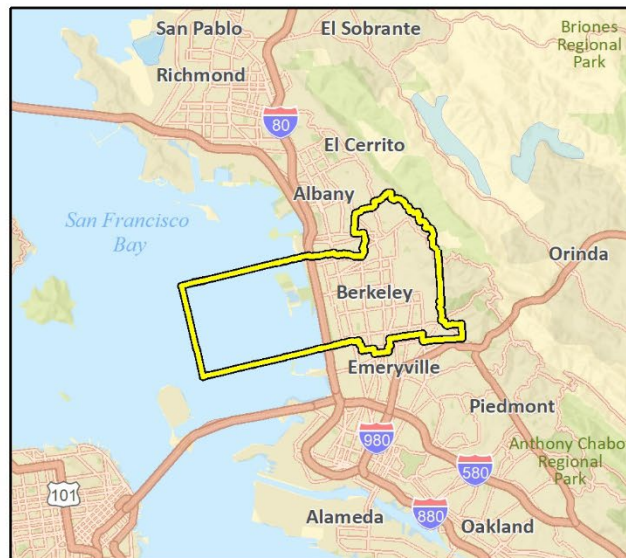


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Bunny Tarin, Tribal Administrator
Guidiville Indian Rancheria
P.O. Box 339
Talmage, CA 95481

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Tarin:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project will require a General Plan Amendment and, therefore, must comply with California Public Resources Code § 65352.3 – 65352.4 (Senate Bill 18), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Guidiville Indian Rancheria, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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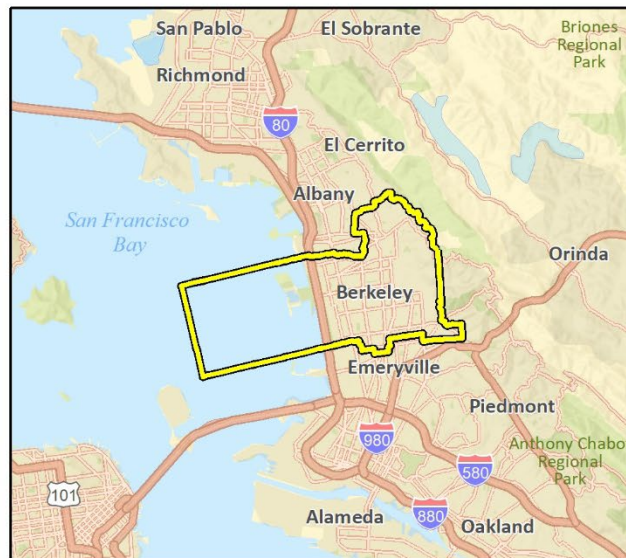


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
P.O. Box 28
Hollister, CA 95024

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Sayers:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

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Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

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Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

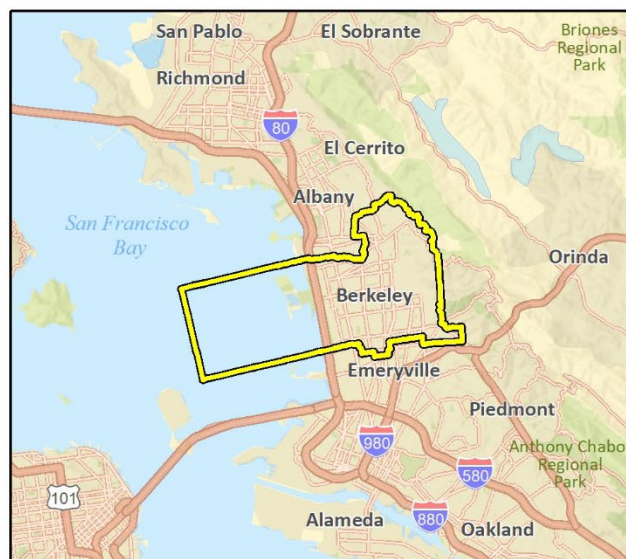


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, MLD Contact
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
1615 Pearson Court
San Jose, CA 95122

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Sayers-Roods:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

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Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

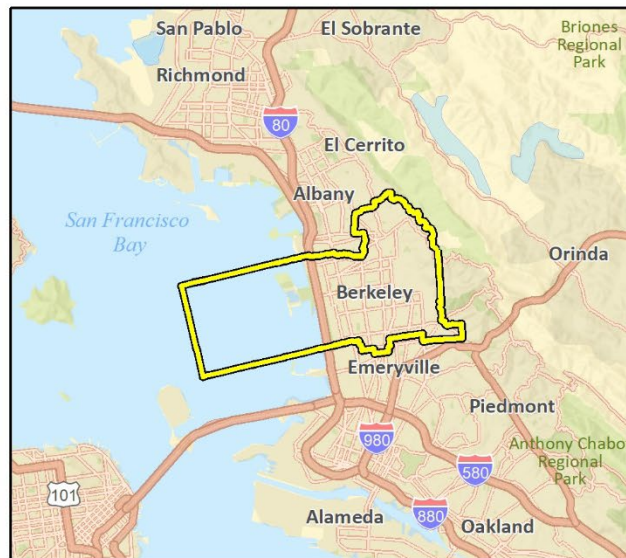


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Charlene Nijmeh

Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area

1169 S. Main Street, Suite 336

Manteca, CA 95377

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Nijmeh:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project will require a General Plan Amendment and, therefore, must comply with California Public Resources Code § 65352.3 – 65352.4 (Senate Bill 18), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

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Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

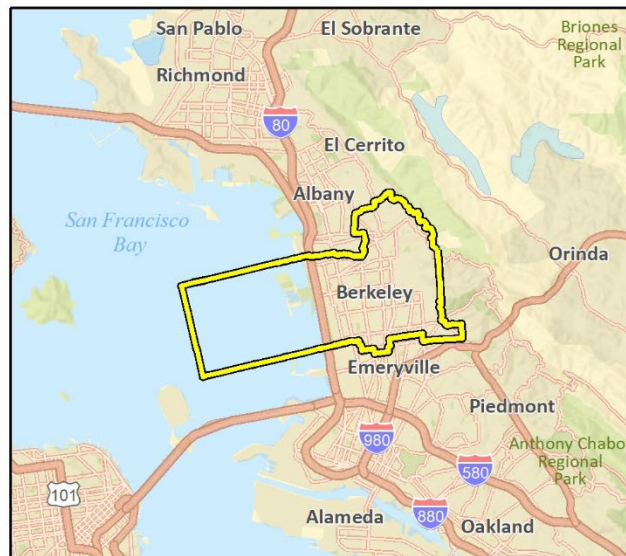


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Katherine Perez, Chairperson
North Valley Yokuts Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA 95236

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Perez:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project will require a General Plan Amendment and, therefore, must comply with California Public Resources Code § 65352.3 – 65352.4 (Senate Bill 18), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The North Valley Yokuts Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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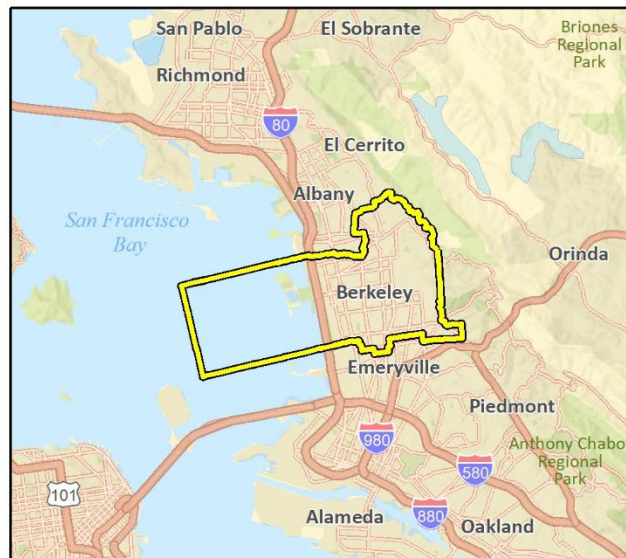


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Corrina Gould, Chairperson
The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
10926 Edes Avenue
Oakland, CA 94603

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Gould:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

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Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Confederated Villages of Lisjan, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

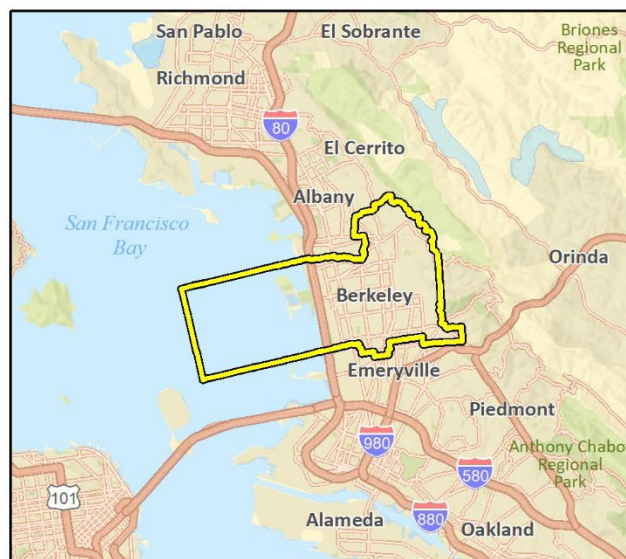


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Andrew Galvan, Chairperson
The Ohlone Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 3388
Fremont, CA 94539

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Galvan:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

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SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

NAHC responded on June 10, 2024 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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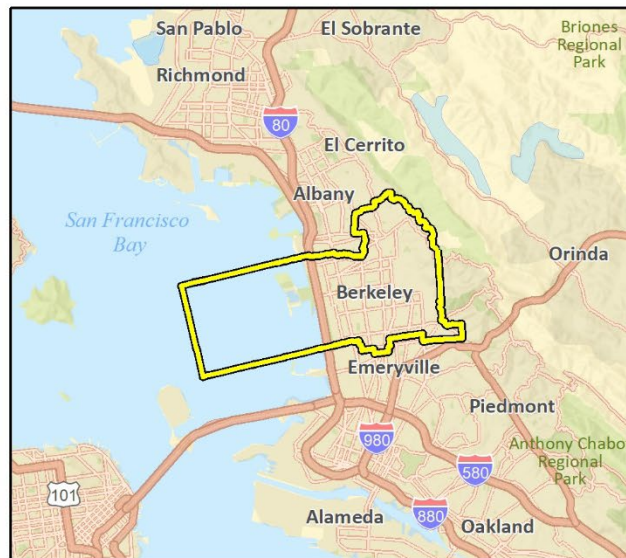


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Desiree Vigil, THPO
The Ohlone Indian Tribe
259 Winwood Avenue
Pacifica, CA 94044

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Galvan:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The

Internal

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

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Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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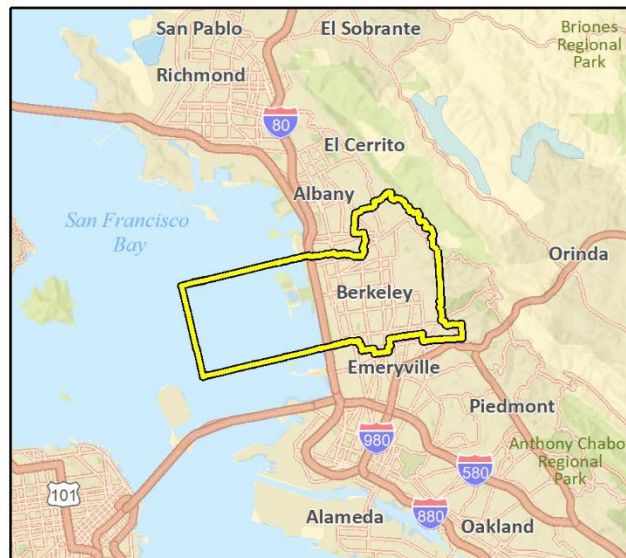


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Dahlton Brown, Executive Director of Administration
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

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Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Wilton Rancheria, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

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Project Location Map

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Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

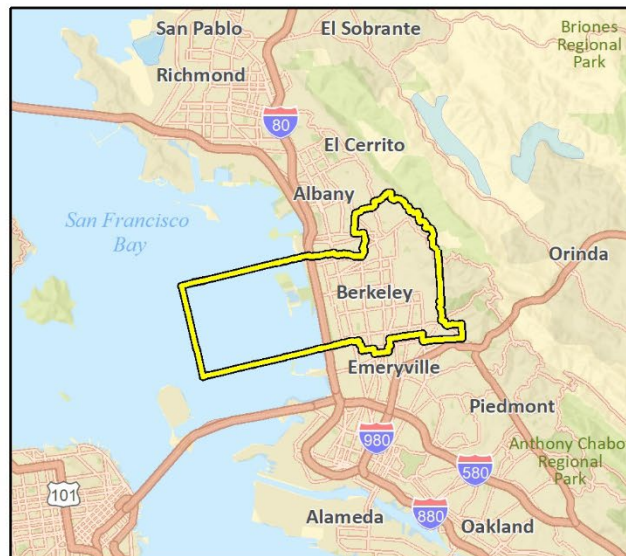


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

June 17, 2024

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

Subject: SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Woodrow:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project ("Project") is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after a disaster. The Environmental Justice Element identifies disadvantaged communities, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Consultation Requirement

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

SB 18 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment

June 17, 2024

Page 2

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Your band's input is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band, under the provisions of SB 18, has 90 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

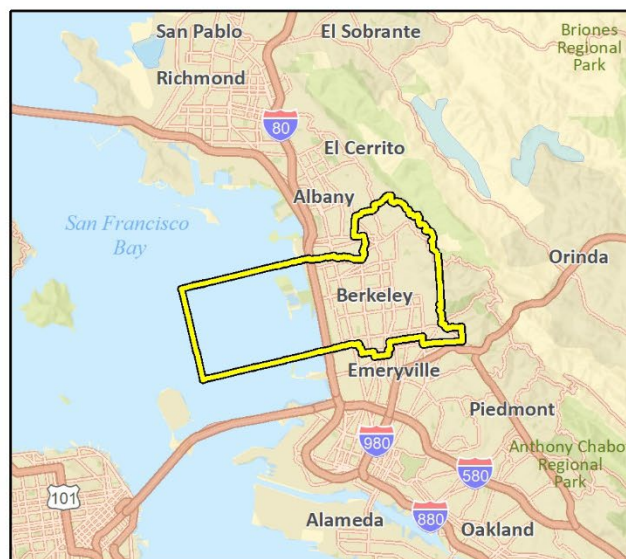


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Irene Zwierlein, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
3030 Soda Bay Road
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Zwierlein,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

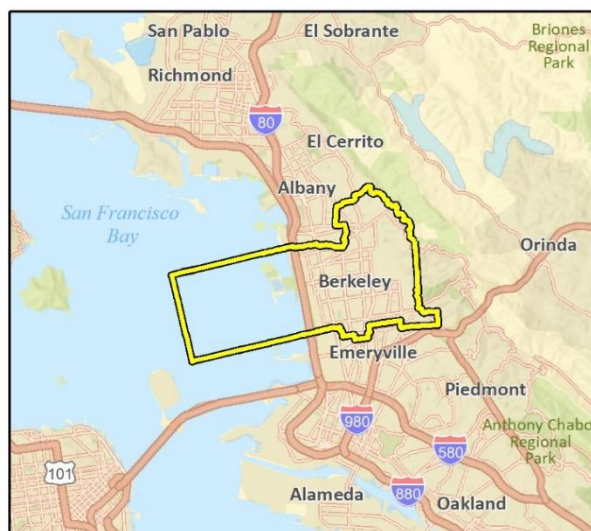


Fig. 3 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Valentin Lopez, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
P.O Box 5272
Galt, CA 95632

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Lopez,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

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Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



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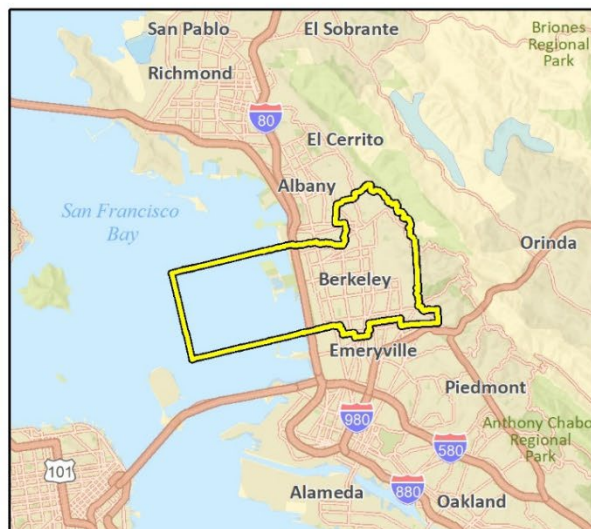


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Corrina Gould, Chairperson
Confederated Villages of the Lisjan Nation
10926 Edes Avenue
Oakland, CA 94603

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Gould,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

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Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

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Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Confederated Villages of the Lisjan Nation, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2021.

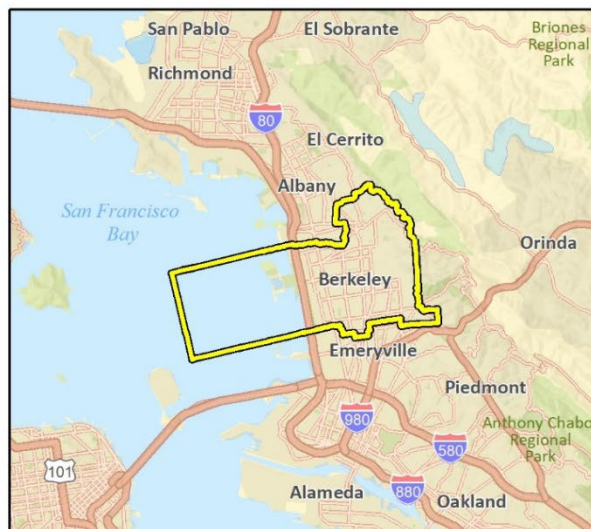


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Carla Munoz, Tribal Council
Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe
605 W. Fernleaf Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Munoz,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

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Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

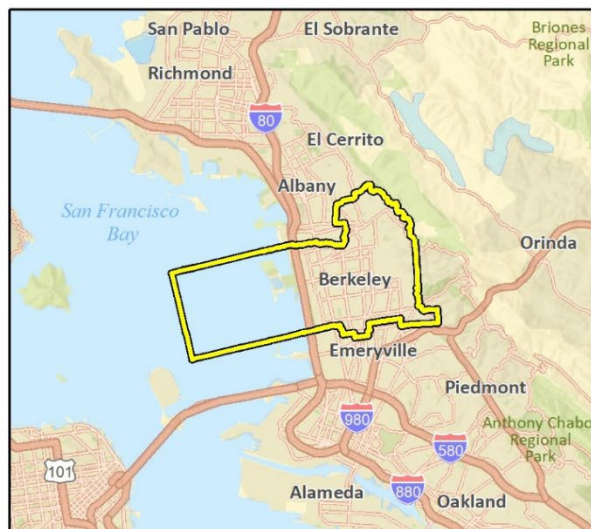


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Bunny Tarin, Tribal Administrator
Guidiville Rancheria of California
PO BOX 339
Talmage, CA 95481

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Tarin,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

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Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

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For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

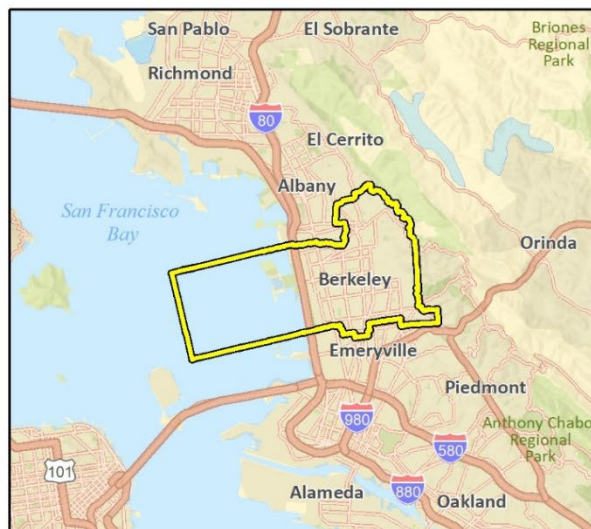


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, MLD Contact
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
1615 Pearson Court
San Jose, CA 95122

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Sayers-Roods,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

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Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

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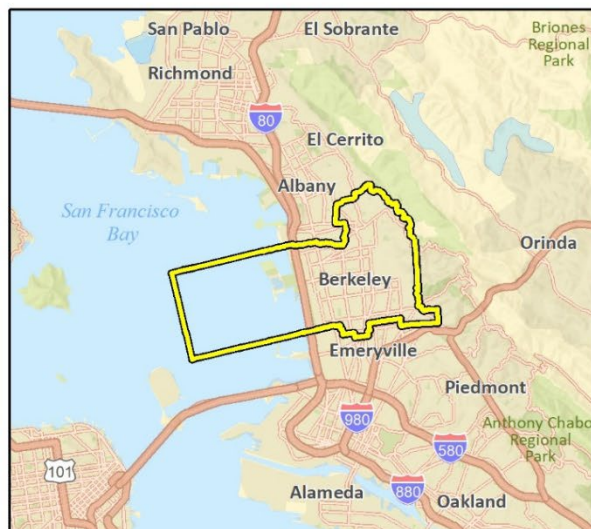


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
P.O. Box 28
Hollister, CA, 95024

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Sayers,

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Project Description

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

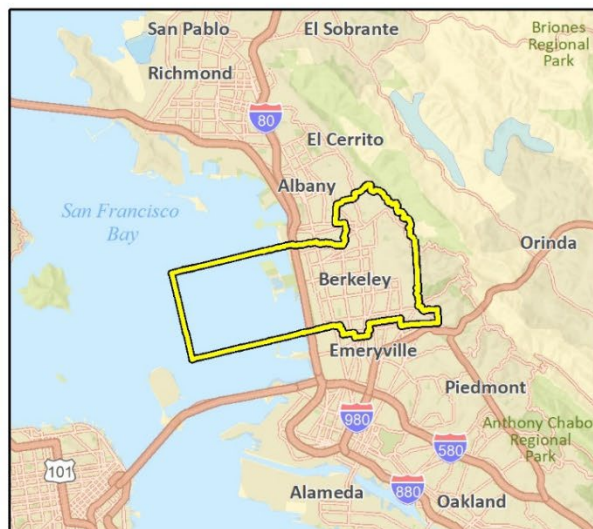


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Charlene Nijmeh, Chairperson
Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area
1169 S. Main St., Ste. 336
Manteca, CA 95377

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Nijmeh,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

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Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

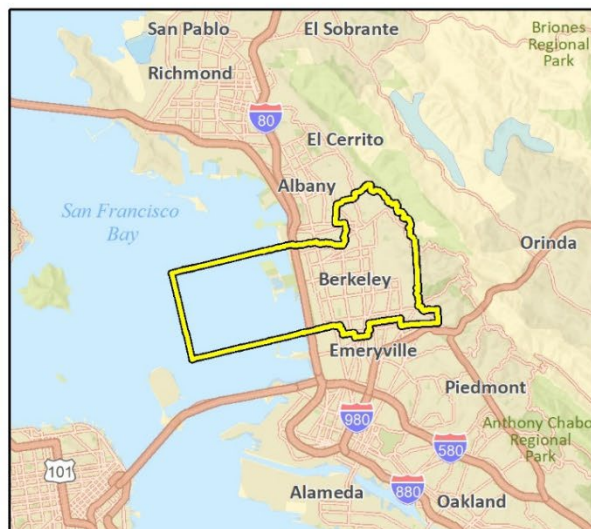


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Katherine Perez, Chairperson
Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA, 95236

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Perez,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2021.

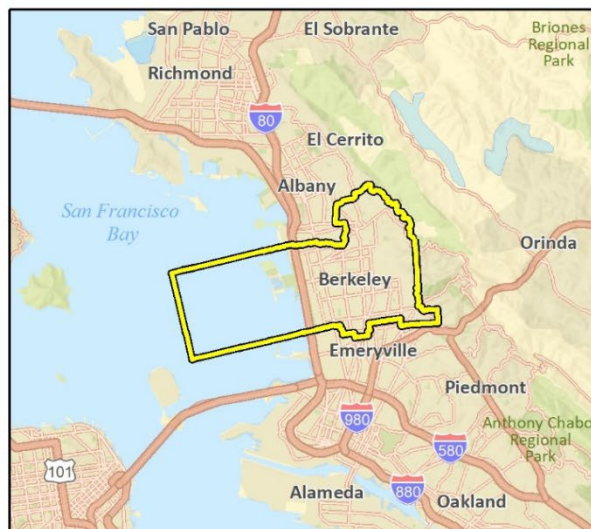


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Andrew Galvan, Chairperson
The Ohlone Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 3388
Fremont, CA, 94539

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Galvan,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2021.

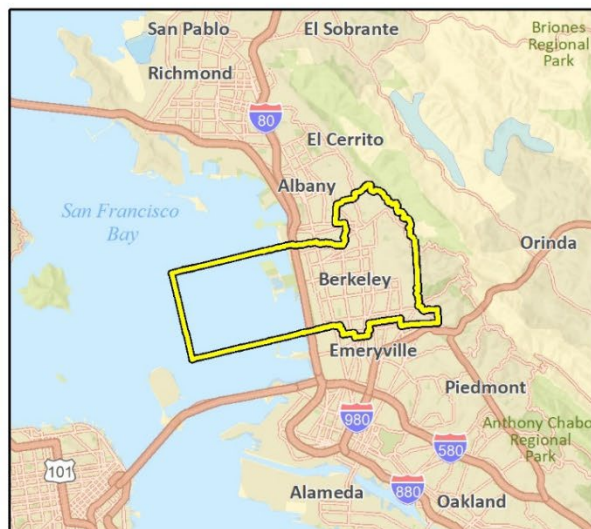


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Desiree Vigil, THPO
The Ohlone Indian Tribe
259 Winwood Avenue
Pacifica, CA, 94044

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Vigil,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

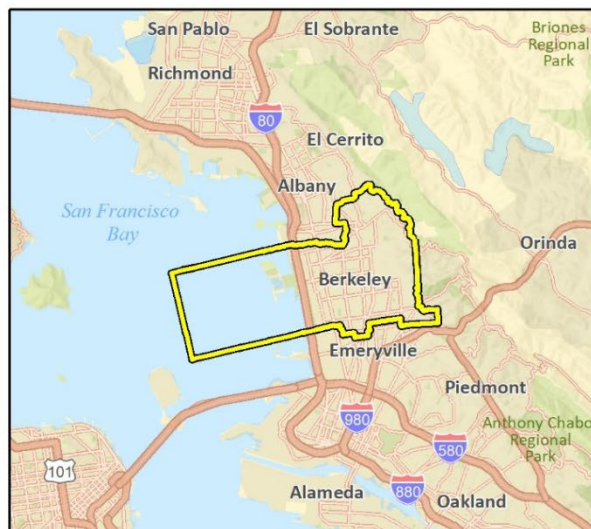


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Dahlton Brown, Executive Director of Administration

Wilton Rancheria

9728 Kent Street

Elk Grove, CA, 95624

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Brown,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Wilton Rancheria, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map

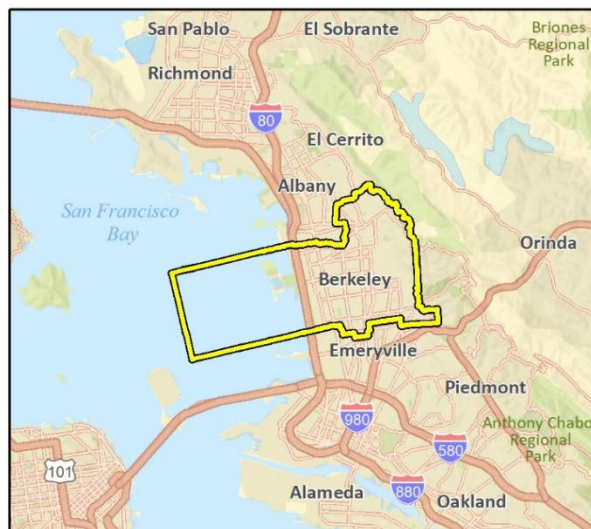


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department

Land Use Planning Division

January 31, 2025

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

Subject: SB 18 Notice of Proposed Action by Berkeley City Council to amend the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Woodrow,

The City of Berkeley is preparing an amendment to the General Plan to reference the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This General Plan amendment is a procedural action taken as a part of the larger Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project.

Project Description

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Adoption of the updated LHMP by the Planning Commission and City Council is required for the City to be eligible for federal and state mitigation funding and post-disaster recovery funding. In order to comply with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) requirements, the City must also make a technical amendment to its General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to explicitly reference the adoption year of the current LHMP update, as it did in 2014 and 2019.

On March 18, 2025 the Berkeley City Council will hold a public hearing, consider public input and take action to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the 2024 LHMP.

The broader effort to comprehensively update the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element is on-going and anticipated to be completed in early 2027. We will continue to keep you apprised of pertinent City actions pursuant to Senate Bill 18.

Senate Bill (SB) 18 Notice of Substantial General Plan Amendment

SB 18 requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission prior to the adoption or amendment of a city or county general plan for the purpose of protecting cultural places on lands affected by the proposal (Gov. Code § 65352.3(a)(1)).

Request for Comments on the Proposed City Council Action

On May 13, 2024 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a Sacred Lands File Search and a current SB 18 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The response, dated June 10, 2024 recommended that we contact you to engage in consultation.

On June 17, 2024, the City sent a letter informing you of the 90-day period to engage in consultation relating to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley.

Your band's input is important to the City of Berkeley's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to comment on the proposed technical edit which would amend the General Plan Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the current LHMP. The Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band, under the provisions of SB 18, has 45 days from the date of receipt of this notice to comment on the proposed action.

If you wish to receive additional notice of the public hearing to be held by City Council on March 18, 2025 please respond to this letter in writing no later than February 26, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@berkeleyca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Berkeley

Enclosed:
Project Location Map

cc: Alisa Shen, Principal Planner

Figure 1 City of Berkeley Location Map



 City of Berkeley

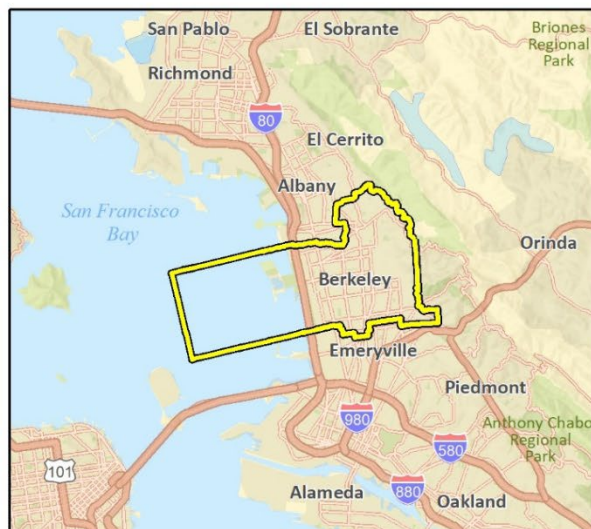


Fig. 1 Regional Location



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Andrew Galvan, President Emeritus

The Ohlone Indian Tribe

P.O. Box 3388

Fremont, CA, 94539

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Galvan:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Ohlone Indian Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Ann Marie Sayers, Retired Honorable Elder

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan

P.O. Box 28

Hollister, CA, 95024

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Sayers:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashley James", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Bernadette Quiroz, MLD Tribal Rep.

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area

2570 N. First Street 2nd Floor #1035

San Jose, CA, 95131

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Quiroz:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Bunny Tarin, Administrator

Guidiville Rancheria of California

P. O. Box 339

Talmage, CA 95481

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Tarin:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Guidiville Rancheria of California is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Guidiville Rancheria of California, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Corrina Gould, Chairperson

Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation

10926 Edes Ave

Oakland, CA, 94603

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Gould:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Carla Munoz, Tribal Council

Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe

602 W Fernleaf Avenue

Pamona, CA 91766

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Munoz:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Charlene Nijmeh, Chairperson

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area

2570 N. First Street 2nd Floor #1035

San Jose, CA, 95131

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Nijmeh:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the SF Bay Area, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Cheyenne Gould, Tribal Cultural Resource Manager

Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation

10926 Edes Ave

Oakland, CA, 94603

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Gould:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Deja Gould, Language Program Manager

Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation

10926 Edes Ave

Oakland, CA, 94603

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Gould:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashley James", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Desiree Vigil, THPO

The Ohlone Indian Tribe

259 Winwood Avenue

Pacifica, CA, 94044

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Vigil:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Ohlone Indian Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Ed Ketchum, Chairman

Amah Mutson Tribal Band

P.O. BOX 5272

Galt, CA 95632

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Ketchum:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Amah Mutson Tribal Band is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutson Tribal Band, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Garry Zimmer, Senior Cultural Monitor & Consultant
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
2451 Tyrolean Way
Sacramento, CA, 95821

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Zimmer:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Henry Munoz, Cultural Resource Officer

Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe

108 South Acacia

Rialto, CA 92376

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Munoz:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Katherine Perez, Chairperson

Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe

P.O. Box 717

Linden, CA, 95236

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Perez:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Tribal Chairwoman

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan

971 S 7th Street

San Jose, CA 95122

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Sayers-Roods:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson

Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band

1179 Rock Haven Ct.

Salinas, CA, 93906

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Woodrow:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Wuksachi Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Michelle St. Clair, Executive Director of Cultural Preservation

Wilton Rancheria

9728 Kent Street

Elk Grove, CA, 95624

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. St. Clair:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Wilton Rancheria is important to the City's planning process.

We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Wilton Rancheria, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Michelle Zimmer, Senior Cultural Monitor & Consultant

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista

3030 Soda Bay Rd

Lake Port, CA, 95453

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Zimmer:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Shelby Brown, Senior Cultural Monitor & Consultant, Councilwoman

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista

2451 Tyrolean Way

Sacramento, CA, 95821

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Steven Hutchason, Preservation Officer

Wilton Rancheria

9728 Kent Street

Elk Grove, CA 95624

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Hutchason:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Wilton Rancheria is important to the City's planning process.

We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Wilton Rancheria, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Samuel Rodriguez, Cultural Resource Officer

Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe

29539 Oakbridge Dr

Menifee, CA, 92586

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

The proposed project must comply with California Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52 of 2014), which requires local governments to conduct meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes that have requested to be notified by lead agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated.

Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Timothy Perez, Tribal Compliance Officer

Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe

P.O. Box 717

Linden, CA, 95236

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Perez:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Northern Valley Yokut / Ohlone Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

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Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development



Planning and Development Department
Land Use Planning Division

April 20, 2026

Vincent Medina, President

The Ohlone Indian Tribe

P.O Box 3388

Fremont, CA, 94539

Subject: AB 52 Consultation for a City of Berkeley General Plan Amendment related to the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan Project in Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Medina:

The City of Berkeley is preparing an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed amendment to the General Plan to update the current Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and to create a new Environmental Justice Element. The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Project Description

The General Plan Amendments Project (“Project”) is meant to update the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and to create a new Environmental Justice Element, in alignment with recent State laws. The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years. The Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element supports the City’s efforts in preventing and responding to disasters and emergencies and disaster recovery. The Environmental Justice Element identifies communities facing marginalization, identifies objectives and policies to reduce health risks in those communities, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of communities facing marginalization and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The project area is citywide (see enclosed map).

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation Requirement

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Request for Input on Tribal Cultural Resources

On April 9, 2026 a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a current AB 52 Native American Contact List for the vicinity of the project area. The NAHC responded on April 14, 2026 and recommended that we contact you to see if you have any knowledge of cultural resources within the project vicinity or if you would like to request consultation with the City regarding the General Plan Amendment.

The input of the Ohlone Indian Tribe is important to the City's planning process. We request that you advise us as early as possible if you wish to consult on the proposed project. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, under the provisions of AB 52, has 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice to advise the City if you are interested in further consultation. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact Ashley James at 510-981-7458 or via e-mail at ajames@cityofberkeley.info.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley James, AICP

Senior Planner

Planning and Development Department

City of Berkeley

Enclosed:

Project Location Map

Cc: Alene Pearson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development