# City of Palmdale General Plan Update
# Joint General Plan Advisory Committee #13 and
# Public Workshop: Safety Policy Frameworks

**June 30, 2021 | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
*Virtual Meeting via Zoom with livestream to YouTube*

## Meeting Agenda

### Meeting Objectives
- Review existing setting related to sustainability, resilience, and climate topics
- Review and refine preliminary sustainability, resilience, and climate goal and policy recommendations for the General Plan Update

### Meeting Agenda

**6:30 pm**      **Call to Order**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome and introductions
- GPAC roll call
- Approval of GPAC #12 meeting minutes

**6:40 pm**      **Presentation and Q&A – Policy Framework**

- Background
- Existing setting
- Existing plans and programs
- Policy framework recommendations

**7:40 pm**      **Discussion (Breakout Groups) and Report Out**

**8:20 pm**      **Public Comment**

**8:30 pm**      **Wrap-up + Adjourn**

*Members of the public are invited to join this joint Zoom meeting by **registering here**. In addition, the joint meeting will be livestreamed to YouTube, which can be watched on the **Palmdale 2045 YouTube Channel by clicking here**.*

***Attachments:*** *Draft meeting minutes from GPAC #12 meeting held on June 17, 2021.*
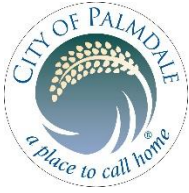
# City of Palmdale General Plan Update
# Joint General Plan Advisory Committee #12 and
# Public Workshop: Safety Policy Frameworks

**June 17, 2021 | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
*Virtual Meeting via Zoom livestreamed to YouTube*

## Draft Minutes for Special Meeting

## Meeting Objectives

- Review existing setting related to safety topics
- Review and refine preliminary safety goal and policy recommendations for the General Plan Update

## Attendees

### GPAC Members

**Present:**

Tony Avila, Juan Blanco, Colby Estes, Lourdes T. Everett, Laura Gordon, Theresa Hambro, Aurora Hernandez, Pat Hunt, Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Sheri Kaneshiro, Teresa Lamping, and Jason Zink

**Absent:** Matthew Harris

### City Staff

Carlene Saxton, Director of Economic and Community Development; Megan Taggart, Planning Manager; Ben Fiss, Senior Planner; and Ruben Hovanesian, Senior Civil Engineer

### Consultant Team

Raimi + Associates: Simran Malhotra and Melissa Stark
Rincon Consultants: Lexi Journey and Andrew Hatt

### Public

Nine members of the community joined the Zoom meeting, though no public sign-in is available.

## Meeting Summary

1. **Introduction**

   The virtual meeting began with a review of the joint meeting agenda, roll call of GPAC Members, introductions of City staff and the consultant team, and recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

   Pat Hunt motion to approve GPAC #11 meeting minutes (February 24, 2021) and Deborah Rutkowski-Hines seconded the motion. None opposed so the motion passed.

## 2. Presentation & Feedback

Simran Malhotra provided an overview of the General Plan which included the project schedule, summary of engagement to date, description and display of the preferred land use map, and an introduction to the policy frameworks and General Plan Safety Element.

Lexi Journey and Andrew Hatt then led an overview of the existing safety setting in Palmdale including existing plans and programs, and presentation on the draft safety policy framework including draft goals and policies.

During the presentation, the group stopped for questions and to answer interactive polls. All poll questions were available to members of the public and GPAC, but please note that not all participants responded to all polls.

In advance of the meeting, the project website was updated with background materials including the safety policy framework, public facilities and open space existing conditions report, and the natural and manmade hazards report. In addition, GPAC members were emailed these materials to review as context for the meeting.

Below are descriptions of each presentation section and summaries of responses to each poll question. Poll responses are combined for GPAC members and members of the public.

### General Plan Overview

The background component of the presentation began with an overview of the General Plan process, how it is defined, the Palmdale 2045 schedule, summary of community engagement activities to date, major General Plan vision themes, and an introduction to the policy frameworks.

**How many General Plan related meetings have you attended?**
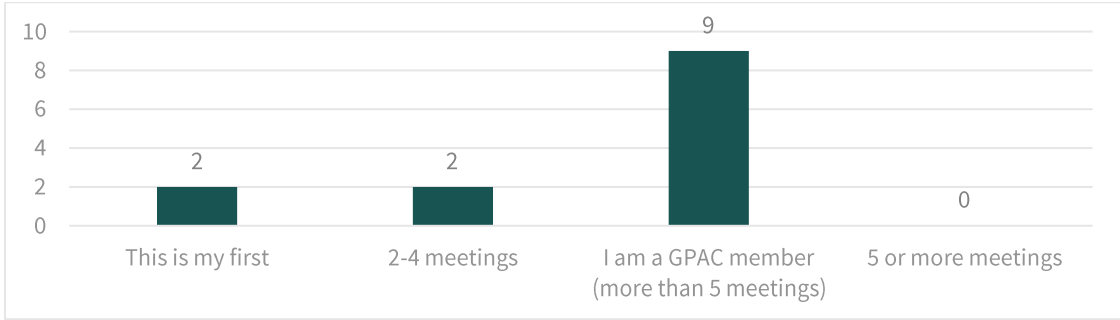


**How did you hear about this meeting?**
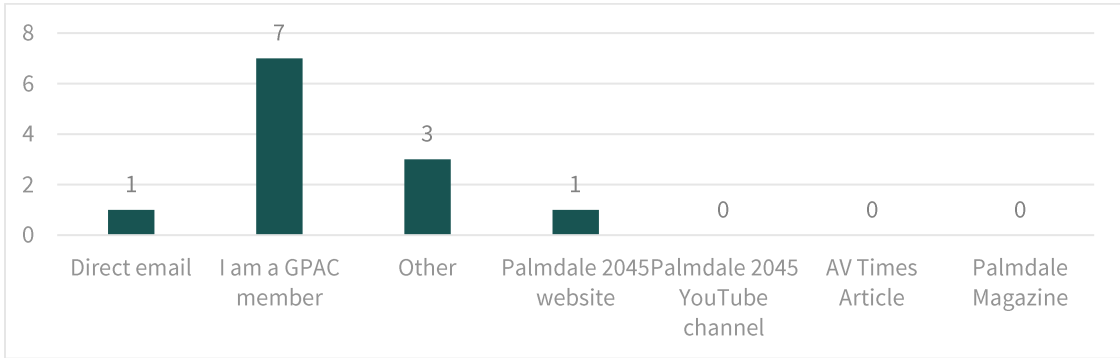
## Existing Setting

As a precursor to the draft goals and policies, Andrew reviewed wildfire, natural, fault, and flooding hazards, with an overview of infrastructure, airport safety, emergency facilities, and crime. Existing plans and programs were covered, and feedback from the community was highlighted. The General Plan Team noted that the presentation does not cover all topics included within the Safety Element.
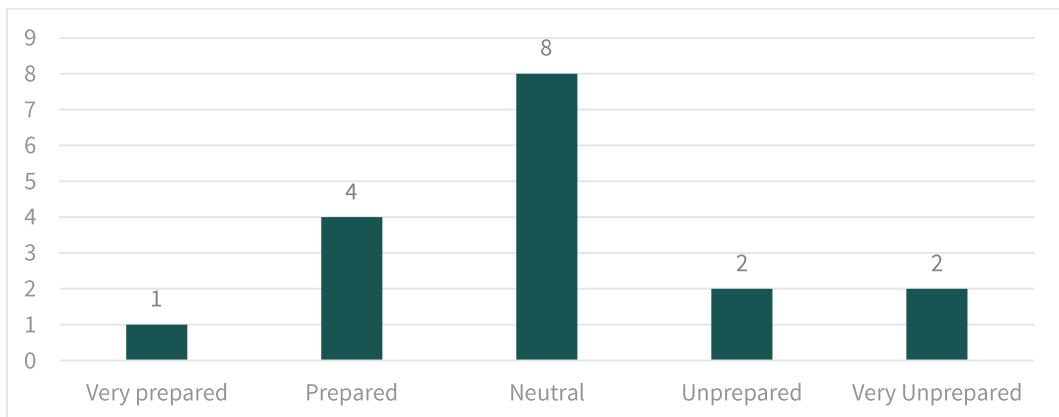
**Did any of this information surprise you?**
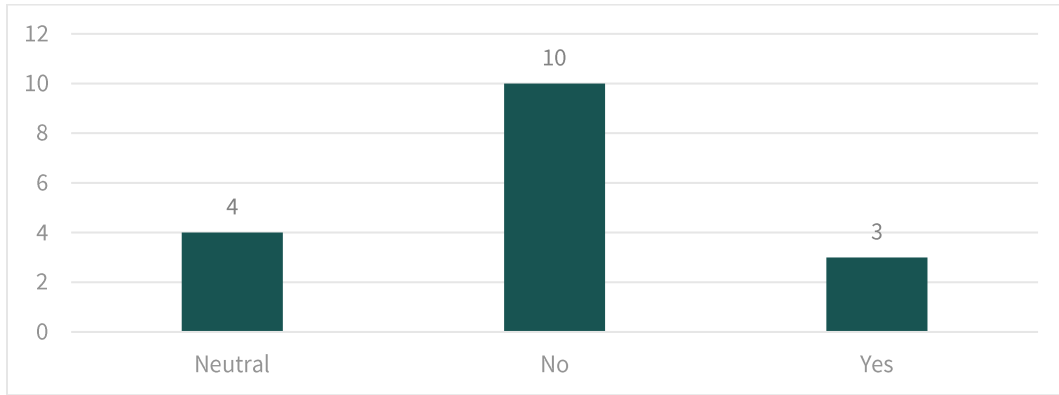


**How prepared do you feel personally for a future emergency?**
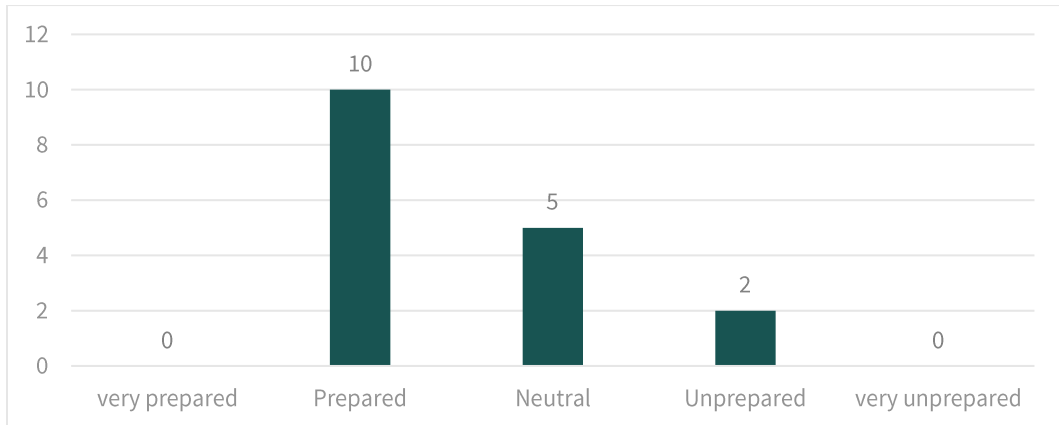


**How prepared do you feel the City is for a future emergency?**

## Policy Framework

Proposed goals and policies were introduced in this section of the presentation. Simran provided an overview of the framework structure, followed by review of desired outcomes, performance metrics, and draft goals and policies led by Lexi.

**Which of these safety element topics/goals are you most concerned about?**
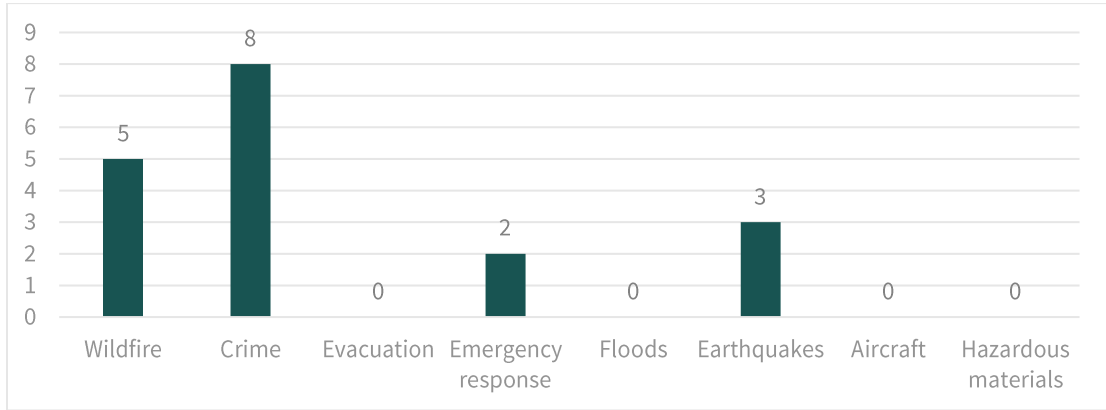


**How important is it for the General Plan Update to address infectious diseases planning/programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?**
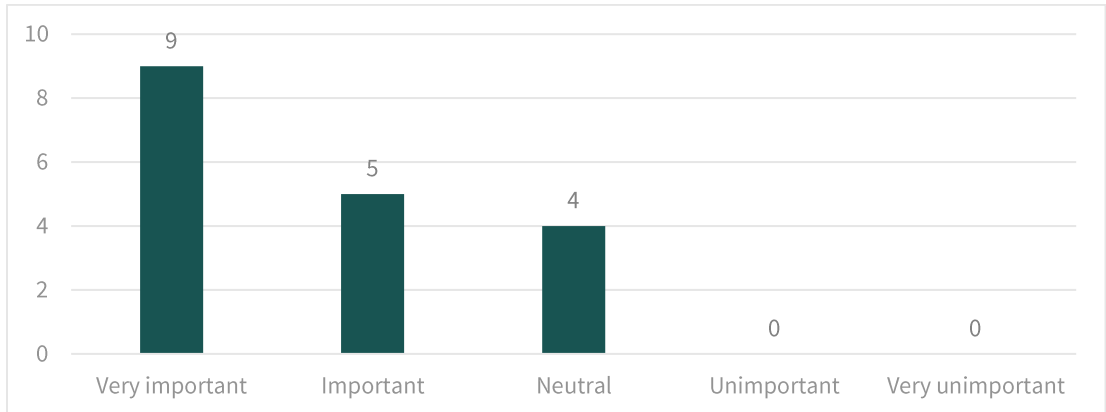


**During an emergency, which of the following is your biggest concern?**

**Other Questions and Comments**
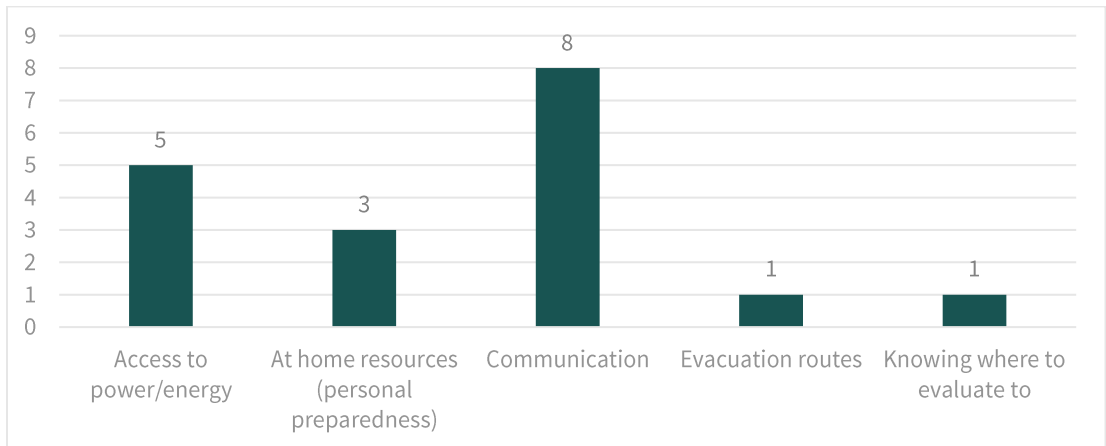
Throughout the presentation, GPAC members asked questions and provided various comments. Several questions below were answered during the presentation.

- What is the Sphere of Influence that is shown on the hazard maps?
  - *A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is a planning boundary outside of an agency's legal boundary (such as the city limit line) that designates the agency's probable future boundary and service area.*
- Why are we using crime data from 2015-2018?
  - *The data presented is from the Existing Conditions Report, which was completed in 2019 using the most complete data available, which was from 2018. This serves as the baseline for the General Plan Update project.*
- Perceived crime is an issue, so we may want to show the most up to date crime data to help reduce those concerns.
- What date was the fire hazard map prepared?
- Can we provide rain pipes with water birds and rainwater catch basins in City Ranch and Anaverde area to reduce wildfire risks?
- How often is the southwest runway at Plant 42 used?
- Can we have more interaction with the fire departments? They can assist with emergency response training like CPR.

## Discussion and Report Out

Following the presentation, participants and GPAC members were invited to join small group discussions. Members of the public joined a breakout group facilitated by Andrew and Ben, while GPAC members stayed in the main room for a discussion facilitated by Simran and Lexi. After a 40-minute session, the groups reunited for a report out of conversation highlights from both groups. Below is a summary of the report out.

*Public Small Group Report Out*

- Residents expressed concern over future wildfires.
- Desire to see an education program that includes evaluation plans and key reminders for residents.
- Recent street racing accidents highlight the ongoing pedestrian safety concerns that need to be addressed.
- Desire to capture and recharge ground water to support limited locally available water.
- Consider Fox Field as a location for future passenger air service.
- Concern over resident notification and communication during an emergency.
- Residents top safety concern is crime and crime prevention.
- Expand community-building events like food truck nights, community gardens, and community clean up events.

*GPAC Small Group Report Out*

- Advertise and educate the community about Palmdale's emergency evacuation center (the primary one is City Hall).
- Consider an annual newsletter with emergency preparedness and evacuation resources for residents.

- Public Schools have safety and emergency plans that are available to the public when requested.
- Interest in what locations can be used for public gathering in the event of an emergency.
- Members of the public can sign up for text message alerts from the City of Palmdale.
- Fireworks pose safety and noise issues in Palmdale.
- Suggest that landowners are informed when law enforcement is called to a rental property.
- Consider new public safety events for bicyclists and pedestrians focused on youth education.

### 3. Public Comment

Members of the public who joined the meeting were invited to share public comments—in addition to the breakout group sessions—however, none provided comments.

### 4. Policy Framework Comments

Melissa shared how to comment and review the policy framework document, by visiting the Palmdale2045.org website and clicking on "Policy." All policy framework documents will be uploaded to the website and will remain open for review and comment through August 2021.

### 5. Next Steps and Wrap Up

Simran shared upcoming meetings and next steps at the close of the meeting. The next policy framework meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 30th at 6:30 pm and will cover resilience, sustainability, and climate change. The General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scoping meeting will take place prior to the resilience framework meeting on June 30th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

*A recording of this meeting is available on the* [*Palmdale 2045 YouTube Channel*](#)

*Attached: Facilitator worksheets from both small group discussions.*

# Facilitator Worksheet

## Questions, Notes, and Report Out:

1. **Are there any outcomes we should consider?**

   Notes

   - Emergency evacuation
     - Where are emergency evacuation centers located?
       - City hall is the main emergency center
     - Expand education regarding location of the evacuation centers
     - Schools have safety and emergency plans that the City should consider
     - General emergency or active shooter gathering location – agreements with school systems to use gyms as safety centers
   - Emergency Communication
     - How does the City communicate with residents during an emergency?
     - Palmdale offers an emergency text message system that residents can subscribe to for updates.
   - City has plans with utilities for power shut-offs in the event of an emergency.
   - Metrics
     - Once a year City sends a newsletter regarding emergency centers

2. **Are there any policy ideas that we should consider?**

   - Address fireworks
   - Address crime associated with rental units

     - Landowners don't know when police and sheriff shows up to their house so landowners can be informed

     - Ongoing coordination with the sheriff's department

   - Public safety educational events for schools regarding bike and pedestrian safety

3. **Of the policy ideas, which resonate the most?**

4. **Is there anything else you'd like to share about these topics?**

# Facilitator Worksheet

Special Meeting: Joint GPAC and Public Workshop
Policy Framework Series: Safety, Infrastructure, and Hazards | June 17, 2021
Public Small Group Notes

## Questions, Notes, and Report Out:

1. **Are there any outcomes we should consider?**

   Notes

   - Anaverde, concerned about wildfires
     - In hills, need people who are in the community and part of evacuations
       - In past fire (July 9th, 2010) Street S experienced high concentration of people not knowing where to go; people were shutting off their gas instead of keeping air conditioning on
       - Trainings on wildfire preparedness/evacuation readiness would be helpful
     - Evacuations can be difficult with how streets are oriented
   - City preparation is key to community safety in all disaster/emergency scenarios
     - Need to plan with residents to make sure that they are informed and now what to do in a moment
     - Residents do not have good existing preparation, easier for panic to set in among the community
     - Send out brochures, flyers, online information to residents regarding preparedness, evacuation routes, etc.
   - Recent street race incident brought up safety issues on the road, particularly related to alternative forms of transportation like biking and walking to feel safe
     - Outcome – safer transportation system design, more alternative transportation infrastructure
   - How to keep water during floods in the valley and City, and capture runoff during floods to recharge water facilities and put toward other productive uses

2. **Are there any policy ideas that we should consider?**

   Notes

   - Look into building a new airport
   - Include a policy regarding notification of emergencies and evacuations

3.  **Of the policy ideas, which resonate the most?**

    Notes

    - Wildfires, earthquakes, floods, crime
    - Crime is everywhere, so presents a consistent risk
        - In the past, participated in group/forum that discussed things currently going on in the City. Communication is helpful, and and these in-person events help make citizens proud about what is going on in the community.

4.  **Is there anything else you'd like to share about these topics?**

    Notes

    - Likes community houses and gardens, part of making people take pride in their community and connects with preventing crime
        - More opportunities for people to take pride and participate in their community. Vacant lots present good opportunities for more community gardens and other food trucks/events.
        - Anaverde gets a lot of quality food trucks, popular places for the community to get together. Would be nice to get all local food trucks to an event at large community parks.
    - In the past, people in the community helped each other. Now, it seems that people are not spending as much time to get to know each other. Increasing opportunities/events for people to get to know each other is helpful
    - There is a lot of trash on trails, around the City. More community clean-up groups and events would be helpful. There are some groups that do this on the weekends, advertised in City newsletter.
        - Public Safety units write a lot of orders regarding illegal dumping in the City. Undeveloped lands are the most problematic for people dumping illegally.