Why update guidelines?
How have they changed?
Relationship to Coastal Plans and Hazard Mitigation Plans?
Why update guidelines?

The Office of Planning and Research is responsible for issuing guidelines for for preparation and content of local general plans (Government Code §65040.2).

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

As of 2015, more than half of local jurisdictions have general plans that are over 15 years old.

The process of adopting a new general plan can be time consuming and costly.
Vision for the GPG Update

a suite of tools

1. Policy Document: General Plan Guidelines
2. Online Data
   Mapping Tool
3. Updated Website
Integrating Suggestions from Outreach

• Vision, how-to-guide, and outreach strategies open the guidelines

• Restructured layout to be user friendly
  – Clear description and examples of multiple ways to structure GP

• Sample policies for various communities in cut and paste format

• Improvement of website and tool for users
  – Guidelines divided by sections, link directly to tool, sample policies, and examples
General Plan Guidance

Required Elements

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

Additional Elements often Included

- Healthy communities
- Climate Change
- Economic Development
General Plan Guidance

Flood Management and Resilience

Flood management can be integrated in to every element in the General Plan, but must be included in the land use, conservation, and safety sections.

Cities and Counties may choose to combine this discussion in a section on climate change or separate water element, for example.

The updated GPG guidelines include robust discussions on community resilience and climate change, with links to state and federal resources for more information.

Relationships between elements and topics are expanded also, to focus on connections between drought, flooding, and fire, for example.
As the master document for planning in a jurisdiction, all plans must be consistent with the general plan, including hazard mitigation plans, specific plans, and climate action plans. The general plan must also have internal consistency, including consistency between elements and policies.

AB 2140 (2006) authorizes, local governments to integrate their LHMPs into the safety elements of their general plans. Integration is encouraged through a post-disaster financial incentive which authorizes the state to use available California Disaster Assistance Act funds to cover local shares of the 25% non-federal portion of grant-funded post-disaster projects.
Flood Management and Resilience

The new mapping tool will also have layers of flood data information, coastal imagery, and additional layers of local data can be added in to paint a more complete picture for planning purposes.
General Plan Guidance

Next Steps for Draft Release
Next Steps

- Incorporate edits and comments from internal review
- Public comment and outreach
- Integration of comments and edits
- Public release and outreach
- Continued improvement of tool and website
Next Steps

• Questions?
www.opr.ca.gov
Sahar Shirazi
Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
Sahar.shirazi@opr.ca.gov