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Cc: [OPR State Clearinghouse](#); OLRA@DOC
Subject: Draft Lassen County Safety Element (SCH #2022110358) - CGS comments
Date: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:47:15 AM



Hello Nancy McAllister,

The California Geological Survey (CGS) has received a Notice of Completion for the Lassen County Draft Safety Element. This email conveys the following comments from CGS concerning geologic issues related to the planning area:

1. Fault Rupture Hazards

On page 2, the Draft Safety Element states:

“Active faults are identified by the U.S. Department of Conservation, and construction of new development is prohibited in areas around them to prevent repetitive loss of structures and threats to the safety of occupants. These unsafe areas around active faults, generally 50 feet, are regulatory zones referred to as Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones.”

There are a number of inaccuracies in this statement. The County should refer to CGS Special Publication 42 and revise this section of the Safety Element to accurately summarize the roles and responsibilities of the State, lead agencies, and owners/developers. Specifically:

- “Active” faults are better described as “Holocene-active” faults;
- It is the responsibility of the State Geologist, not the U.S. Department of Conservation, to compile maps delineating earthquake fault zones;
- Construction is not prohibited within Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones;
- Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones typically extend for several hundred feet to either side of mapped fault trace. Setback zones recommended as part of site-specific fault investigations triggered by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act are commonly 50 feet, although there is no default or minimum setback distance included in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.

The County may also wish to cite the following website, which will always provide an up-to-date map of earthquake zones of required investigation:

<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>

If you have any additional comments or questions, please feel free to call or email.

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