



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
THE GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE**

**To:** County Clerk of Contra Costa &  
Interested Individuals

**From:** Lead Agency - City of Walnut Creek  
Community Development Department  
Planning Division  
1666 N. Main Street  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent, Completion and Availability of a Draft Negative Declaration

**PROJECT TITLE:** General Plan Safety Element Update

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** Allison Rustick, Associate Planner  
City of Walnut Creek, (925) 943-5899,  
[rustick@walnutcreekca.gov](mailto:rustick@walnutcreekca.gov), 1666 N. Main St, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**PROJECT LOCATION:** City of Walnut Creek, CA

**COMMENT PERIOD:** Monday, February 9, 2026, through 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**Project Description:** The City is proposing to update its existing Safety Element of the General Plan. The Safety Element Update, as part of the Walnut Creek General Plan, would establish goals, policies, and actions that are intended to guide City decision-making related to safety and climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The purpose of the Safety Element goals, policies, and actions is to increase the city's adaptive capacity to respond to hazards and climate change-related impacts to meet the current and future needs of people living and working in Walnut Creek.

The Safety Element assesses existing conditions of potential hazards, health risks, and environmental burdens faced by residents and visitors. The Safety Element Update includes policies related to future development intended to minimize the risk of personal injury, loss of life, property damage, and environmental damage associated with natural and human-made hazards. The Safety Element Update addresses the city's natural hazards and human activities that may pose a threat to public safety within the following topic areas:

- Seismic and Other Geologic Hazards
- Flooding
- Hazardous Materials
- Fire Hazards
- Public Safety
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Precipitation
- Drought

The goals, policies, and actions incorporated in the proposed Safety Element Update would not facilitate the development of new residential, commercial, or industrial uses. The goals, policies, and actions of the Safety

Element Update may facilitate new development including construction and installation of new water supply, fire protection, roads, drainage improvements, and other utilities infrastructure, as well as repair of existing facilities. Additionally, the Safety Element Update may facilitate trimming or removal of vegetation and trees throughout the City due to fuel reduction requirements in the Safety Element Update intended to reduce fire risk.

**Permits and Approvals:** The following approvals are required:

- Adoption of IS/ND pursuant to CEQA
- Approval of a General Plan Amendment- Safety Element update

**Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration:** In accordance with Section 15072(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, notice is hereby given of the City's intent to adopt a Negative Declaration of the project listed above. A negative declaration is prepared for a project when the initial study has identified there is no substantial evidence in the light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment. The City of Walnut Creek has completed a review of the proposed project, and on the basis of an Initial Study, finds that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment. The City has prepared a draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study that are available for public review online at the Safety Element Update Webpage ([link](#)). Persons may also schedule an appointment to view a hard copy of the draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study by contacting Allison Rustick, staff planner for the project, at [rustick@walnutcreekca.gov](mailto:rustick@walnutcreekca.gov) or at (925) 943-5899 x2186.

**Comment Period:** As mandated by State Law, the minimum comment period for this document is 30 (thirty) days **beginning on Monday, February 9, 2026, and ending at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.** Comments may be submitted during the review period. Persons having comments concerning this project, including objections to the basis of the determination set forth in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration, are invited to furnish their comments summarizing the specific and factual basis for their comments, in writing to:

Allison Rustick, Associate Planner  
City of Walnut Creek Community Development Department  
Planning Division  
1666 North Main Street  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Email: [rustick@walnutcreekca.gov](mailto:rustick@walnutcreekca.gov) Phone: (925) 943-5899

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21177, any legal challenge to the adoption of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be limited to those issues presented to the City during the public comment period and/or during any duly noticed public hearings.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council for this project will be held by the Planning Commission on March 26, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 1666 N Main Street, Walnut Creek, at 6:00pm.

A public hearing held by City Council to consider adoption of the Safety Element Update is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 1666 N Main Street, Walnut Creek, at 6:00pm. Additional public hearing notice will be provided.



Allison Rustick, Associate Planner  
City of Walnut Creek  
Community Development Department  
1666 North Main Street  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Date of Notice: February 9, 2026