

**From:** [Olson, Brian@DOC](mailto:Olson,Brian@DOC)  
**To:** [rustick@walnutcreekca.gov](mailto:rustick@walnutcreekca.gov)  
**Cc:** [OLRA@DOC](mailto:OLRA@DOC); [LCI State Clearinghouse](mailto:LCI State Clearinghouse); [Gomez, DarylAnne@DOC](mailto:Gomez,DarylAnne@DOC)  
**Subject:** City of Walnut Creek Draft Safety Element Update comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 11:50:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**SCH Number**

2026020371

**Lead Agency**

City of Walnut Creek

**Document Title**

Walnut Creek General Plan Safety Element Update

**Document Type**

NEG - Negative Declaration

Hello, Allison—

Thank you for providing the City's proposed Safety Element update for our review. This email conveys the following recommendations from CGS concerning geologic issues within the Safety Element document:

1. Landside Hazards

- The Safety Element document discusses landsliding as potential hazards and provides a map of "Landslide Hazards" (Figure 3, page 6-10). CGS notes the landslide susceptibility classes depicted in Figure 3 appear to represent "rainfall-induced" landsliding, not "earthquake-induced" landsliding, which is a unique triggering mechanism. The City should consider providing a discussion of this specific seismic slope instability hazard in addition to the existing landslide hazard section.
- CGS recently released Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation (EZRI) for a large portion of the Walnut Creek area on February 22, 2024. Additional earthquake-induced landslide hazard zones also exist for the remaining portions of the city limits in the Clayton and Las Trampas Ridge quadrangles. The City should supplement the "Landslides" section of the Safety Element with a discussion of official CGS EZRI for earthquake-induced landslides, and consider providing an additional maps of these official regulatory zones, which are different than those provided in Figure 3.
- CGS maps and data are available here:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/39cebc5f40e3497aafc9a8a578f82eca>

<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=regulatorymaps>

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

- Cities and counties affected by EZRI must withhold development permits for sites within a zone until the geologic and soil conditions of the project site are investigated and appropriate mitigation measures, if any, are incorporated into development plans. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (1990) also requires sellers of real property (and their agents) within a mapped hazard zone to disclose at the time of sale that the property lies within such a zone.

## 2. Fault Hazards

- The Safety Element provides a discussion of earthquake surface fault rupture and CGS' Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones (APEFZ) in the region, including a map depicting the locations of APEFZ within the City limits (Figure 4.7-1). However, CGS notes the surfaces traces of the Concord Fault Zone and related APEFZ are currently being revised and the preliminary APEFZ will be available on May 21, 2026 (final regulatory zones will be available on November 19, 2026). The City should update their figure with these new fault traces and zones when they become available using the links below.
- Current CGS APEFZ maps and GIS data are available here:
  - Alquist-Priolo Fault Zones - <https://cadoc.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=29d2f0e222924896833b69ff1b6d2ca3>
  - Fault Traces - <https://cadoc.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=15b355c071ab4ef78831daef25490a70>
  - EQZ App - <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=regulatorymaps>



@CAgeosurvey  
 @CAgeosurvey.bsky.social  
 FOLLOW US!

**Brian Olson, CEG**  
**Senior Engineering Geologist**  
**Seismic Hazards Program**

**16** Years of Public Service

**California Geological Survey**  
 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 850, Los Angeles, CA 90013  
 M: (213) 507-1080

*"A team is not a group of people who work together.  
 A team is a group of people who trust each other." – Simon Sinek*

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use, or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws, including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

