



**Regular Meeting Agenda  
Planning Commission**

*JAMES WILSON - CHAIR*  
*MOHAMMAD HABIB - VICE-CHAIR*  
*PAUL LAKE - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*  
*JOSEPH MUELLER - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*  
*DAVID LOVATO - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*  
*LIAM DOWNEY - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*  
*STEVE ADAMO - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*

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**Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
7:00 PM**

**Council Chamber Building  
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

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Vice Chair Habib will be participating remotely as follows:

5215 Oakton Street  
Skokie, IL 60077

Public comment shall be allowed from this location.

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Morgan Hill Planning Commission meetings are held in person, with the option for the public to attend in person or participate by teleconference/video conference. Information on how the public may observe and participate in the meeting is below.

**MEETING PARTICIPATION**

**Language Interpretation / Interpretación de idiomas**

Live Digital Language Interpretation is available. To access the interpretation during the meeting, go to:

<https://live.pocketalk.com/guest/S71BBUiWwiqXh3sPBf9Bfs2Ey4OYY9zgv8vZB5>

or scan the QR code below:

Tenemos Interpretación digital en vivo. Para usar la interpretación durante la reunión, visite: <https://live.pocketalk.com/guest/S71BBUiWwiqXh3sPBf9Bfs2Ey4OYY9zgv8vZB5>

o escanee el código QR a continuación:



You can use a headset on your phone for audio or read the transcript on your device. Tablets and disposable headphones will be provided in person during the meeting to those who do not have their own devices.

Puede usar audífonos en su celular para escuchar el audio o leer la transcripción. Durante la reunión, se prestarán tabletas y audífonos desechables para las personas que no tengan su propio aparato.

### **Remote Participation**

Morgan Hill Planning Commission meetings are held in person. The community may attend in person or via Zoom (video/teleconference). The meetings are also live-streamed on the City's website and Facebook page.

As a courtesy, and technology permitting, members of the public may attend online. However, the City cannot guarantee that the public's access to online technology will be uninterrupted, and technical difficulties may occur from time to time. Unless required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, the meeting will continue despite technical difficulties for participants using the online option.

Those wishing to participate in the meetings remotely must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/PlanningCommissionMtg>. Additionally, Zoom participants must be running the latest version or will be required to update to it before joining the meeting remotely.

Remote participation is also available by calling (669) 900-9128 and entering webinar ID: 862 0324 6251#. Dial \*9 to raise your hand and be called upon to speak for up to 3 minutes. Dial \*6 to unmute.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment may be offered verbally at the meeting or in writing before the meeting.

Those attending remotely may only offer public comment for items on the agenda in any of these three categories:

- Consent Calendar
- Other Business
- Public Hearings

Public comment will be heard from those attending in person first with the submission of a speaker card. Once that is complete, we will move to those on Zoom that have their hand raised. Following public comment from Zoom, we will close the public comment period for that item.

Remote public comment for items not on the agenda will not be accepted.

Written public comment may be submitted to the Planning Office:

- In person at the Planning Commission Meeting;
- Via email to [pcpubliccomment@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:pcpubliccomment@morganhill.ca.gov); or
- Hand delivered or mailed to the Planning Division at 17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Please email your comments to the Planning Office no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday (the day before the Planning Commission meeting) so that your comments can be submitted to the members of the Planning Commission with sufficient time to review them. You may continue to provide written comments up to noon on Tuesday (the day of the meeting), although Planning Commissioners may not have sufficient time to review them before the meeting. Public comments submitted to the Planning Division after noon (12:00 p.m.) the day of the meeting will be provided to the Planning Commission as time allows.

Written comments WILL NOT be read aloud during the Planning Commission Meeting. Please note that written comments are posted on the City's website. It is recommended that you do not include any personal information that you do not want to be posted on the web. Please be advised that communications directed to the Planning Commission are public records and are subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act and Brown Act unless exempt from disclosure under the applicable law. Communications will NOT be edited for redactions and will be printed/posted as submitted.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Office at (408) 310-4709 or by email at [planning@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:planning@morganhill.ca.gov). Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two full business days before the start of the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

### **DECLARATION OF POSTING**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public are entitled to address the Planning Commission concerning any item within the Morgan Hill Planning Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

## **MINUTES APPROVAL**

### **1. MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Recommendation:

1. Accept the March 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **2. SAFETY, SERVICES, & INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT UPDATE/CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP**

Recommendation:

1. Review and accept the City of Morgan Hill CAPS Recommendations Report draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and goals, policies, and actions to be added to the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## **NOTICE**

Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the majority of the Planning Commission less than 72 hours prior to an open meeting, will be made available for public inspection at the front counter at City Hall located at 17575 Peak Avenue,

Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 and at the Morgan Hill Public Library located at 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, California, 95037 during normal business hours. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Planning Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address the Planning Commission on any issue that is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card located in the foyer of the Council Chambers and deliver it to the Minutes Clerk prior to discussion of the item. You are not required to give your name on the speaker card in order to speak to the Planning Commission, but it is very helpful. When you are called, proceed to the podium and the Chair will recognize you. If you wish to address the Planning Commission on any other item of interest to the public, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting following the same procedure described above. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less.

Please submit written correspondence to the Minutes Clerk, who will distribute correspondence to the Planning Commission.

Persons interested in proposing an item for the Planning Commission agenda should contact a member of the Commission who may plan an item on the agenda for a future Commission meeting. Should your comments require Planning's action, your request may be placed on the next appropriate agenda. Planning Commission discussion or action may not be taken until your item appears on an agenda. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) Government Code §54950.

City Council Policies and Procedures (CP 03-01) outlines the procedure for the conduct of public hearings. Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission, which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

For a copy of Commission Policies and Procedures CP 97-01, please contact the City Clerk's office (408) 779-7259, (408) 779-3117 (fax) or by email [cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov).



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Planning Commission**

*JAMES WILSON - CHAIR*  
*MOHAMMAD HABIB - VICE-CHAIR*  
*PAUL LAKE - PLANNING COMMISSIONER*  
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**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**  
**17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilson Called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

Minutes Clerk Luna called the attendance at 7:00 p.m.

**DECLARATION OF POSTING**

Minutes Clerk Luna declared the posting of agenda.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Planning Commissioner Downey led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Wilson opened the Public Comment Period at 7:02 p.m. Hearing no request to speak, the Public Comment Period was closed.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

There were no changes made.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

#### **1. FEBRUARY 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Recommendation:

1. Accept Meeting Minutes.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **2. ACCEPT THE 2025 GENERAL PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (APR)**

Recommendation:

1. Accept the 2025 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR).

Principal Planner Adam Paszkowski and Housing and Economic Mobility Director John Lang gave the presentation at 7:03 p.m.

Planning Commissioner Habib joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Development Services Director Jennifer Caman addressed the Planning Commissioners' questions at 7:25 p.m.

Chair Wilson opened the Public Comment period at 8:12 p.m. The following individuals were called to speak:

- Rocke Garcia

There being no further requests to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

### **MOTION:**

Accept the 2025 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR).

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | Passed                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Planning Commissioner Mueller                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Planning Commissioner Lovato                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Habib, Planning Commissioner Lake, Planning Commissioner Mueller, Planning Commissioner Lovato, Planning Commissioner Downey, Planning Commissioner Adamo |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>ABSTAIN:</b>  | None                                                                                                                                                                               |

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Adam Pazkowski made an announcement at 8:25 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:  
Jenna Luna, Minutes Clerk

## PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

### MEETING DATE: April 28, 2026

PREPARED BY:

Adam Paszkowski, Principal Planner

APPROVED BY: Jennifer Carman

### SAFETY, SERVICES, & INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT UPDATE/CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

#### RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Review and accept the City of Morgan Hill CAPS Recommendations Report draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and goals, policies, and actions to be added to the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element.

#### LOCATION MAP/PROJECT INFORMATION:

The State of California has enacted several laws to strengthen local planning for climate-related hazards. [Senate Bill 379](#) (SB 379) requires cities and counties to update the Safety Element of their General Plan to address climate adaptation and resilience. This includes preparing a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and integrating goals, policies, and implementation measures that reduce risks associated with climate-driven hazards such as wildfire, flooding, drought, and extreme weather. Under existing law, Safety Elements must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised upon each update of the Housing Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, but not less than once every eight years.

[Assembly Bill 2684](#) (AB 2684) expands these requirements by mandating that cities and counties explicitly address extreme heat hazards in their Safety Elements. The bill requires jurisdictions, upon the next revision of their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or Safety Element, to incorporate updated information on extreme heat risks and related adaptation strategies. After this initial update, jurisdictions must continue reviewing and revising the Safety Element at least every eight years to incorporate new extreme-heat-related data and strategies.

#### BACKGROUND:

The City of Morgan Hill's Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element serves as the City's Safety Element as defined by State law ([Government Code Section 65302\(g\)](#)).

The City of Morgan Hill's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is incorporated into the Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) through a formal "annex" system. In the MJHMP, each participating city, town, and special district contributes its own local annex. Morgan Hill participates with other public agencies in planning for and coordinating cooperative interagency responses to natural disasters. The LHMP describes the disasters likely to affect the City. The document compiles and summarizes the capabilities for implementing hazard mitigation actions designed to reduce future damage from natural hazards. The City must have, or be a part of, a LHMP in order to be eligible for mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), according to FEMA guidelines.

The MJHMP was adopted by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2023. The City Council adopted [Resolution No. 24-031](#) on September 4, 2024, accepting the [Santa Clara](#)

[County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update](#), including the [City of Morgan Hill's Annex](#). As such, the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element must be updated to meet the requirements of SB 379 and AB 2684.

#### Climate Action Pathways for Schools

In preparation for updating the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element in compliance with SB 379 and AB 2684, the City of Morgan Hill has partnered with Climate Action Pathways for Schools (CAPS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to secure a \$300,000 grant over the course of three years from the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program to recruit, hire, and train Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) students to lead sustainability projects within Morgan Hill. One of the projects under the grant consisted of CAPS interns conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment and developing a set of goals, policies, and objectives recommendations for climate adaptation and resilience to be included in the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element, as well as developing a recommendations report (see attachment).

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Laws such as [SB 379 \(2015\)](#), [SB 1035 \(2018\)](#), and [AB 2684 \(2024\)](#) require climate adaptation strategies within the Safety, Services, and Infrastructure Element. These include responses to extreme heat, flooding, drought, and wildfire. To understand the specific risks facing their communities, cities typically conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment. A vulnerability assessment evaluates how susceptible a community is to climate impacts by examining historical trends, projected future hazards, and the community's ability to adapt. The assessment generally focuses on three components:

- **Exposure** — the degree to which a community is physically exposed to climate hazards.
- **Sensitivity** — the extent to which certain populations (such as children, older adults, outdoor workers, and low-income households) may experience disproportionate impacts from climate hazards.
- **Adaptive Capacity** — the ability of a community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts. While low-income areas often have lower adaptive capacity, rural or geographically isolated communities may also face significant constraints.

Conducting a vulnerability assessment is typically the second step in a four-stage climate adaptation planning process. Step one involves exploring, defining, and initiating the planning process and identifying desired outcomes. Step two is conducting the vulnerability assessment. Step three focuses on developing goals, policies, and actions that respond to identified risks. Step four involves implementing those strategies, monitoring progress, and adjusting policies as conditions evolve.

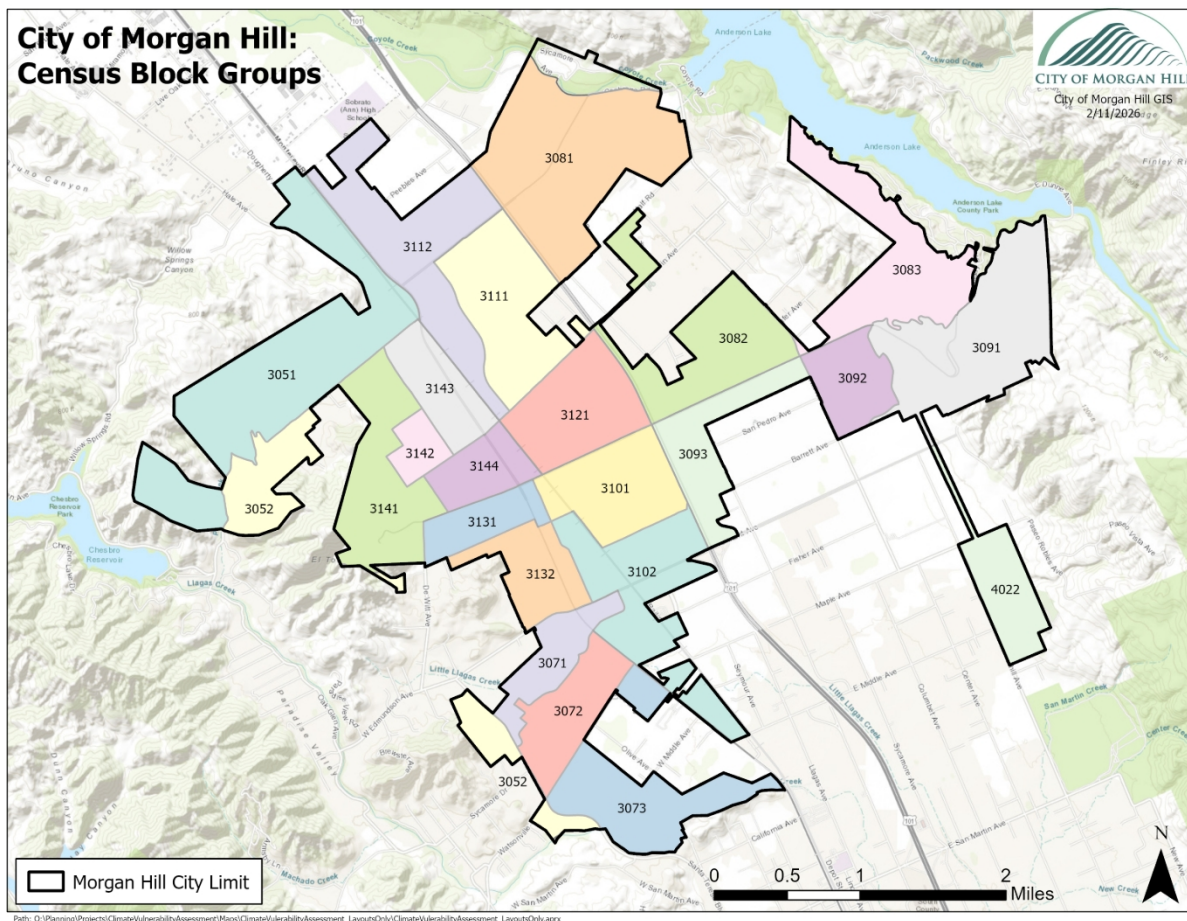
Climate change vulnerability assessment mapping provides a spatial understanding of how climate-driven hazards—drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire—affect different neighborhoods in Morgan Hill today, and how those risks are projected to change by 2050. Census block groups were selected as the primary geographic unit for Morgan Hill's climate change vulnerability assessment because they provide the most detailed, publicly available demographic and socioeconomic data while still maintaining statistical reliability. This level of granularity allows the City to identify meaningful differences in climate exposure and social vulnerability within Morgan Hill, differences that would be obscured if the analysis were conducted at the census tract level or citywide scale.

Block groups typically contain between 600 and 3,000 residents, making them small enough to capture neighborhood level patterns in income, age, housing type, linguistic isolation, outdoor work, and other factors that influence climate vulnerability. This is especially important in Morgan Hill, where pockets of high social vulnerability are interspersed with more affluent areas, and where climate hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire risk vary significantly across short

distances.

Using census block groups also aligns with the methodology of the Vulnerable Communities Platform, which provides hazard exposure and social vulnerability indicators at this same scale. This consistency ensures that Morgan Hill's assessment is grounded in state-recognized data sources and can be compared with regional and statewide analyses.

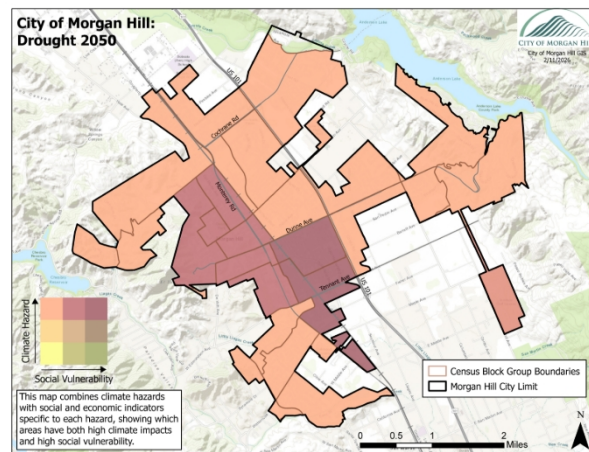
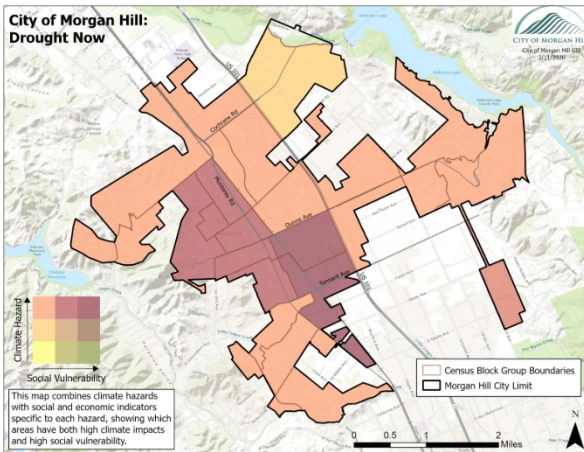
Finally, block-group-level mapping supports equity-centered planning. By identifying which neighborhoods face the greatest combined burden of climate hazards and social vulnerability, the City can more effectively target adaptation strategies, prioritize investments, and ensure that limited resources reach the communities that need them most. This approach strengthens the City's ability to comply with SB 379 and AB 2684 requirements while advancing a more just and resilient future for all residents.



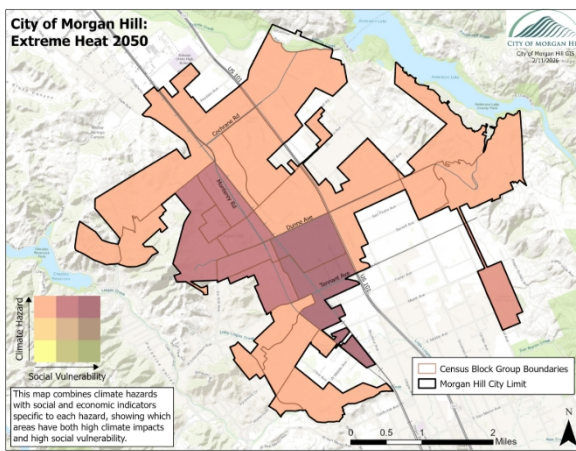
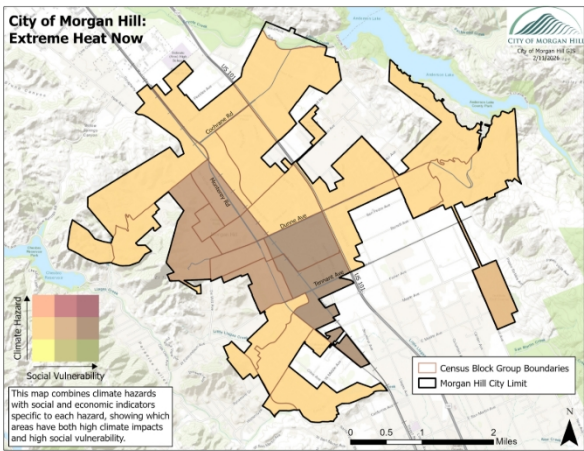
The above census block group map for Morgan Hill was used to depict the distribution of climate hazards and social vulnerabilities illustrated in the maps on the following pages.

The gradients shown on the series of maps below illustrate how climate hazards and social vulnerability vary across Morgan Hill's census block groups. Darker or more intense colors represent higher levels of exposure or vulnerability, while lighter shades indicate lower levels. This graduated color scale allows readers to quickly see where risks are concentrated, how different hazards overlap, and which neighborhoods face the greatest combined burden. By using gradients, the maps convey not just the presence of vulnerability but the degree of it, helping the City identify priority

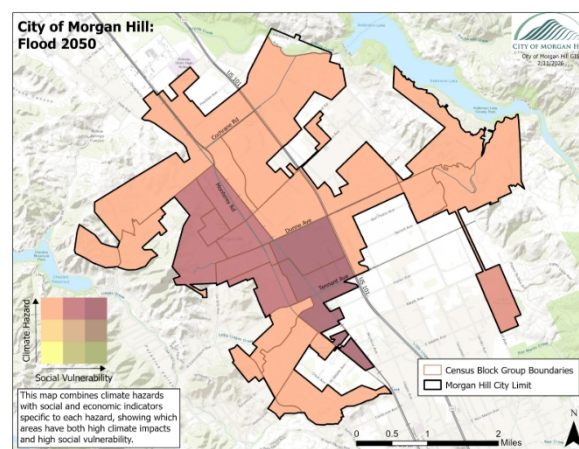
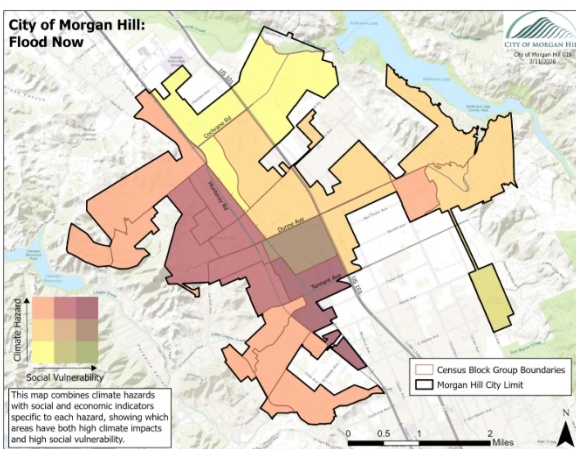
areas for adaptation and resilience planning.



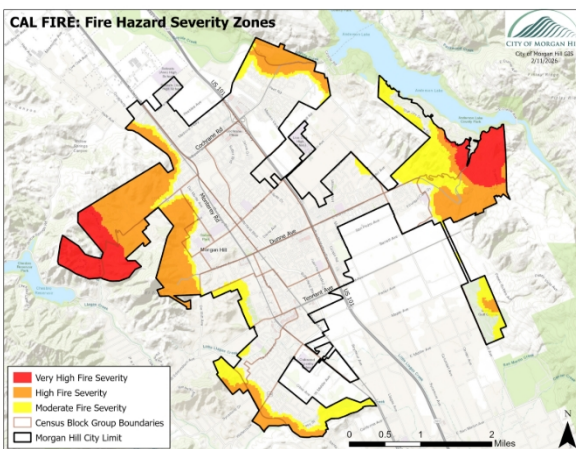
The above maps show that western Morgan Hill currently experiences the highest drought-related risk. By 2050, drought risk intensifies across the entire city, with the west side remaining at very high risk. The climate change vulnerability assessment projections indicate increased frequency of multiyear droughts, higher temperatures accelerating soil moisture loss, and greater pressure on groundwater and imported water supplies. Neighborhoods with high social vulnerability, particularly lower-income renters and households with limited access to water-efficient appliances, face disproportionate impacts.



Extreme heat is already the most widespread climate hazard in Morgan Hill. Current heat exposure is highest in western Morgan Hill, densely populated neighborhoods with limited tree canopy, and areas with high concentrations of outdoor workers. For example, in Census Block 3141, 38% of the population works outdoors, increasing sensitivity to heat-related illness. By 2050, extreme heat risk increases dramatically across all census block groups, with the west and north sides experiencing the greatest escalation. The climate change vulnerability assessment projects: More days above 95°F; Higher nighttime temperatures, reducing recovery time; and intensified urban heat island effects in built-up areas. These trends disproportionately affect: older adults; Low-income households without air conditioning; and outdoor workers in agriculture, construction, and landscaping.



Flooding risk in Morgan Hill is shaped by both stormwater flooding and dam inundation from Anderson and Chesbro Reservoirs. More than 14% of the population are affected by the floodplain and major corridors such as Monterey Road are vulnerable. The climate change vulnerability assessment confirms western Morgan Hill faces the highest current flood exposure. Low-lying neighborhoods near Llagas Creek are particularly at risk, and socially vulnerable populations often live in areas with limited flood-resilient infrastructure. While the assessment does not project future dam failure scenarios, it does show that stormwater flood risk increases by 2050 due to more intense atmospheric river events, higher runoff volumes, and reduced soil absorption during prolonged drought periods. This combination increases the likelihood of roadway flooding, disruptions to emergency response, and impacts on mobile home parks and older housing stock.



Morgan Hill's wildfire risk is strongly tied to its foothill geography. The climate change vulnerability assessment identifies high wildfire exposure in the 5123.05 census tract (with risk levels between 80.2% and 100%), wildland-urban interface (WUI) neighborhoods with steep slopes and limited evacuation routes, and low social vulnerability in some high-risk tracts, but medium vulnerability in adjacent areas that may face evacuation challenges.

Unlike other hazards, the assessment provides current wildfire risk only, but statewide projections indicate: longer fire seasons; drier vegetation; and increased ignition potential near development edges. This means that even areas currently classified as "medium risk" may face higher exposure in the coming decades.

## PROJECT ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

The climate change vulnerability assessment and draft goals, policies, and actions to be added to

the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element are included in the CAPS Recommendations Report (attached).

### Drought Overview

As climate change continues to intensify, the risk of drought and the number of communities affected increases every year. As shown in vulnerability assessments that evaluate the climate and risk conditions, it is evident that the impact of drought in Morgan Hill is expected to increase as climate change progresses. Cities must develop policies that aim to reduce some of the potential risks that drought poses, especially to vulnerable populations while ensuring the long-term sustainability of local water resources and maintaining quality of life. This can be done by promoting water conservation strategies, expanding water-conservation education, improving equitable access to resources, and increasing the use of recycled or alternative water sources. In addition, increasing community awareness and response capacity ensures that residents understand the risks associated with drought, adopt water-saving behaviors, and are prepared to follow conservation guidelines during periods of severe water shortage. The proposed policies specifically aim to ensure that vulnerable communities, such as those who may face higher costs or limited access to water-efficient technologies, are taken into consideration when implementing these policies.

### Extreme Heat Overview

Due to the ever-growing effects of climate change, the risk that extreme heat poses and the populations affected grows every year. As per the climate change vulnerability assessment map, which compares social vulnerability and overall risk to extreme heat, it's evident that the area affected by extreme heat in Morgan Hill will greatly increase by the year 2050. Cities will develop policies that aim to reduce some of the potential risk that extreme heat poses, especially to vulnerable populations, and increase the enjoyment of everyday lives. This can be done by developing and maintaining cooling centers, structures, and greenery that provide shade which can lower body temperature during extreme heat events, installing water fountains which reduce the risk of dehydration associated with extreme heat, and increasing community awareness and response capacity so that people are aware of the risk associated with extreme heat; allowing people to be aware of ways to reduce the risk associated with extreme heat, and to ensure awareness of emergency plans during events of extreme heat. The proposed policies specifically ensure that vulnerable communities, such as those who may not be able to afford cooling measures, are taken into consideration when implementing and developing any potential infrastructure.

### Flooding Overview

As with other hazards, Morgan Hill also faces risks from flooding city-wide. The climate change vulnerability assessment map compares the current and potential harm of flooding in today's time and in 2050 in terms of climate hazard and social vulnerability. The analysis indicates that climate hazards and social vulnerability are expected to increase in several areas of Morgan Hill over time. This trend underscores the overarching objective: to prevent and minimize the impacts of potentially dangerous floods on vulnerable communities, households, and critical infrastructure, while strengthening flood-management systems and overall community well-being.

### Wildfire Overview

To combat climate impacts caused by wildfire, Morgan Hill must develop policies designed to reduce wildfire risk to life, property, and critical facilities equitably, in order to coordinate emergency responses. It must also take into account educating and preparing strategies to inform residents about the dangers of wildfire. Socially vulnerable regions and residents are most affected by the lack of emergency planning and informative communication that's multilingual and applicable to all communities city-wide. In addition, developing direct-assistance programs to accommodate fire-resistant infrastructures will decrease potential harm to low-income and vulnerable households. The proposed policies rely on proactive campaigns and educational promotion of wildfire preparedness, and overall, aim to prevent and minimize the damage to preventable wildfires across Morgan Hill's city limits.

## ANALYSIS

The proposed project was analyzed with respect to conformance with: 1) Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan:

### 1. General Plan Land Use Consistency

The proposed addition of climate change and resilience goals, policies, and actions to the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element meets the letter and intent of the general plan goals and policies as it complements existing policies and is consistent with the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan vision to maintain Morgan Hill's family-friendly character and strong sense of community while the community grows and prospers.

### CONCLUSION:

The climate change vulnerability assessment, along with the proposed goals, policies, and actions to be added to the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element, meets the requirements of SB 379 and AB 2684, addressing the accelerated risks of drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire. The proposed goals, policies, and actions represent a significant step toward equitable and resilient neighborhoods in Morgan Hill. It addresses statutory requirements, as well as responds to community-identified priorities.

### CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act):

Exempt

The Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element has been reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed climate change vulnerability assessment and draft goals, policies, and actions are primarily programmatic and policy-level, and will not result in any direct impact upon the physical environment. Any development that occurs in the future subject to such standards will undergo an independent analysis per the requirements of CEQA. The Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element is covered under the certified Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan EIR, and no further environmental review is required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15183.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan was prepared in accordance with CEQA and certified by the Morgan Hill City Council on July 27, 2016 (SCH#2015022074).

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Community engagement gathered from the Healthy Neighborhoods for All outreach was utilized in the development of the proposed goals, policies, and actions for the Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element update to address climate adaptation and resilience. Community engagement through Healthy Neighborhoods for All was extensive, multilingual, and inclusive, which included 59 events between August 2024 and August 2025, reaching 1,529 participants. Engagement formats included pop-up events, visioning workshops, community meetings, and targeted outreach in Opportunity Neighborhoods. Materials and surveys were provided in English and Spanish, and interpretation was available at events. Key themes from community input included:

- Promotion and education of available resources in English and Spanish.
- Need for more trees and green spaces to provide shade.
- Community members expressed the need to have closer parks with shading for hot summer months.
- Public park facilities in Opportunity Neighborhoods are limited (there is only one public park).
- Concerns regarding flooding, and the impacts it has on preventing residents from getting to work.

The engagement process built trust, particularly in Spanish-speaking communities, and directly shaped the proposed goals, policies, and actions to address climate adaptation and resilience throughout the City, with a priority for Opportunity Neighborhoods and vulnerable populations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. CAPS Recommendations Report
2. CAPS Presentation

## Climate Action Pathways for Schools - Morgan Hill Unified School District

### City of Morgan Hill Safety Element Recommendations

Khanh Cao

Diya Chauhan

Joshua Gonzales

Nhi Hoang

Quincy Salloom

Isha Toor

7 April 2026

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## Executive Summary

In response to the growing risks posed by climate change, California passed Senate Bill 379, which requires every city and county to update the Safety Element of its General Plan to include a climate change vulnerability assessment, along with goals, policies, and implementation measures that address climate adaptation and resilience. Assembly Bill 2684 further expands these requirements by mandating that Safety Elements specifically address extreme heat hazards. In alignment with these mandates, the City of Morgan Hill's Safety Element aims to address key public safety concerns, including emergency services, wildfire protection, flood management, and the resilience of critical infrastructure that supports existing and future development. To inform policy recommendations, a comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment was conducted using the state's Vulnerable Communities Platform tools and mapping resources. This analysis was supplemented by a review of Safety Elements from peer jurisdictions with similar demographic and environmental characteristics to make more informed recommendations.

Based on this research, a set of goals, policies, and actions was developed to enhance Morgan Hill's resilience to climate-related hazards—specifically drought, extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding. These recommendations prioritize the needs of socially vulnerable populations, recognizing that climate impacts disproportionately affect low-income households, older adults, outdoor workers, and other at-risk groups. The proposed strategies are designed to strengthen long-term resilience. Implementation is planned through 2035, with several strategies to be ongoing and others to be implemented in one to ten years, positioning Morgan Hill to proactively address evolving climate risks while safeguarding the well-being of its residents and the reliability of its essential services.

## **I. Background**

California has enacted several laws to strengthen local planning for climate-related hazards. Senate Bill 379 requires cities and counties to update the Safety Element of their General Plan to address climate adaptation and resilience. This includes preparing a climate change vulnerability assessment and integrating goals, policies, and implementation measures that reduce risks associated with climate-driven hazards such as wildfire, flooding, drought, and extreme weather. Under existing law, Safety Elements must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised upon each update of the Housing Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, but not less than once every eight years (California Legislature, Senate Bill 379).

Assembly Bill 2684 expands these requirements by mandating that cities and counties explicitly address extreme heat hazards in their Safety Elements. The bill requires jurisdictions, upon the next revision of their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or Safety Element to incorporate updated information on extreme heat risks and related adaptation strategies. After this initial update, jurisdictions must continue reviewing and revising the Safety Element at least every eight years to incorporate new extreme-heat-related data and strategies (California Legislature, Assembly Bill 2684).

Together, these laws are intended to improve community safety by ensuring that local governments proactively plan for climate-related hazards. While these requirements will likely lead to more resilient infrastructure and better-informed planning decisions, implementation capacity varies across jurisdictions. Some cities may face challenges due to limited staffing, technical expertise, or funding, even though all are required to comply. Additionally, some communities may not currently experience significant extreme heat impacts but must still address the hazard in their Safety Element as required by AB 2684.

To understand the specific risks facing their communities, cities typically conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment. A vulnerability assessment evaluates how susceptible a community is to climate impacts by examining historical trends, projected future hazards, and the community's ability to adapt. The assessment generally focuses on three components:

- Exposure — the degree to which a community is physically exposed to climate hazards.
- Sensitivity — the extent to which certain populations (such as children, older adults, outdoor workers, and low-income households) may experience disproportionate impacts from climate hazards.
- Adaptive Capacity — the ability of a community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts. While low-income areas often have lower adaptive capacity, rural or geographically isolated communities may also face significant constraints. ([ResilientCA, 2017](#))

A variety of tools can support this analysis, including the California Vulnerable Communities Platform mapping tools (CA Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation), which provide hazard and demographic data at the census-block-group level. These tools display current and projected risk levels for hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, sea-level rise, drought, and wildfire, along with demographic indicators that help identify socially vulnerable populations. The map also includes each blocks' current risk level for each hazard and the blocks' predicted risk levels in 2050, besides wildfire which only has its current risk level.

Conducting a vulnerability assessment is typically the second step in a four-stage climate adaptation planning process. Step one involves exploring, defining, and initiating the planning process and identifying desired outcomes. Step two is conducting the vulnerability assessment.

Step three focuses on developing goals, policies, and actions that respond to identified risks. Step four involves implementing those strategies, monitoring progress, and adjusting policies as conditions evolve.

## **II. Research**

### *A. Community Analysis*

Morgan Hill has a population size of around 46,451 as of 2022 with a slight decline (-0.4%) from 2021-2022. The city is most attractive to working-class/middle-class residents due to housing affordability. As identified in section 1.7, Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities ([Santa Clara Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update: City of Morgan Hill Annex](#)), about 34.6% of Morgan Hill residents live within a high wildfire risk area (5,237 residences), such as the Northwestern part of Llagas Road and the East part of Dunne Avenue. A significant portion of the city is exposed to dam inundation and is at risk to potential failures from either Anderson Dam or Chesbro Dam. Consequently, residents who are close to the dams will receive less warning time to evacuate from the resulting floodwaters. Fire stations and schools close by are also included in the vulnerable community. In addition, more than 14% of the population are affected by the floodplain, even in areas like Monterey St. which is a major transportation route for a high concentration of residents. Ten percent of the population are also within high landslide risk areas, specifically in the foothill areas where rain also poses risks of flooding, disruption of transportation, and delaying of emergency responses for Morgan Hill's vulnerable populations.

### *B. Social Vulnerability*

Upon completing multiple research projects and analysis on community vulnerability risks and their adaptive capacity to recover and deal with different types of hazards, it appears that lower

income populations and historically marginalized communities remain significantly underrepresented and in need of further attention.

These individuals can be found in neighborhoods with things like lower-quality facilities such as having poor quality water sources and a lack of access to transportation, and are often situated in areas more exposed to environmental hazards and disasters. They often grapple with limited access to healthcare, lack of employment opportunities, as well as other essential resources that may compromise their ability to prepare, respond, and recover from sudden weather or climate shifts ([Santa Clara MultiJurisdiction Hazards Mitigation Plans, 2023](#)). These populations tend to gather in crowded areas that are often affected by things like poor air quality, extreme heat, high risk of flooding, and drought.

Looking at Morgan Hill's climate change vulnerability assessment maps, and categorizing each census block group according to their risk hazard levels, we found that low-income and color populations are in greater danger from different environmental hazards. This correlates with a consistent high measure of social risk component in comparison to the more wealthier communities. These block groups of underrepresented individuals are also estimated to experience an escalating risk level from now to 2050 which raises greater concern for immediate attention.

A further issue that these groups encounter is access to receive emergency communications. Lower income communities in the past tended to have experienced inadequate climate change warnings and education that profoundly impacted their ability to respond to these hazards compared to wealthier areas ([Policy Option Politiques, 2024](#)). Without sufficient and immediate communications, individuals will likely be unaware of their situation and therefore, be unable to make informed actions in a timely manner.

Not only do these groups struggle responding to climate hazards and gaining awareness, they lack resources and financial resources to recover. With a lack of resources and evacuation routes, relocating and reacting can be extremely overwhelming, especially in moments of urgency ([Santa Clara Multi Jurisdiction Hazards Mitigation Plans, 2023](#)). Without the materials and financial resources to recover, individuals may hesitate or make delayed decisions, further slowing their ability to respond and ultimately prolonging their recovery from the crisis. Ultimately, it is evident that low income and marginalized groups are among the most at risk and will continue facing disproportionate challenges not only from responding to climate change and hazards but also recovering from it as well, without adequate support and attention.

### *C. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Mapping*

Climate change vulnerability assessment mapping provides a spatial understanding of how climate-driven hazards—drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire—affect different neighborhoods in Morgan Hill today and how those risks are projected to change by 2050. Using the *Vulnerable Communities Platform* developed by the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, each census block group is evaluated based on two dimensions:

- **Climate Hazard Exposure** — the physical risk level for each hazard; and
- **Social Vulnerability** — demographic and socioeconomic factors that influence a community’s ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts.

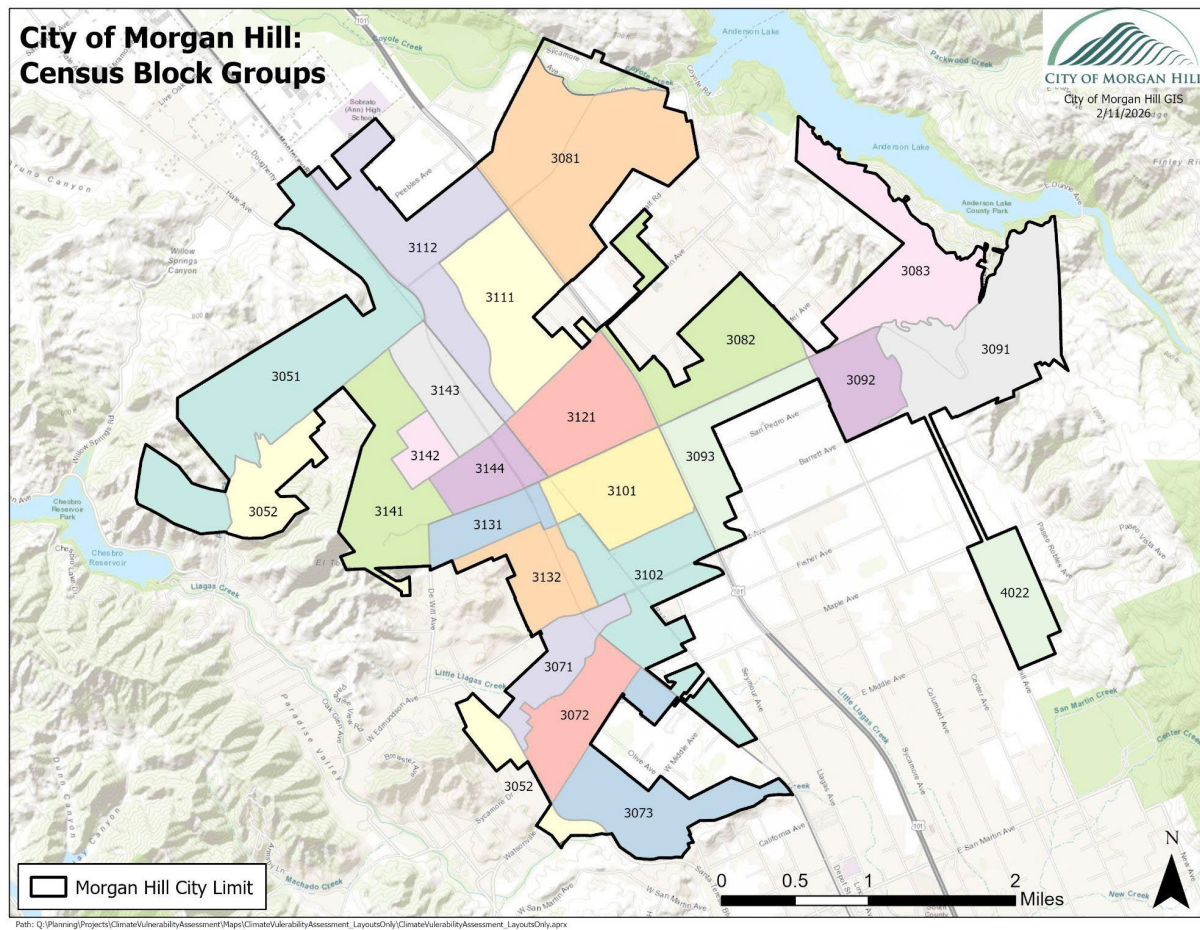
This combined lens highlights where climate hazards overlap with populations that have lower adaptive capacity, helping the City prioritize equitable adaptation strategies. Appendix A (Climate Change Vulnerability Indicators) lists all indicators evaluated for Morgan Hill’s climate change vulnerability assessment.

Census block groups were selected as the primary geographic unit for Morgan Hill's climate change vulnerability assessment because they provide the most detailed, publicly available demographic and socioeconomic data while still maintaining statistical reliability. This level of granularity allows the City to identify meaningful differences in climate exposure and social vulnerability within Morgan Hill, differences that would be obscured if the analysis were conducted at the census tract or citywide scale.

Block groups typically contain between 600 and 3,000 residents, making them small enough to capture neighborhood-level patterns in income, age, housing type, linguistic isolation, outdoor work, and other factors that influence climate vulnerability. This is especially important in Morgan Hill, where pockets of high social vulnerability are interspersed with more affluent areas, and where climate hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire risk vary significantly across short distances.

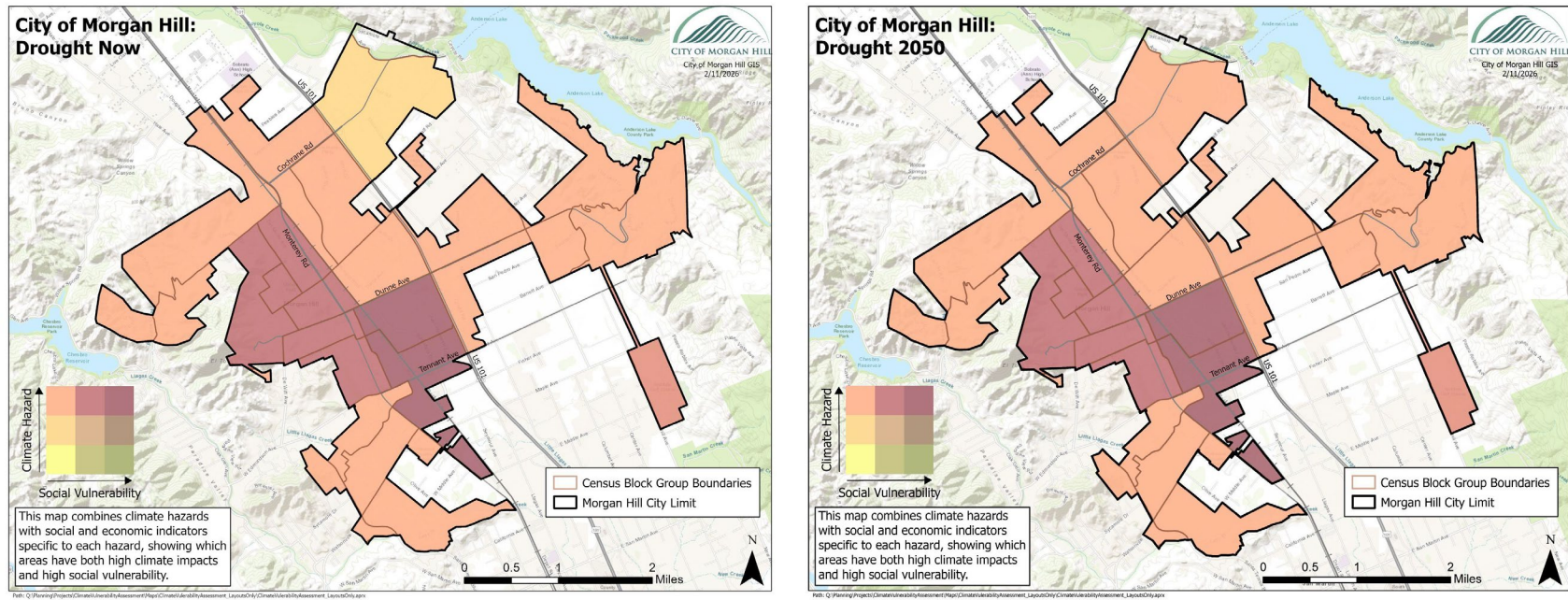
Using census block groups also aligns with the methodology of the Vulnerable Communities Platform, which provides hazard exposure and social vulnerability indicators at this same scale. This consistency ensures that Morgan Hill's assessment is grounded in state-recognized data sources and can be compared with regional and statewide analyses.

Finally, block-group-level mapping supports equity-centered planning. By identifying which neighborhoods face the greatest combined burden of climate hazards and social vulnerability, the City can more effectively target adaptation strategies, prioritize investments, and ensure that limited resources reach the communities that need them most. This approach strengthens the City's ability to comply with SB 379 and AB 2684 requirements while advancing a more just and resilient future for all residents.

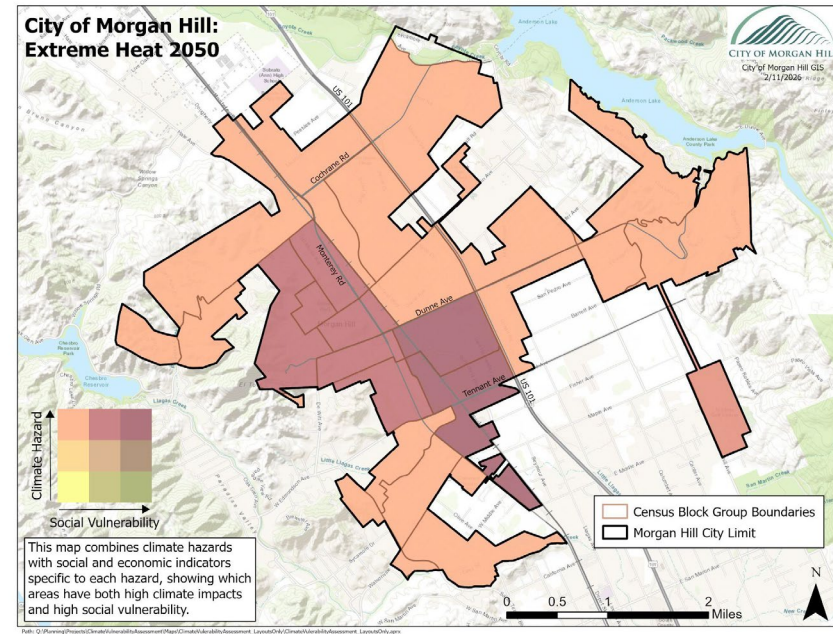
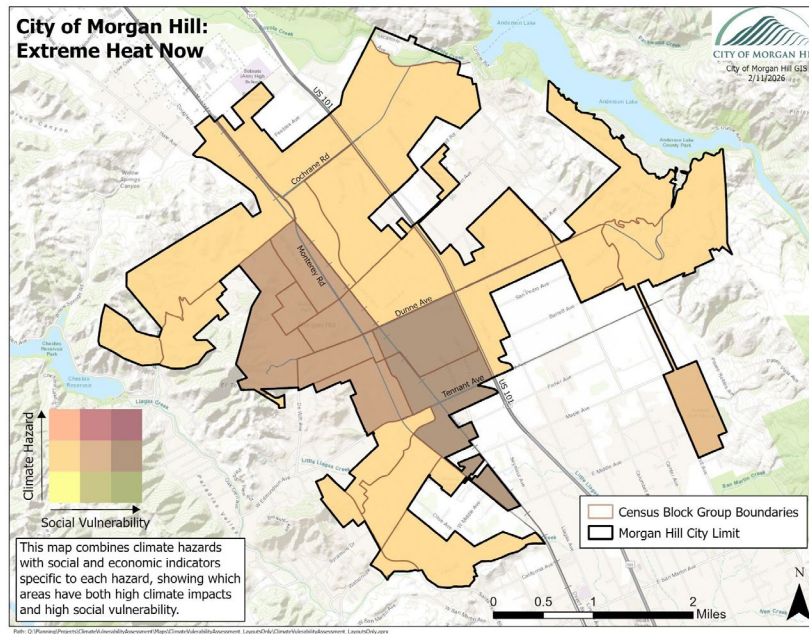


The above census block group map for Morgan Hill was used to depict the distribution of climate hazards and social vulnerabilities illustrated in the maps on the following pages.

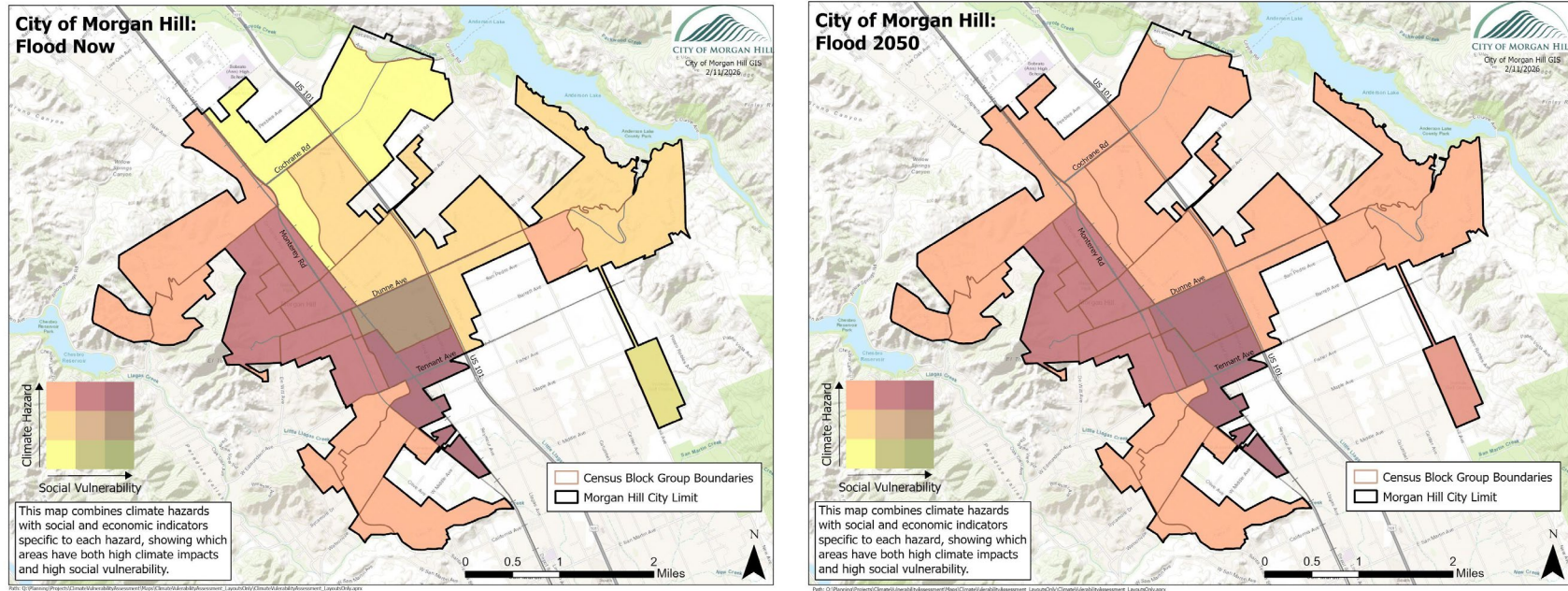
The gradients shown on the series of maps below illustrate how climate hazards and social vulnerability vary across Morgan Hill's census block groups. Darker or more intense colors represent higher levels of exposure or vulnerability, while lighter shades indicate lower levels. This graduated color scale allows readers to quickly see where risks are concentrated, how different hazards overlap, and which neighborhoods face the greatest combined burden. By using gradients, the maps convey not just the presence of vulnerability but the degree of it, helping the City identify priority areas for adaptation and resilience planning.



The Vulnerable Communities Platform shows that western Morgan Hill currently experiences the highest drought-related risk. By 2050, drought risk intensifies across the entire city, with the west side remaining at very high risk. The climate change vulnerability assessment projections indicate increased frequency of multi-year droughts, higher temperatures accelerating soil moisture loss, and greater pressure on groundwater and imported water supplies. Neighborhoods with high social vulnerability, particularly lower-income renters and households with limited access to water-efficient appliances, face disproportionate impacts.

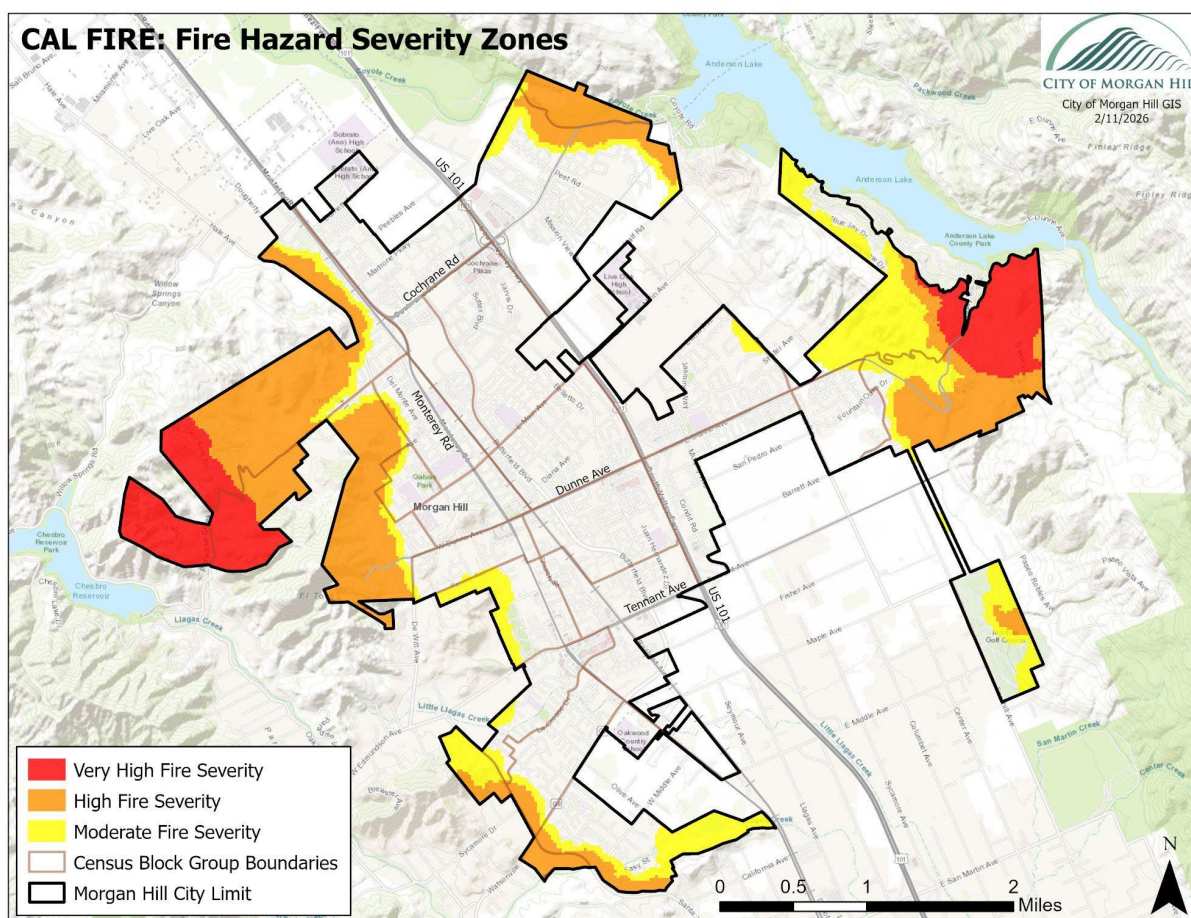


Extreme heat is already the most widespread climate hazard in Morgan Hill. Current heat exposure is highest in western Morgan Hill, densely populated neighborhoods with limited tree canopy, and areas with high concentrations of outdoor workers. For example, in Census Block 3141, 38% of the population works outdoors, increasing sensitivity to heat-related illness. By 2050, extreme heat risk increases dramatically across all census block groups, with the west and north sides experiencing the greatest escalation. The climate change vulnerability assessment projects: More days above 95°F; Higher nighttime temperatures, reducing recovery time; and Intensified urban heat island effects in built-up areas. These trends disproportionately affect: Older adults; Low-income households without air conditioning; and Outdoor workers in agriculture, construction, and landscaping.



Flooding risk in Morgan Hill is shaped by both stormwater flooding and dam inundation from Anderson and Chesbro Reservoirs. More than 14% of the population are affected by the floodplain and major corridors such as Monterey Road are vulnerable (Santa Clara MJHMP 2023). The climate change vulnerability assessment confirms western Morgan Hill faces the highest current flood exposure, low-lying neighborhoods near Llagas Creek are particularly at risk, and socially vulnerable populations often live in areas with limited flood-resilient infrastructure. While the assessment does not project future dam-failure scenarios, it does show that stormwater flood risk increases by 2050 due to more intense atmospheric river events, higher runoff volumes, and reduced soil absorption during

prolonged drought periods. This combination increases the likelihood of roadway flooding, disruptions to emergency response, and impacts to mobile home parks and older housing stock.



Morgan Hill’s wildfire risk is strongly tied to its foothill geography. The climate change vulnerability assessment identifies high wildfire exposure in the 5123.05 census tract (with risk levels between 80.2% and 100%), wildland-urban interface (WUI) neighborhoods with steep slopes and limited evacuation routes, and low social vulnerability in some high-risk tracts, but medium vulnerability in adjacent areas that may face evacuation challenges.

Unlike other hazards, the Platform provides current wildfire risk only, but statewide projections indicate: Longer fire seasons; Drier vegetation; and Increased ignition potential near development edges. This means that even areas currently classified as “medium risk” may face higher exposure in the coming decades.

Across all hazards, several patterns emerge:

- Western Morgan Hill consistently shows the highest combined hazard exposure, especially for drought, heat, and flooding.
- Extreme heat is the most widespread hazard, affecting nearly all neighborhoods today and intensifying significantly by 2050.
- Socially vulnerable populations—low-income households, renters, older adults, and outdoor workers—face disproportionate impacts, as noted in your document.
- Future risk increases across all hazards, meaning that neighborhoods with medium risk today may become high-risk by 2050.

These insights underscore the importance of equity-centered adaptation strategies, targeted investments, and community-driven planning.

### III. Best Practices

#### *A. Safety Element in the City of Glendale and Santa Barbara*

An analysis of the Safety Elements adopted by the City of Glendale and Santa Barbara County highlights several beneficial practices that can help form the development of Morgan Hill's Safety Element, particularly in addressing climate change hazards and their disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities, ensuring specific, equity-focused, and implementation based.

One of the most effective strategies researched in Glendale's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan is incorporating measureable, and realistic timelines for each Climate Hazard. For instance, the policy under extreme heat commits to establishing three resilience centers by 2030 in high-risk areas, increasing tree canopy coverage to 25% and 30% by 2045, prioritizing neighborhoods prone to heat islands. These factors demonstrate that climate adaptation goals are most effective when they include the following: specific quantitative measures, geographic prioritization of high-risk areas, timelines, and solid implementation actions that Morgan Hill needs to consider adopting.

Both jurisdictions prioritize front line communities that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts and least resourced to adapt. Glendale's policies are shaped through community engagement across diverse demographics, and Santa Barbara County recognizes that climate hazards such as extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding disproportionately impact various demographics within vulnerable populations facing limited access to cooling, transportation, and healthcare. This approach ensures that policies reflect resident's lived experiences and direct resources to neighborhoods facing extreme risks. As for Morgan Hill, mapping social vulnerability and engaging residents in policy development will be crucial in constructing an equitable Safety Element.

The development of resilience centers stands out within both jurisdictions. Glendale's approach is notable for treating resilience centers not solely as emergency shelters, but as year-round community hubs that provide health services, nutrition access, and extended cooling hours during heat waves. This combined system approach integrates mitigation and adaptation by strategic infrastructure use, while reducing climate vulnerability. Santa Barbara County similarly identifies community resilience centers as a part of broader emergency preparedness and response planning. This model strengthens emergency response and builds long-term community resilience. Morgan Hill can apply this practice with resilience centers that could serve as cooling hubs during extreme weather events while also functioning as year-round community spaces.

#### *B. Safety Elements in the Cities of Camarillo and Menifee*

Additionally, Camarillo and Menifee's Safety Element's display thriving adaptation to climate change that may provide solutions to Morgan Hill's climate issues.

An essential component to help reduce effects of climate change on populations, specifically those that may be more vulnerable can be seen from Camarillo's Climate Action Plan & Safety Element Update. Their main goal is to educate their community, and increase awareness of hazards that are prominent in their city. Policy *11.1.2 Authority for Element* under the Safety Element 11.0, seeks to provide Camarillo residents with strategies that are specific to their community needs, when assisting them with the preparation to respond and recover from climate hazard events. According to a survey conducted in 2024 taken by 51 residents of the city of Camarillo, "only 41% of respondents are prepared with an emergency kit and most residents prefer to receive disaster notification via VC Alert, city emails, or online news." Camarillo's General Plan Elements greatly enforces plans for guidance related to hazards, so communities know how to deal with them. Specifically, the *Land Use Element* educates potential natural and human-made

hazards that relate to development of land uses, while the *Circulation Element* discusses how to respond to emergency and evacuation. Taking measures to educate individuals on potential hazards they might face is essential to the prevention and action of climate change. In Morgan Hill, incorporating education policies, according to vulnerability based on the specific communities will help the overall city's resistance to hazard risks while also raising educational awareness about the environment.

The City of Menifee, similarly to the City of Camarillo, aims to address floods, fire, geologic hazards, and air quality concerns using policies and goals in order to strengthen public safety and help inform communities on their safety and solutions for adaptation to potential hazards. A key policy focused on GHG emissions that Menifee enforced in 2020 was the Active Transportation Plan, which focused on promoting environmentally friendly transportation, with a goal to reduce reliance on automobiles, and increased air quality with decreased extreme heat. With great climate change considerations, Menifee aims to prevent extreme heat and wildfire severity, even with temperatures that can exceed 105.8 F at the hottest times of the summer. Decreasing GHG emissions doesn't just improve a cleaner environment but also can prevent extreme heat from affecting communities. Menifee's plan includes allowing public viewing of data collection with planning maps of geological areas that may need the extra precautions to help prevent these emissions. While Morgan Hill is a city that can face severe weather conditions, policies enforced with the purpose to reduce GHG emissions can benefit the environment while creating a safer, prepared community for potential hazards such as those of extreme heat.

## IV. Recommendations - Goals, Policies, and Actions

### *A. Drought Overview*

As climate change continues to intensify, the risk of drought and the number of communities affected increases every year. As shown in vulnerability assessments that evaluate the climate and risk conditions, it is evident that the impact of drought in Morgan Hill is expected to increase as climate change progresses. Cities must develop policies that aim to reduce some of the potential risks that drought poses, especially to vulnerable populations while ensuring the long-term sustainability of local water resources and maintaining quality of life. This can be done by promoting water conservation strategies, expanding water-conservation education, improving equitable access to resources, and increasing the use of recycled or alternative water sources. In addition, increasing community awareness and response capacity ensures that residents understand the risks associated with drought, adopt water-saving behaviors, and are prepared to follow conservation guidelines during periods of severe water shortage. Our policies specifically aim to ensure that vulnerable communities, such as those who may face higher costs or limited access to water-efficient technologies are taken into consideration when implementing these policies.

### *B. Drought Goals, Policies, and Actions*

**Goal 1: Strengthen community resilience and adaptive capacity to minimize the impacts of climate-driven drought on Morgan Hill’s residents, ecosystems, and essential services.**

Policy 1.1 Water Conservation Education. Expand accessible, culturally relevant, and climate-informed education programs that help residents, businesses, and community organizations understand effective water-conservation practices and the long-term impacts of drought.

*Action 1.A Equitable Water Conservation Awareness.* Continue and expand distribution of printed and digital multilingual educational materials to all households on water conservation practices, drought impacts, and climate impacts to water supplies.

*Action 1.B Promote Valley Water's Water Conservation Webinar Series.* Partner with Santa Clara Valley Water to promote its multilingual Water Conservation Webinar Series to Morgan Hill residents, prioritizing outreach to climate-vulnerable households as part of the City's broader water-conservation education efforts.

Policy 1.2 Community Engagement on Water Conditions. Maintain transparent communication with the community to understand residents' concerns, challenges, and needs related to water use and drought conditions using multilingual and accessible outreach methods.

*Action 1.C Drought Information Sessions.* Host accessible multilingual in-person events to discuss current water conditions, drought restrictions, and community concerns.

Policy 1.3 Equitable Access to Drought-Resilience Resources. Ensure that drought-resilience resources, programs, and investments are distributed equitably across all social and economic groups, prioritizing communities with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.

*Action 1.D Drought Resilience Transparency Tool.* Dashboard to ensure the city is keeping equitable access: Provide an online, publicly accessible dashboard that shows how drought resilience investments, programs, and resources are distributed across neighborhoods, highlighting efforts to prioritize communities with higher social vulnerability.

*Action 1.E Equitable Access to Drought Education and Events.* Ensure that all parts of the city, especially vulnerable and opportunity neighborhoods, have access to drought related

events, workshops, and educational opportunities, including mobile or pop-up events where needed.

**Goal 2: Ensure long-term water security by reducing drought vulnerability in Morgan Hill's most at-risk communities and improving equitable access to reliable, climate-resilient water resources.**

Policy 2.1 Water-Efficiency Education. Implement comprehensive, accessible, and culturally relevant education programs that teach residents, businesses, and community organizations how to conserve water and use it efficiently.

*Action 2.A Accessible Drought Education and Outreach.* Partner with community based organizations, schools, and service providers to share multilingual drought information, conservation resources, and emergency updates in accessible formats, including social media, radio, and printed materials

*Action 2.B Emergency Utility Relief Assistance Partnership.* Continue to partner with and promote The Society of St. Vincent de Paul program at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish to provide emergency assistance for utility bill relief.

Policy 2.2 Equitable Drought Assistance. Ensure that drought-prevention and drought-response efforts equitably support vulnerable and opportunity neighborhoods by providing targeted assistance, resources, and outreach.

*Action 2.C Water Infrastructure Equity.* Prioritize investments in leak detection, pipe replacement, and water system upgrades equitably in low-income and opportunity neighborhoods to reduce water loss, improve reliability, and enhance resilience to drought.

Policy 2.3 Climate-Resilient Water Supply. Integrate climate projections into long-term water-supply planning to diversify water sources, enhance storage capacity, and strengthen the reliability of essential water services during prolonged drought.

*Action 2.D Climate-Informed Drought Risk and Water Planning.* Encourage local water agencies to incorporate the latest climate projections into long-term water supply plans, including analysis of prolonged and severe drought scenarios.

*Action 2.E Alternative Water Supply Sources.* Consider rainwater capture, groundwater storage, and other alternative water sources through capital projects, incentives, and regional partnerships to reduce dependence on a single water source.

Policy 2.4 Water Conservation & Efficiency. Promote long-term water conservation and efficiency, prioritizing high-use areas and communities with limited adaptive capacity to ensure equitable access to water-saving resources.

*Action 2.F Water Efficiency Assistance.* Promote Santa Clara Valley Water targeted water efficiency programs for high use sectors and vulnerable communities, including rebates, technical assistance, and performance standards for indoor and outdoor water use.

Policy 2.5 Drought-Resilient Water Supply Management. Diversify and strengthen the City's water-supply portfolio to reduce reliance on vulnerable sources during drought including expanding groundwater recharge, recycled water use, stormwater capture, and regional water-supply partnerships.

*Action 2.G Drought-Resilient Water Supply.* Identify and, if feasible, prioritize projects that expand groundwater recharge and stormwater capture, and pursue regional agreements to share drought resilient water supplies during shortages.

Policy 2.6 Aquifer Storage and Recovery. Explore aquifer storage and recovery systems that

capture excess stormwater.

*Action 2.H Aquifer Recovery Feasibility.* Evaluate the benefits and cost-effectiveness of aquifer storage and recovery systems that capture excess stormwater during high flow events, with a focus on protecting groundwater quality and long term reliability.

Policy 2.7 Drought-Resilient Land Use & Development. Incorporate drought-resilience strategies into land-use planning, development review, and capital improvement projects.

*Action 2.I Drought-Resilient Standards.* Evaluate and, where feasible, update the Municipal Code and development standards to require drought-resilient landscaping, high-efficiency irrigation, and water-efficient fixtures in new development and major renovations.

Policy 2.8 Ecosystem & Habitat Resilience. Protect and restore natural ecosystems, such as creeks, wetlands, riparian corridors, and vegetation, that support groundwater recharge, biodiversity, and drought resilience.

*Action 2.J Drought-Resilient Ecosystem Restoration.* Identify and prioritize restoration and protection projects for creeks, wetlands, riparian corridors, and vegetation that enhance groundwater recharge and ecological resilience to drought, especially where they also provide benefits to nearby drought-vulnerable neighborhoods.

Policy 2.9 Equity-Centered Drought Adaptation. Ensure that drought-resilience strategies prioritize communities with the highest social vulnerability, limited water-saving resources, or disproportionate exposure to drought impacts.

*Action 2.K Equitable Drought Adaptation Prioritization.* Use social vulnerability indicators and water use data to prioritize drought adaptation investments, outreach, and

assistance programs in neighborhoods with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.

### *C. Extreme Heat Overview*

Due to the ever growing effects of climate change, the risk that extreme heat poses and the populations affected grows every year. As per the climate change vulnerability assessment map, which compares social vulnerability and overall risk to extreme heat, it's evident that the area affected by extreme heat in Morgan Hill will greatly increase by the year 2050. Cities will develop policies that aim to reduce some of the potential risk that extreme heat poses, especially to vulnerable populations, and increase the enjoyment of everyday lives. This can be done by developing and maintaining cooling centers, structures, and greenery that provide shade which can lower body temperature during extreme heat events, installing water fountains which reduces the risk of dehydration associated with extreme heat, and increasing community awareness and response capacity so that people are aware of the risk associated with extreme heat; allowing people to be aware of ways to reduce the risk associated with extreme heat, and to ensure awareness of emergency plans during events of extreme heat. The proposed policies specifically ensure that vulnerable communities, such as those who may not be able to afford cooling measures, are taken into consideration when implementing and developing any potential infrastructure.

### *D. Extreme Heat Goals, Policies, and Actions*

#### **Goal 3: Reduce the risk that extreme heat poses to individuals and the environment.**

Policy 3.1 Urban Cooling. Expand urban cooling infrastructure by increasing shade, reflective surfaces, and heat-mitigating materials in high-activity public areas.

*Action 3.A Shading Infrastructure.* Install climate resilient, reflective, or high albedo shade structures in highly visited parks to increase visitation during days of extreme heat and reduce the risk that extreme heat can pose to vulnerable persons.

*Action 3.B Shaded Transport.* Identify and prioritize high-activity public areas using heat-mapping and social-vulnerability data and install climate-resilient, reflective shade structures to reduce heat exposure during extreme heat events in areas with high pedestrian and bicycle activity prioritizing routes serving vulnerable populations and key community destinations.

Policy 3.2 Heat-Resilient Greenery. Increase tree canopy and vegetative cover in areas with low existing shade and high heat exposure, prioritizing species that are drought-tolerant and climate-resilient.

*Action 3.C Collaborative Greenery.* Partner with schools, community-based organizations, and neighborhood groups to increase participation and frequency of volunteer tree-planting and stewardship events in heat-vulnerable areas, including education on climate-resilient, drought-tolerant tree species and long-term tree care.

*Action 3.D Equitable Landscaping.* Plant and maintain climate-resilient, drought-tolerant tree species in vulnerable neighborhoods identified through heat-vulnerability mapping and establish minimum tree-canopy targets and maintenance standards to ensure sustained shade coverage over time.

Policy 3.3 Extreme Heat Education. Implement a public education campaign to inform residents about extreme heat risks, symptoms of heat-related illness, and protective actions, with tailored outreach for high-risk groups.

*Action 3.E Informative Heat Reduction.* Develop and distribute multilingual digital and physical educational materials that explain extreme-heat risks, symptoms of heat-related illness, sensitive populations, and home-cooling strategies, including maps that highlight heat-vulnerable areas and locations of cooling resources.

Policy 3.4 Alternative Cooling Mechanisms. Expand access to alternative cooling mechanisms to protect individuals during extreme heat events.

*Action 3.F Public Hydration Infrastructure.* Install and maintain drinking fountains and water-refill stations in highly visited public spaces, parks, and transit stops within heat-vulnerable neighborhoods to provide safe hydration during extreme heat events

*Action 3.G Public Cooling Hubs.* Create shaded public seating and gathering spaces in parks, plazas, and other community spaces in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods to provide accessible, low-cost cooling options and support social connections during extreme heat periods.

**Goal 4: Reduce the disproportionate impacts of extreme heat by prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods, strengthening community preparedness, and investing in long-term heat-resilience strategies.**

Policy 4.1 Heat-Vulnerability Prioritization. Identify and prioritize neighborhoods most at risk from extreme heat using heat-mapping, climate projections, and social vulnerability indicators to guide investments in cooling infrastructure.

*Action 4.A Heat Mapping.* Develop, adopt, and regularly update a citywide Heat Vulnerability Map that incorporates climate projections, land-surface temperatures, social-vulnerability indicators, and require its use in city capital-improvement planning, infrastructure budgeting, and land-use decisions.

*Action 4.B Resilient Design.* Prioritize investments in heat-resilient design, by developing minimum tree-canopy targets and shaded sidewalks, while promoting maintenance standards and climate-responsive building design standards, in neighborhoods identified with highly heat vulnerability.

*Action 4.C Heat Alert System.* Utilize the CalHeatScore dataset from the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) together with AlertSCC neighborhood-level alerting tools to establish a citywide heat-ranking system that guides community alerts, emergency response, and public information about cooling centers

Policy 4.2 Cooling Centers. Expand access to safe, reliable emergency cooling centers during extreme heat events.

*Action 4.D Cooling Hubs.* Coordinate with partner agencies to extend hours and improve services at designated cooling hubs during extreme heat events, including access to health information and supportive services for vulnerable residents.

*Action 4.E Vulnerable Neighborhoods Outreach.* Conduct targeted outreach in neighborhoods with limited access to air conditioning or cooling resources, using multilingual and culturally relevant communication channels to promote awareness of cooling centers and transportation options.

*Action 4.F Centennial Recreation Center Power Backup.* Install and maintain a backup battery system at the Centennial Recreation Center to ensure uninterrupted operation as a cooling resilience hub during extreme heat and power disruptions.

*Action 4.G Vulnerable Neighborhood Cooling Hub.* Identify or plan for a cooling resilience hub located within vulnerable neighborhoods.

Policy 4.3 Heat-Resilient Vulnerable Neighborhoods. Increase shaded infrastructure, tree canopy, and heat-mitigating design features in vulnerable neighborhoods that experience disproportionate extreme-heat exposure.

*Action 4.H Urban Canopy in Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods.* Achieve an increase in 30% tree-canopy coverage by planting, maintaining, and monitoring trees and other climate-resilient vegetation in parks and public spaces within heat-vulnerable neighborhoods.

*Action 4.I Public Shade Infrastructure in Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods.* Require shade infrastructures and heat-reducing surface installments in all new and substantially improved public infrastructure projects located in designated heat-vulnerable areas.

Policy 4.4 Community Preparedness & Response Capacity. Strengthen community-level preparedness by supporting neighborhood-based resilience hubs, volunteer networks, and partnerships with local organizations to assist residents during extreme heat emergencies.

*Action 4.J Neighborhood-based Resilience Hubs.* Support the development of neighborhood-based resilience hubs in heat-vulnerable communities by partnering with local organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to provide cooling spaces, information, and assistance during extreme heat events.

*Action 4.K Heat-Safety Volunteer Networks.* Establish and train volunteer networks, including community health workers, and trusted messengers/Promotoras, to conduct wellness checks, distribute heat-safety information, and assist residents with limited mobility, language access, or technology access during extreme heat emergencies.

### *E. Flooding Overview*

As with other hazards, Morgan Hill also faces risks from flooding city-wide. The climate change vulnerability assessment map compares the current and potential harm of flooding in today's time and in 2050 in terms of climate hazard and social vulnerability. The analysis indicates that climate hazards and social vulnerability are expected to increase in several areas of Morgan Hill over time. This trend underscores the overarching objective: to prevent and minimize the impacts of potentially dangerous floods on vulnerable communities, households, and critical infrastructure, while strengthening flood-management systems and overall community well-being.

To achieve this, the goal is to emphasize the construction and maintenance of flood-protection infrastructure, along with the collection of data needed to guide future climate-resilient improvements. Education on flood preparedness is also prioritized citywide to ensure that all households, including multilingual communities, are equipped to respond effectively to unexpected flood events. The proposed policies aim to provide residents with essential emergency tools such as evacuation route information, transportation support, and reliable communication systems, as well as accessible channels for reporting concerns.

In addition, the policies below seek to advance research on flood-management strategies, enhance natural flood-mitigation systems, and strengthen collaboration with local flood-control agencies. A central focus of these policies is equitable investment, ensuring that socially vulnerable communities receive reliable, affordable, and effective protection from climate-driven flooding. Overall, the below policies and actions contribute to a safer, more resilient, and flood-prepared future for Morgan Hill.

*F. Flooding Goals, Policies, and Actions*

**Goal 5: Minimize the impacts of current and future flood hazards on critical infrastructure, households, and vulnerable populations through equitable, climate-informed adaptation strategies.**

Policy 5.1 Climate-Resilient Flood-Protection Infrastructure. Design, upgrade, and implement flood-protection measures using climate-informed flood projections to safeguard critical infrastructure and reduce flood risks in vulnerable neighborhoods.

*Action 5.A Flood-Hazard Data for Vulnerability Purposes.* Utilize updated flood-hazard mapping, climate-change projections, and social vulnerability data to identify neighborhoods, critical facilities, and infrastructure corridors that face heightened future flood risk, and ensure prioritization of areas where climate-exacerbated flooding intersects with vulnerable populations, essential services, or evacuation routes.

*Action 5.B Flood-Protection Infrastructure.* Develop or upgrade pre-existing flood-protection infrastructures to ensure continued safety and security standards citywide.

Policy 5.2 Equitable Flood-Risk Reduction Investments. Prioritize flood-risk reduction projects in low-income communities, socially vulnerable neighborhoods, and areas with limited adaptive capacity to ensure equitable protection from climate-driven flooding.

*Action 5.C Equitable Flood Management Operations.* Establish and implement an equitable maintenance and operations program for flood management infrastructure that prioritizes affordability and reliability in low-income and socially-vulnerable neighbors.

*Action 5.D Expand SeeClickFix Application.* Seek to expand the City's existing SeeClickFix application to include reporting categories for flooding and climate-related

hazards, and ensure the platform is fully accessible in Spanish to support equitable community use.

Policy 5.3 Aquifer Storage and Groundwater Recharge. Explore aquifer storage and recovery, groundwater recharge, and stormwater-capture strategies that utilize excess stormwater during high-flow periods to reduce flood hazards and enhance long-term water resilience.

*Action 5.E Climate-Resilient Infiltration and Recharge Strategies.* Research and consider benefits of infiltration basins, ponds, and other stormwater capture features in suitable residential, commercial, industrial, and roadway areas to reduce localized flooding and enhance groundwater recharge, prioritizing projects that also benefit vulnerable communities.

*Action 5.F Aquifer-Recharge.* Evaluate the benefits and cost-effectiveness of Class V injection wells and other aquifer-recharge systems to manage stormwater runoff, using climate informed projections of future storm intensity and groundwater needs.

Policy 5.4 Advance Watershed-Scale Flood Management. Collaborate with regional partners, water agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions to implement watershed-scale flood-management strategies that reduce downstream flood risks and improve overall hydrologic resilience.

*Action 5.G Regional Coordination.* Work with watershed councils, flood-control districts, and Santa Clara County to align flood-management priorities and share data, modeling, and best practices.

*Action 5.H Integrated Stormwater Systems.* Improve regional conveyance networks to safely route stormwater while minimizing impacts on vulnerable communities.

*Action 5.I Climate-Adaptive Planning.* Use updated hydrologic models that incorporate climate-change projections to guide watershed-scale investments and land-use decisions.

*Action 5.J Equitable Flood-Risk Reduction.* Ensure watershed-scale strategies prioritize downstream communities that face disproportionate flood exposure or have limited adaptive capacity.

**Goal 6: Improve community well-being, ecological resilience, and long-term environmental adaptive capacity impacted by flooding by enhancing natural flood-management systems and modernizing stormwater infrastructure.**

Policy 6.1 Modernize Stormwater Drainage Systems. Upgrade, expand, and modernize stormwater drainage systems to address localized flooding, accommodate future climate-driven precipitation patterns, and protect public health and safety.

*Action 6.A Climate-Resilient Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment.* Annually, conduct a citywide condition and capacity assessment of stormwater infrastructure to identify undersized, aging, or damaged pipes and facilities that are vulnerable under future climate-driven precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, and prioritize upgrades in areas with high social vulnerability.

Policy 6.2 Natural Flood-Management Systems. Preserve, restore, and enhance wetlands, riparian corridors, floodplains, and other natural landscapes that absorb, store, and slow stormwater, improving both ecological health and flood-risk reduction.

*Action 6.B Nature-Based Flood Mitigation.* Prioritize restoration and protection of bioswales, wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains to increase stormwater storage capacity, slow runoff, and improve habitat, prioritizing locations that also reduce flood risks for nearby vulnerable communities.

*Action 6.C Riparian Buffer Restoration.* Support Valley Water in restoring and expanding riparian buffers along local channels and creeks by planting native, water-absorbing vegetation that slows runoff, enhances stormwater infiltration, and filters pollutants before they reach larger waterways.

Policy 6.3 Household Flood Preparedness. Strengthen household-level flood emergency preparedness by expanding access to flood-risk information, early-warning systems, and multilingual education on protective actions, evacuation procedures, and emergency response planning.

*Action 6.D Flood-Monitoring.* Collaborate with Santa Clara Valley Water to install and maintain real-time flood-monitoring sensors and gauges along flood protection infrastructure and in high-risk areas, and integrate this data into emergency response protocols and public alert systems.

*Action 6.E AlertSCC Emergency Response Notification.* Collaborate with Santa Clara County to enhance the AlertSCC application, the County's emergency alert system, by ensuring the platform is fully accessible in Spanish and to provide emergency and safety alerts for flood events and other climate-related hazards.

*Action 6.F Neighborhood Evacuation and Preparedness Guides.* Distribute annually updated, multilingual printed materials to all neighborhoods outlining nearby evacuation routes, flood-safe locations, and household preparedness guidance, with a focus on reaching vulnerable populations.

*Action 6.G Multilingual Flood Preparedness Education.* Multilingual Flood Preparedness Education. Continue to provide free educational services through the Office of Emergency Services, that are accessible and multilingual, on household flood

preparedness tailored to residents with disabilities, older adults, renters, and non-English speaking households.

Policy 6.4 Flood Evacuation Routes & Emergency Access. Identify areas at risk of flooding and ensure that evacuation routes, emergency access corridors, and critical transportation infrastructure remain safe, functional, and clearly communicated during flood events.

*Action 6.H Critical Flood-Risk Inspections.* Conduct regular inspections and climate-risk assessments of flood-prone bridges, culverts, and key transportation links to ensure they remain safe and functional during flood events, prioritizing routes that serve vulnerable communities and essential facilities.

*Action 6.I Multilingual Flood Risk Communication Enhancements.* Improve multilingual communication systems in flood vulnerable areas, including signage, alerts, and outreach materials that clearly convey flood risks, evacuation routes, and emergency procedures.

*Action 6.J Evacuation Route Management.* Maintain and periodically update flood evacuation routes to reflect changing flood risks and urban development, ensuring all routes are accessible, safe, and clearly marked.

## G. *Wildfire Overview*

As a city in California, Morgan Hill experiences severe levels of temperature which, as a consequence, increases wildfire-risk. To avoid confusion for adaptation planning, and to leverage the analysis by CAL FIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) classifications were used as the designation of wildfire vulnerability. Based on the FHSZ classifications of High Fire Severity and Very High Fire Severity, only the extremities of Morgan Hill's city limit is vulnerable to wildfire. FHSZs are a

classification of current level of hazard, therefore data or mapping of future wildfire conditions were not performed.

However, to combat climate impacts on wildfire, Morgan Hill must develop policies designed to reduce wildfire risk to life, property, and critical facilities equitably in order to coordinate emergency responses. It must also take into account educating and preparing strategies to inform residents about the dangers of wildfire. Socially vulnerable regions and residents are most affected by the lack of emergency planning and informative communication that's multilingual and applicable to all communities city-wide. In addition, developing direct-assistance programs to accommodate fire-resistance infrastructures will decrease potential harm to low-income and vulnerable households. The policies below rely on proactive campaigns and educational promotion of wildfire preparedness, and overall, aim to prevent and minimize the damage of preventable wildfires across Morgan Hill's city limit starting now and into the future.

#### *H. Wildfire Goals, Policies, and Actions*

### **Goal 7: Reduce wildfire risk to life, property, and critical facilities in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.**

Policy 7.1 Climate-Informed Siting and Design. Site and design new critical facilities outside Very High Fire Severity Zones where feasible.

*Action 7.A Critical Facility Hardening Inventory.* Prepare and maintain an inventory of critical facilities in or near High and Very High Fire Severity Zones and prioritize fire and backup-power retrofits for those serving vulnerable neighborhoods.

Policy 7.2 Climate-Adaptive Emergency Response. Coordinate with Santa Clara County, CalFIRE, and regional partners to update emergency response plans, evacuation routes, and

mutual-aid agreements to reflect projected increases in extreme wildfire behavior under future climate scenarios.

*Action 7.B WUI Capital and Maintenance Program.* Establish a recurring WUI risk-reduction program (roadside clearance, shaded fuel breaks, ingress/egress improvements, and signage) focused on neighborhoods adjacent to mapped Very High and High Fire Severity Zones.

**Goal 8: Advance equitable, climate-resilient wildfire preparedness for all neighborhoods, with priority for underserved and vulnerable communities.**

Policy 8.1 Equity-Focused Outreach and Education. Develop a public education and outreach strategy to inform the community of natural hazards and risks, with an increased emphasis on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, as identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

*Action 8.A Wildfire Education Campaign.* Develop and implement an annual wildfire-preparedness campaign (workshops, neighborhood events, school programs, social media, and mailed materials) tailored to high-risk and socially vulnerable neighborhoods, including renters and farmworker communities.

*Action 8.B Community Partner Network.* Encourage partnerships with local nonprofits, neighborhood associations, and service providers to co-host wildfire-preparedness events and distribute materials.

*Action 8.C Social-Vulnerability Targeting.* Use social vulnerability indicators (e.g., income, age, disability, language, housing cost burden) and census block group data to prioritize wildfire preparedness investments, defensible-space assistance, and evacuation support in neighborhoods with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.

*Action 8.D Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Communication.* Provide wildfire-related information, alerts, and preparedness materials in multiple languages and formats, and partner with trusted community-based organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to reach residents who may not access traditional channels.

## **V. Conclusion**

The recommended goals, policies, and actions presented in this report position the City of Morgan Hill to proactively address the accelerating risks of drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire. Grounded in a comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment and informed by best practices from peer jurisdictions, these strategies emphasize equitable adaptation, community engagement, and long-term resilience. By prioritizing socially vulnerable populations, Morgan Hill can ensure that climate-resilience investments benefit those most at risk.

Implementing these recommendations will strengthen public health through expanded cooling infrastructure, improved water security, and enhanced emergency preparedness. The local environment will benefit from increased ecosystem protection, drought-resilient land-use planning, and improved flood-management systems. Economic resilience will grow as infrastructure becomes more reliable, local businesses gain stability, and residents experience fewer climate-related disruptions.

Collectively, these actions support a safer, healthier, and more connected community. By adopting and implementing the proposed strategies, some on an ongoing basis and others within one to ten years, Morgan Hill can build a future in which all residents are better protected from climate hazards and equipped with the resources needed to thrive in a changing climate.

## Appendix A. Climate Change Vulnerability Indicators

This appendix provides a comprehensive list of the indicators used in the Vulnerable Communities Platform to assess climate change vulnerability across Morgan Hill. These indicators combine hazard exposure, social vulnerability, and adaptive capacity to identify neighborhoods most at risk from drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire. The indicators support data-driven, equity-centered planning and inform the goals, policies, and actions recommended in this report.

| Indicator Category                          | Indicator Name                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Source                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Demographics &amp; Population Groups</b> | Percent of Population Under Five Years Old                 | Percentage of residents who are children under age five.                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                             | Over 65 Living Alone                                       | Percent of the population over age 65 who live alone.                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                             | Percent of Population with a Disability                    | Percent of residents reporting hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and/or independent living difficulties.                                                                                                    | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                             | Percent of Households without a Proficient English Speaker | Percent of households where no one speaks English “very well.”                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                             | Percent of Workers in Outdoor Occupations                  | Percent of employed persons working in protective services; natural resources, construction, and maintenance; production, transportation, and material moving; or building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations. | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                             | Percent of Workers in Agriculture Industry                 | Percent of employed persons working in                                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |

|                                        |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                                                                     | the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.                                                                                                  |                                                 |
| <b>Housing &amp; Living Conditions</b> | Percent of Population Living in Rented Units                        | Percent of population living in housing units that are rented.                                                                                             | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                        | Percent of Housing Units that are Mobile Homes, Vans, RVs, or Boats | Percent of housing units classified as mobile homes, vans, recreational vehicles, or boats.                                                                | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                        | Housing Insecurity in Last 12 Months                                | Probability among adults who were unable to pay mortgage, rent, or utility bills in the past 12 months.                                                    | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                      |
| <b>Economic Vulnerability</b>          | Food Insecurity in the Past 12 Months                               | Probability among adults who reported that the food they bought always/usually/sometimes did not last and they did not have money to get more.             | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                      |
|                                        | Received Food Stamps in the Past 12 Months                          | Probability among adults who reported receiving food stamps (SNAP) on an EBT card.                                                                         | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                      |
|                                        | Median Household Income (Dollars)                                   | Household Median Income (HHMI).                                                                                                                            | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
|                                        | Percent of Area Median Income                                       | HHMI expressed as a percent of Area Median Income (AMI), where "Area" refers to the parent Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county if not in an MSA. | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a> |
| <b>Isolation</b>                       | Feeling Socially Isolated Among                                     | Probability among adults who report                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                      |

|                           |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | Adults                                                            | always/usually/sometimes feeling socially isolated.                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                             |
|                           | Lack of Social and Emotional Support Among Adults                 | Probability among adults who report sometimes, rarely, or never receiving needed social and emotional support.                                                                                            | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                  |
|                           | Lack of Reliable Transportation in the Last 12 Months             | Probability among adults who reported lacking reliable transportation for medical appointments, work, meetings, or daily needs in the past 12 months.                                                     | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                  |
|                           | Percent of Households Without a Vehicle                           | Percent of households without access to a vehicle.                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a>                                             |
| <b>Essential Services</b> | Water System/Supply Risk Score                                    | Identifies locations served by drinking water systems that are failing or at risk, located within an at-risk aquifer, or outside a water system service area (or with fewer than 10 service connections). | <a href="#">California State Water Resources Control Board</a>                              |
|                           | Number of FAIR Policies Divided by Number of Housing Units (2023) | Ratio of FAIR insurance policies to total housing units. FAIR is a last-resort insurance program for households in high wildfire-risk areas where private insurance is unavailable or insufficient.       | <a href="#">California FAIR Program</a> ; <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a>   |
|                           | Average Public Safety Power Shutoffs per Year &                   | Frequency of annual Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">PSE Healthy Energy</a> ; <a href="#">California Public Utilities Commission</a> |

|                             |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             | Average Number of Customers Impacted                | events and the average number of customers affected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |
|                             | Percent of Households Without Internet Access       | Percent of households without an internet subscription.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">American Community Survey (ACS)</a>                         |
|                             | Percent Threat of Utility Shutoff in Past 12 Months | Probability among adults who reported that an electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services at any time during the prior 12 months.                                                                                                                                              | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                              |
| <b>Environmental Burden</b> | Potential Water Pollution Sources (Flood)           | Populated areas within one mile of a monitored hazardous site, impaired water site, solid waste site, power plant, animal operation, sewage treatment plant, hazardous waste treatment facility, industrial facility, landfill/incinerator, cleanup site, refinery, port/terminal, or oil and gas well. | <a href="#">State Water Resources Control Board</a>                     |
|                             | Average PM 2.5 (1998–2016)                          | Annual average PM 2.5 concentrations from 1998 to 2016, represented using 50 km hexagonal grid cells.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <a href="#">NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)</a> |
|                             | Average Summer Urban Heat Island (2016–2018)        | Summertime daytime and nighttime surface Urban Heat Island (UHI) intensities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="#">Yale Center for Earth Observation (YCEO)</a>                |
| <b>Health</b>               | Asthma                                              | Probability among adults of having current asthma.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                              |

|                           |                                                                |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)                   | Probability among adults of having diagnosed COPD, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis.                                         | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | High Blood Pressure                                            | Probability among adults of having diagnosed high blood pressure.                                                            | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | Diagnosed Diabetes Among Adults                                | Probability among adults of having diagnosed diabetes.                                                                       | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | Coronary Heart Disease                                         | Probability among adults of having diagnosed angina or coronary heart disease.                                               | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | Obesity Among Adults                                           | Probability among adults with BMI $\geq 30.0$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> based on self-reported height and weight.                    | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | Percent Reporting Frequent Mental Distress                     | Probability among adults reporting mental health that was “not good” for 14+ days in the past 30 days.                       | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           | Current Cigarette Smokers                                      | Probability among adults who have smoked $\geq 100$ cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days. | <a href="#">CDC PLACES</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Climate Indicators</b> | Ratio of Total Precipitation to Population and Cultivated Land | A measure of water stress based on the ratio of total precipitation to population and cultivated land by watershed.          | <a href="#">PRISM</a> 30-year normals (1991–2020); <a href="#">DWR Statewide Crop Mapping</a> ; 2020 Census Block Populations; <a href="#">USGS National Hydrography Dataset</a> |

|  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Average Water Shortage Vulnerability (WSV) Score                             | Physical risk of water shortage, including over-drafted basins, dry well susceptibility, and declining groundwater levels.  | Adapted from <a href="#">DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Tool</a>                                   |
|  | Present Change in June–August Mean Maximum Temperatures                      | Difference in average summer maximum temperatures between projected present (2015–2044) and historical (1950–2014) periods. | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Maximum Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a> |
|  | Future Change in June–August Mean Maximum Temperatures                       | Difference in average summer maximum temperatures between projected future (2045–2074) and historical (1950–2014) periods.  | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Maximum Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a> |
|  | Percent of Area in Moderate to Very High CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones | Percent of populated area intersecting moderate, high, or very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones.                             | <a href="#">Adapted from CAL FIRE FHSZ</a>                                                           |
|  | Present Contribution to Total Precipitation from Very Wet Days               | Projected percent of precipitation from high-intensity rainfall events in 2015–2044.                                        | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Precipitation Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a>       |
|  | Future Contribution to Total Precipitation from Very Wet Days                | Projected percent of precipitation from high-intensity rainfall events in 2045–2074.                                        | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Precipitation Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a>       |
|  | Percent of Populated Area in 100-Year Floodplains                            | Percent of populated area within a 100-year floodplain.                                                                     | <a href="#">DWR Best Available Maps (BAM)</a>                                                        |
|  | Percent of Populated Area in 500-Year Floodplains                            | Percent of populated area within a 500-year floodplain.                                                                     | <a href="#">DWR Best Available Maps (BAM)</a>                                                        |
|  | Present Percent of Summer Days Over                                          | Projected frequency of days over 100°F                                                                                      | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Maximum</a>                                                                 |

|  |                                          |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                         |
|--|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 100°F                                    | during 2015–2044.                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a>                         |
|  | Future Percent of Summer Days Over 100°F | Projected frequency of days over 100°F during 2045–2074.                                                                               | <a href="#">LOCA2 Hybrid Maximum Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a>    |
|  | Present Frequency of Hot Summer Nights   | Frequency of nights in 2015–2044 where minimum temperature exceeds the 98th percentile of historical (1950–2014) minimum temperatures. | <a href="#">LOCA2 CA Hybrid Minimum Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a> |
|  | Future Frequency of Hot Summer Nights    | Frequency of nights in 2045–2074 where minimum temperature exceeds the 98th percentile of historical (1950–2014) minimum temperatures. | <a href="#">LOCA2 CA Hybrid Minimum Temperature Projections (SSP 3-7.0), Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine</a> |

# 2026 CAPS Report City of Morgan Hill

Created by 2026 CAPS Interns from MHUSD  
Tuesday, April 28th, 2026



# About the Internship



- **August 2025-May 2026**
- **Application process**
  - Welcomed applications from all schools, academic, socio-economic, and linguistic backgrounds and career interests
- **Accepted 20 students**
  - 7 Live Oak High School students
  - 13 Ann Sobrato High School students
- **Career exploration**
  - 16 careers explored
  - 10 professionals interviewed



# Intern Experience

- **August 2025-May 2026**
- **3 projects in partnership with the City of Morgan Hill**
  - August 2025-December 2025
    - Healthy Neighborhoods for All
    - Natural Resources Element (Open Space Element)
  - December 2025-May 2026
    - Safety, Services, and Infrastructure Element (Safety Element)
- **14 students participated in the three projects**



# CAPS

## **Safety, Services, & Infrastructure Element Update**



# CITY OF MORGAN HILL



# Safety Element

## State Laws



- **SB 379 – Climate Adaptation**

- Requires the safety element to include a climate change vulnerability assessment and goals, policies, and actions that address climate adaptation and resilience.

- **AB 2684 – Extreme Heat**

- Requires the safety element to address extreme heat hazards.



# Safety Element

## Objective 4

Assist in designing and implementing strategies to include a climate change vulnerability assessment that addresses climate adaptation and resilience.



## Phases of Work Conducted

1. Background research related to climate change vulnerability
2. Assist with a climate change vulnerability assessment
3. Identify climate change risks and impacts to Morgan Hill such as from drought, extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires
4. Develop goals, policies, and objectives recommendations based on the assessment into Morgan Hill's general plan
5. Draft a report summarizing finding and proposed recommendations



# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !**

- **WHAT IS IT?**

- Identifies how susceptible a community is to the harmful impacts of climate change using steps that evaluate trends, future hazards, and strategies for building adaptation

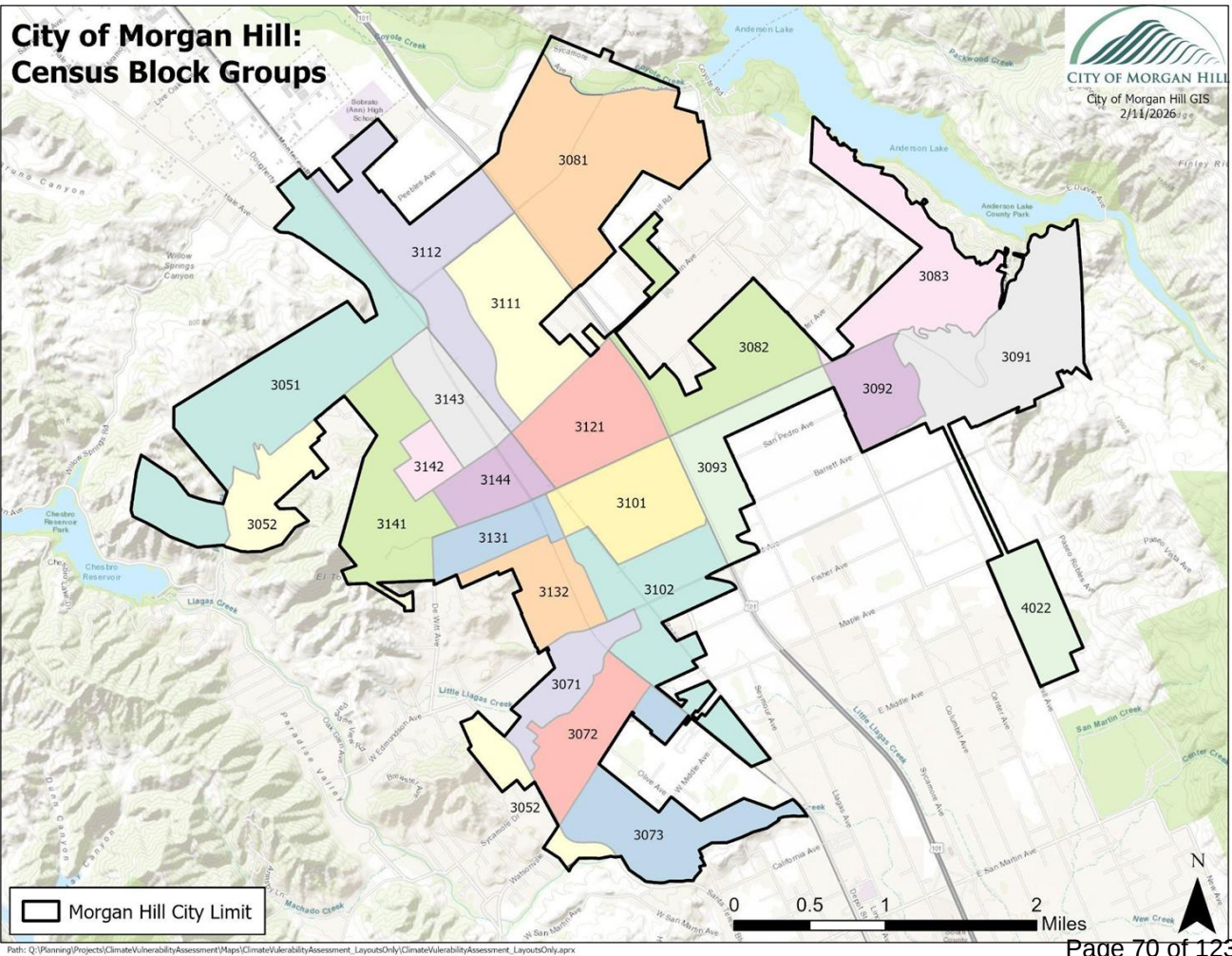
- **Methodology**

- California Vulnerable Communities Platform
- View data by census block
- Prepare framework for implementing strategies
- Implement, evaluate, and adjust

# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

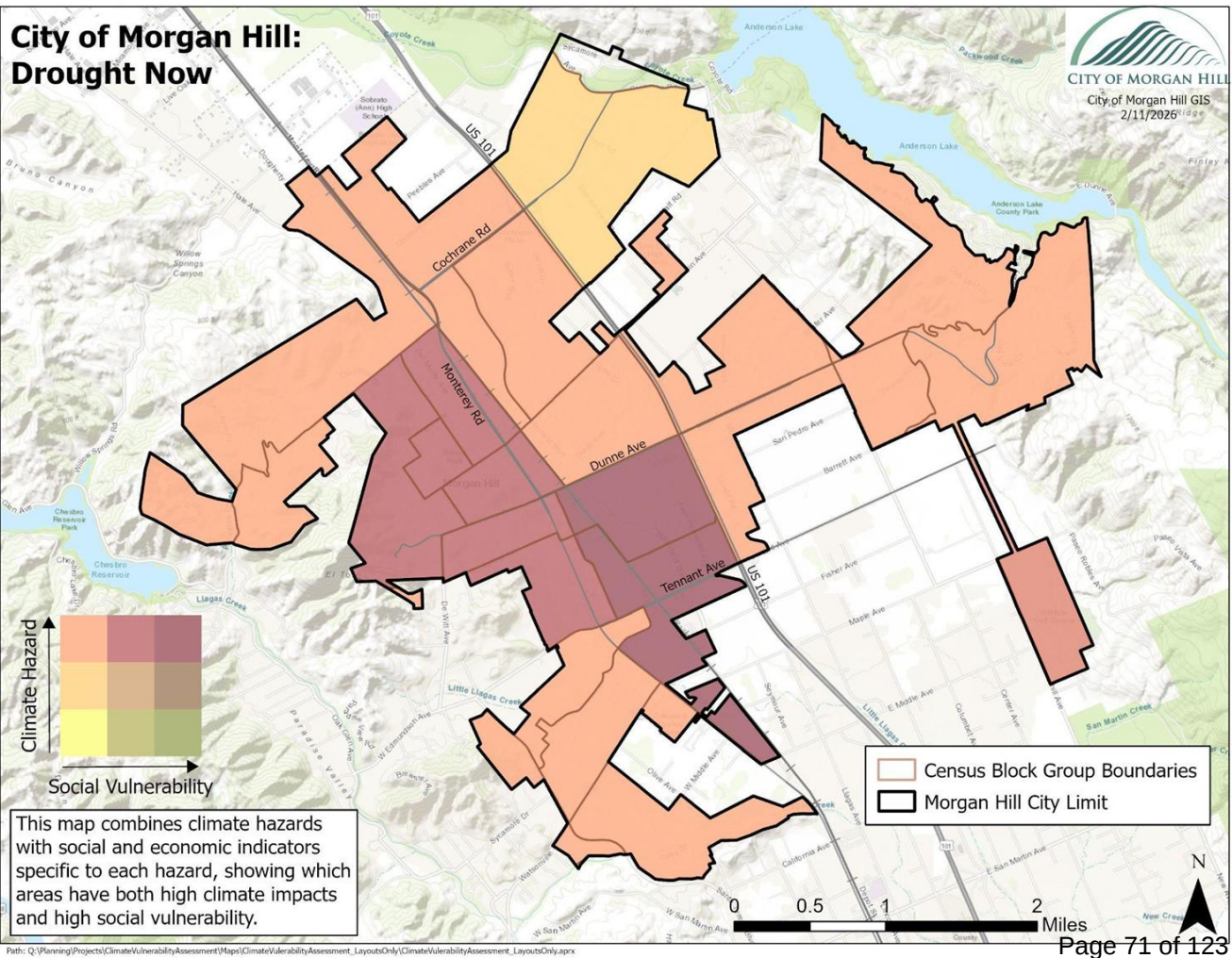
**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS**



# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

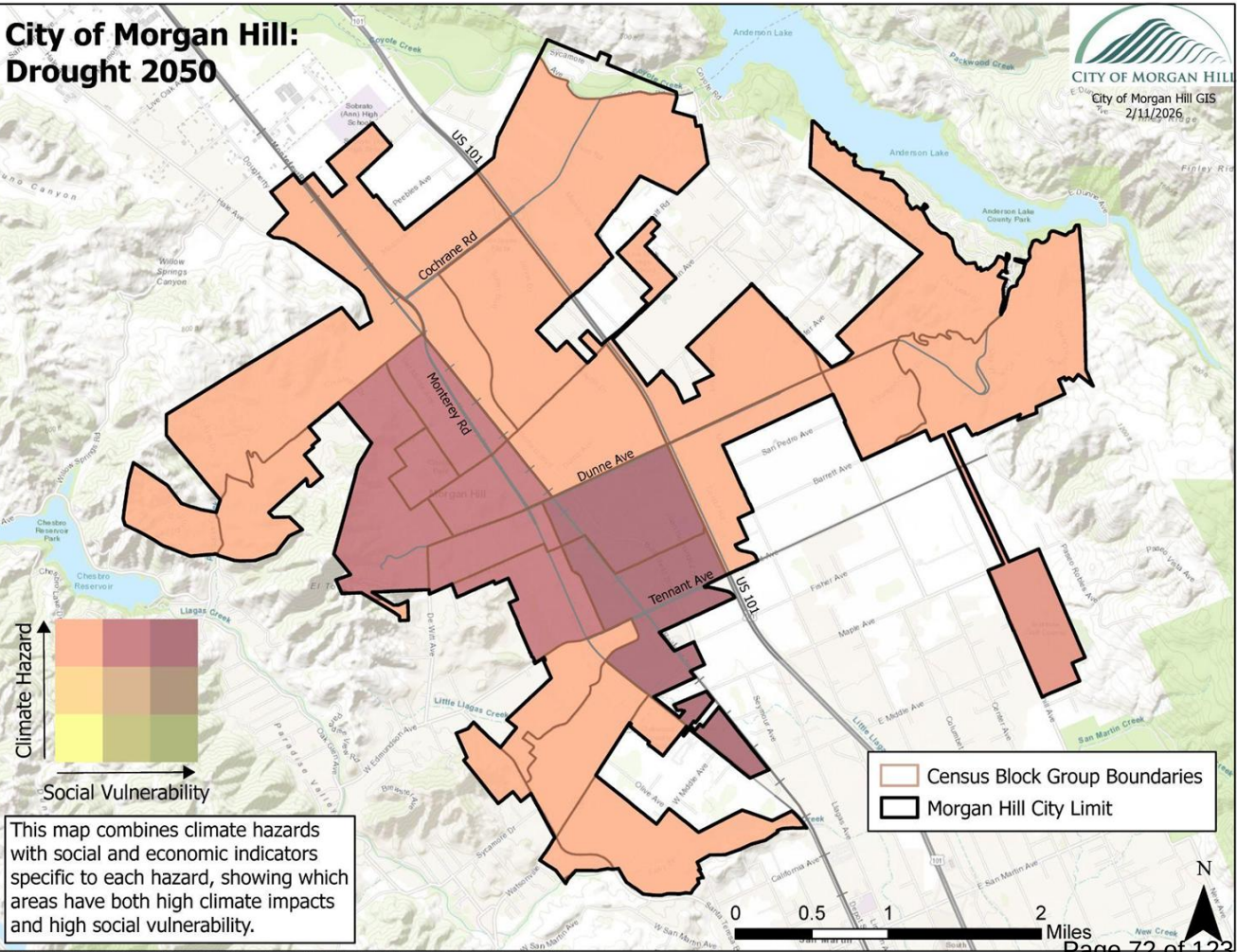
CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !



# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !



## Drought



**Goal 1: Strengthen community resilience and adaptive capacity to minimize the impacts of climate-driven drought on Morgan Hill's residents, ecosystems, and essential services.**



# Policy

## Policy 1.1: Water Conservation Education.

**Expand accessible, culturally relevant, and climate-informed education programs that help residents, businesses, and community organizations understand effective water-conservation practices and the long-term impacts of drought**

## Actions

---

Action 1.A: Equitable Water Conservation Awareness.

Continue and expand distribution of printed and digital multilingual educational materials to all households on water conservation practices, drought impacts, and climate impacts to water supplies.

Action 1.B: Promote Valley Water's Water Conservation Webinar Series.

Partner with Santa Clara Valley Water to promote its multilingual Water Conservation Webinar Series to Morgan Hill residents, prioritizing outreach to climate-vulnerable households as part of the City's broader water-conservation education efforts.



# Policy

## Policy 1.2: Community Engagement on Water Conditions

**Maintain transparent communication with the community to understand residents' concerns, challenges, and needs related to water use and drought conditions using multilingual and accessible outreach methods.**

## Actions

---

### Action 1.C: Drought Information Sessions

Host accessible multilingual in-person events to discuss current water conditions, drought restrictions, and community concerns.



# Policy

## Policy 1.3: Equitable Access to Drought-Resilience Resources

**Ensure that drought-resilience resources, programs, and investments are distributed equitably across all social and economic groups, prioritizing communities with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.**



## Actions

---

Action 1D: Drought Resilience Transparency Tool.

Provide an online, publicly accessible dashboard that shows how drought resilience investments, programs, and resources are distributed across neighborhoods, highlighting efforts to prioritize communities with higher social vulnerability.

Action 1E: Equitable Access to Drought Education and Events

Ensure that all parts of the city, especially vulnerable and opportunity neighborhoods, have access to drought related events, workshops, and educational opportunities, including mobile or pop-up events where needed.



## **Drought**

**Goal 2: Ensure long-term water security by reducing drought vulnerability in Morgan Hill's most at-risk communities and improving equitable access to reliable, climate-resilient water resources.**



# Policy

## Policy 2.1: Water-Efficiency Education

**Implement comprehensive, accessible, and culturally relevant education programs that teach residents, businesses, and community organizations how to conserve water and use it efficiently.**

## Actions

---

### Action 2.A: Accessible Drought Education and Outreach

Partner with community based organizations, schools, and service providers to share multilingual drought information, conservation resources, and emergency updates in accessible formats, including social media, radio, and printed materials.

### Action 2.B: Emergency Utility Relief Assistance Partnership

Continue to partner with and promote The Society of St. Vincent de Paul program at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish to provide emergency assistance for utility bill relief.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.2: Equitable Drought Assistance.**

**Ensure that drought-prevention and drought-response efforts equitably support vulnerable and opportunity neighborhoods by providing targeted assistance, resources, and outreach.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.C: Water Infrastructure Equity.

Prioritize investments in leak detection, pipe replacement, and water system upgrades equitably in low-income and opportunity neighborhoods to reduce water loss, improve reliability, and enhance resilience to drought.



# Policy

## **Policy: 2.3 Climate-Resilient Water Supply.**

**Integrate climate projections into long-term water-supply planning to diversify water sources, enhance storage capacity, and strengthen the reliability of essential water services during prolonged drought.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.D: Climate-Informed Drought Risk and Water Planning.

Encourage local water agencies to incorporate the latest climate projections into long-term water supply plans, including analysis of prolonged and severe drought scenarios.

Action 2.E: Alternative Water Supply Sources.

Consider rainwater capture, groundwater storage, and other alternative water sources through capital projects, incentives, and regional partnerships to reduce dependence on a single water source.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.4: Water Conservation & Efficiency.**

**Promote long-term water conservation and efficiency, prioritizing high-use areas and communities with limited adaptive capacity to ensure equitable access to water-saving resources.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.F: Water Efficiency Assistance.

Promote Santa Clara Valley Water targeted water efficiency programs for high use sectors and vulnerable communities, including rebates, technical assistance, and performance standards for indoor and outdoor water use.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.5: Drought-Resilient Water Supply Management.**

**Diversify and strengthen the City's water-supply portfolio to reduce reliance on vulnerable sources during drought including expanding groundwater recharge, recycled water use, stormwater capture, and regional water-supply partnerships.**

## **Actions**

---

**Action 2.G: Drought-Resilient Water Supply.**

Identify and, if feasible, prioritize projects that expand groundwater recharge and stormwater capture, and pursue regional agreements to share drought resilient water supplies during shortages.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.6: Aquifer Storage and Recovery.**

**Explore aquifer storage and recovery systems that capture excess stormwater.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.H: Aquifer Recovery Feasibility.

Evaluate the benefits and cost-effectiveness of aquifer storage and recovery systems that capture excess stormwater during high flow events, with a focus on protecting groundwater quality and long term reliability.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.7: Drought-Resilient Land Use & Development.**

**Incorporate drought-resilience strategies into land-use planning, development review, and capital improvement projects.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.I: Drought-Resilient Standards.

Evaluate and, where feasible, update the Municipal Code and development standards to require drought-resilient landscaping, high-efficiency irrigation, and water-efficient fixtures in new development and major renovations.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.8: Ecosystem & Habitat Resilience.**

**Protect and restore natural ecosystems, such as creeks, wetlands, riparian corridors, and vegetation, that support groundwater recharge, biodiversity, and drought resilience.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 2.J : Drought-Resilient Ecosystem Restoration.

Identify and prioritize restoration and protection projects for creeks, wetlands, riparian corridors, and vegetation that enhance groundwater recharge and ecological resilience to drought, especially where they also provide benefits to nearby drought-vulnerable neighborhoods.



# Policy

## **Policy 2.9: Equity-Centered Drought Adaptation.**

**Ensure that drought-resilience strategies prioritize communities with the highest social vulnerability, limited water-saving resources, or disproportionate exposure to drought impacts.**

## **Actions**

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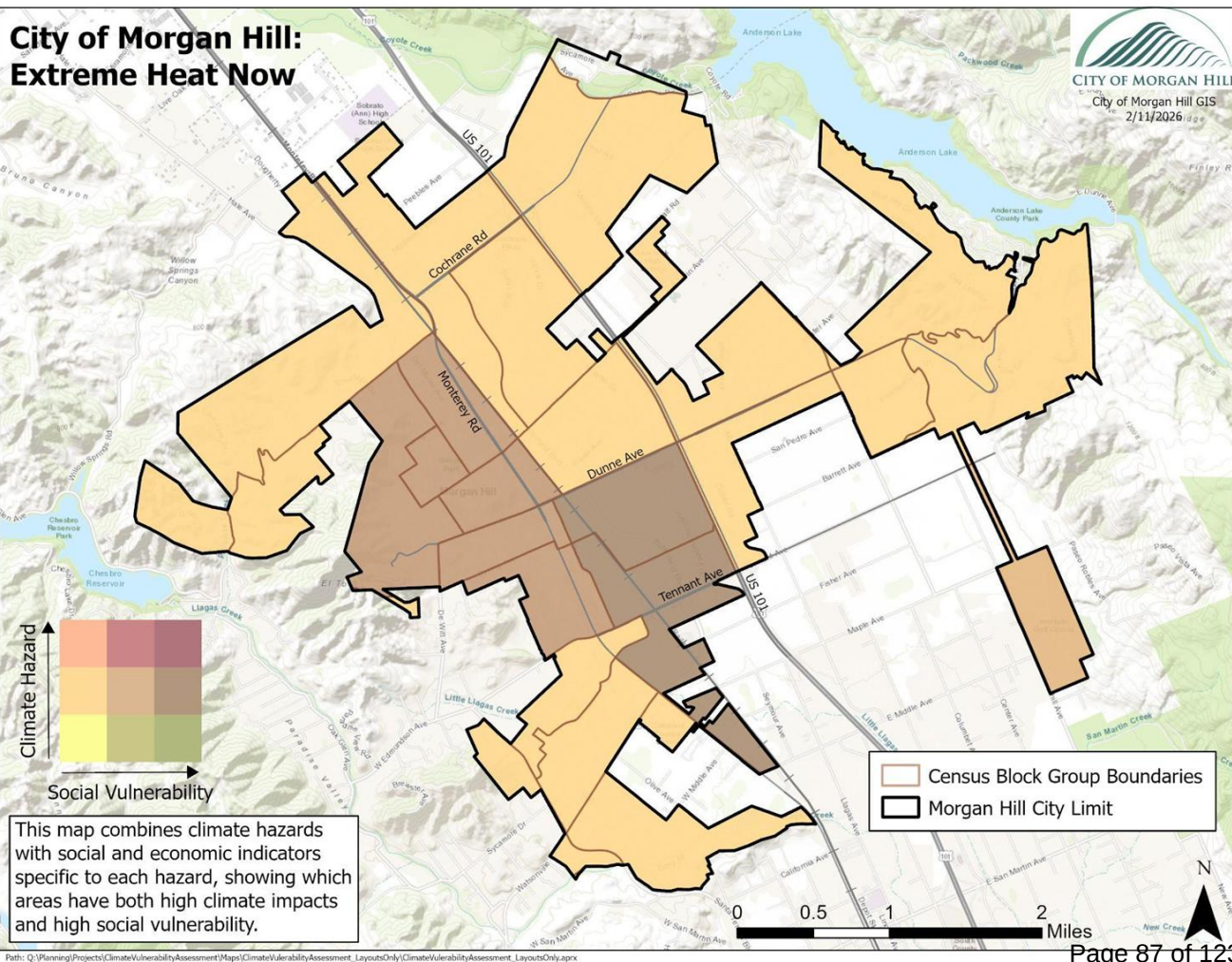
Action 2.K: Equitable Drought Adaptation Prioritization.

Use social vulnerability indicators and water-use data to prioritize drought adaptation investments, outreach, and assistance programs in neighborhoods with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.

# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS**

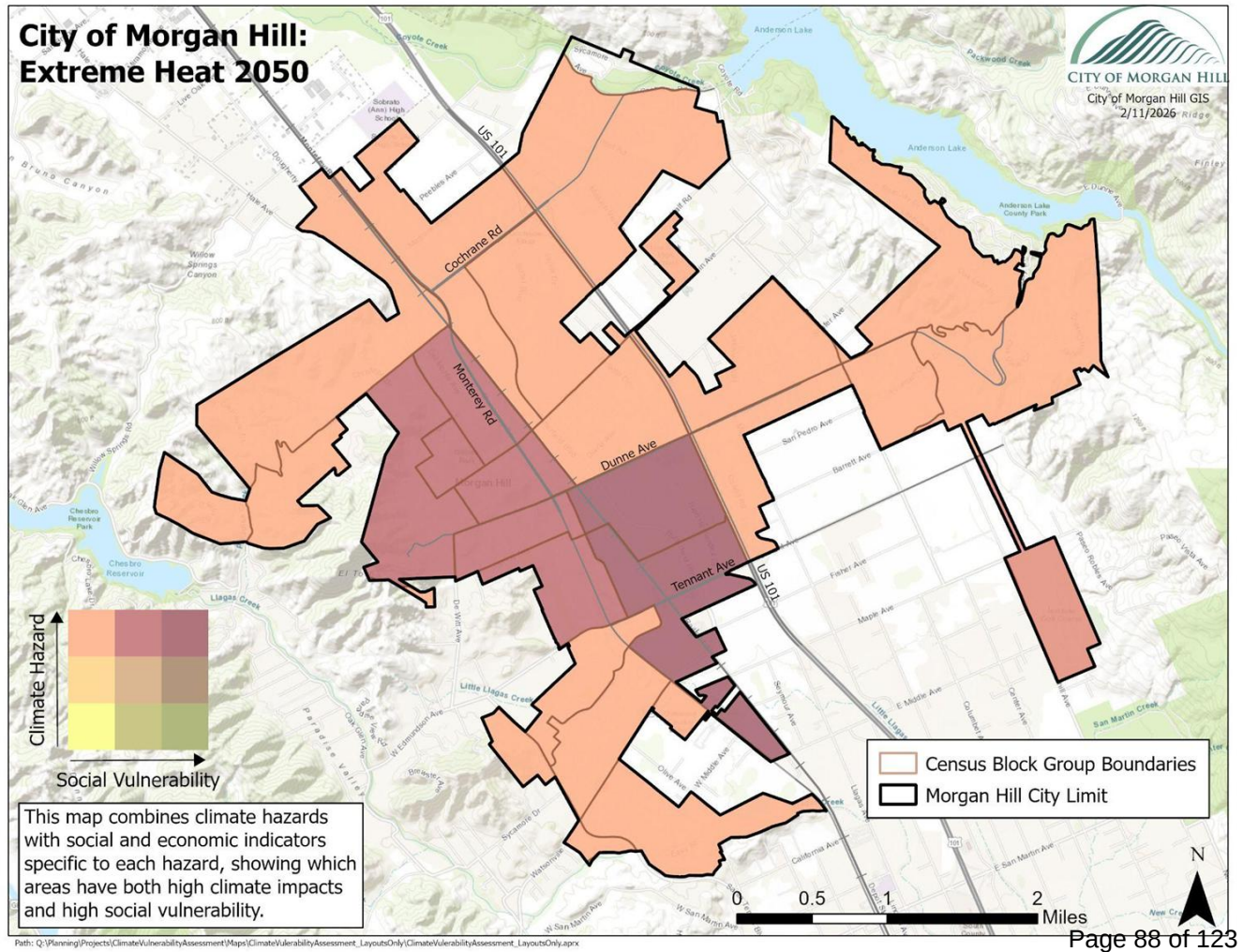




# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !**





## Extreme Heat

**Goal 3: Reduce the risk that extreme heat poses to individuals and the environment.**



# Policy

## **Policy 3.1 Urban Cooling.**

**Expand urban cooling infrastructure by increasing shade, reflective surfaces, and heat-mitigating materials in high-activity public areas.**

## **Actions**

---

### **Action 3.A Shading infrastructure**

Install climate resilient, reflective shade structures in highly visited parks to protect the risk extreme heat exposure poses towards vulnerable populations.

### **Action 3.B Shaded Transport.**

Utilize heat-mapping and social-vulnerability data to prioritize high-activity pedestrian and bicycle routes, by installing climate resilient shade structures to reduce extreme heat exposure, especially along routes serving vulnerable populations & key community destinations



# Policy

## Policy 3.2 Heat-Resilient Greenery.

**Increase tree canopy and vegetative cover in areas with low existing shade and high heat exposure, prioritizing species that are drought-tolerant and climate-resilient.**

## Actions

---

### Action 3.C Collaborative Greenery

Partner with schools, and community groups to increase volunteer tree-planting and stewardship events in heat-vulnerable areas, including education on climate-resilient tree care.

### Action 3.D Equitable Landscaping.

Plant and maintain climate-resilient, drought-tolerant tree species in vulnerable neighborhoods identified through heat-vulnerability mapping and set canopy maintenance standards for long-term shade coverage.



# Policy

## Policy 3.3 Extreme Heat Education.

**Implement a public education campaign to inform residents about extreme heat risks, symptoms of heat-related illness, and protective actions, with tailored outreach for high-risk groups.**

## Actions

---

### Action 3.E Informative Heat Reduction.

Develop and distribute multilingual digital and physical educational materials that explain extreme-heat risks, symptoms of heat-related illness, and home-cooling strategies, including maps that highlight heat-vulnerable areas and locations of cooling resources.



# Policy

## Policy 3.4 Alternative Cooling Mechanisms.

**Expand access to alternative cooling mechanisms to protect individuals during extreme heat events.**

## Actions

---

Action 3.F Public Hydration Infrastructure.

Install and maintain drinking fountains and water-refill stations in highly visited public spaces, within heat-vulnerable neighborhoods to provide safe hydration during extreme heat events

Action 3.G Public Cooling Hubs.

Create shaded public seating and gathering spaces in parks, plazas, and other community spaces in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods to provide accessible, low-cost cooling options.



## Extreme Heat

**Goal 4: Reduce the disproportionate impacts of extreme heat by prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods, strengthening community preparedness, and investing in long-term heat-resilience strategies.**



# Policy

## Policy 4.1 Heat-Vulnerability Prioritization.

**Identify and prioritize neighborhoods most at risk from extreme heat using heat-mapping, climate projections, and social vulnerability indicators to guide investments in cooling infrastructure.**

## Actions

---

### Action 4.A Heat Mapping

Develop, and regularly update a citywide Heat Vulnerability Map that incorporates climate projections, temperature data, and social-vulnerability indicators. Require its use in capital planning, infrastructure budgeting, and land-use decisions.

### Action 4.B Resilient Design.

Prioritize heat-resilient investments in highly vulnerable neighborhoods, including tree-canopy targets, shaded sidewalks, and climate-responsive building design standards to ensure long-term effectiveness.

### Action 4.C Heat Alert System.

Utilize the CalHeatScore dataset from the (OEHHA) with AlertSCC neighborhood-level tools to establish a citywide heat-ranking system that guides community alerts, emergency response, and public information about cooling centers



# Policy

## Policy 4.2 Cooling Centers.

**Expand access to safe, reliable emergency cooling centers during extreme heat events.**

## Actions

---

### Action 4.D Cooling Hubs.

Coordinate with partner agencies to extend hours and improve services at cooling hubs during extreme heat events. Provide health information and supportive services for vulnerable residents.

### Action 4.E Vulnerable Neighborhoods Outreach

Conduct targeted outreach in neighborhoods with limited cooling access using multilingual and culturally relevant communication channels to promote awareness of cooling centers and transportation options.

### Action 4.F Centennial Recreation Center Power Backup.

Install and maintain a backup battery system Centennial Recreation Center to ensure uninterrupted operation as a cooling resilience hub during extreme heat and power disruptions.

### Action 4.G Vulnerable Neighborhood Cooling Hub.

Identify or plan for a cooling resilience hub located within vulnerable neighborhoods.



# Policy

## **Policy 4.3 Heat-Resilient Vulnerable Neighborhoods.**

**Increase shaded infrastructure, tree canopy, and heat-mitigating design features in vulnerable neighborhoods that experience disproportionate extreme-heat exposure.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 4.H Urban Canopy in Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods.

Achieve an increase in 30% tree-canopy coverage by planting, maintaining, and monitoring trees and other climate-resilient vegetation in parks and public spaces within heat-vulnerable neighborhoods.

Action 4.I Public Shade Infrastructure in Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods.

Require shade infrastructures and heat-reducing surface installments in all new and substantially improved public infrastructure projects located in designated heat-vulnerable areas.



# Policy

## Policy 4.4 Community Preparedness & Response Capacity.

**Strengthen community-level preparedness by supporting neighborhood-based resilience hubs, volunteer networks, and partnerships with local organizations to assist residents during extreme heat emergencies.**

## Actions

---

### Action 4.J Neighborhood-based Resilience Hubs.

Support development of neighborhood-based resilience hubs in heat-vulnerable communities by partnering with local organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to provide cooling spaces, information, and assistance during extreme heat events.

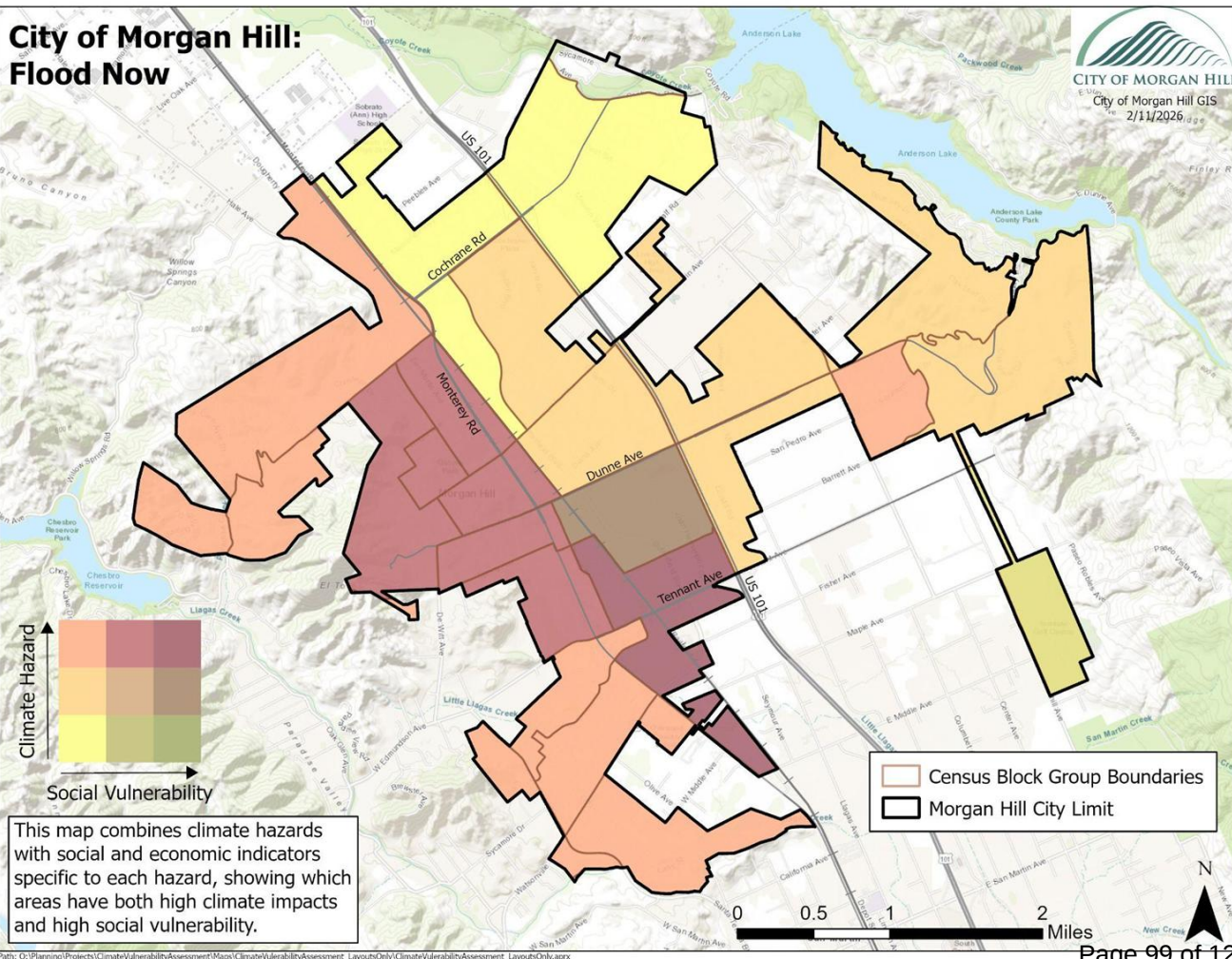
### Action 4.K Heat-Safety Volunteer Networks.

Establish and train volunteer networks, including community health workers, and trusted messengers/Promotoras, to conduct wellness checks, distribute heat-safety information, and assist residents with limited mobility, language access, or technology access during extreme heat emergencies.

# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS**





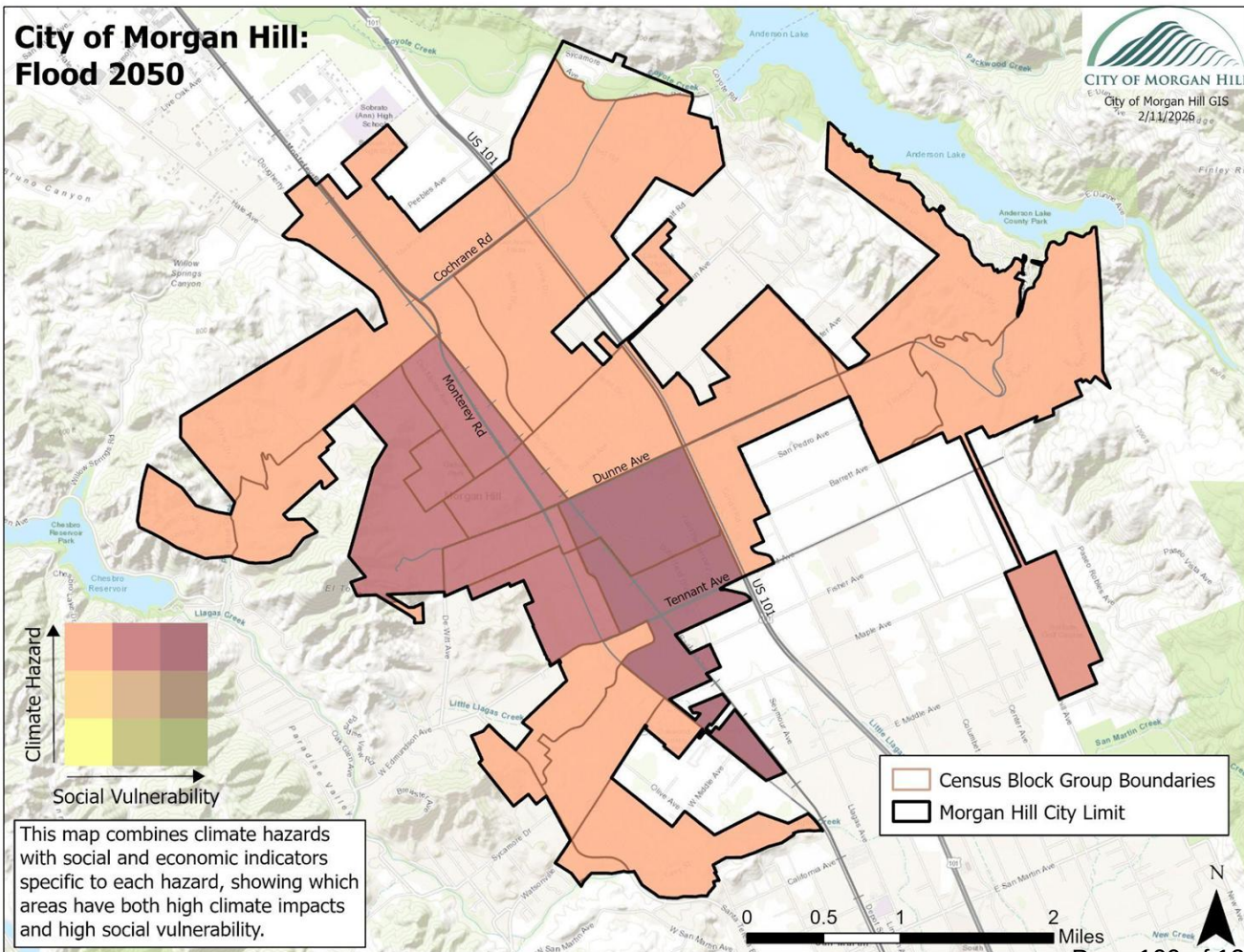
# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

**CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !**



### City of Morgan Hill: Flood 2050





## Flooding

**Goal 5: Minimize the impacts of current and future flood hazards on critical infrastructure, households, and vulnerable populations through equitable, climate-informed adaptation strategies.**



# Policy

## **Policy 5.1 Climate-Resilient Flood-Protection Infrastructure.**

**Design, upgrade, and implement flood-protection measures using climate-informed flood projections to safeguard critical infrastructure and reduce flood risks in vulnerable neighborhoods.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 5.A Flood-Hazard Data for Vulnerability Purposes.

Utilize updated flood-hazard mapping, climate-change projections, and social vulnerability data to identify neighborhoods, critical facilities, and infrastructure corridors that face heightened future flood risk, and ensure prioritization of areas where climate-exacerbated flooding intersects with vulnerable populations, essential services, or evacuation routes.

Action 5.B Flood-Protection Infrastructure.

Develop or upgrade pre-existing flood-protection infrastructures to ensure continued safety and security standards citywide.



# Policy

## Policy 5.2 Equitable Flood-Risk Reduction Investments.

**Prioritize flood-risk reduction projects in low-income communities, socially vulnerable neighborhoods, and areas with limited adaptive capacity to ensure equitable protection from climate-driven flooding.**

## Actions

---

Action 5.C Equitable Flood Management Operations.

Establish and implement an equitable maintenance and operations program for flood management infrastructure that prioritizes affordability and reliability in low-income and socially-vulnerable neighbors.

Action 5.D Expand SeeClickFix Application.

Seek to expand the City's existing SeeClickFix application to include reporting categories for flooding and climate-related hazards, and ensure the platform is fully accessible in Spanish to support equitable community use.



# Policy

## **Policy 5.3 Aquifer Storage and Groundwater Recharge.**

**Explore aquifer storage and recovery, groundwater recharge, and stormwater-capture strategies that utilize excess stormwater during high-flow periods to reduce flood hazards and enhance long-term water resilience.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 5.E Climate-Resilient Infiltration and Recharge Strategies.

Research and consider benefits of infiltration basins, ponds, and other stormwater capture features in suitable residential, commercial, industrial, and roadway areas to reduce localized flooding and enhance groundwater recharge, prioritizing projects that also benefit vulnerable communities.

Action 5.F Aquifer-Recharge.

Evaluate the benefits and cost-effectiveness of Class V injection wells and other aquifer-recharge systems to manage stormwater runoff, using climate informed projections of future storm intensity and groundwater needs.



# Policy

## **Policy 5.4 Advance Watershed-Scale Flood Management.**

**Collaborate with regional partners, water agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions to implement watershed-scale flood-management strategies that reduce downstream flood risks and improve overall hydrologic resilience.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 5.G Regional Coordination.

Work with watershed councils, flood-control districts, and Santa Clara County to align flood-management priorities, share data, modeling, and best practices.

Action 5.H Integrated Stormwater Systems.

Improve regional conveyance networks to safely route stormwater while minimizing impacts on vulnerable communities.



# Policy

## **Policy 5.4 Advance Watershed-Scale Flood Management.**

**Collaborate with regional partners, water agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions to implement watershed-scale flood-management strategies that reduce downstream flood risks and improve overall hydrologic resilience.**

## **Actions**

---

### **Action 5.I Climate-Adaptive Planning.**

Use updated hydrologic models that incorporate climate-change projections to guide watershed-scale investments and land-use decisions.

### **Action 5.J Equitable Flood-Risk Reduction.**

Ensure watershed-scale strategies prioritize downstream communities that face disproportionate flood exposure or have limited adaptive capacity.



## Flooding

**Goal 6: Improve community well-being, ecological resilience, and long-term environmental adaptive capacity impacted by flooding by enhancing natural flood-management systems and modernizing stormwater infrastructure.**



# Policy

## **Policy 6.1 Modernize Stormwater Drainage Systems.**

**Upgrade, expand, and modernize stormwater drainage systems to address localized flooding, accommodate future climate-driven precipitation patterns, and protect public health and safety.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 6.A Climate-Resilient Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment.

Annually, conduct a citywide condition and capacity assessment of stormwater infrastructure to identify undersized, aging, or damaged pipes and facilities that are vulnerable under future climate-driven precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, and prioritize upgrades in areas with high social vulnerability.



# Policy

## Policy 6.2 Natural Flood-Management Systems.

**Preserve, restore, and enhance wetlands, riparian corridors, floodplains, and other natural landscapes that absorb, store, and slow stormwater, improving both ecological health and flood-risk reduction.**

## Actions

---

### Action 6.B Nature-Based Flood Mitigation.

Prioritize restoration and protection of bioswales, wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains to increase stormwater storage capacity, slow runoff, and improve habitat, prioritizing locations that also reduce flood risks for nearby vulnerable communities.

### Action 6..C Riparian Buffer Restoration

Support Valley Water in restoring and expanding riparian buffers along local channels and creeks by planting native, water-absorbing vegetation that slows runoff, enhances stormwater infiltration, and filters pollutants before they reach larger waterways.



# Policy

## Policy 6.3 Household Flood Preparedness.

**Strengthen household-level flood emergency preparedness by expanding access to flood-risk information, early-warning systems, and multilingual education on protective actions, evacuation procedures, and emergency response planning.**

## Actions

---

### Action 6.D Flood-Monitoring.

Collaborate with Santa Clara Valley Water to install and maintain real-time flood-monitoring sensors and gauges along flood protection infrastructure and in high-risk areas, and integrate this data into emergency response protocols and public alert systems.

### Action 6.E AlertSCC Emergency Response Notification.

Collaborate with Santa Clara County to enhance the AlertSCC application, the County's emergency alert system, by ensuring the platform is fully accessible in Spanish and provide emergency and safety alerts for hazards.



# Policy

## **Policy 6.3 Household Flood Preparedness.**

**Strengthen household-level flood emergency preparedness by expanding access to flood-risk information, early-warning systems, and multilingual education on protective actions, evacuation procedures, and emergency response planning.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 6.F Neighborhood Evacuation and Preparedness Guides.

Distribute annually updated, multilingual printed materials to all neighborhoods outlining nearby evacuation routes, flood-safe locations, and household preparedness guidance, with a focus on reaching vulnerable populations.

Action 6.G Multilingual Flood Preparedness Education.

Continue to provide free, multilingual, and accessible educational services through the Office of Emergency Services on household flood preparedness tailored to residents with disabilities, older adults, renters, and non-English speaking households.



# Policy

## Policy 6.4 Flood Evacuation Routes & Emergency Access.

**Identify areas at risk of flooding and ensure that evacuation routes, emergency access corridors, and critical transportation infrastructure remain safe, functional, and clearly communicated during flood events.**

## Actions

---

### Action 6.H Critical Flood-Risk Inspections.

Conduct regular inspections and climate-risk assessments of flood-prone bridges, culverts, and key transportation links to ensure they remain safe and functional during flood events, prioritizing routes that serve vulnerable communities and essential facilities.

### Action 6.I Multilingual Flood Risk Communication Enhancements.

Improve multilingual communication systems in flood vulnerable areas, including signage, alerts, and outreach materials that clearly convey flood risks, evacuation routes, and emergency procedures.



# Policy

## **Policy 6.4 Flood Evacuation Routes & Emergency Access.**

**Identify areas at risk of flooding and ensure that evacuation routes, emergency access corridors, and critical transportation infrastructure remain safe, functional, and clearly communicated during flood events.**

## **Actions**

---

Action 6.J Evacuation Route Management.

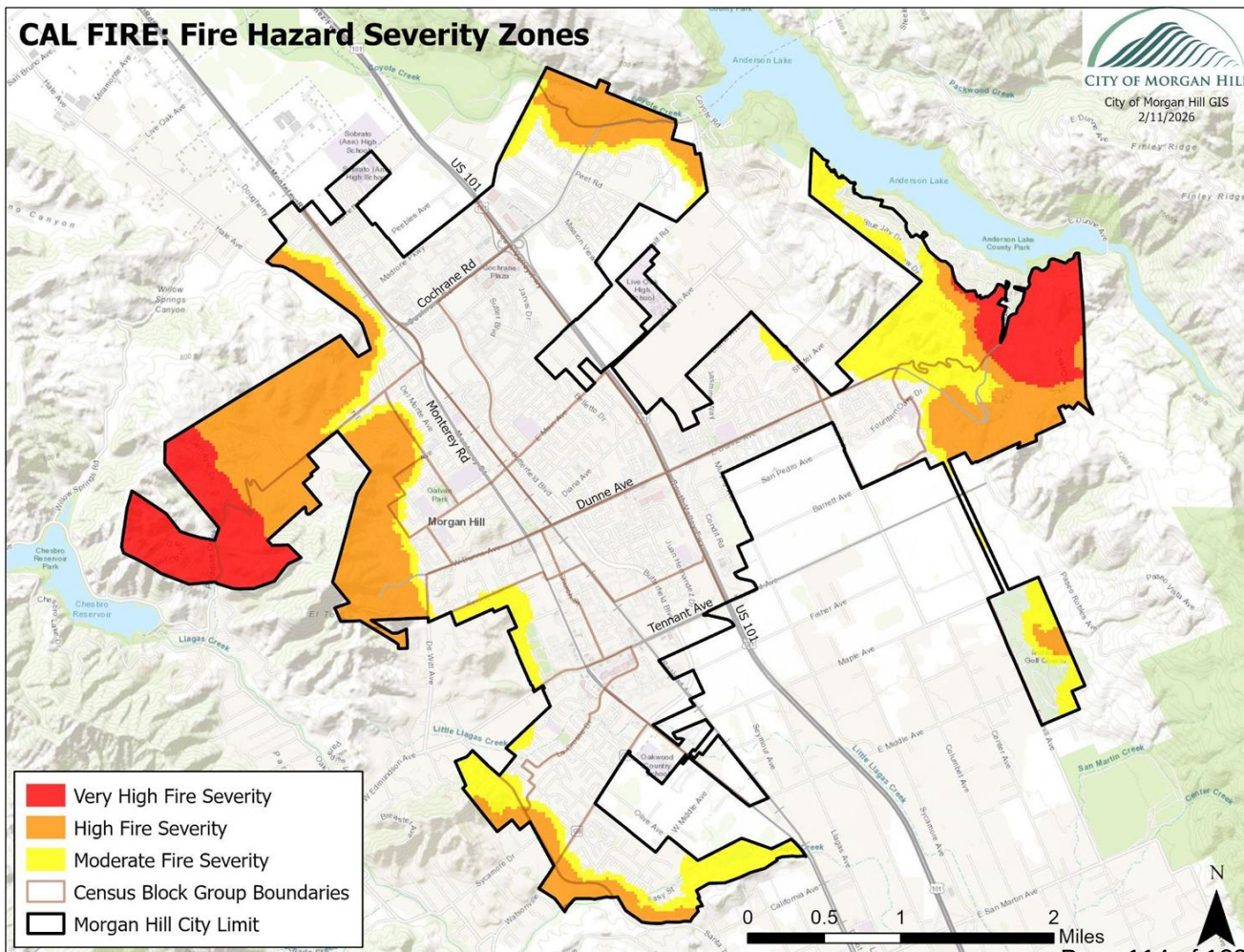
Maintain and periodically update flood evacuation routes to reflect changing flood risks and urban development, ensuring all routes are accessible, safe, and clearly marked.

# Safety Element

## Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

CHAMPION  
CLIMATE  
ACTIONS !

### CAL FIRE: Fire Hazard Severity Zones





## Wildfires

**Goal 7: Reduce wildfire risk to life, property, and critical facilities in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.**



# Policy

## **Policy 7.1 Climate-Informed Siting and Design.**

**Site and design new critical facilities outside Very High Fire Severity Zones where feasible.**

## **Actions**

---

### **Action 7.A Critical Facility Hardening Inventory**

Prepare and maintain an inventory of critical facilities in or near High and Very High Fire Severity Zones and prioritize fire and backup-power retrofits for those serving vulnerable neighborhoods.



# Policy

## Policy 7.2 Climate-Adaptive Emergency Response

**Coordinate with Santa Clara County, CalFIRE, and regional partners to update emergency response plans, evacuation routes, and mutual-aid agreements to reflect projected increases in extreme wildfire behavior under future climate scenarios.**

## Actions

---

### Action 7.B WUI Capital and Maintenance Program

Establish a recurring WUI risk-reduction program (roadside clearance, shaded fuel breaks, ingress/egress improvements, and signage) focused on neighborhoods within and adjacent to mapped Very High and High Fire Severity Zones.



## Wildfires

**Goal 8: Advance equitable, climate-resilient wildfire preparedness for all neighborhoods, with priority for underserved and vulnerable communities**



# Policy

## Policy 8.1 Equity-Focused Outreach and Education

**Develop a public education and outreach strategy to inform the community of natural hazards and risks, with an increased emphasis on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, as identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

## Actions

---

### Action 8.A Wildfire Education Campaign

Develop and implement an annual wildfire-preparedness campaign (workshops, neighborhood events, school programs, social media, and mailed materials) tailored to high-risk and socially vulnerable neighborhoods, including renters and farmworker communities.



# Policy

## Policy 8.1 Equity-Focused Outreach and Education

**Develop a public education and outreach strategy to inform the community of natural hazards and risks, with an increased emphasis on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, as identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

## Actions

---

### Action 8.B Community Partner Network

Encourage partnerships with local nonprofits, neighborhood associations, and service providers to co-host wildfire-preparedness events and distribute materials.

### Action 8.C Social-Vulnerability Targeting

Use social vulnerability indicators (e.g., income, age, disability, language, housing cost burden) and census block group data to prioritize wildfire preparedness investments, defensible-space assistance, and evacuation support in neighborhoods with the highest vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.



# Policy

## Policy 8.1 Equity-Focused Outreach and Education

**Develop a public education and outreach strategy to inform the community of natural hazards and risks, with an increased emphasis on reaching underserved and vulnerable populations, as identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

## Actions

---

### Action 8.D Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Communication

Provide wildfire-related information, alerts, and preparedness materials in multiple languages and formats, and partner with trusted community-based organizations, schools, and faith-based institutions to reach residents who may not access traditional channels.



# Next Steps

- Accept CAPS Recommendations Report
- Staff and CAPS interns to review and update other Sections:
  - Geologic and Seismic Hazards
  - Fire Hazards
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Flood Control
  - Airport Hazards
  
  - Noise
- Coordinate proposed updates with Police, Fire, and Engineering
- Single, comprehensive, update to the Safety, Services, and Infrastructure Element

**Final report is available!**

**THANK  
YOU!**

Learn more at  
[climateactionpathways.org](https://climateactionpathways.org)



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