



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLE
Geologic Safety Committee Meeting
October 13, 2025
10:00 AM

Nan Shostak, Chair,
Bob Wrucke, Vice Chair
Patricia McCrory, Secretary
Gary Ernst, Member
Steve Ingebritsen, Member

REGULAR MEETING –
HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE - 765 PORTOLA ROAD ~ PORTOLA VALLEY

REMOTE MEETING ADVISORY: On March 1, 2023, all committees in Portola Valley will return to conducting in-person meetings. A Zoom link will be provided for members of the public to participate remotely; however, the Town cannot guarantee there will be no technical issues with the software during the meeting. For best public participation results, attending the meeting in-person is advised.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (650) 851-1700 or by email at towncenter@portolavalley.net. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84288767222?pwd=ZkJN6VjK4VikatJKqWtdYlkjDabB.1>

Webinar ID: 842 8876 7222

Passcode: 244245

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to three minutes.

1. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Portola Valley Geologic and Ground Movement Potential Maps
- b. Approval of minutes from June and September meetings
- c. GSC booth at Town picnic September 20

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. GSC membership search
- b. GSC work plan for remainder of 2025
- c. Coordination with other groups

3. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting body meets regularly on the second Monday of the month.

Land Acknowledgement:

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.

Minutes of
GEOLOGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Monday, August 11, 2025

Meeting location: Town Council Chamber in the Old Schoolhouse. This meeting was streamed via Zoom and recorded.

Committee Members present:

Nan Shostak [chair]
Bob Wrucke [vice-chair]
Gary Ernst
Patricia McCrory [secretary]

Town Council member present:

Mary Hufty

MEETING SUMMARY

The Geologic Safety Committee (GSC) discussed potential updates to the town's geologic and ground motion potential maps in anticipation of meeting with the town geologist during the October meeting. The committee also discussed the need to update the safety element and possible future speakers.

Call to order:

1001. Chair Nan Shostak called the meeting to order, Mary Hufty, Town Council liaison, attended the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

1003. The committee voted to approve the April 14th minutes.

Comments from the public on topics not on the agenda:

1004. Chair Shostak called for public comments. None.

Old Business:

1005. Shostak discussed possible new members. She suggested inviting the town geologist to the October meeting for review of new information on the Berrocal & Black Mtn fault zones.

Rita Comes (via phone) asks the committee to craft a handout that would frame the recent earthquake, tsunami & volcanic eruption with respect to the town's geologic risks.

Pat McCrory asks if discussion of the Hermit fault will be included in October meeting. Members discuss what materials to review before October meeting.

New Business:

1039. Nan proposed updating draft safety element, with discussion of safety element during September meeting.

1042. Evacuation map completed & posted on town website. Gary Ernst noted that given the town's diverse hazards—to be mindful that one static plan may not fit all emergency evacuations. Bob proposed reviving neighborhood specific evacuation maps. Nan reiterated the need for gathering places such as the town center and school grounds.

1051. Members discussed potential future speakers from West Bay Sanitary District; San Mateo County; G&E Engineering Systems.

1059. Gary reiterated the need to focus on updating the maps with the understanding they will always be a work in progress.

Adjournment:

1134. Gary moves to adjourn. Committee voted to adjourn meeting.

Addendum:

Participants in committee meeting in person:

None

Participants in committee meeting via Zoom:

Rita Comes.

Minutes of
GEOLOGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Monday, September 08, 2025

Meeting location: Town Council Chamber in the Old Schoolhouse. This meeting was streamed via Zoom and recorded.

Committee Members present:

Nan Shostak [chair]
Bob Wrucke [vice-chair]
Patricia McCrory [secretary]

Town Council members present:

Mary Hufty
Rebecca Flynn

MEETING SUMMARY

The Geologic Safety Committee (GSC) discussed revisions to the town's draft Safety and Resilience Initiatives plan. The committee briefly discussed improving coordination with other committees, updating the safety element, and possible future outside speakers.

Call to order:

1005. Chair Nan Shostak called the meeting to order, Mary Hufty, Town Council liaison, attended the meeting.

Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

1007. The committee will approve the 11 August minutes at the October meeting.

Comments from the public on topics not on the agenda:

1008. Nan called for public comments. None.

Old Business:

1009. Nan reviewed town staff who would be attending the October 13th meeting.

New Business:

1010. Committee members had reviewed the town's draft Safety and Resilience Initiatives plan prior to meeting. Nan opened discussion by noting that the draft lacked a geologic safety component and that findings of various town committees tend to be silo'd. She urged that a sustainability ethos needs to be revived.

Lori Duvall emphasized that the town faces 4 significant risks—not just wildfire.

Pat McCrory and Gary Ernst noted that the wildfire portion of the plan could be easily adapted to craft a geologic safety component.

1017. Rebecca Flynn asked which components of the plan can be accomplished by the end of 2025. She emphasized that the plan is a starting document—for triggering discussion. Mary Hufty asked for the Geologic Safety Element be incorporated into the draft. Rebecca noted that the Safety Element focuses on new development (*i.e.*, new housing). Pat recommended setting up phone alerts for residents; coordinating Shake Out exercises with the U.S. Geological Survey. Bob Wrucke asked to post the current earthquake evacuation map on the town website. Mary suggested a committee newsletter to publicize GSC results.

1040. Nan emphasized that an updated geologic map is essential for planned housing. Committee discussed potential workarounds if cars are unable to evacuate via Portola Road owing to surface rupture or ground failure following a major San Andreas earthquake on the peninsula segment. Pat suggested defining locations residents can gather following an earthquake such as the schools and town center. She asked about having residents with special needs self identify if they anticipate needing assistance to evacuate. Committee discussed resilient home design and the challenges of rebuilding damaged homes.

1115. Committee reviewed Gary Ernst's comments (in absentia). He recommended an Alpine Road working group and a Portola Road/Sandhill Road working group to focus on geologic hazards that might hamper evacuation. He emphasized the need to retrofit homes for shaking resilience and to remind residents to be prepared to shelter-in-place. Rebecca asked what lessons we can take from Japan in terms of earthquake preparation.

Adjournment:

1157. Committee voted to adjourn meeting.

Addendum:

Participants in committee meeting in person:

Lori Duvall

Participants in committee meeting via Zoom:

None