



CHAPTER 8 Safety and Noise

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INTRODUCTION

The built and natural environments of Simi Valley contain several hazards that require special consideration and treatment in the land use planning process. Protection from the risks of natural and man-made hazards, including crime, is essential in establishing a sense of well-being for residents and an important consideration in attracting new businesses, residents, and visitors to the City. State law



Fire Station 44, Wood Ranch

requires that the General Plan specifically identify areas in the community subject to hazards and include appropriate actions to minimize these hazards. Goals and policies in this section are designed to reduce hazards from floods, seismic activity, wildland and urban

fires, hazardous materials, and climate change. They also facilitate effective disaster preparedness, ensure timely emergency response and evacuation, and prioritize ongoing coordination with emergency response agencies. Finally, the Noise Element ensures residents and visitors will be protected from excessive noise.

COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

Emergency Preparedness

All municipalities are required to prepare for natural and human-made disasters. Simi Valley falls under the purview of the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan that is designed to coordinate regional response to emergency situations and resources (Ventura County 2021). It outlines the mutual aid agreements and contacts, logistics, and other important components of emergency response, including the identification of areas that may need further consideration in terms of evacuation. Ventura County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a multi-jurisdictional effort overseen by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services in coordination with over 20 Planning Partners, including the City of Simi Valley. The City’s mutual aid partners include: the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), State of California (Master Mutual Aid agreement and Emergency Managers Mutual Aid), Ventura County and cities in Ventura County such as Thousand Oaks, Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula, and others (Unified Disaster Agreement, Optional Area Agreement, California Building and Safety Mutual Aid Agreement), Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region 1A which includes police forces from the mutual aid cities and counties (Region 1A Mutual Aid Operation Plan), Ventura County Law

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Enforcement Agencies (Ventura County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid), California Cities and Counties (California Building and Safety Mutual Aid Agreement), Southern California Cities and Counties (Public Works Mutual Aid).

The HMP for the County of Ventura is developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and follows FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The HMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The HMP is being updated with expected publication in 2022.

Pursuant to State law, safety elements must indicate evacuation routes that would be used in the event of an emergency. In Simi Valley, 22 areas have been identified as having only a single access road, as illustrated in Figure S-1. These areas pose additional logistics challenges when coordinating disaster response. The major evacuation routes in Simi Valley include SR-118 and the major arterial roads (e.g., Los Angeles Avenue, Cochran Street, Tapo Canyon Road, Sequoia Avenue, First Street, Madera Road). Local disaster response will continue to be coordinated under the Simi Valley Office of Emergency Services, which develops, implements, and maintains programs to prepare Simi Valley for natural, manmade, or technological disasters. Among other measures, these include VC Alert, a high-speed emergency notification system used to deliver critical messages about local emergencies and other community news. The Office of Emergency Services also maintains the Multihazard Functional Plan, which addresses planned responses to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The Emergency Operations Plan is being updated with expected publication in 2022.

The following goals and policies guide emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts in Simi Valley:

GOAL S-1

Emergency Response. Effective emergency preparedness and rapid response to natural or human-induced disasters are provided that minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and disruptions in the delivery of vital public and private services during and following disaster.

Policies

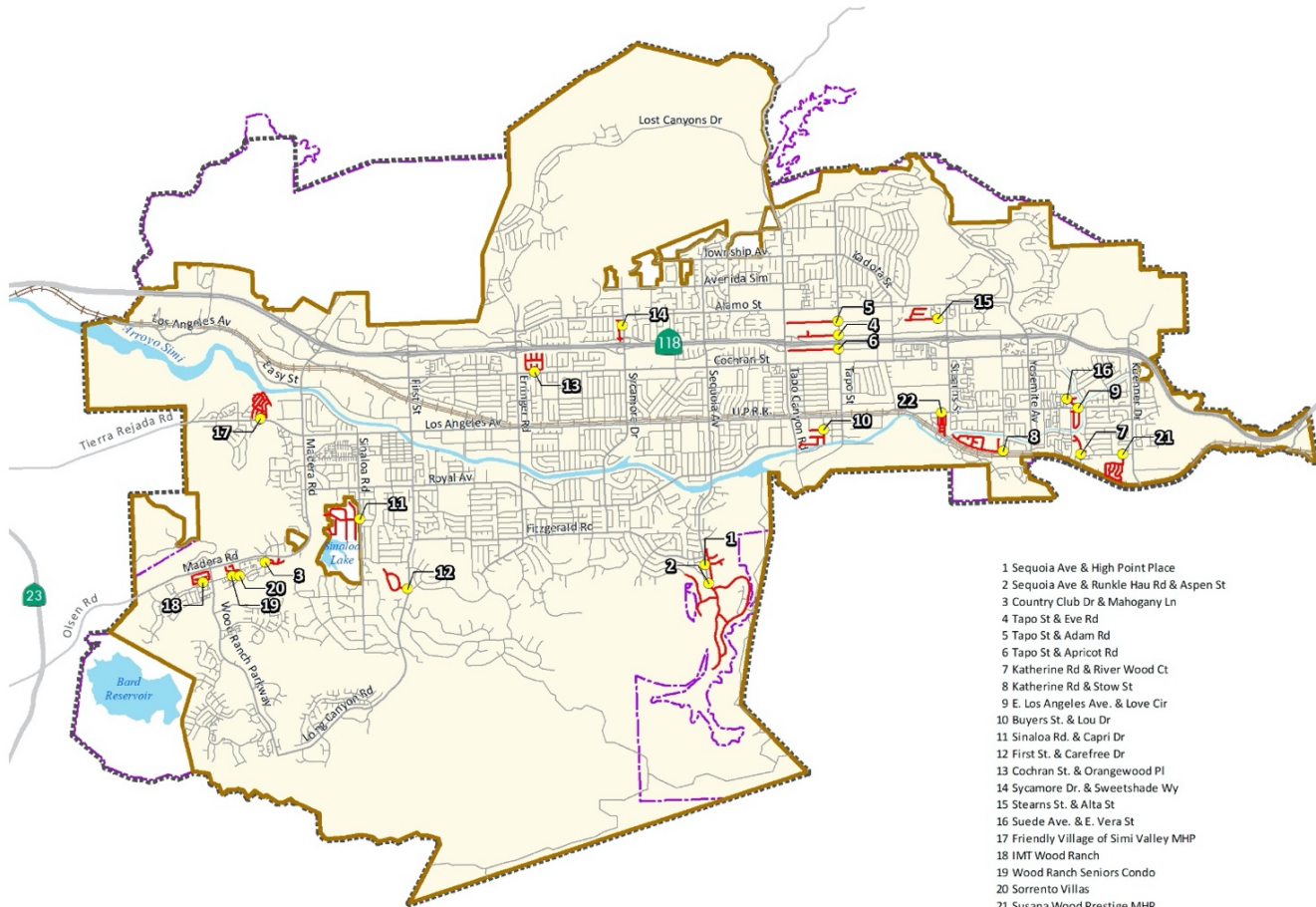
- S-1.1 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and NIMS Plan.** Update every five years and/or combine planning efforts with County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and National Incident Management System Plan (HMP/NIMS) planning efforts and routinely implement the strategies in the City's/County's HMP/NIMS Plan. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.2 NIMS Compliance.** Maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency NIMS, which is a template for the management of incidents to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.3 Consistent and Current Emergency Response Plans.** Develop and maintain consistent, comprehensive, and up-to-date plans and regulations, including the General Plan and the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, to prepare for and respond to disasters. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*



**CITY of SIMI VALLEY
General Plan Update**

**Single Entry/Exit
Neighborhoods**

- Legend**
- Exit Entry Point
 - Single Exit Entry Street
 - ▭ City Boundary
 - ▭ City Urban Restriction Boundary
 - ⋯ Sphere of Influence



- 1 Sequoia Ave & High Point Place
- 2 Sequoia Ave & Runkle Hau Rd & Aspen St
- 3 Country Club Dr & Mahogany Ln
- 4 Tapo St & Eve Rd
- 5 Tapo St & Adam Rd
- 6 Tapo St & Apricot Rd
- 7 Katherine Rd & River Wood Ct
- 8 Katherine Rd & Stow St
- 9 E. Los Angeles Ave. & Love Cir
- 10 Buyers St. & Lou Dr
- 11 Sinaloa Rd. & Capri Dr
- 12 First St. & Carefree Dr
- 13 Cochran St. & Orangewood Pl
- 14 Sycamore Dr. & Sweetshade Wy
- 15 Stearns St. & Alta St
- 16 Suede Ave. & E. Vera St
- 17 Friendly Village of Simi Valley MHP
- 18 IMT Wood Ranch
- 19 Wood Ranch Seniors Condo
- 20 Sorrento Villas
- 21 Susana Wood Prestige MHP
- 22 Tradewinds MHP

Source: Ventura County, 2003;
City of Simi Valley 2021
Date Revised: December 15, 2010
single entry exit neighborhoods.mxd



Figure S-1

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- S-1.4 Disaster Skills Training.** Enhance the capabilities of the City’s first responders to effectively function in disasters, including the City’s Disaster Service Worker Team, Police Department, and City employees. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2)*
- S-1.5 Data and Information Tracking.** Maintain an up-to-date Geographic Information System (GIS) database that tracks new development and structures in hazard areas to enhance the City’s capability to assess and respond to emergency incidents. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.6 Evacuation Planning.** Coordinate evacuation planning, including evacuation routes, among emergency responders including the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, and law enforcement agencies in other local jurisdictions. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-5)*
- S-1.7 Evacuation Routes.** Focus increased attention on City evacuation plans on areas where inadequate emergency response access and/or inadequate evacuation routes exist, including residential neighborhoods with a single entry/exit point as illustrated in Figure S-1, and vulnerable populations, such as senior housing facilities and schools, and others without access to a personal vehicle. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-3, S-6)*
- S-1.8 Evacuation Event Signal Timing.** Evacuation event signal timing should be periodically reviewed and updated to provide additional evacuation capacity. Incorporate Caltrans in the City’s emergency operations center protocol to develop emergency evacuation signal timing for freeway on and off-ramps. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-3)*
- S-1.9 Community Information and Education.** Provide community awareness information and education about potential health, natural, and human-caused hazards in Simi Valley and how to responsibly prepare for or mitigate them. Ensure all materials are available in Spanish and other languages as requested by community members. Increase outreach to communities in areas with single entry/exit roadways as illustrated in Figure S-1. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2, S-1)*
- S-1.10 Identify At-Risk Populations.** Identify isolated seniors, persons with chronic health problems, children, and others who may need assistance in natural disasters such as fires, earthquakes, or floods, and maintain a mitigation plan or plans as appropriate for various at-risk groups, including public outreach, coordination of volunteer groups, and dissemination of information among partner organizations. In particular, determine if these at-risk populations exist in areas identified on Figure S-1 and inform emergency partners. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2, S-1)*
- S-1.11 Post-Disaster Response.** Plan for the continued functioning of critical facilities following a major disaster to help prevent major problems during post-disaster response, such as evacuations, rescues, large numbers of injuries, and major cleanup operations. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-3)*
- S-1.12 Funding Programs.** Pursue funding for programs related to preparedness, training, mitigation, and response for catastrophic events. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*

GOAL S-2

Interjurisdictional Cooperation. Established agreements and coordination protocols are maintained that support cooperative training, preparation, and response activities from federal, state, and regional agencies during and after catastrophic events.

COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

Policies

S-2.1 Mutual Aid Agreements. Continue to participate in mutual-aid agreements to ensure adequate resources, facilities, and other support for emergency response with the existing mutual aid partners (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3*)

S-2.2 Intergovernmental Partnership. Maintain ongoing partnerships with federal, state, county, and local governmental agencies to identify and implement disaster mitigation actions, including information sharing. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3*)



Emergency crew working on an incident

S-2.3 Emergency and Disaster Exercises. Invite Ventura County, Los Angeles County, and other jurisdictions and private organizations (e.g., non-profits, faith-based groups) to participate in emergency and disaster-preparedness exercises to periodically test operational and emergency plans. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4, S-6*)

GOAL S-3

Public Awareness. The community is well informed regarding appropriate disaster preparation strategies and response protocols for actions before, during, and after catastrophic events.

Policy

S-3.1 Educational Outreach. Sponsor and support education programs to increase awareness regarding disaster preparedness protocols and procedures and disaster risk reduction strategies to all segments of the community, including local officials, residents, businesses, property owners, and others who have interests in the City. Ensure all materials and training are available in Spanish and distributed online, in public facilities, and through public service announcements. (*[EJ] Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-6*)

Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection

GOAL S-4

Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection. Quality police services are provided that protect the long-term safety and well-being of Simi Valley residents, businesses, and visitors from criminal activities.

Policies

S-4.1 Response Time Standards. Achieve and maintain appropriate response times for all call priority levels to provide responsive police services for the safety of residents and visitors. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5*)

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S-4.2 Staffing Standards. Maintain optimum staffing levels for both sworn police officers and civilian support staff to provide quality police services to the community. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

S-4.3 Cooperation with Other Agencies. Continue to work with the California Highway Patrol, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and neighboring law enforcement agencies for the provision of emergency services and to provide backup police assistance in emergency situations. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18,S-5)*

S-4.4 Community Education and Awareness. Continue to be responsive to crime trends by informing and educating the community through the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch programs and the Business Alert and Citizen Alert systems, and by facilitating educational programs that address personal safety awareness in English and Spanish. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-5,S-6)*



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and public outreach

S-4.5 Communication with the Community. Maintain a dialogue with the community to improve relationships and customer service, and continually explore innovative means to communicate with the public on police services, including with under-served communities with higher risk for exposure to crime. *[[EJ]]. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4, S-5, S-6)*

S-4.6 Technology. Ensure changes and upgrades in equipment and policing activities keep pace with changing technologies. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

S-4.7 Crime Prevention through Design. Support and encourage the use of defensible space concepts (site and building lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas, etc.) in the design of new development and rehabilitation projects. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-7)*

S-4.8 Development Review. Review new development and rehabilitation projects for security measures as part of the development review process. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-7)*

Geologic and Seismic Hazards

Simi Valley is in a seismically active area close to several major regional fault systems, including the Simi-Santa Rosa fault that traverses the northern portion of the city, as shown in Figure S-1 (Seismic and Geologic Hazards). The City has established a fault hazard zone and prohibits structures on fault traces in this zone. Hazards associated with seismic activity include the potential for liquefaction and landslides. Areas susceptible to liquefaction include those within river channels and flood plain deposits, such as the Arroyo Simi, and are generally in the western and eastern portions of Simi Valley, as shown in Figure S-2.

Landslides are also associated with seismic activity, though other factors may influence their occurrence, including the slope, moisture content of the soil, and the composition of the soils and subsurface geology. Fortunately, most of the developed portions of Simi Valley are relatively flat and not subject to landslide hazards. However, the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains to the north, and the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains to the south, include landslide hazard zones. All development in these areas must have geotechnical investigations completed prior to construction and applicable building codes must be implemented to minimize potential loss of life and damage to property from primary and secondary seismic hazards. Essential structures and services should be situated outside high-risk areas to enable faster response after an earthquake. Additional efforts to mitigate geologic and seismic hazards are included below.

GOAL S-5

Geologic and Seismic Hazards. Adverse effects to residents, public and private property, and essential services caused by seismic and geologic hazards are minimized.

Policies

- S-5.1 Review Safety Standards.** Regularly review and enforce all seismic and geologic safety standards, including the Building Code, in site design and building construction methods. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7*)
- S-5.2 Building Codes.** Adopt building codes that include design and construction features that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7*)
- S-5.3 Geotechnical Investigations.** Require geotechnical investigations for applicable improvements to determine the potential for ground rupture, groundshaking, landslides, and liquefaction impacts due to seismic events, and to assess for expansive soils and subsidence problems. The report shall specify construction methods to protect existing and future residences and commercial properties from identified hazards. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7*)
- S-5.4 Critical Facilities.** Encourage the upgrade, retrofitting, and/or possible relocation of all existing critical facilities (e.g., schools, police stations, fire stations, and medical facilities) and other public facilities that do not meet current building code standards and are located within geologic hazard areas. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7*)

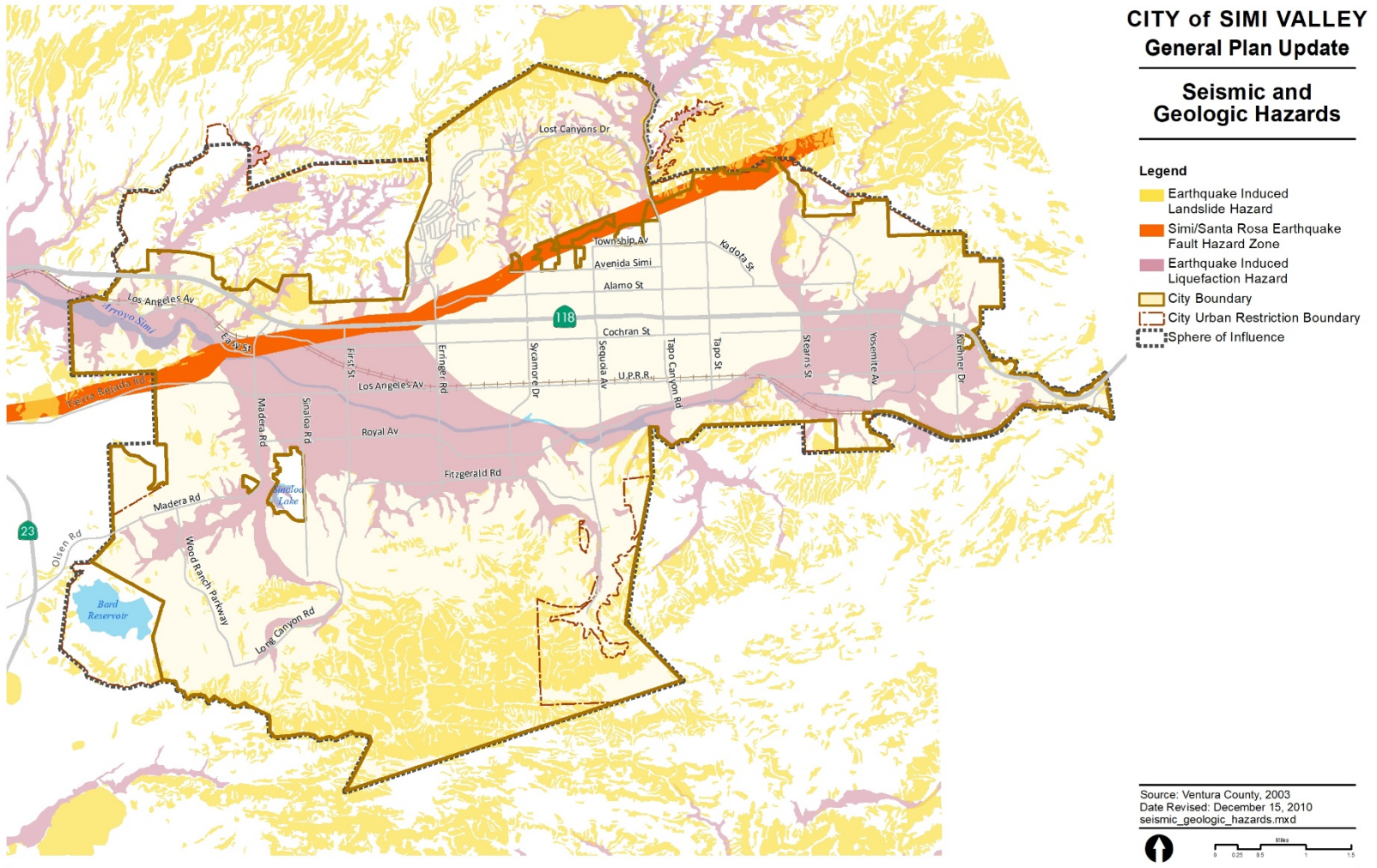


Figure S-2

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- S-5.5 Tilt-Up Structures.** Encourage the upgrade and retrofit of tilt-up structures that do not meet current building code standards and are located within geologic hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7)*
- S-5.6 Damage Prevention and Control.** Develop a comprehensive approach to reducing the possibility of damage and losses due to earthquakes. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7)*
- S-5.7 Data and Analysis.** Develop and maintain an up-to-date database of critical City assets and periodically assess their vulnerability to geologic hazards (e.g., data on construction type, occupancy rating, seismic reinforcements, etc.). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-17)*
- S-5.8 Resilient Infrastructure.** Require that new public utilities, communication infrastructure, and transportation facilities be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that minimizes risk and maximizes functionality during and after an earthquake and to minimize environmental and safety impacts on existing and future residents. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-12)*
- S-5.9 Intergovernmental Coordination.** Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with federal, state, and local government agencies and special districts to promote information and resource sharing. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4)*
- S-5.10 Public Education and Partnerships.** Partner with other agencies and organizations to provide public education programs about potential geologic hazards in Simi Valley, and proper emergency preparation and response strategies before, during, and after geologic occurrences, ensuring all materials are available in English and Spanish and that public meetings accommodate persons with unique requirements (language, hearing, access, etc.). *[[EJ]]Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-6)*
- S-5.11 Funding Programs.** Pursue federal and state programs to provide training, education, and mitigation activities for protection against seismic activity. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18)*

Fire Services

Fire is a natural occurrence and is influenced by several factors including fuel sources, topography, and weather. While no part of Simi Valley is located within a Fire Hazard area, the potential for fire is a problem in the urban fringe and hillside areas that surround the valley floor, as shown in Figure S-2 (Fire Hazard). Goals and policies in this section provide for coordinated fire prevention, protection, and emergency medical services that serve all areas of Simi Valley in support of residents and businesses for urban or wildland fires.

GOAL S-6

Fire and Emergency Services. Coordinated fire protection and emergency medical services are provided to ensure residents and businesses are prepared for health, natural, and human-caused hazards and can respond quickly and effectively to maintain a safe and healthy community.

Policies

- S-6.1 Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital Coordination.** Continue to work with and support the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital with regard to planning, communicating, and providing adequate personnel, equipment, facility, and infrastructure to

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maintain a high level of fire and emergency response services in Simi Valley. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-4, S-9*)

- S-6.2 Emergency Response.** Periodically evaluate emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2, S-3*)
- S-6.3 Personnel Training.** City shall coordinate with regional and State agencies to ensure adequate and ongoing training on latest best practices for emergency response. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-9, S-2*)
- S-6.4 Adequate Infrastructure.** Continue to assess the water pressure for fire suppression and evaluate and implement feasible solutions. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2, S-7*)
- S-6.5 Water Supply.** Continue to work with Ventura County Waterworks District 8 to update the Urban Water Management Plan for Simi Valley to assess and ensure long-term integrity of water supply to the city for fire suppression. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2*)

Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards

Fire is a natural occurrence and is influenced by fuel sources, topography, and weather. Wildfires that burn exclusively in uninhabited natural areas generally pose a low risk to life or property, although smoke from these fires can cause respiratory problems for people living nearby. Fires that occur along the wildland-urban interface are more hazardous for people and property as they can spread into urbanized areas. As recent wildfire occurrences attest, Ventura County and Simi Valley have a high risk for exposure to wildfire hazards. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), areas along SR-118 and surrounding Simi Valley in all directions are within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2021). As illustrated in Figure S-3 (Fire Hazard), the greatest potential for fire occurs at the urban fringe and in the hillside areas that surround the valley floor. The areas along Simi Valley’s western boundary with Moorpark and its southern boundary with Thousand Oaks are also mapped as within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Figure S-3, Fire Hazards). Development in these areas includes commercial and light industrial uses along the SR 118 corridor with residential development closer to the open space areas. This figure further depicts critical facilities like fire stations, police stations, and other structures, in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Simi Valley is considered a “Community at Risk” based on data from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and populated areas in the city have, on average, greater risk of being affected by wildfire than 64 percent of communities in California (USFS 2021). Furthermore, the risk is considered highest at the urban edges, which abut natural open spaces (wildland/urban interface). Developed areas along and near SR118 and closer to the city boundaries with Moorpark and Thousand Oaks are at average to above average risk for wildfire. Recent wildfires near Simi Valley are listed in Table S-1, Historic Wildfires near Simi Valley, which also indicates their proximity to the city.

Table S-2 Historic Wildfires Near Simi Valley

Wildfire	Date	Distance from Simi Valley
<p>Thomas Fire A 281,983-acre fire that burned through northern Ventura County and Santa Barbara County, destroying 1.063 structures and resulting in mudslides the following winter. Considered one of the top 20 most destructive fires in the state.</p>	December 2017	27.1 miles northeast to 33 miles northwest
<p>Guiberson Fire A 17,500-acre wildfire that burned in Guiberson County in the western Santa Susana Mountains between Fillmore and Moorpark in Ventura County.</p>	September 2009	18 miles northwest
<p>Woolsey Fire A 96,949-acre fire that destroyed 1,643 structures and prompted the evacuation of over 295,000 people. The fire ignited in an industrial complex in the Santa Susana Mountains above Simi Valley.</p>	November 2018	11.8 miles southeast
<p>Simi Fire A 108,204-acre fire burned in the Simi Hills and southeastern Simi Valley, destroying 37 residences and 278 outbuildings.</p>	October 2003	Within the city
<p>Painted Cave Fire A 5,000-acre wildfire in the Santa Ynez Mountains that burned into the city of Santa Barbara. This arson fire was started at the intersection of San Marcos Pass Road and Painted Cave Road that destroyed 427 buildings and resulted in two deaths.</p>	June 1990	69 miles northwest
<p>Matilija Fire A 220,000-acre fire that occurred in 1932 but did not burn any structures. This fire occurred in the part of Los Padres National Forest that occurs in Ventura County.</p>	Autumn 1932	50 miles northwest
Source: CALFIRE 2021		

Utility companies in California have begun to address their contributions to wildfire risk by reducing vegetation near vulnerable powerlines, evaluating old infrastructure, and implementing Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). These PSPSs are conducted by local energy providers such as Southern California Edison when dry, hot weather combines with strong, erratic wind patterns, including Santa Ana wind conditions, to produce a high probability of downed power lines that can induce devastating fires. The PSPSs are an attempt to minimize fires caused by downed power lines and equipment in communities across southern California.

Goals and policies in this section provide for coordinated fire prevention, protection, and emergency medical services, including evacuation plans, that serve all areas of Simi Valley in support of residents and businesses for urban or wildland fires.



**CITY of SIMI VALLEY
General Plan Update**

**Fire
Hazard**

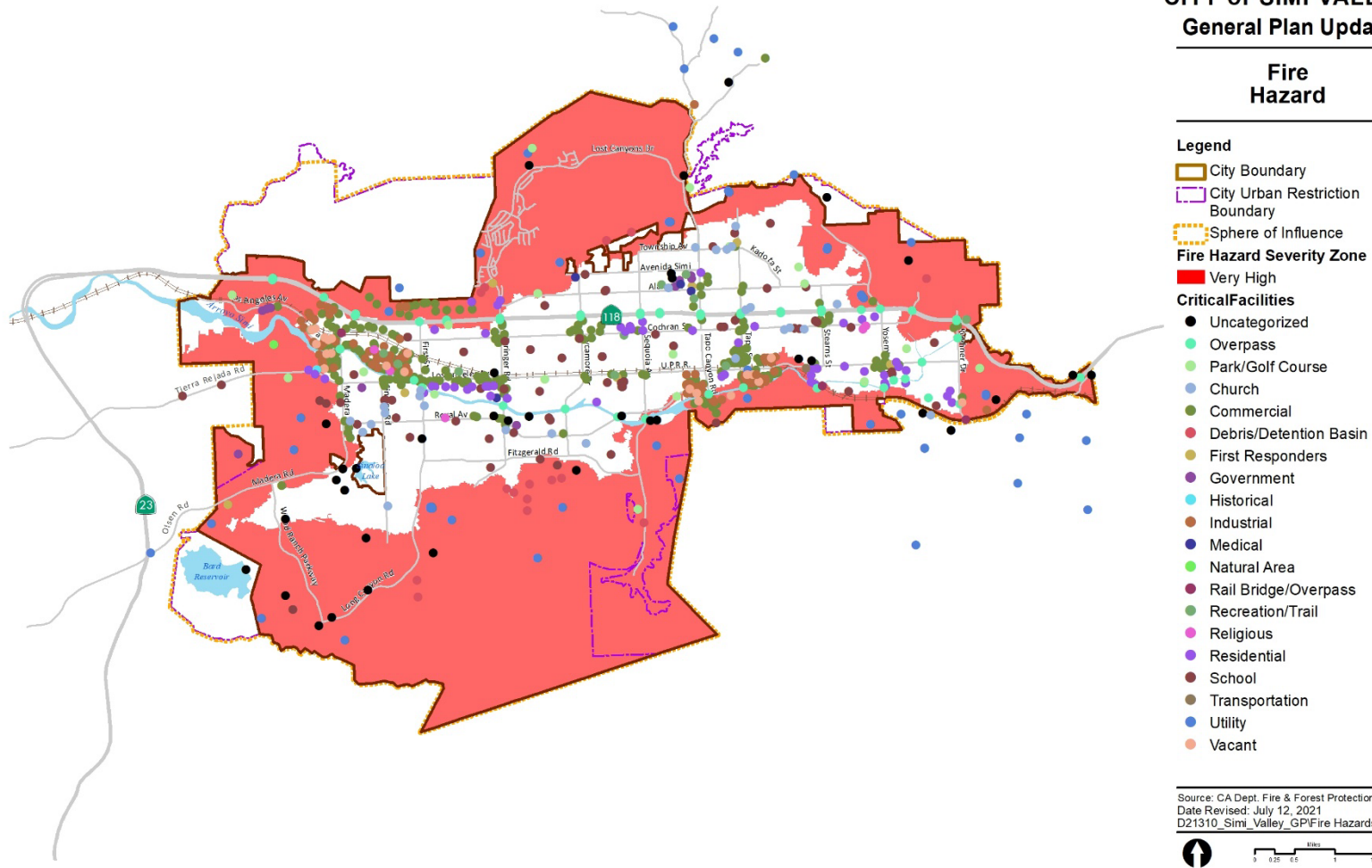


Figure S-3



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GOAL S-7

Fire Protection. People and property in Simi Valley are protected from urban and wildfires.

Policies

- S-7.1 Intergovernmental Coordination.** Cooperate with the Ventura County Fire Protection District in periodically evaluating services and service criteria to ensure that Simi Valley continues to receive adequate fire protection, prevention services, and information-sharing protocols. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4, S-9)*
- S-7.2 New Residential Development in Fire Hazard Areas.** When feasible, avoid development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. When not avoidable, require new residential development, including additions to existing structures, in or adjacent to fire hazard areas to minimize hazards to life and property by using fire preventive site design and building materials, offering adequate access and egress, using fire-safe landscaping materials, and incorporating defensible space and other fire suppression techniques. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-9)*
- S-7.3 Fire Department Review.** Continue review by the Ventura County Fire Protection District of all proposed new and redeveloped structures and developments and non-conforming uses in the community to mitigate potential wildland fire loss and damage in alignment with current version of the Ventura County Fire Protection District Strategic Plan. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2, S-7, S-9)*
- S-7.4 New Public Facilities in Fire Hazard Areas.** Situate new public facilities away from very high fire hazard zones and high fire risk areas, in alignment with the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan *(Imp S-7, S-9)*.
- S-7.5 Emergency Facilities.** Require new development and subdivisions to include appropriate emergency facilities and infrastructure to assist and support wildfire suppression. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-7, S-8, S-11)*
- S-7.6 Emergency Evacuation Routes.** Ensure existing and new development throughout the city, including in wildland/urban interface areas, have adequate access to existing and future evacuation routes, and provide maps of these routes to the public. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-9, S-11)*
- S-7.7 Fire Hazard Preparedness.** Minimize exposure to fire hazards through proactive code enforcement, public education programs, use of modern fire prevention measures, quick and safe access for emergency equipment and evacuation, and emergency management preparation. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2, S-6, S-7, S-11)*
- S-7.8 Fire Inspection.** Work with the Ventura County Fire Protection District to ensure an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-9)*
- S-7.9 Fire Protection Systems.** Encourage existing commercial and multiple-unit residential uses to install fire protection systems, as required by the State building and fire codes for new development, and encourage the installation and use of automatic sprinkler systems in existing structures. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7)*

- S-7.10 Fuel Modification.** Ensure that new development complies with fuel modification requirements of the Ventura County Fire Protection District, as applicable, with fuel mitigation plans required for any development adjacent to open space or wildland areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-9, S-10)*
- S-7.11 Post-Fire Debris Flow.** Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to mitigate damage and loss due to post-fire debris flow. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-10)*
- S-7.12 Public Education.** Promote public education of residents regarding site design, landscaping, location of materials, and brush landscaping and/or clearance in wildland/urban interface areas to prevent and reduce fire hazards, ensuring educational materials and public meetings include English and Spanish language materials and sign language translators. *([EJ] Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-6)*
- S-7.13 Emergency Evacuation Information.** Develop and disseminate broadly public information regarding evacuation routes, fire safety, and low risk fire safety areas and/or emergency shelters. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-7.14 Funding.** Ensure that new developments pay a pro-rata share for increased fire protection as necessitated by their construction. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-14, LU-18, ED-8, S-1)*

Flood Hazards

Simi Valley is in the Calleguas Creek Watershed in southeastern Ventura County, which ultimately drains to the Pacific Ocean. This watershed includes the Arroyo Simi and its tributaries, which expose developed areas on the valley floor to flooding as shown in Figure S-4 (Flood Hazards). The control measures put in place by the City to mitigate potential damage and destruction from flooding include the following.

GOAL S-8

Flood Hazard Protection. Residents, workers, and visitors are protected from flood hazards.

Policies

- S-8.1 Floodplain Requirements.** Regulate new development and protect existing development within flood prone areas in accordance with City, State, and federal building codes. Follow federal requirements to reduce damage and loss due to flooding and to maintain the City's eligibility under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-8, S-12)*
- S-8.2 Flood Insurance.** Request assistance from State and federal agencies, as necessary, to enable the City to maintain compliance with NFIP requirements. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4, S-12)*
- S-8.3 Flood Prevention Design.** Require that new development incorporate sufficient measures to mitigate flood hazards, including the design of on-site drainage systems linking with Citywide storm drainage, gradation of the site so that runoff does not impact adjacent properties or structures on the site, and elevation of any structures above the localized flooding elevation. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-12, S-14)*
- S-8.4 Critical Facilities.** Prohibit the location of critical facilities in areas subject to significant inundation during any flood event unless the facility can be adequately protected from inundation and provide for updating of critical facilities in these areas when practical. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-8, S-12, S-14)*

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- S-8.5 Facility Use or Storage of Hazardous Materials.** Require that all facilities storing, using, or otherwise involved with substantial quantities of on-site hazardous materials within flood zones comply with applicable standards of elevation, anchoring, and flood proofing, and that hazardous materials be stored in watertight containers. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-8, S-12)*
- S-8.6 New Development.** Ensure that new development is properly located and designed to avoid the effects of flooding and require upgrades and improvements of the existing storm drain system for on-site retention to handle the increased runoff generated from the development site. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-8, S-12)*
- S-8.7 Preservation of Flood Plains.** Require preservation of flood plains as open space, when practical, as the preferred alternative to development or channelization in project environmental impact reports. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, S-7, S-8, S-12)*
- S-8.8 Dam Failure Warning Plan.** Maintain the City's Dam Failure Response Plan to alert affected residents, businesses, and government agencies in potential hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-8, S-12)*



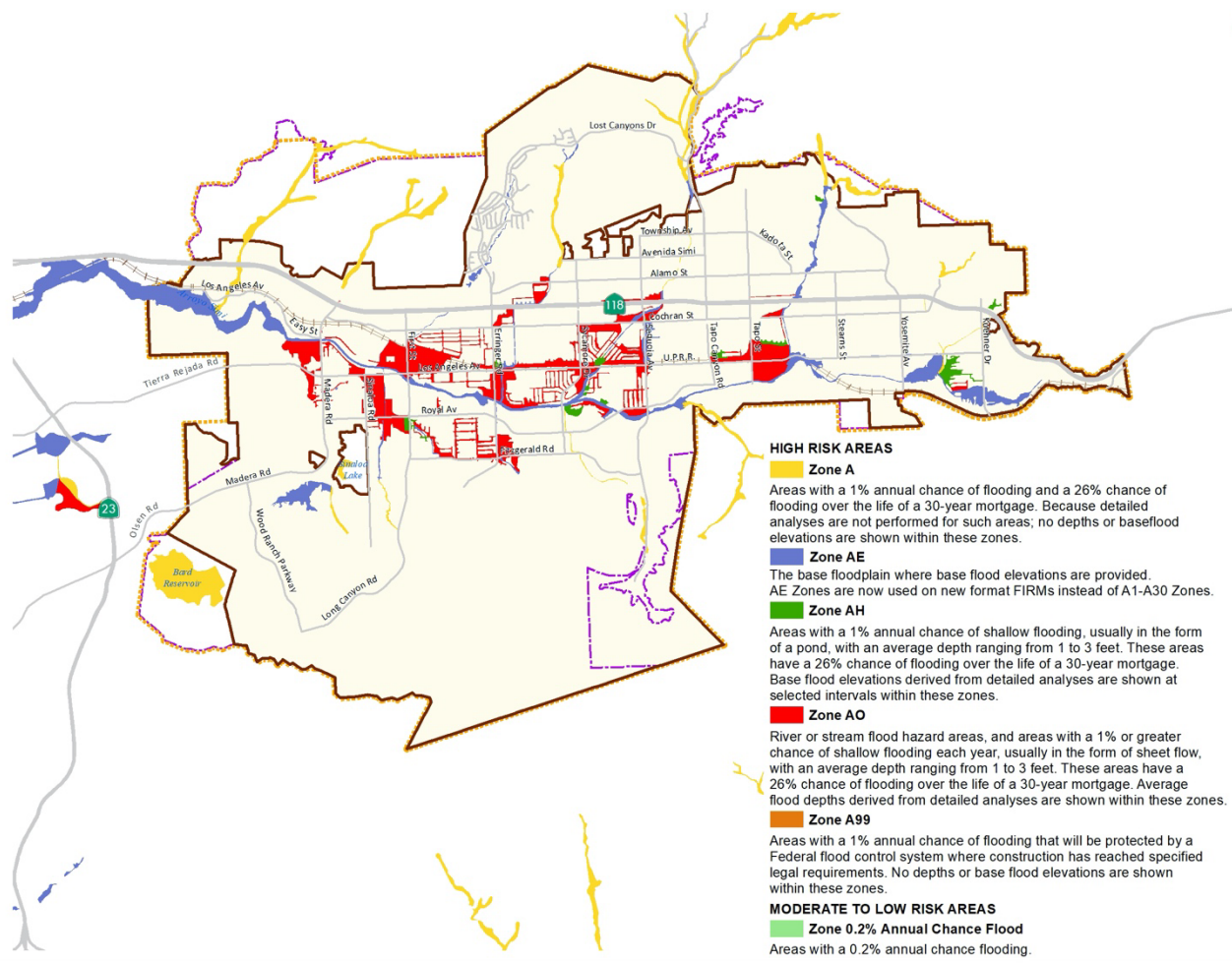
CITY of SIMI VALLEY
General Plan Update

Flood Hazards

Legend

High Risk Areas

- Zone A
- Zone AE
- Zone AH
- Zone AO
- Zone A99
- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- City Urban Restriction Boundary



HIGH RISK AREAS

- Zone A**
Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or baseflood elevations are shown within these zones.
- Zone AE**
The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new format FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones.
- Zone AH**
Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
- Zone AO**
River or stream flood hazard areas, and areas with a 1% or greater chance of shallow flooding each year, usually in the form of sheet flow, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Average flood depths derived from detailed analyses are shown within these zones.
- Zone A99**
Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding that will be protected by a Federal flood control system where construction has reached specified legal requirements. No depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.

- MODERATE TO LOW RISK AREAS**
- Zone 0.2% Annual Chance Flood**
Areas with a 0.2% annual chance flooding.

Source: FEMA, June 2021
Date Revised: August 23, 2021
D21310_Simi_Valley_GPFlood Hazards.mxd

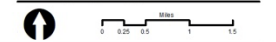


Figure S-4

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Climate Change

According to modeled projections, provided by the State of California’s Cal-Adapt Tool, Simi Valley should anticipate an increase in heat-related hazard risks due to climate change. Average maximum and minimum temperatures are predicted to increase 3 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 5°F by mid-century. The number of days in which the temperature exceeds 97.2°F will increase on average from three days per year to 13 to 17 days per year by mid-century. Under this context, the air and land in Simi Valley will become drier, and the probability will increase for life-threatening extreme heat events to occur.

Average annual precipitation is not predicted to change substantially through the end of the century. There is significant uncertainty in the variability of precipitation, but according to Cal-Adapt, it is likely that precipitation will be delivered in more intense storms and within a shorter season. “Exceptional Droughts” (those classified as D4 by the National Drought Mitigation Center) have happened most recently in 2016 and 2021. An increase in the variability of precipitation will likely lead to a greater number of impactful drought events in the future which will have an impact on vegetation in the city in its built and natural environment.

Numerous wildfires have occurred in Ventura County over the past 50 years. Future projections using statistical models indicate that wildfire risk to Simi Valley will increase by mid-century compared to current risk. Wildfires in the region are influenced by many factors: a dry and warm Mediterranean climate with periodic episodes of Santa Ana winds and droughts, the type and spatial distribution of vegetation (along with dead/ dry vegetation caused by pests), varying topography, large urban-wildland interfaces, past fire suppression attempts, and human activities. Across southern California, the overall anticipated burned area is projected to increase over 60 percent for Santa Ana Wind-based fires and over 75 percent for non-Santa Ana Wind-based fires.

More information on the community’s vulnerability to climate change is provided in Appendix B.

GOAL S-9

Emergency Preparedness Methods. The City’s emergency management tools effectively prepare for anticipated climate change risks and include measures to assist the most climate vulnerable groups in the community, including renters, seniors, individuals with disabilities, youth, and outdoor workers.

Policies

- S-9.1 Identify Heat-Vulnerable Populations.** Establish partnerships between emergency responders and Ventura County Department of Public Health to identify and establish protocols for reaching vulnerable populations in need of access to cooling centers or personal cooling resources. *(Imp S-4, S-13)*
- S-9.2 Heat Emergency Contingency Planning.** Coordinate with Ventura County Department of Public Health to establish and map cooling centers in locations accessible to vulnerable populations and establish standardized temperature triggers for when they will be opened. *(Imp S-1, S-4, S-7, S-13)*
- S-9.3 Air Quality Emergency Preparation.** Partner with the Ventura County Health Department to develop and enhance disaster and emergency early warning systems to incorporate objective data and information for potential health threats such as heat-illness, and illnesses complicated by low air quality. *(Imp S-1, S-4, S-7, S-13)*

COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

- S-9.4 Evacuation Procedures for Mobility-limited Individuals.** Coordinate with the Simi Valley Police Department and Ventura County Fire Department to establish clear evacuation procedures for individuals with limited mobility. *(Imp S-1, S-3, S-4, S-5)*

GOAL S-10

Land Management Practices. The City implements land management practices to anticipate wildfire and extreme heat risks and to effectively maintain a healthy ecosystem in public open spaces, parks, rights-of-way, and public facilities to reduce wildfire risk and the effects of extreme heat, while maintaining Simi Valley's natural aesthetic.

Policies

- S-10.1 Heat Mitigation in Recreational Areas.** Incorporate shading and usability of resources on hot days when designing or improving trails, parks, and recreation areas.
- S-10.2 Maintain Natural Spaces.** Protect large, continuous greenspaces wherever possible for greater cooling magnitude and extent. Include a mix of drought tolerant vegetation in developed parks to provide the greatest cooling benefits.
- S-10.3 Drought-Tolerant Green Infrastructure.** Promote and expand the use of drought-tolerant green infrastructure, including street trees, and landscaped areas, as part of cooling strategies in public and private spaces. *(Imp S-14)*
- S-10.4 Climate Factors in Conservation Planning.** Incorporate climate change projections in future conservation plans and land use plans, including research and monitoring plans. *(Imp S-7, S-13, S-14)*

GOAL S-11

Local Infrastructure, Facilities, and Structures. The built environment is adapted to a warmer and drier climate with increased fire risk, particularly in the wildland-urban interface, including public infrastructure, facilities, and structures and private development, to effectively prepare for anticipated climate risks.

Policies

- S-11.1 Structural Hardening.** Encourage homeowners, vendors, and contractors to harden structures against wildfire risk, particularly in the wildland-urban interface, through the use of strategies for new construction, retrofitting existing structures, and maintenance (e.g., cleaning leaves, avoid storing flammable materials below decks). *(Imp S-14)*
- S-11.2 Home Weatherization.** Encourage weatherized homes that employ a holistic "healthy homes" model to address severe weather protection, energy efficiency, indoor air improvements, and other housing improvements. *(Imp S-14)*
- S-11.3 Backup Power at Emergency Centers.** Establish backup power and water resources at emergency centers, and cooling centers in case of power outages. *(Imp S-14)*
- S-11.4 Energy Efficiency Improvements in Public Facilities.** Implement weatherization upgrades to community facilities that include energy efficiency and indoor air standards. *(Imp S-14)*

- S-11.5 Heat Mitigation for Transit Facilities.** Coordinate with regional transit providers to increase shading and heat-mitigating materials on pedestrian walkways and transit stops (*Imp S-14*)
- S-11.6 Hardening Above-Ground Power Lines.** Work cooperatively with utilities to harden vulnerable overhead power lines against winds. (*Imp S-14*)
- S-11.7 Climate Change Factors in Capital Planning.** Incorporate consideration of climate change impacts as part of infrastructure planning and operation. Identify capital improvement programs that should consider climate adaptation priorities. (*Imp S-7, S-13, S-14*)
- S-11.8 Climate Change Factors in Transportation Corridors.** Support prioritization of shading, drinking water, and permeable paving on multi-use transportation corridors based on urban heat island mapping and analysis. (*Imp S-7, S-13, S-14*)

Hazardous Materials

The use, manufacture, production, transportation, storage, treatment, disposal, and clean-up of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes presents a potential threat to the health and safety of those who use the materials and those who could be affected by improper or accidental release or disposal. Hazardous materials include all toxic, flammable, combustible, corrosive, poisonous, and radioactive substances with the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment. Common sources include soil and groundwater contamination from industrial and commercial activities, chemical contamination from industrial processors (e.g., dry cleaners), and air emissions from industrial land uses.

GOAL S-12

Hazardous Materials. Residents, visitors, property, and the natural environment in Simi Valley are protected by the safe and regulated use, storage, and/or transport of hazardous materials.

Policies

- S-12.1 Interjurisdictional Coordination.** Continue to carry out inspections, emergency response, and enforcement of hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures for Simi Valley. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, -15, S-16*)
- S-12.2 Educate Residents/Businesses.** Educate residents and businesses regarding methods to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials, including the disposal of household hazardous materials, including medications, batteries, e-waste, biomedical waste, etc., and the use of safer nontoxic equivalents. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6*)
- S-12.3 Emergency Response.** Maintain and enhance the City's first responders' ability to respond to hazardous materials incidents and releases safely and effectively. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1*)
- S-12.4 Hazardous Materials Regulation.** Work with relevant agencies regarding enforcement of applicable laws requiring all users, producers, disposers, and transporters of hazardous materials and wastes to clearly identify the materials they store, use, produce, dispose, or transport, and to notify the appropriate City, County, State, and federal agencies in the event of a violation. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-15*)
- S-12.5 Known Areas of Contamination.** Require proponents of projects in known areas of contamination from oil operations or other uses to perform comprehensive soil and groundwater contamination

COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

assessments, in accordance with applicable standards. If contamination exceeds regulatory action levels, require the proponent to undertake remediation procedures prior to grading and development through a cleanup program under the supervision of the Ventura County Environmental Health Division, Department of Toxic Substances Control, or Regional Water Quality Control Board (depending upon the nature of any identified contamination). (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-8, S-15*)

- S-12.6 Siting of Sensitive Uses.** Develop and implement strict land use controls, performance standards, and structure design standards for uses that generate, use, or store hazardous materials, including development setbacks from sensitive uses such as residential homes, schools, hospitals, daycare and eldercare facilities, high density population facilities (such as movie theaters, auditoriums, museums), and other sensitive uses. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-8, S-15*)
- S-12.7 Phase I Site Assessment.** Require Phase I site assessments for new development proposed on land that may be contaminated with hazardous materials or waste, including commercial shopping centers where residential development is allowed. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-7, S-15, S-16*)
- S-12.8 Hazardous Waste Collection.** Conduct frequent and convenient household hazardous waste collection events. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-15*)
- S-12.9 Water Supply and Air Protection.** Work with public agencies and private organizations to prevent the introduction and spread of hazardous materials in the air and the water supply. (*[EJ] Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18*)

Implementation Program

Each General Plan policy is correlated with one or more implementation measure. The Safety Implementation Program, presented in Table S-2 (Safety Implementation Program), describes the measures or actions to be taken by the City to carry out the goals and policies defined in this section.

Table S-2 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2021-2022	2022-2035	Annual	Ongoing
S-1	Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City shall continue to participate in the update to the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Once adopted, the City shall implement the HMP and maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Incident Management System (NIMS) to prevent and address disasters. The City shall maintain consistency between the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's General Plan; providing disaster skills training annually to refresh key staff on processes and procedures for streamlined, coordinated implementation; tracking new development in hazard areas; coordinating evacuation planning; planning for post-disaster response; and pursuing funding.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.1~S-1.12, S-6.2, S-7.3, S-7.7, S-7.13, S-7.14, S-8.8, S-9.2~S-9.4, S-12.3					
S-2	Personnel Training. The City shall coordinate with County and State agencies to ensure new and existing staff receive training on the most up-to-date practices for fire prevention and suppression, including in extreme wildfire conditions.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.4, S-6.1~S-6.3, S-7.3, S-7.7					
S-3	Emergency Access and Evacuation Routes. The City shall identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios to provide adequate access for emergency response vehicles and personnel, and residents and workers. Once assessed, the City shall create a plan to mitigate shortfalls			●		
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.7, S-1.8, S-1.11 S-2.3, S-3.1, S-4.4, S-4.5, S-5.10, S-6.2, S-7.5, S-7.12, S-9.4, S-12.4					

Table S-2 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2021-2022	2022-2035	Annual	Ongoing
S-4	Interagency Coordination and Partnership. The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as federal, state, and local governmental agencies; Ventura County and Los Angeles County; California Highway Patrol; Ventura County Sheriff's Department; Ventura County Fire Protection District; Ventura County Environmental Health Division; Department of Toxic Substances Control; and the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding issues addressing mutual aid agreements and disaster mitigation actions. This shall include preparing a list and updating annually to identify cooperative agencies and non-government partners, along with contact information and general responsibilities. Partnership shall include information sharing, and emergency and disaster exercises; providing emergency services and backup police assistance; designing and delivering public education programs about potential geologic and wildfire hazards in the community, proper emergency preparation, and response strategies; pursuing funding for training, education, and mitigation activities for protection against seismic and wildfire activities; maintaining a high level of fire and emergency services in Simi Valley; providing a fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards, including from wildfire; complying with National Flood Insurance Program requirements; conducting inspections, providing emergency response, and enforcing hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures; and enforcing hazardous materials regulations.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-2.1~S-2.3, S-4.3, S-4.5, S-5.9, S-6.1 S-7.1, S-8.2, S-9.1~S-9.4					
S-5	Police Services. The City shall continue to provide quality police services for the community including achieving and maintaining appropriate response times; maintaining appropriate staffing levels; providing community education regarding personal safety awareness; communicating with the community; evaluating emergency response to citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed; upgrading equipment with regard to changing technologies; and responding to hazardous materials incidents and releases.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.4, S-1.6, S-4.1~S-4.8, S-9.4					
S-6	Public Education Programs. The City shall continue to provide public education programs to increase awareness of disaster preparedness protocols, procedures, and risk reduction strategies for the community; crime trends and personal safety awareness; potential geologic hazards, proper emergency preparation, and response strategies; fire hazard prevention and reduction strategies, including site design, landscaping, location of materials, and brush landscaping; wildfire and other hazardous event evacuation procedures; and methods to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials, including the disposal of hazardous materials.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.7, S-2.3, S-3.1, S-4.4, S-4.5, S-5.10, S-7.7, S-7.12, S-12.2					

Table S-2 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2021-2022	2022-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<p>S-7 Development Review Process. The City shall continue to regulate development for compliance with General Plan goals, policies, land uses, and development standards through the Development Review Process to ensure the following: support and encourage the use of defensible space requirements as stipulated in the Ventura County Fire Protection District Strategic Plan in the design of new development and rehabilitation projects; include crime prevention review of new development and rehabilitation projects; review and enforce all seismic and geologic safety standards; adopt building codes that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas; require geotechnical investigations be submitted; encourage the upgrade, retrofitting, and/or relocation of critical facilities located in Very High Fire Hazard Protection Zones (See Figure S-2) and geologic hazard areas; encourage the upgrade and retrofit of tilt-up structures located in geologic hazard areas; reduce the possibility of damages and losses due to earthquakes; continue review of projects by Ventura County Fire Protection District to mitigate potential wildland fire losses and damages, including in new and redeveloped projects, where non-conforming uses are in place, and for roadways adjacent to and within new development; ensure that fuel modification requirements are addressed; and ensure that new developments pay a pro-rata share for increase fire protection. The City shall ensure that new public facilities undergo similar design review, including site selection that places any new public facilities outside of Very High Fire Hazard Protection Zones (See Figure S-2).</p>						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-4.7, S-4.8, S-5.1~S-5.8, S-6.4, S-7.3~ S-7.9, S-8.1, S-8.3, S-8.5, S-8.7, S-9.2, S-9.3, S-10.4, S-11.7, S-11.8, S-12.6, S-12.7					
<p>S-8 Simi Valley Municipal Code. The City shall review and update the Development Code to establish requirements for new development proposals, as follows: adopt building codes that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas, including Very High Fire Hazard Zones (See Figure S-2); require installation of fire protection systems in new commercial and multiple-unit residential development projects; require that new development incorporates sufficient measures to mitigate wildfire and flood hazards; amend SVMC Development Code (Section 9-30.030(c) and Section 9-72.020) to adopt the vegetation management hazard mitigation in the Ventura County Fire Protection District Strategic Plan as applicable to new, redeveloped, and non-conforming development; prohibit location of critical facilities within areas mapped as Very High Fire Hazard Zones or those subject to inundation during any flood event unless the areas can be protected; provide for updating of critical facilities in flood hazard areas; require that facilities storing or using hazardous materials within flood zones comply with storage requirements; ensure that new development is located outside of flood hazard areas; require upgrades and improvements to storm drain systems for on-site retention; require preservation of flood plains as open space, when practical; require soil and groundwater contamination assessments in known areas of contamination; develop and implement land use controls and standards for uses that generate, use, or store hazardous materials. The City shall also update the Municipal Code to reflect current CAL FIRE wildfire hazard severity zone mapping.</p>						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	LU-19.6, S-7.5, S-8.1, S-8.4~S-8.8, S-12.5, S-12.6,					

COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

Table S-2 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2021-2022	2022-2035	Annual	Ongoing
S-9 Fire Protection Services. The City shall continue to contract for quality fire protection services with the Ventura County Fire Protection District, including prevention services, information sharing, and fire inspection services; evaluate emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed; and assess the water pressure for fire suppression.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-6.1, S-6.3, S-7.1.1~S-7.4, S-7.6~ S-7.8. S-7.10					
S-10 Post-Fire Debris Flow. The City shall develop and implement a comprehensive approach to mitigate damage and loss due to post-fire debris flow.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-7.11					
S-11 Fire Hazard Protection. The City shall continue to ensure the community is protected from fire hazards through the following: develop and disseminate a comprehensive fire protection and evacuation plan for the public that includes emergency warning system enrollment, information about evacuation routes, safe areas, and shelters, and other educational materials.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-7.5~ S-7.7					
S-12 Flood Hazard Protection. The City shall continue to ensure the community is protected from flood hazards through the following: regulate new development and protect existing development within flood prone areas; maintain the City's eligibility under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and maintain the City's Dam Failure Response Plan to alert the community located in potential hazard areas.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-5.8, S-8.1~ S-8.8					
S-13 Climate Change Protection. The City shall continue to ensure the community is protected from the effects of climate change by incorporating the climate change policies into its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Emergency Operations Plan, and other relevant planning documents.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-9.1~S-9.3, S-10.4, S-11.7, S-11.8					
S-14 Building Code Amendment for Climate Stressors. The City shall amend the local building code to account for additional climate change-induced stressors on buildings, such as including flood proofing for intermittent inundation, building materials to reduce the impacts of high heat days, and fireproofing in preparation for increased wildfire risk.		●				●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-8.3, S-8.4, S-10.3, S-10.4, S-11.1~S-11.8					
S-15 Hazardous Materials. The City shall continue to provide inspections, emergency response, and enforcement of hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures in the community. The City shall continue to work with relevant agencies regarding enforcement of hazardous materials regulations and continue to conduct household hazardous waste collection events.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-12.1, S-12.4~S-12.8					

Table S-2 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2021-2022	2022-2035	Annual	Ongoing
S-16 Phase I ESA for New Development. The City shall update the zoning code to require a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on sites that have had commercial or industrial zoning and have been rezoned to include mixed-use development. The City shall update the development permitting process to include Phase I ESAs on sites where zoning designations have changed to include residential development as part of a mixed use..						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-12.1, S-12.7					
S-17 City Asset Database. The City shall develop and maintain a database of critical City assets and periodically assess their vulnerability to geologic hazards.						●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-5.7					

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NOISE

The urban environment contains a variety of noise sources that can affect the way people live and work. Some types of noise are only short-term irritants, like the pounding of a jackhammer or the whirring rattle of a lawnmower. Generally, these noise sources can be controlled through City noise regulations, such as a noise ordinance. However, other noises, such as freeway noise, may be permanent fixtures in the community. The information provided herein identifies noise sources, noise sensitive land uses, and noise compatibility standards. The goals and policies in this section of the General Plan are designed to include noise control in the planning process to maintain compatible land uses with acceptable environmental noise levels to protect Simi Valley residents from excessive noise.

Community Noise Contours

As with most urban and suburban environments, the primary noise sources in Simi Valley are mobile sources such as vehicle traffic, train pass-bys, and other transportation-related noises. A typical noise environment consists of a base of steady ambient noise that is the sum of many distant and indistinguishable noise sources. Imposed on this background noise is the sound from individual local sources. These can vary from an occasional train passing to virtually continuous noise from traffic on a major highway.

Several quantitative indicators are commonly used to gauge the likelihood that environmental noise would have an adverse effect on a community. These indicators consider that the most disruptive aspects of noise are strongly associated with the average acoustical energy content of the sound over the time it occurs and/or with the time of day when the sound occurs. The indicators used in this General Plan are defined as follows:

- L_{eq} , the equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this indicator is not affected by whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
- CNEL, the Community Noise Equivalent Level, is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 10 dBA “weight” added to noise during the hours of 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM, and a 5 dBA “weight” added during the hours of 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM to account for increased noise sensitivity in the evening and nighttime.



Railway through Simi Valley



SR-118 Freeway through Simi Valley

NOISE (N)



Railway next to residential development



Peaceful and quiet neighborhood

In general, there are three distinct noise sources in the community: the Ronald Reagan Freeway (State Route 118), major and minor arterial roads, and the Union Pacific Railroad lines that provide freight and passenger rail service, in addition to various stationary sources such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units.

Noise contours for the major noise sources in Simi Valley were developed for existing conditions and future conditions. Existing noise contours were determined from 2006 traffic data and are expressed in terms of the CNEL as shown in Figure N-1 (Existing Noise Contours). Future noise conditions for roadways are presented for the 2030 period derived from projected traffic levels for that year to reflect anticipated buildout of the General Plan and are shown in Figure N-2 (Future Noise Contours). Noise contours represent lines of equal noise exposure, just as the contour lines on a topographic map are lines of equal elevation. The contours shown on the maps are the 60, 65, and 70 dB CNEL noise levels.

The noise contours represent the maximum possible traffic noise levels at locations within them (i.e., they do not account for building placement or traffic speeds, nor the attenuating effects of walls, structures, and terrain features that might intervene between the roads and any location of interest) and should be used as a guide for land use planning. The 60 dB CNEL contour is the noise level for which noise considerations should be included when

making land use policy decisions that affect existing and proposed noise-sensitive developments. The 65 dB CNEL contour describes the area for which new noise sensitive developments will be permitted only if appropriate mitigation measures are included such that the standards in this section are achieved.

Noise and Land Use Compatibility

Noise exposure criteria should be incorporated into land use planning to reduce future noise and land use incompatibilities. Simi Valley has a number of educational facilities, hospitals, convalescent homes, day care operations, and other facilities that are considered noise-sensitive. However, the primary noise-sensitive uses within the City are residential land uses. The noise exposure of these sensitive uses varies from low in quiet residential areas, to high, in areas adjacent to the SR-118 Freeway. Considering noise sources as part of the planning process is achieved by specifying acceptable noise exposure ranges for various land uses throughout the City. Table N-1 (Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Sources) presents criteria used to assess the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment.

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Figure N-1 Existing Noise Contours

NOISE (N)

Page 2—color 8.5x11

Figure N-2 Future Noise Contours

NOISE (N)

Page 2—color 8.5x11

Table N-1 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Sources

Land Use Category	Noise Exposure (dBA, CNEL)			
	55	60 75	65 80	70
Residential —Low-Density Single Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Residential —Multiple-Family	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Transient Lodging —Motels, Hotels	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Institutional —Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Performance Venues —Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheatres	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Outdoor Sports Activities —Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Outdoor Recreation —Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Outdoor Recreation/Activities —Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Office Buildings —Business Commercial and Professional	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
Industrial —Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray
	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray	Light Gray

SOURCE: 2002 General Plan Guidelines, State Office of Planning and Research

Light Gray	Normally Acceptable: Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction without any special noise insulation requirements.
Medium Gray	Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but closed windows and fresh air supply or air conditioning will normally suffice.
Dark Gray	Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.
Black	Clearly Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.

NOISE (N)

In addition to the Land Use Compatibility Matrix, the City’s interior and exterior noise standards are identified in Table N-2 (Interior and Exterior Noise Standards), which represents specific noise standards for interior and exterior noise areas that are considered acceptable based on noise levels generated by adjacent mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks, and trains. The Simi Valley Noise Ordinance governs noise from



Residential adjacent to commercial

non-transportation sources and does not specify maximum noise levels, but identifies various noise generators, such as construction equipment amplification and mechanical devices, and provides certain restrictions on these generators.

Table N-2 Interior and Exterior Noise Standards			
Land Use Categories		CNEL (LDN)	
Categories	Uses	Interior ^a	Exterior ^b
Residential	Single Family, Duplex, Multiple Family	45 ^c	63
	Mobile Home	45 ^d	63 ^d
Commercial/Institutional	Hotel, Motel, Transient Lodging	45	
	Hospitals, School Classroom	45	—
	Church, Library	45	

SOURCE: Simi Valley General Plan, 1988

a. Includes bathrooms, toilets, closets, corridors

b. Limited to the following:

- Private yard of single-family residence
- Multi-family private patio or balcony that is served by a means of exit from inside the dwelling
- Mobile home park

c. Noise level requirement with closed windows. Mechanical ventilating system or other means of natural ventilation shall be provided as of Chapter 12, Section 1205 of UBC.

d. Exterior noise level should be such that interior noise level will not exceed 45 CNEL.

GOAL N-1

Land Use Compatibility. Land use conflicts between various noise sources and other human activities are minimized.

Policies

N-1.1 Noise Standards. Require noise attenuation for all development where the projected exterior and interior noise levels exceed those shown in Table N-1 (Interior and Exterior Noise Standards), to the extent feasible. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1*)

N-1.2 Noise between Adjacent Uses. Require that mixed-use and multi-family residential developments demonstrate that the design of the structure will adequately isolate noise between adjacent uses (orientation, window insulation, common wall separation, common floor/ceilings separation, etc.). (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1, N-2*)

- N-1.3 Mixed-Use Development Standards.** Require, whenever physically possible, new mixed-use developments to locate loading areas, parking lots, driveways, trash enclosures, mechanical equipment, and other noise sources away from the residential portion of the development, and apply physical construction standards (equipment, construction standards) to reduce noise between uses. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*
- N-1.4 Noise Attenuation Measures.** Ensure that all new development provides adequate sound insulation or other protection from existing and anticipated noise sources. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)*
- N-1.5 Sensitive Receptors.** Incorporate ambient noise level considerations into land use decisions involving schools, hospitals, and similar noise-sensitive uses. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)*

Mobile Noise Sources

GOAL N-2

Sensitive Receptors. Motor vehicle traffic and railroad noise impacts on sensitive noise receptors are minimized.

Policies

- N-2.1 State Motor Vehicle Noise Standards.** Encourage the enforcement of state motor vehicle noise standards for cars, trucks, and motorcycles through coordination with the California Highway Patrol and Simi Valley Police Department. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-3)*
- N-2.2 Roadway Noise Sensitivity Measures.** Ensure the employment of noise attenuation measures in the design of roadway improvement projects consistent with funding capability. Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation and others to provide for acoustical protection of existing noise-sensitive land uses affected by these projects. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-3)*
- N-2.3 Noise Attenuation along Major Arterials and Railroad Tracks.** Require the use of walls and berms in the design of residential and other noise-sensitive land uses that are adjacent to the 118 Freeway, major arterials, and railroad tracks. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*
- N-2.4 Noise Studies for New Development.** Require the preparation of noise studies, as deemed necessary by the Department of Environmental Services, for new development (especially residential projects) along the freeway corridor, major thoroughfares, and railroad tracks to ensure that adequate sound attenuation from these noise sources is provided. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)*

Stationary Noise Sources

GOAL N-3

Stationary Noise. Non-transportation-related noise impacts on sensitive receptors are minimized.

NOISE (N)

Policies

N-3.1 Protection from Stationary Noise Sources. Continue to enforce interior and exterior noise standards to ensure that sensitive noise receptors are not exposed to excessive noise levels from stationary noise sources, such as machinery, equipment, fans, and air conditioning equipment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-12, LU-18)*

N-3.2 Regulation of Sound-Amplifying Equipment. Continue to regulate the use of sound-amplifying equipment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*

N-3.3 Enforcement of Hours of Construction Activity. Continue to enforce restrictions on hours of construction activity so as to minimize the impacts of noise and vibration from the use of trucks, heavy drilling equipment, and other heavy machinery to adjacent uses, particularly in residential areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*



Metrolink train station

Implementation Program

Each General Plan policy is correlated with one or more implementation measure. The Noise Implementation Program, presented in Table N-3 (Noise Implementation Program), describes the measures or actions to be taken by the City to carry out the goals and policies defined in this section.

Table N-3 Noise Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
N-1	Simi Valley Municipal Code. The City shall review and update the Development Code to establish requirements for new development proposals, as follows: require noise attenuation for all development where the noise levels exceed established standards; require that mixed-use and multi-family residential developments mitigate noise impacts between adjacent uses; require development standards for new mixed-use developments to locate noise sources away from residential portions of the development; require the use of walls and berms for residential projects adjacent to the 118 Freeway and major arterials; enforce interior and exterior noise standards; regulate the use of sound amplifying equipment; and enforce restrictions on hours of construction activity.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	LU-19.6, N-1.1~N-1.3, N-2.3, N-3.2, N-3.3					

Table N-3 Noise Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
N-2	Environmental Review. The City shall continue to ensure that all development proposals are reviewed per the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to ensure that all new development provides adequate sound insulation or other protection from existing and anticipated noise sources; incorporate ambient noise level considerations into land use decisions involving noise sensitive uses; and require the preparation of noise studies for new development.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	N-1.2, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-2.4					
N-3	Interagency Coordination and Partnership. The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as California Highway Patrol and Caltrans, to enforce state vehicle noise standards and to coordinate roadway design and improvements.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	N-2.1, N-2.2					