

# General Plan Safety Element Assessment

## Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## Purpose and Background

Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3).)

The safety element is required to include:

- Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
- Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
- The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.
- The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(A).)

Based on that information, the safety element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B).) To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the safety element, which include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
- Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in the SRA or VHFHSZ.
- Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(C).)

The safety element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the city or county that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above. (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(D).) This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

There are several reference documents developed by state agencies to assist local jurisdictions in updating their safety elements to include wildfire safety. The Fire Hazard Planning, General Plan Technical Advice Series from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, referenced in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and available at

1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-2318

[https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Final\\_6.26.15.pdf](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf)

provides policy guidance, information resources, and fire hazard planning examples from around California that shall be considered by local jurisdictions when reviewing the safety element of its general plan.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) utilizes this Safety Element Assessment in the Board's review of safety elements under Government Code section 65302.5. At least 90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of their safety element, counties that contain SRAs and cities or counties that

contain VHFHSZs shall submit their safety element to the Board. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b).) The Board shall review the safety element and respond to the city or county with its findings regarding the uses of land and policies in SRAs or VHFHSZs that will protect life, property, and natural resources from unreasonable risks associated with wildfires, and the methods and strategies for wildfire risk reduction and prevention within SRAs or VHFHSZs. (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3).)

The CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team provides expert fire protection assistance to local jurisdictions statewide. Fire captains are available to work with cities and counties to revise their safety elements and enhance their strategic fire protection planning.

## **Methodology for Review and Recommendations**

Utilizing staff from the CAL FIRE Land Use Planning team, the Board has established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes

- 1) reviewing the safety element for the requirements in Government Code section 65302, subdivision (g)(3)(A),
- 2) examining the safety element for goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that mitigate the wildfire risk in the planning area (Gov. Code, § 65302, subd. (g)(3)(B) & (C)), and
- 3) making recommendations for methods and strategies that would reduce the risk of wildfires (Gov. Code, § 65302.5, subd. (b)(3)(B)).

The safety element will be evaluated against the attached Assessment, which contains questions to determine if a safety element meets the fire safety planning requirements outlined in Government Code, section 65302. The reviewer will answer whether or not a submitted safety element addresses the required information, and will recommend changes to the safety element that will reduce the wildfire risk in the planning area. These recommended changes may come from the list of sample goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures that is included in this document after the Assessment, or may be based on the reviewer's knowledge of the jurisdiction in question and their specific wildfire risk. By answering the questions in the Assessment, the reviewer will determine if the jurisdiction's safety element has adequately addressed and mitigated their wildfire risk. If it hasn't, any specific recommendations from the reviewer will assist the jurisdiction in revising the safety element so that it does.

Once completed, the Assessment should provide clear guidance to a city or county regarding any areas of deficiency in the safety element as well as specific goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures the Board recommends adopting in order to mitigate or reduce the wildfire threat in the planning area.

## General Plan Safety Element Assessment

Jurisdiction: Desert Hot Springs	Notes:	CAL FIRE Unit: Riverside	Date Received: 09/05/2019
County: Riverside	LUPP Reviewer: Marcus Hernandez	UNIT CONTACT: Chief Bratcher	Date Reviewed: 09/05/2019

<b>Background Information Summary</b> Specific background information about fire hazards in each jurisdiction. Indicate whether the safety element includes the specified information. If YES, indicate in the comments where that information can be found; if NO, provide recommendations to the jurisdiction regarding how best to include that information in their revised safety element.			
	Yes	No	Comments/Recommendations
Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified? <i>CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps</i>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards</b> Incorporates CAL FIRE (FRAP) LRA and SRA Maps. (Page SN-21)</li> </ul>
Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found, and information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey, included?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards</b> displays historical perimeters and dates of wildland fires in and around the City of Desert Hot Springs. (Page SN-21)</li> </ul>
Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards</b> displays general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) and in the state responsibility areas (SRAs). (Page SN-21)</li> <li><b>Figure SN-1: Fire Station Service</b> displays existing and planned areas of land use in the LRA. (Page SN-5)</li> </ul>
Have local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services, been identified?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The City contracts for fire protection and prevention services with the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection." (Page SN-4)</li> </ul>
Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Desert Hot Springs participates in the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)..." (Page SN-9)</li> <li>"The City also has a detailed Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which provides the basis for the City's emergency planning." (Page SN-9)</li> <li>"As a framework, the RCFD utilizes the CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Unit Strategic Fire Plan, which describes Riverside County's preparedness and firefighting capabilities, identifies collaboration with all County stakeholders, discusses pre-fire management strategies, and articulates pre-fire management tactics." (Page SN-20)</li> </ul>



Any other relevant information regarding fire hazards in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards</b> also displays Desert Hot Spring's sphere of influence that expands into the SRA.</li> </ul>
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**Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Feasible Implementation Measures**  
A set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the above information to protect the community from unreasonable risk of wildfire and implementation measures to accomplish those stated goals, policies, and objectives.  
*Critically examine the submitted safety element and determine if it is adequate to address the jurisdiction's unique fire hazard. Answer YES or NO appropriately for each question below. If the recommendation is irrelevant or unrelated to the jurisdiction's fire hazard, answer N/A. For NO, provide information in the Comments/Recommendations section to help the jurisdiction incorporate that change into their safety element revision. This information may utilize example recommendations from Sample Safety Element Recommendations and Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan below, may indicate how high of a priority this recommendation is for a jurisdiction, or may include other jurisdiction-specific information or recommendations.*

**Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.**

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments/Recommendations
<p><b>Land Use</b></p> <p>Does local ordinance require development standards that meet or exceed title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (<b>SRA Fire Safe Regulations</b>) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (<b>Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations</b>) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.24.030 Incorporation by reference.</b> Except as stated in this section or as amended below in Section 15.24.050, all of the provisions and appendices of the 2016 California Fire Code, inclusive of all of the inclusions and exclusions set forth in each chapter's matrix, are hereby adopted and shall apply to the City of Desert Hot Springs.</li> <li>• This would include <b>CFC Chapter 49: Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas</b></li> </ul>
<p>Are there goals and policies to avoid or minimize new residential development in VHFHSZs?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.16: Fire Department Review.</b> Minimize new residential developments within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
<p>Has fire safe design been incorporated into future development requirements?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Developments within Desert Hot Springs are required to comply with all applicable County and State fire codes to reduce the opportunities for fires to start and/or spread, provide for evacuation of occupants, and provide access for firefighters to extinguish fires." (Page SN-4)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.</b> New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code</b> has incorporated by reference the <b>California Building Code (15.08.020)</b> and the <b>California Fire Code (15.24.030)</b>.</li> </ul>
Are new essential public facilities located outside high fire risk areas, such as VHFHSZs, when feasible?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.17: Essential Public Facilities.</b> Locate essential public facilities out of highrisk, wildfire-prone areas unless additional mitigation measures are put into place above the minimum fire protection standards, where feasible. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Are there plans or actions identified to mitigate existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.25: Non-Conforming Development.</b> Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to identify non-conforming buildings related to fire safety standards and consult with property owners to bring them into compliance with the most current building and fire safety standards. (Page SN-29)</li> </ul>
Does the plan include policies to evaluate re-development after a large fire?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "In addition to the City's implementation of the California Fire Code, development standards from the Riverside County Fire Department also apply." (Page SN-20)</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.08.020:Underlying regulations and amendments.</b> "The California Building Standards Code shall be implemented, administered and enforced in a manner consistent with the California Building Standards Code's underlying regulations and any amendments thereto as may be set forth in this title."</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.</b> New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

Fuel Modification			
<p>Is fuel modification around homes and subdivisions required for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs?</p>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.</b> New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.21: Fire Protection Plan.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a fire protection plan that addresses landscape/fuel modification installation, incorporate open areas to complement defensible spaces, recognize possible refuge areas, and identify multiple ingress and egress routes. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
<p>Are fire protection plans required for new development in VHFHSZs?</p>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.21: Fire Protection Plan.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a fire protection plan that addresses landscape/fuel modification installation, incorporate open areas to complement defensible spaces, recognize possible refuge areas, and identify multiple ingress and egress routes. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
<p>Does the plan address long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects, including community fire breaks and private road and public road clearance?</p>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.23: Roadside Fuel Reduction Plan.</b> Require new development within and adjoining Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare a roadside fuel reduction plan to prevent fires along public roads caused by vehicles. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.24: Defensible Space Clearances.</b> Require new development, and as feasible with existing</li> </ul>

				development, to provide long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures, subdivisions, and fuel breaks within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-29)
<b>Access</b>				
Is there adequate access (ingress, egress) to new development in VHFHSZs?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.5: Vehicle Access.</b> Require that emergency, police, fire, and paramedic vehicle access be provided with all new developments to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshal and Police Chief. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 16.04.200 Access (F)</b> A tentative tract or parcel map shall provide for at least 2 different standard routes for ingress and egress. A standard route is a road, which is dedicated to the City and has a minimum paved width of 40 feet.</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.24.030</b> Incorporation by reference of the California Fire Code.</li> </ul>
Are minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas in VHFHSZs defined?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.5: Vehicle Access.</b> Require that emergency, police, fire, and paramedic vehicle access be provided with all new developments to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshal and Police Chief. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations.</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-4.2: Evacuation Preparedness.</b> Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the establishment of emergency evacuation routes and plans to preserve or reestablish the use of Palm Drive, Mission Lakes Boulevard, Pierson Boulevard, Dillon Road, Hacienda Avenue, Interstate 10, and State Highway 62 as emergency evacuation routes.</li> </ul>
<p>If areas exist with inadequate access/evacuation routes, are they identified? Are mitigation measures or improvement plans identified?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No inadequate routes are identified, however, alternative routes identified if main evacuation routes are blocked.</li> <li>• Section titled, <u>Emergency Transportation and Evacuation Routes</u> "To improve ground access to the City in the event of a major disaster, it is crucial that all-weather and earthquake-resistant bridges, culverts, and road adjoining cut slopes are developed as the City continues to grow." (Page SN-9)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
<p>Are there policies or programs promoting public outreach about defensible space or evacuation routes? Are there specific plans to reach at-risk populations?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-4.5: Available Public Information.</b> Ensure adequate provision of public information to resident and businesses on actions to minimize damage and to facilitate recovery from natural and human-caused disasters. (Page SN-31)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.26: At-Risk Occupants.</b> Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to determine at-risk occupants such as elderly care facilities, shut-ins, or schools that would pose a significant concern for evacuation and/or shelter-in-place during a wildfire event; develop a plan, as feasible, to accommodate these target</li> </ul>

				occupants. (Page SN-29)
<b>Fire Protection</b>				
Does the plan identify future water supply for fire suppression needs?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.</b> Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.11: Fire Suppression Systems.</b> Regulate and enforce the installation of fire protection water system standards for all new construction projects, including the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow, fire sprinkler, or suppression systems. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.12: National Fire Guidelines.</b> Strive to comply with and maintain National Fire Protection Association guidelines, including Standard 1710 requirements for emergency response times and staffing of fire fighter crews responding to emergencies. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Does new development have adequate fire protection?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.</b> Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.12: National Fire Guidelines.</b> Strive to comply with and maintain National Fire Protection Association guidelines, including Standard 1710 requirements for emergency response times and staffing of fire fighter crews responding to emergencies. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.13: Consistent Level of Service as City Grows.</b> The City shall make every effort to assure the same or greater level of fire protection as provided to City residents as City limits are expanded. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.14: Additional Fire Station.</b> Pursue new fire stations facilities in areas of high needs and development growth. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in SRAs or VHFHSZs.				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments/Recommendations
Does the plan identify adequate infrastructure for new development related to:				
Water supply and fire flow?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.</b> Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.11: Fire Suppression Systems.</b> Regulate and enforce the installation of fire protection water system standards for all new construction projects, including the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow, fire sprinkler, or suppression systems. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Location of anticipated water supply?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.</b> Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.11: Fire Suppression Systems.</b> Regulate and enforce the installation of fire protection water system standards for all new construction projects, including the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow, fire sprinkler, or suppression systems. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Maintenance and long-term integrity of water supplies?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.</b> Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.12: National Fire Guidelines.</b> Strive to comply with and maintain National Fire Protection Association guidelines, including Standard 1710 requirements for emergency response times and staffing of fire fighter crews responding to emergencies.</li> </ul>



Evacuation and emergency vehicle access?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-4.2: Evacuation Preparedness.</b> Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the establishment of emergency evacuation routes and plans to preserve or reestablish the use of Palm Drive, Mission Lakes Boulevard, Pierson Boulevard, Dillon Road, Hacienda Avenue, Interstate 10, and State Highway 62 as emergency evacuation routes. (Page SN-31)</li> </ul>
Fuel modification and defensible space?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "In addition to the City's implementation of the California Fire Code, development standards from the Riverside County Fire Department also apply." (Page SN-20)</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.24.030</b> Incorporation by reference of the California Fire Code.</li> <li>• This would include <b>CFC Chapter 49 Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas.</b></li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.9: Onsite Wildfire Prevention Measures.</b> Require special on-site fire protection measures to be specified during project review for areas where the fire hazard potential exist, specifically areas of hilly areas with slopes of 10 percent or greater, access problems, lack of water or sufficient pressure, or excessively dry brush. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.</b> New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.21: Fire Protection Plan.</b> Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a fire protection plan that addresses landscape/fuel modification installation, incorporate open areas to complement defensible spaces, recognize possible refuge areas, and identify multiple ingress and egress routes. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.9: Onsite Wildfire Prevention Measures.</b> Require special on-site fire protection measures to be specified during project review for areas where the fire hazard potential exist, specifically areas of hilly areas with slopes of 10 percent or greater, access problems, lack of water or sufficient pressure, or excessively dry brush. (Page SN-27)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.23: Roadside Fuel Reduction Plan.</b> Require new development within and adjoining Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare a roadside fuel reduction plan to prevent fires along public roads caused by vehicles. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.24.030</b> Incorporation by reference of the California Fire Code.</li> </ul>
Visible home and street addressing and signage?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "In addition to the City's implementation of the California Fire Code, development standards from the Riverside County Fire Department also apply." (Page SN-20)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.</b> New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.</b> New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code 15.24.030</b> Incorporation by reference of the California Fire Code. (This would Include <b>CFC Chapter 5, Section 505 Premises Identification.</b>)</li> </ul>
Are community fire breaks identified in the plan? Is there a discussion of how those fire breaks will be maintained?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No community fire breaks are currently proposed in or around the city of Desert Hot Springs.</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.24: Defensible Space Clearances.</b> Require new development, and as feasible with existing development, to provide long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures, subdivisions, and fuel breaks within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. (Page SN-29)</li> </ul>
<b>Working cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection.</b>				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments/Recommendations
Is there a map or description of existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking service, specifically noting any areas in SRAs or VHFHSZs?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page SN-4: "RCFD has identified a need for a fire station along the southern portion of the City near industrial uses, as well as appropriate equipment to accommodate taller industrial buildings. A fourth station in the eastern portion of the City would provide enhanced service as well."</li> <li>• <b>Figure SN-1: Fire Station Service</b> displays current location of existing fire stations and areas within 2-Miles from fire station's as well as existing and planned areas of residential and non-residential use. (Page SN-5)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.7: Adequate Fire Resources.</b> Ensure that the City has adequate Fire Department resources (fire stations, personnel, and equipment) to meet response time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide a high level of service to the community. (Page SN-27)</li> </ul>
Does the plan include an assessment and projection of future emergency service needs?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "RCFD has identified a need for a fire station along the southern portion of the City near industrial uses, as well as appropriate equipment to accommodate taller industrial buildings. A fourth station in the eastern portion of the City would provide enhanced service as well." (Page SN-4)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.7: Adequate Fire Resources.</b> Ensure that the City has adequate Fire Department resources (fire stations, personnel, and equipment) to meet response time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide a high level of service to the community. (Page SN-27)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.13: Consistent Level of Service as City Grows.</b> The City shall make every effort to assure the same or greater level of fire protection as provided to City residents as City limits are expanded. (Page SN-28)</li> <li>• <b>Policy SN-1.14: Additional Fire Station.</b> Pursue new fire stations facilities in areas of high needs and development growth. (Page SN-28)</li> </ul>
Are goals or standards for emergency services training described?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The City contracts for fire protection and prevention services with the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection." (Page SN-4)</li> <li>• (CAL FIRE / Riverside Unit Strategic Plan Page 51: "Wildland fire training is extensive throughout the county. Wildland fires are the largest and deadliest incidents our personnel respond to. The Unit dedicates 25% of its training hours to wildland firefighting training. All aspects of wildland firefighting are taught throughout the year.")</li> </ul>
Does the plan outline inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Desert Hot Springs participates in the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)." (Page SN-9)</li> </ul>

## Sample Safety Element Recommendations

These are examples of specific policies, objectives, or implementation measures that may be used to meet the intent of Government Code sections 65302, subdivision (g)(3) and 65302.5, subdivision (b). Safety element reviewers may make recommendations that are not included here.

<b>A. Maps, Plans and Historical Information</b>
1. Include or reference CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps or locally adopted wildfire hazard zones.
2. Include or reference the location of historical information on wildfires in the planning area.
3. Include a map or description of the location of existing and planned land uses in SRAs and VHFHSZs, particularly habitable structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
4. Identify or reference a fire plan that is relevant to the geographic scope of the general plan, including the Unit/Contract County Fire Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and any applicable Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
5. Align the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures for fire hazard mitigation in the safety element with those in existing fire plans, or make plans to update fire plans to match the safety element.
6. Create a fire plan for the planning area.
<b>B. Land Use</b>
1. Develop fire safe development codes to use as standards for fire protection for new development in SRAs or VHFHSZs that meet or exceed the statewide minimums in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
2. Adopt and have certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection local ordinances which meet or exceed the minimum statewide standards in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.
3. Identify existing development that do not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances.
4. Develop mitigation measures for existing development that does not meet or exceed the SRA Fire Safe Regulations or certified local ordinances or identify a policy to do so.
<b>C. Fuel Modification</b>
1. Develop a policy to communicate vegetation clearance requirements to seasonal, absent, or vacation rental owners.
2. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation clearance on public and private roads.
3. Include fuel breaks in the layout/siting of subdivisions.
4. Identify a policy for the ongoing maintenance of existing or proposed fuel breaks.
5. Identify and/or map existing development that does not conform to current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
6. Identify plans and actions for existing non-conforming development to be improved or mitigated to meet current state and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for access, water supply and fire flow, signing, and vegetation clearance.
<b>D. Access</b>
1. Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps in SRAs or VHFHSZs is conditional based on meeting the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and the Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access. (See Gov. Code, § 66474.02.)
2. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with an adequate road network and associated infrastructure.
3. Identify multi-family housing, group homes, or other community housing in SRAs or VHFHSZs and develop a policy to create evacuation or shelter in place plans.

4. Include a policy to develop pre-plans for fire risk areas that address civilian evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans.
5. Identify road networks in SRAs or VHFHSZs that do not meet title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00) or certified local ordinance and develop a policy to examine possible mitigations.
<b>E. Fire Protection</b>
1. Develop a policy that development will be prioritized in areas with adequate water supply infrastructure.
2. Plan for the ongoing maintenance and long-term integrity of planned and existing water supply infrastructure.
3. Map existing emergency service facilities and note any areas lacking service, especially in SRAs or VHFHSZs.
4. Project future emergency service needs for the planned land uses.
5. Include information about emergency service trainings or standards and plans to meet or maintain them.
6. Include information about inter-agency preparedness coordination or mutual aid agreements.

## Fire Hazard Planning in Other Elements of the General Plan

When updating the General Plan, here are some ways to incorporate fire hazard planning into other elements. Wildfire safety is best accomplished by holistic, strategic fire planning that takes advantage of opportunities to align priorities and implementation measures within and across plans.

<b>Land Use Element</b>
Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development or limit development in very high fire hazard severity zones.
Disclose wildland urban-interface hazards, including fire hazard severity zones, and/or other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or local fire agency.
Design and locate new development to provide adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allow citizen egress during emergencies.
Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other fire safe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organization.
<b>Housing Element</b>
Incorporation of current fire safe building codes.
Identify and mitigate substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard severity zones.
Consider diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection (group housing, seasonal populations, transit-dependent, etc).
<b>Open Space and Conservation Elements</b>
Identify critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard severity zones.
Include resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values.
Integrate open space into fire safety planning and effectiveness.
Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations.
<b>Circulation Element</b>
Provide adequate access to very high fire hazard severity zones.
Develop standards for evacuation of residential areas in very high fire hazard severity zones.
Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel reduction maintenance program along roadways.



**Policy SN-1.10: Fire Department Inspections.**

Require commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings and multi-family development to be periodically inspected by the Fire Department to assure compliance with applicable fire codes and to educate building and development managers on fire safety issues.

**Policy SN-1.11: Fire Suppression Systems.**

Regulate and enforce the installation of fire protection water system standards for all new construction projects, including the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow, fire sprinkler, or suppression systems.

**Policy SN-1.12: National Fire Guidelines.** Strive to comply with and maintain National Fire Protection Association guidelines, including Standard 1710 requirements for emergency response times and staffing of fire fighter crews responding to emergencies.

**Policy SN-1.13: Consistent Level of Service as City Grows.** The City shall make every effort to assure the same or greater level of fire protection as provided to City residents as City limits are expanded.

**Policy SN-1.14: Additional Fire Station.** Pursue new fire stations facilities in areas of high needs and development growth.

**Policy SN-1.15: Fire Department Review.** Continue to involve the Fire Department in the development review process to ensure that fire safety is addressed in new and modified developments.

**Policy SN-1.16: Fire Department Review.** Minimize new residential developments within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.17: Essential Public Facilities.** Locate essential public facilities out of high-risk, wildfire-prone areas unless additional mitigation measures are put into place above the minimum fire protection standards, where feasible.

**Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.** New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.** New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations.

**Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.** New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code.

**Policy SN-1.21: Fire Protection Plan.** Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a fire protection plan that addresses landscape/fuel modification installation, incorporate open areas to complement defensible spaces, recognize possible refuge areas, and identify multiple ingress and egress routes.

**Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.** Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes.

**Policy SN-1.23: Roadside Fuel Reduction Plan.** Require new development within and adjoining Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare a roadside

fuel reduction plan to prevent fires along public roads caused by vehicles.

**Policy SN-1.24: Defensible Space Clearances.** Require new development, and as feasible with existing development, to provide long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures, subdivisions, and fuel breaks within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.25: Non-Conforming Development.** Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to identify non-conforming buildings related to fire safety standards and consult with property owners to bring them into compliance with the most current building and fire safety standards.

**Policy SN-1.26: At-Risk Occupants.** Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to determine at-risk occupants such as elderly care facilities, shut-ins, or schools that would pose a significant concern for evacuation and/or shelter-in-place during a wildfire event; develop a plan, as feasible, to accommodate these target occupants.

**GOAL SN-2: A SAFER COMMUNITY THROUGH HIGH LEVEL OF POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**Policy SN-2.1: Adequate Police Resources.** Maintain adequate resources (stations, personnel, and equipment) to enable the Police Department to meet response time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide high levels of service.

**Policy SN-2.2: Staff Ratio.** Strive to maintain a police staffing ratio of at least 1.5 sworn officers per 1,000 residents.

**Policy SN-2.3: Police Response Times.** Strive to meet a three-minute response time for priority one and priority two calls for service.

**Policy SN-2.4: Police Training.** Maintain a well-trained police force to meet changing needs and conditions by continually updating and revising public safety techniques and providing for effective evaluation and training of personnel.

**Policy SN-2.5: Public Safety Plan.** Update the City's Public Safety Plan every five years to assess the City's safety needs, evaluate challenges for the following five years, and identify areas of opportunity and priority for the execution of plan Objectives.

**Policy SN-2.6: Police Facilities.** Locate police substations and offices in those areas of the City particularly vulnerable to crime.

**Policy SN-2.7: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.** Promote the concepts of crime reduction through thoughtful design of projects, specifically using the concepts of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED). These should include at a minimum using boundaries—perceived and real—to control access to sites, focusing more eyes-on-the-street by promoting designs with windows looking onto streets and using front entries, and promoting individual design to foster sense of ownership.

**Policy SN-2.8: City Beautification.** Work with law enforcement agencies and community groups to promote litter

pick-up, graffiti removal, basic repairs, and other neighborhood beautification efforts.

**Policy SN-2.9: Communication with Various Local Groups.** Provide regular opportunities for communications between the Police Department and community members, non-profit organizations, local agencies, volunteer groups, homeowner and business associations, and similar groups to become a more informed community related to community policing.

**Policy SN-2.10: Neighborhood Watch Program.** Continue and encourage Neighborhood Watch programs community wide.

**Policy SN-2.11: Citizen's on Patrol Program.** Assist the Police Department in promoting the Citizen's on Patrol Program and similar programs.

**Policy SN-2.12: Gang Activity Monitoring.** Continue to monitor the status of gang activity in the community and, as appropriate, develop and/or implement gang intervention and education programs.

**Policy SN-2.13: Police Support Programs.** Support and encourage participation in the police youth programs as an effective means of introducing youth to the importance and benefits of local law enforcement.

**Policy SN-2.14: Integrating Cannabis Businesses.** Continue to explore new ways to integrate cannabis-related businesses into the City in a manner that is safe and does not create negative impacts.

**Policy SN-2.15: Graffiti Removal.** Continue an aggressive campaign to remove graffiti quickly to reduce crime.

**Policy SN-2.16: Traffic Safety.** Encourage traffic safety programs to reduce traffic accidents and increase pedestrian safety on all streets.

## Hazardous Materials

**GOAL SN-3: LOWER RISK OF EXPOSURE OF LIFE, PROPERTY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS AND WASTE**

**Policy SN-3.1: Hazardous Materials Discharge.** Prevent unauthorized discharges of hazardous materials and promote the proper disposal, handling, transport, delivery, treatment, recovery, recycling, and storage of hazardous materials.

**Policy SN-3.2: Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials.** Require the general location and siting of facilities which involve the use and/or storage of hazardous, highly flammable, or explosive materials to be designed in a manner that assures the highest level of safety in strict conformance with fire codes and all other applicable codes and regulations.

**Policy SN-3.4: Hazardous Waste Siting.** Discourage the siting of facilities that utilize hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes within one-quarter mile of any private or public school or use that supports sensitive receptors. Mitigation shall be incorporated into any project that may expose sensitive receptors to hazardous materials or waste to avoid or minimize health impacts.

**Policy SN-3.6: Hazardous Waste Generation.** Encourage businesses, particularly cannabis-related businesses, to utilize practices and technologies that will reduce the generation of hazardous wastes.

**Policy SN-3.7: Phase I Site Assessment.** Require a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment prior to entitlement approval for development or redevelopment on any site previously developed with industrial, commercial, or energy uses, or sites suspected of contamination due to illegal dumping or other factors.

**Policy SN-3.8: Consultation.** Continue to consult with Federal, State, and County agencies to reduce risks to residents associated with the use or transport of hazardous materials.

**Policy SN-3.9: Disposal Education.** Continue to educate the community regarding the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.

**Policy SN-3.10: Permitting.** Ensure proper permitting of hazardous materials storage, use and disposal with the Riverside County Fire Department and appropriate County, State, and Federal agencies.

**Policy SN-3.11: Permitting Process.** Continue to implement and update as necessary, existing permitting process between the City, Riverside County Environmental Health, and Riverside County Hazardous Materials Team for the establishment of facilities, which manufacture, store, use, or dispose of hazardous and toxic materials within the community or adjacent areas.

**Policy SN-3.12: Minimize Exposure.** Minimize exposure of critical facilities and residences to hazardous materials.

## Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness

**GOAL SN-4: RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS THAT ASSURES READINESS TO RESPOND**

## TO NATURAL AND HUMAN-CAUSED DISASTERS

**Policy SN-4.1: Emergency Operation Plan.** Maintain and update the City's Emergency Operations Plan to keep it current with staffing and technical capabilities of the City and cooperating agencies.

**Policy SN-4.2: Evacuation Preparedness.** Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the establishment of emergency evacuation routes and plans to preserve or reestablish the use of Palm Drive, Mission Lakes Boulevard, Pierson Boulevard, Dillon Road, Hacienda Avenue, Interstate 10, and State Highway 62 as emergency evacuation routes.

**Policy SN-4.3: Evacuation Route Closures.** Identify locations and develop appropriate solutions and/or alternatives to key roadways that would be closed to traffic due to major flooding thus restricting emergency evacuation.

**Policy SN-4.4: Vulnerabilities.** Consider and assess vulnerability to natural and human-caused disasters when reviewing proposals for the siting and development of critical and essential public/quasi-public facilities.

**Policy SN-4.5: Available Public Information.** Ensure adequate provision of public information to resident and businesses on actions to minimize damage and to facilitate recovery from natural and human-caused disasters.

**GOAL SN-5: RESILIENT AGAINST THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Policy SN-5.1: Cooling Centers.** Establish cooling centers to reduce the resident’s vulnerability to extreme heat events and severe storms.

**Policy SN-5.2: Power Sources.** Encourage redundant power sources such as generators and wind energy to help assure power is available for increased power needs in heat events.

**Policy SN-5.3: Design to Minimize Extreme Heat.** Require the design of projects to address the possible effects of extreme heat events such as requiring shade trees and shade shelter areas, shaded playgrounds, bus shelters, and placement of structures that account for proper sun exposure to reduce the heat within structures.

## Natural Hazards Plan

### **GOAL SN-6: RESILIENCY AGAINST SEISMIC HAZARDS AND PREPAREDNESS TO RESPOND AFTER A SEISMIC EVENT**

**Policy SN-6.1: Alquist-Priolo Act.** Implement the Alquist-Priolo Act and Public Resources Code Section 2621 to prohibit new structures within earthquake fault zones.

**Policy SN-6.2: Seismic Review.** Review and determine the adequacy of geotechnical and fault hazard studies prepared within the City by a County Geologist, the State Geologist, or a contract geological engineer.

**Policy SN-6.3: Geotechnical Studies.** Require geotechnical studies for development proposals located in areas with soils susceptible to liquefaction to or other forms of ground failure. If found to have the

potential for liquefaction, further analysis may be necessary to determine level of hazard risk and propose appropriate mitigation measures.

**Policy SN-6.4: Fault Zones.** Accept the Riverside County designated fault zone for the Blind Canyon Fault (unless subsequent data indicate otherwise), and apply standard measures as would be required of any California Division of Mines and Geology designated fault zone.

**Policy SN-6.5: Utilities and Vital Service Providers.** Consult with utilities and vital service providers to confirm the design of existing and proposed infrastructure to withstand substantial seismic events, and to strengthen or relocate facilities to safeguard water, electricity, natural gas, and other transmission and distribution systems.

**Policy SN-6.6: Water District Consultation.** Consult with the Mission Springs Water District and the Coachella Valley Water District in their efforts to recharge groundwater basins underlying the City in order to prevent subsidence and associated damage to existing and future development.

**Policy SN-6.7: Wind-Driven Erosion.** Continue to implement control measures to prevent wind-driven and water-driven erosion from construction activities and vacant parcels.

**Policy SN-6.8: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Maintain the City’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as an extension of the General Plan Safety Element, in conjunction with Riverside County and other key organizations.

**Policy SN-6.9:** **CERT.** Continue to assure community education through the Riverside County Community Emergency Response (CERT) trainings and certifications.

**GOAL SN-7:** **ASSURE RESILIENCY AGAINST FLOODING HAZARDS, AND PROVIDE THE TOOLS NEEDED TO RESPOND TO FLOOD EVENTS**

**Policy SN-7.1:** **Flood Control Improvements.** Require developers to coordinate with adjacent property owners in the planning and funding of flood control improvements, where a Master Drainage Plan or Area Drainage Plan does not exist.

**Policy SN-7.2:** **Flood Zones.** Prohibit development in drainages, especially in Flood Zones A and AO, unless all standards of elevation and flood proofing have been implemented to the satisfaction of the City’s Building Department, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District.

**Policy SN-7.3:** **Coordination.** Coordinate with Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to plan and provide adequate flood control protection.

**Policy SN-7.4:** **Master Drainage Plan.** Expand the Desert Hot Springs Master Drainage Plan to address drainage and flooding concerns of development on the Mission Creek and Morongo Wash drainage areas.

**Policy SN-7.5:** **Flood Insurance Rate Maps.** Assist in the modification of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps as appropriate, as flood control improvements are implemented.

**Policy SN-7.6:** **All-Weather Crossings of Drainage Channels.** Assure that major roadways in the City feature all-weather crossings of drainage channels to ensure adequate emergency service access as well as general traffic.

**Policy SN-7.7:** **Hydrological Studies.** Require new development proposals to provide hydrological studies prepared by a State-certified civil engineer for any project that would change existing site runoff. Such studies shall assess the impact of any change in runoff that could result in increased erosion and sedimentation potential or flooding of downstream properties.

**Policy SN-7.8:** **Appropriate Flood Plain Uses.** Promote uses that are more resilient to flooding, such as parks, trails, golf and other recreational features in flood plain areas.

**GOAL SN-8:** **A NOISE ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES PEACE AND QUIET THAT COMPLEMENTS THE CITY’S SPA RESORT CHARACTER**

**Policy SN-8.1:** **Sensitive Land Uses.** Protect noise-sensitive land uses from high noise levels from both existing and future noise sources. Sensitive uses include residences, resorts and community open space, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, and convalescent homes.

**Policy SN-8.2:** **Noise Impacts.** Assess proposed development and associated traffic for the potential to generate adverse and incompatible noise impacts. Require mitigation for identified impacts.

**Policy SN-8.3:** **Noise Mitigation.** Require the installation of sound walls, earthen berms, wall, window noise insulation,



and other mitigation measures for new development in areas that may exceed the City's noise limit standards.

**Policy SN-8.4: Circulation Pattern.** Encourage a Citywide circulation pattern that places primary traffic loads on major arterials and preserves local neighborhood noise environments by controlling traffic speeds to the greatest extent practical.

**Policy SN-8.5: Compatible Land Uses.** Designate land uses that are compatible with higher noise levels adjacent to major arterial roads and highways, the Interstate 10 corridor, or designated industrial lands.

**Policy SN-8.6: Truck Routes.** Designate primary truck routes and clearly mark these routes through the City. Other than vehicles providing local service, construction traffic, and delivery trucks, through traffic shall be limited to those as detailed in the Circulation chapter.

**Policy SN-8.7: Wind Farm Noise Impacts.** Strive to minimize noise impacts from existing and future wind farm development.

**Policy SN-8.8: Interior Noise Standards.** Enforce quantitative exterior and interior noise standards from Table CS-1 for various types of sensitive land uses.

**Policy SN-8.9: Exterior Noise Standards.** Allow for an exceedance of exterior noise standards for all land use types as long as adequate mitigation is provided for interior noise reduction.

**Policy SN-8.10: Noise-generating Uses.** Require specific design for noise-generating uses such as restaurants, bars, and industrial business located near sensitive uses such as residential.

**Policy SN-8.11: Noise Level Compliance.** Require new development to monitor and document compliance with all applicable noise level limits in areas subject to potentially significant noise impacts.

**Policy SN-8.12: Delivery or Service Noise Generation.** Limit delivery or service hours for businesses with potential noise-generating features such as trash bins, docks, loading areas that are located near sensitive uses such as residences, schools, and hospitals.

**Policy SN-8.13: Noise-reducing Pavement.** Encourage the use of noise-reducing paving materials such as rubberized asphalt for road surfacing projects near sensitive land uses.

**Policy SN-8.14: Noise Complaint Response.** Respond timely to noise complaints and provide monitoring when necessary.





DRAFT – SEPTEMBER 2019

DESERT HOT SPRINGS GENERAL PLAN

# SAFETY AND NOISE ELEMENT

- INTRODUCTION
- PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN
- RESILIENCY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
- NATURAL HAZARDS PLAN
- NOISE PLAN
- GOALS AND POLICIES



CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE**



# SAFETY AND NOISE ELEMENT

For Desert Hot Springs, having a **safe and resilient community is of utmost importance**. The City is committed to reducing crime and minimizing risks associated with natural hazards. The City is susceptible to numerous natural hazards, including earthquakes, wildfire, severe storms and flash flooding, high winds and dust/sand storms, and climatological hazards, including extreme temperatures. **This Element sets forth goals and policies that help the City proactively guard against upset and plan response.**

Safety issues are organized into two broad themes: 1) public safety services and crime prevention planning and 2) natural and human-caused risks to life and property. **This Element includes a safety plan that addresses safety services and crime prevention planning, disaster preparedness in response to climate change and natural hazards, hazardous materials, and noise hazards.**

## FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Desert Hot Springs is located in an arid region of California and nestled against to the San Bernardino Mountains to the west and the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north. Some of the more pronounced concerns include wind, wildfire hazards, and geology. Higher temperatures on the valley floor, paired with the lower temperatures of the Banning Pass to the east, result in higher wind patterns than most Coachella Valley cities experience. High winds can cause property damage and pose health risks. The location along the foothills and the ever-present wind result in higher than normal risks of wildfire.

Like most cities in California, Desert Hot Springs lies within an active seismic zone. Several fault lines—most notably the San Andres fault—traverse the City, making the need for seismic planning and emergency response critical. And while the faults present risks to life and property, they also create the abundant hot water springs that give the City its name.

While other safety issues may not be as threatening as wind, fire, and earthquakes, all merit careful planning to assure a safe community. Regional flooding

characteristic of the Coachella Valley affects Desert Hot Springs; large areas of the City lie within 100-year flood plains associated with expansive drainage areas, as well as dam inundation areas that require specific planning. While the southern City boundary abuts Interstate 10, freeway noise does not overly constrain land use since most of the City lies along the hills, some distance from the noise source. Streets present some noise concerns, but no more than in most cities.

Over the past several years, local crime rates continue to decrease. This represents a key issue local leaders and residents fight hard to address to improve quality of life.



## PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

### Fire Protection and Prevention Services

The City contracts for fire protection and prevention services with the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. As of 2019, the Riverside County Fire Department operated two fire stations (Station 36 and Station 37) in Desert Hot Springs at the locations shown in Figure SN-1 (Fire Station Service).

The RCFD also helps the City with building and planning activity to ensure commercial and industrial buildings comply with all applicable codes and to ensure appropriate weed abatement and brush clearance in wildland fire areas. Developments within Desert Hot Springs are required to comply with all applicable County and State fire codes to reduce the opportunities for fires to start and/or spread, provide for evacuation of occupants, and provide access for firefighters to extinguish fires.

The City requires that all new buildings 5,000 square feet or greater in size install an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Building fires, although only a small percentage of the incidents that the Fire Department responds to on an annual basis, account for a high percentage of yearly losses.

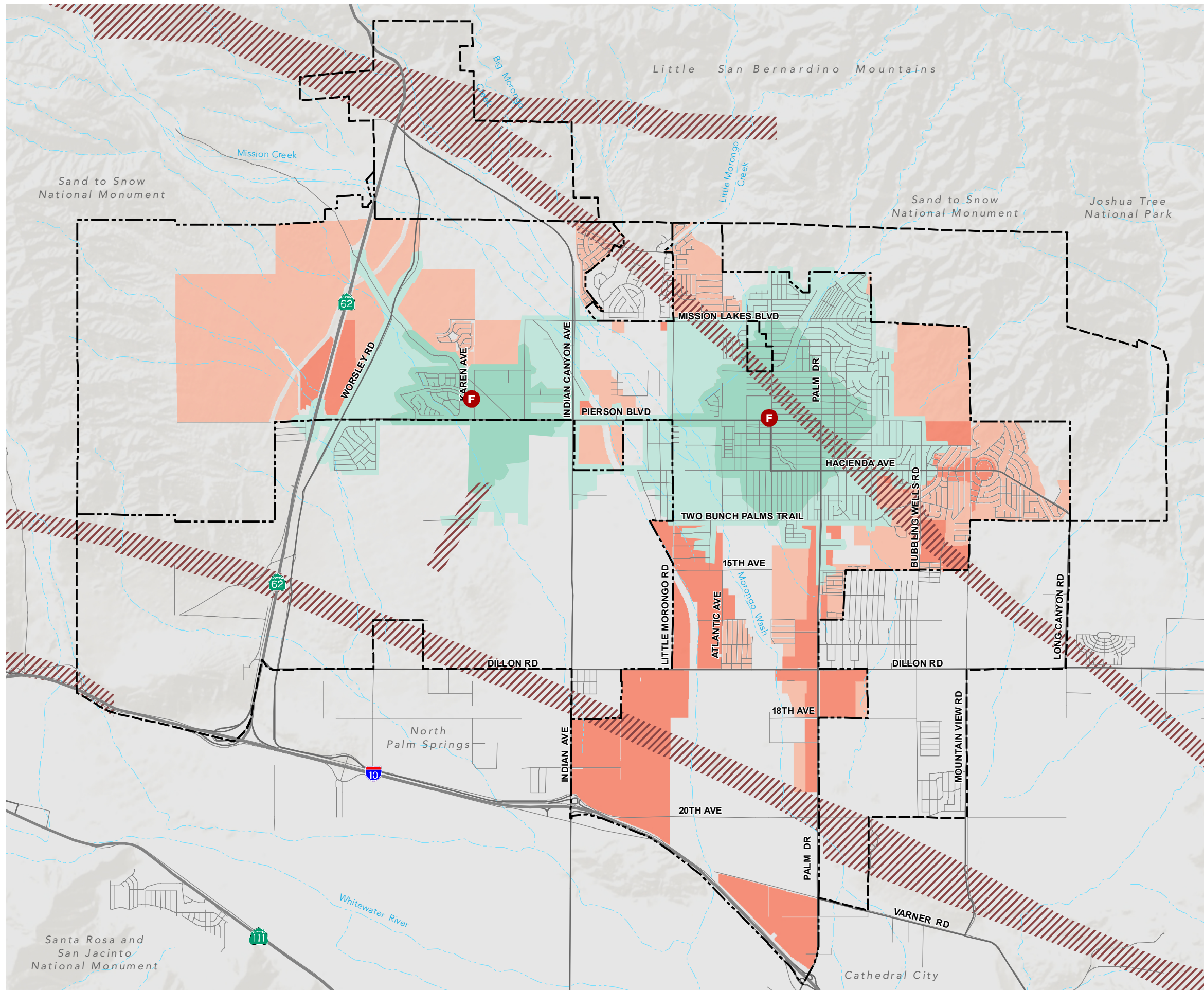
Industrial and commercial businesses also create potential for chemical fires to occur, which could impact nearby residential neighborhoods.

The City has adopted the California Fire Code, with City amendments and exceptions to address specific local conditions and needs. These provisions include construction standards and fire hydrant requirements in new structures and remodels, road widths and configurations designed to accommodate the passage of fire trucks and engines, and requirements for minimum fire flow rates for water mains.

Additional facilities will require further consultation and coordination with local fire officials as the demand for services increases in pace with new development. RCFD has identified a need for a fire station along the southern portion of the City near industrial uses, as well as appropriate equipment to accommodate taller industrial buildings. A fourth station in the eastern portion of the City would provide enhanced service as well. One or both new stations could relieve Station 37 due to its limited size and proximity the San Andreas fault (see Figure SN-1: Fire Station Service Service). Any new station will need permanent funding provide by development impact fees and other funding sources.



# Figure SN-1: Fire Station Service



- F** Riverside County Fire Stations
- Fire Station Service Areas**
  - Areas within 1-Mile from Fire Station
  - Areas within 2-Miles from Fire Station
- Areas of Need**
  - Established/Future Residential Use
  - Established/Future Non-Residential Use
- Physical Constraints**
  - San Andres Fault Zone**
    - San Andres Fault Zone
- Base Map Features**
  - City Boundary
  - Sphere of Influence
  - Water Courses

Source: City Of Desert Hot Springs and Riverside County.  
Date: January 2019.







## POLICE SERVICES

Law enforcement and crime prevention services are provided to the community by the Desert Hot Springs Police Department. The Department operates one police facility. The Department also maintains mutual aid agreements with the California Highway Patrol, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and all other law enforcement agencies in Riverside County.

The main police station at 65950 Pierson Boulevard is staffed full-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All police emergency response calls are dispatched from this station.

The School Resource Officer organizes an annual open house, National Night Out, the community police academy and the junior police camp. The Police Department is also a founding member of the Western Coachella Valley Police Activities League, which is a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic, and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth. Approximately half of youth participants in the program are Desert Hot Springs residents. The Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) extensively trains volunteers in such areas as traffic control, safe patrol techniques, CPR, and first aid.

## Achieving and Maintaining a High Level of Police Services

As of 2019, the Police Department provided 1.3 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents. The law enforcement standard is 1.5 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents. Police Department staffing will need to expand over time to continue to meet the changing needs of the growing Desert Hot Springs community.

The target response time for the Police Department is three minutes. Despite the high demand for police services and an understaffed department, police staff continue to provide outstanding service to the community and have improved response times for service calls.

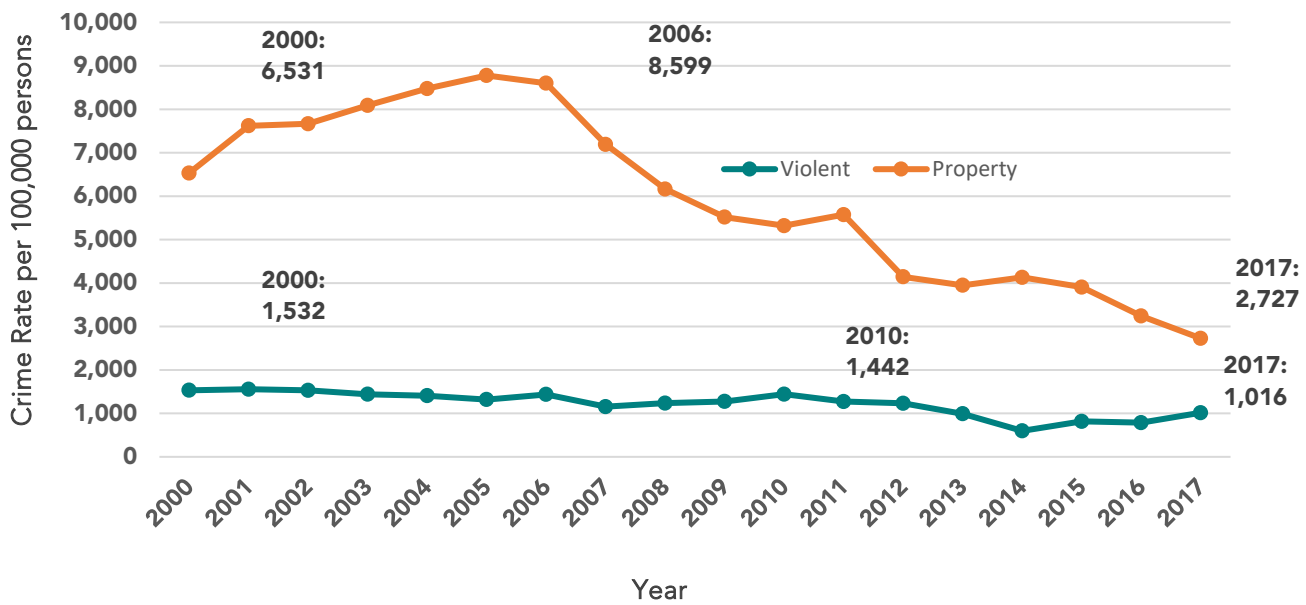


## Crime

The Police Department has made great strides toward enhancing safety in the community, particularly working hard to reduce gang activity and drugs and property crimes. Property crime rates (per 100,000 persons) saw overall a downward trend between 2000 and 2017; see Figure SN-2 (Violent and Property Crime Statistics).

Gang-related crimes are a key issue of concern for residents. As a response, the Police Departments' Graffiti Abatement program is very aggressive in remedying graffiti and vandalism and has been a significant contributor in the improved appearance of properties citywide. By continuing to support and expand police programs that increase police presence in schools and sponsorship of community watch and citizens' patrol programs, the City can discourage gang-related activity, juvenile delinquency, and graffiti.

**Figure SN-2: Violent and Property Crime Statistics (2000-2017)**



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports as prepared by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, 2000-2017.



## RESILIENCY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparation helps tremendously in reducing property damage and loss of life in the event of a disaster.

### Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

While the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that local communities address only natural hazards, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that local comprehensive mitigation plans address human-caused hazards to the extent possible. In compliance with both State and Federal laws, the Desert Hot Springs participates in the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which addresses an expansive set of hazards. The LHMP guides decision-makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural and other hazards.

The City also has a detailed Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which provides the basis for the City's emergency planning. The EOP is reviewed annually and approved by the Federal government every five years. The EOP establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, specifies policies and general procedures, and provides for coordination of planning efforts for the various emergency staff utilizing the State's Standardized Emergency Management System and National Incident Management.

The EOP describes the operations of the City of Desert Hot Springs Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is the central management and command center where designated personnel direct and coordinate the various City departments and other agencies in their emergency response activities. Desert Hot Springs is part of the Riverside County Operational Area.

### Emergency Transportation and Evacuation Routes

Access to the City in the event of a major disaster is critical for the delivery of emergency personnel and supplies. Access to the community may be impacted by natural and human-made barriers, and each major ground route in the area is potentially subject to significant damage from earthquakes and flooding. In addition, in the event that Interstate 10 overpasses are damaged, access to the City could be significantly affected. As an alternative means of access to the City and the upper Coachella Valley, the Palm Springs Airport provides airplane and helicopter services and is located 15 minutes from Desert Hot Springs. There is also a heliport located immediately northwest of the Pierson Boulevard Fire Station.

To improve ground access to the City in the event of a major disaster, it is crucial that all-weather and earthquake-resistant bridges, culverts, and road adjoining cut slopes are developed as the City continues to grow.



## Climate Change Adaptation

In California, AB 32, SB 375, and other State laws require that Desert Hot Springs take actions to reduce local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions toward State reduction goals. State legislation is intended to address climate change caused by human activity. Alone, the population of Desert Hot Springs could have little impact on any potential change in the overall climate of the planet. However, the GHG reduction laws mandate all Californians to work together to effect change on a larger scale. State legislation set out goals to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, with this target date subject to change based on measured progress. Thus, it is critical that the General Plan include policies not merely to comply with State requirements but to be part of the California-wide solution.

However, compliance with State laws is only part of the picture. Responding to the potential impacts of climate change is critical to assuring the City remains prepared. Climate change may result in more high heat days, longer heat waves, and changing flooding conditions.

## Vulnerability Assessments

Climate change will have different impacts depending on a number of factors. Future vulnerability assessments will be performed to identify City-specific impacts of climate change. Using tools like this will help the City stay prepared and protect the population.

The website Cal-Adapt indicates that the average number of extreme heat days (meaning over 110 degrees Fahrenheit, or the 98th percentile of the daily maximum/minimum temperatures during that time period) in the 10 years between 1995 and 2005 were seven days per year in Desert Hot Springs. The web site estimates that in the 10-year period between 2018 and 2028, the average number of extreme heat days will increase to an average of 15 per year without a significant global change in the business-as-usual patterns. The same website suggests the duration of heat days will also increase. In other words, the number of extreme heat days may become more prevalent and create potential public health impacts in the Coachella Valley.





## NATURAL HAZARDS PLAN

### Seismic Activity and Geologic Hazards

Southern California is a seismically active region. The most prominent and active fault systems in California—the San Andreas fault system—cuts across Desert Hot Springs northwest to southeast. Localized faults include the Mission Creek, Banning, and Devers Hill faults. The Banning fault crosses along the southern portion of the City, and the Mission Creek fault extends in a southeasterly direction, including near the downtown area. The Devers Hill fault runs generally in a northeast to southwest direction, extending from east of Karen Avenue and north of the extension of Two Bunch Palms Trail down to the extension of 15th Avenue and the extension of Melissa Lane. The Banning Fault forms the southern margin of the Indio Hills. The Mission Creek fault forms the northern margin, creating a small valley which Dillon Road traverses. Figure SN-2 (Regional Faults) identifies the location of surrounding faults.

A fourth fault, the Blind Canyon Fault, is located outside of the City and its sphere of influence. However, due to the proximity of the fault, the fault should be taken into account when considering any proposed developments near to it. As on 2019, the fault had yet to have a fault zone mapped by the California Division of Mines and Geology.

### Earthquakes

The ground shaking resulting from an earthquake typically causes the most damage from substantially sized earthquakes. Ground shaking can cause damage anywhere in the City, while a fault rupture typically results in only localized damage to structures near the fault.

Structure design can help address shaking, but not fault rupture. Avoidance of active faults is the only sure way of avoiding impacts from fault rupture. In instances where infrastructure lines—including water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical lines—cross active faults, design measures can be implemented to provide flexibility in the lines to absorb or diminish the impacts of potential fault rupture.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, adopted in 1972, requires the mapping of earthquake fault zones and prohibits the construction of structures for human occupancy within these zones. Development does exist within the Mission Creek Fault zone near the City's downtown. New development near these fault zones will be required to provide adequate mitigation against ground shaking anticipated from these faults.

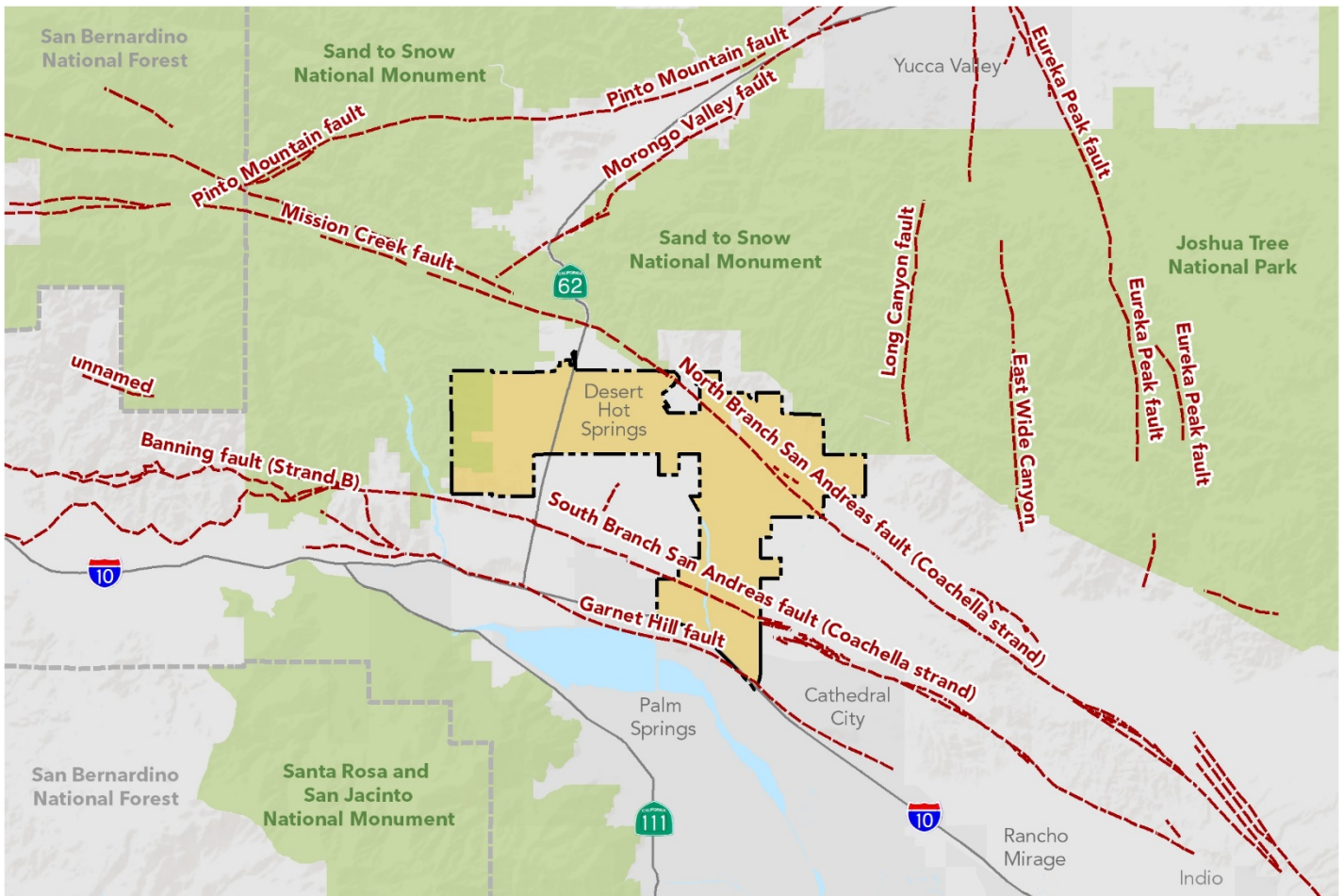
## Earthquake-Induced Landslides

Landslides may result from a number of factors, but earthquake-induced landslides can be the most dangerous due to the lack of warning and severity of the action. Landslides typically occur in areas with steep, unstable slopes. This hazard is only found along the perimeter of the City on properties abutting the surrounding hills and mountains. Although the risk of landslides and rockfalls in most of the City is low, possible expansion into areas adjacent to steep slopes may increase exposure to these risks. Slope stabilizing measures, included in the Uniform Building Code and California Building Code, are easily implemented in new development to provide adequate protection from these hazards.

## Liquefaction

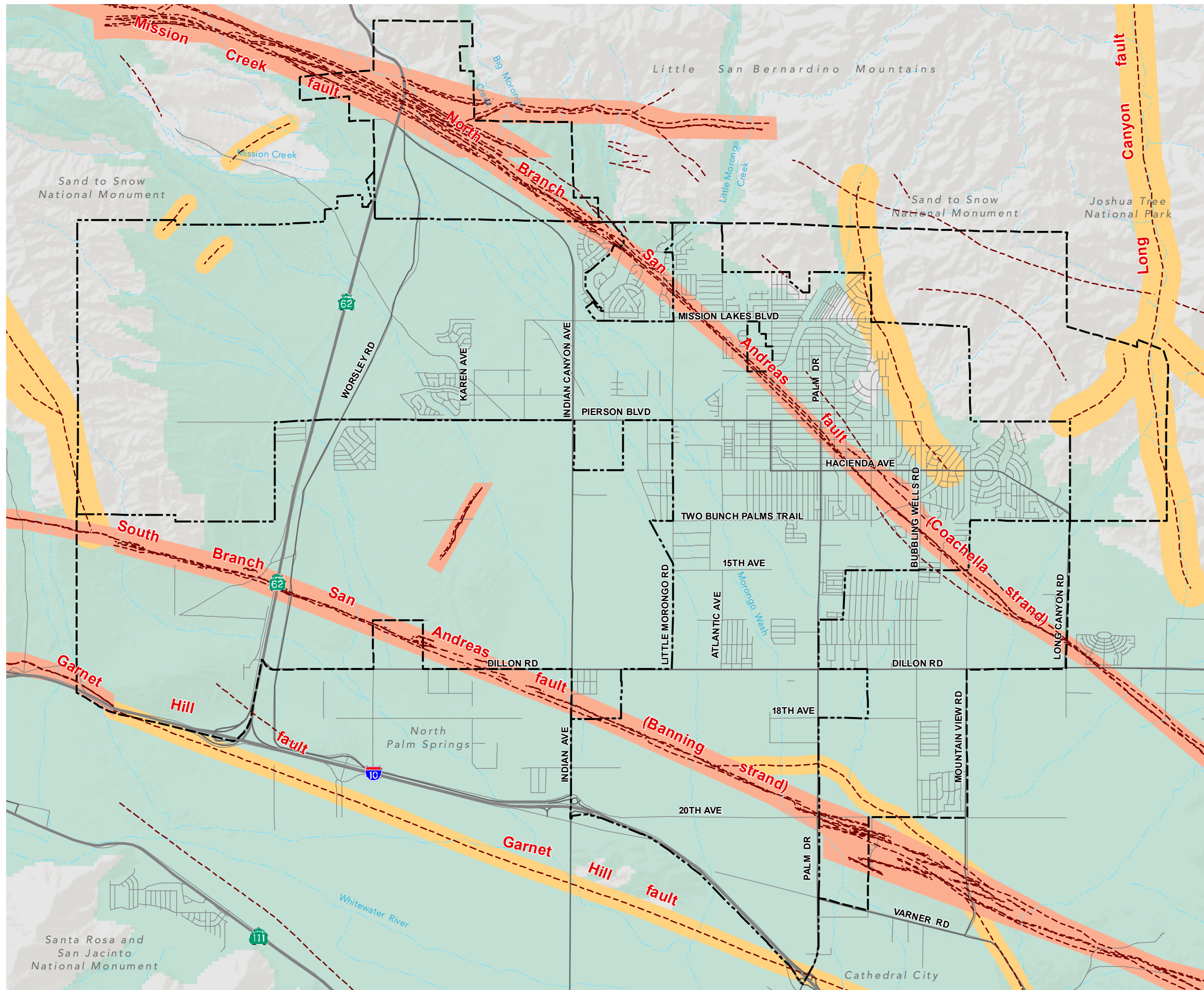
Liquefaction occurs when loose soils saturated with water become loose and lose strength in response to stress, like actions caused by an earthquake. At this state, the soil acts as a liquid. This causes the surface of the ground to become unstable, resulting in potential shifting of structures, possibly causing structure collapse. Liquefaction potential in the Desert Hot Springs area is generally considered low to moderate due to the relatively deep groundwater. However, near the Banning fault, which acts as a dam for groundwater flow, groundwater levels can reach to less than 50 feet, thus creating a higher risk of liquefaction. See Figure SN-3 (Seismic Hazards) for location of liquefaction-prone areas.

## SN-2: Regional Faults





# Figure SN-3: Seismic Hazards



**Seismic Hazards**

- Faults
- Liquefaction

**Fault Zones**

- Riverside County Designated Fault Zone
- Alquist Priolo Fault Zone

**Base Map Features**

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Water Courses

Source: City Of Desert Hot Springs and Riverside County.  
Date: January 2019.







## Flood Hazards

Flooding results from storm events that create volumes of rainwater that cannot be controlled by natural river channels, thus flowing across the land and possibly inundating developed areas. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is responsible for the planning, operation, and maintenance of flood control facilities within the City. Desert Hot Springs is located at the base of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, which have many canyons that outlet into several natural drainage features traversing the City. The City receives on average only about five to six inches of rainfall per year. However, the intense nature of desert storms cause flood events.

### Flood Zones

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) creates maps classifying levels of flood risk or flood zones for designated areas. The maps are called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and are utilized to determine the need and rate of flood insurance. Flood zones are determined based on historical data on the likelihood of flood inundation. The 100-year flood zone, also classified as Zones A, AO and AE, is the area of flooding expected to occur every 100 years. This calculates to each year having a one percent chance of flooding and over a 100-year period, only a 63.4 percent chance of meeting this level.

The watercourses from the west and northern portions of the City generally consolidate into two main watercourses, known as Mission Creek and Morongo Wash, in the center portion of the City and then drain farther southeast. An additional watercourse originates

near the northeast portion of the City, known as the Long Canyon Wash, which crosses the far eastern portion of the City and drains southwest.

The Mission Creek and Morongo Wash 100-year flood zones combine generally south of Mission Lakes Boulevard to form a single large 100-year flood zone that is nearly 1.5 miles wide and flows down to Dillon Road, where it narrows down to approximately one-mile wide. The Long Canyon Wash 100-year flood zone is relatively narrow until it reaches just north of 16th Avenue, where the drainage fans out and the 100-year flood zone stretches to nearly 1.5 miles wide. The Long Canyon flood zone continues until it joins with the Mission Creek and Morongo Wash flood zone south of Dillon Road. Several minor 100-year flood zones exist along other natural and man-made drainages that cross the City and reach into the mountains to the north. Figure SN-4 (Flood Hazards) delineates the flood zone boundaries.

The land use plan takes most of the floodways and floodplains into consideration for conservation and public safety. However, in certain areas, development within the floodplain has been allowed. Adequate flood control improvements are required to raise the developments out of the flood zone and/or provide adequate physical flood control protection.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District works actively to address regional flood hazards with flood control infrastructure. However, the planning and financing for such a complex problem requires years of effort.





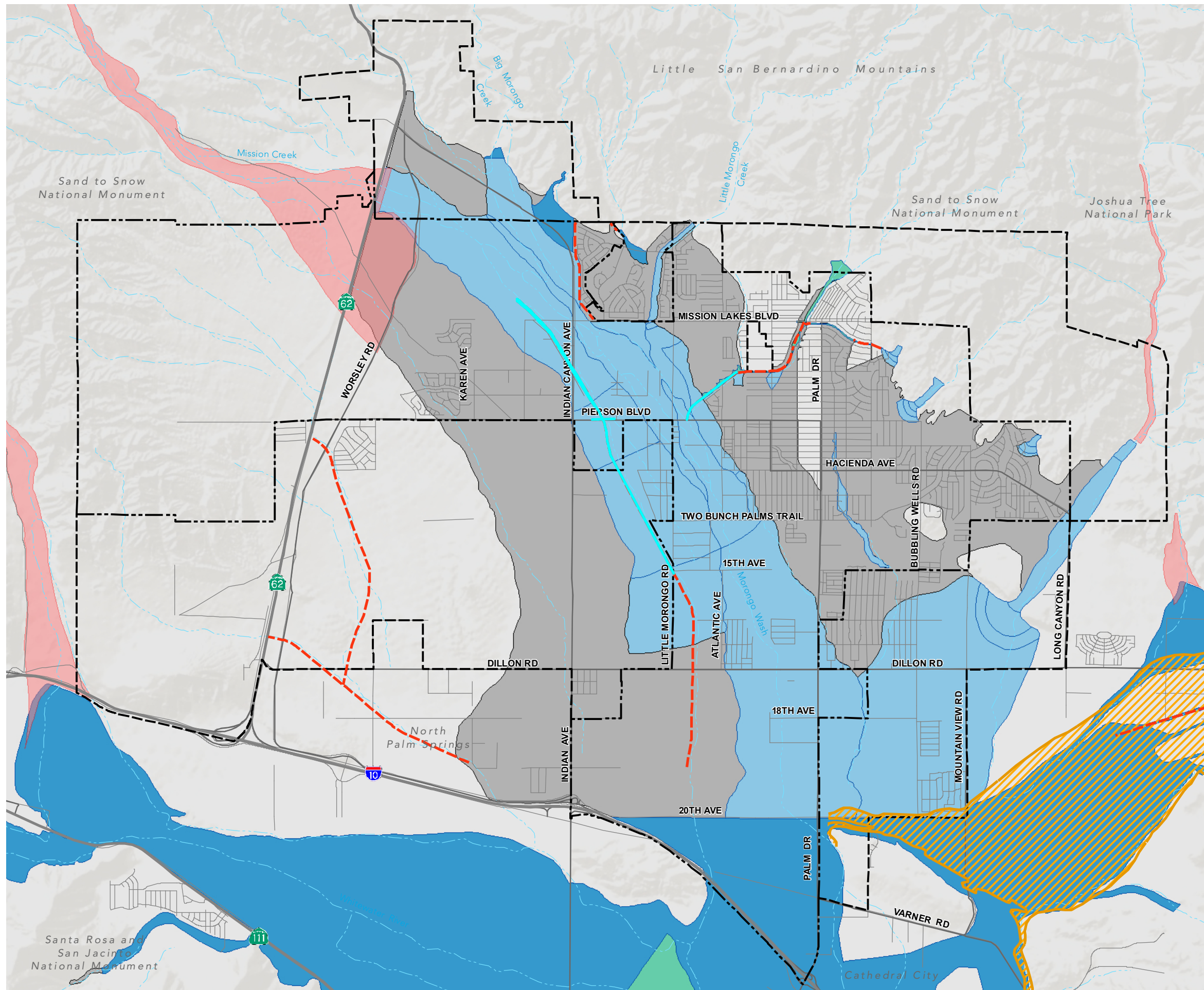
Riverside County flood control channel at Mission Creek Boulevard, west of Palm Drive

### **Dam Inundation**

Dam inundation results from a failing dam, which can result in flooding of downstream areas. The Wide Canyon Dam, constructed in 1968, is located easterly of the City and catches drainage from a large area to the northeast. The dam does not regularly hold back a large amount of water but is intended to control large storm flows and prevents flash flooding. In the unlikely event of the dam's failure during a large storm event, portions of Desert Hot Springs would be inundated. Figure SN-4 (Flood Hazards) illustrates the boundary of the Wide Canyon Dam inundation area. The area lies along drainages that extend from the dam to near Palm Drive and 20th Avenue. Because the dam does not regularly retain water, dam inundation hazard is considered only moderate.



# Figure SN-4: Flood Hazards



**FEMA Flood Zones**

**Special Flood Hazard Areas Subject To Inundation by the One Percent Annual Chance Flood**

The 1% annual flood (100-year flood), also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard include Zones A, E, and AO. The Base Flood Elevation is the water-surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.

- Zone A No Base Flood Elevations determined.
- Zone AE Base Flood Elevations determined.
- Zone AO Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding); Base Flood Elevations determined.

**Other Flood Areas**

- Zone X Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood (500-year flood); and areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood.

Awareness Floodplain Boundary (approximate)

**Dam Inundation**

Wide Canyon Dam Inundation Area

**Flood Control Channels and Facilities**

Riverside County Flood Control Facilities

**Base Map Features**

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Water Courses

January 2019.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), August 2018.

National Flood Hazards Layer (NFHL). FEMA Map Service Center: Web Page, <<http://msc.fema.gov>>

California Department of Water Resources, 2018. Awareness Floodplain Mapping Boundaries - Riverside County: Web Page, <[http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lra/fmo/fmb/fes/awareness\\_floodplain\\_maps](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lra/fmo/fmb/fes/awareness_floodplain_maps)>

California Department of Water Resources, Office of Emergency Services, 1958. Dam Inundation Areas, 2009.





## High Winds and Dust Hazards

The Coachella Valley area features higher temperatures than the inland Banning area. The geography of the neighboring hillsides creates a wind funnel at the mouth of the Coachella Valley, through the San Geronio Pass. This results in more frequent high wind incidences through the pass. Desert Hot Springs is located closer to the pass than all other valley cities and thus is more susceptible to high wind episodes. In addition to possible property damage caused by the high winds, sand and dust are blown through the air, constituents of which include fine particulate materials that can deposit in the lungs, causing significant human health hazards.

The South Coast Air Quality Mitigation District (SCAQMD) monitors the levels of fine particulates (also called PM10) based on standards from the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).



Example of blowing winds and dust clouds in the Coachella Valley





## Wildfire Hazards

In Riverside County, wildland fires historically have occurred in the brush-covered hills that frame many communities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection prepares maps that identify Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. These maps show that much of Desert Hot Springs has a “moderate” fire hazard. Properties along the hillslopes are designated as having a “high” fire hazard, with some areas even classified “very high” fire hazard (see Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards). As historical fires in the areas have shown, the hillside terrain, vegetation, and potential for high winds create conditions where wildfires present a major risk for structures and populations located in and adjoining Fire Hazard Severity Zones

In addition to the City’s implementation of the California Fire Code, development standards from the RCFD also apply. These include special construction standards for buildings within high fire areas and standards for fuel modification design and maintenance for areas within high fire zones and mountainous areas. These standards are implemented through the review of development proposals by the RCFD in coordination with the City staff’s review.

As a framework, the RCFD utilizes the CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Unit Strategic Fire Plan, which describes Riverside County’s preparedness and firefighting capabilities, identifies collaboration with all County stakeholders, discusses pre-fire management strategies, and articulates pre-fire management tactics.

## Hazardous Materials

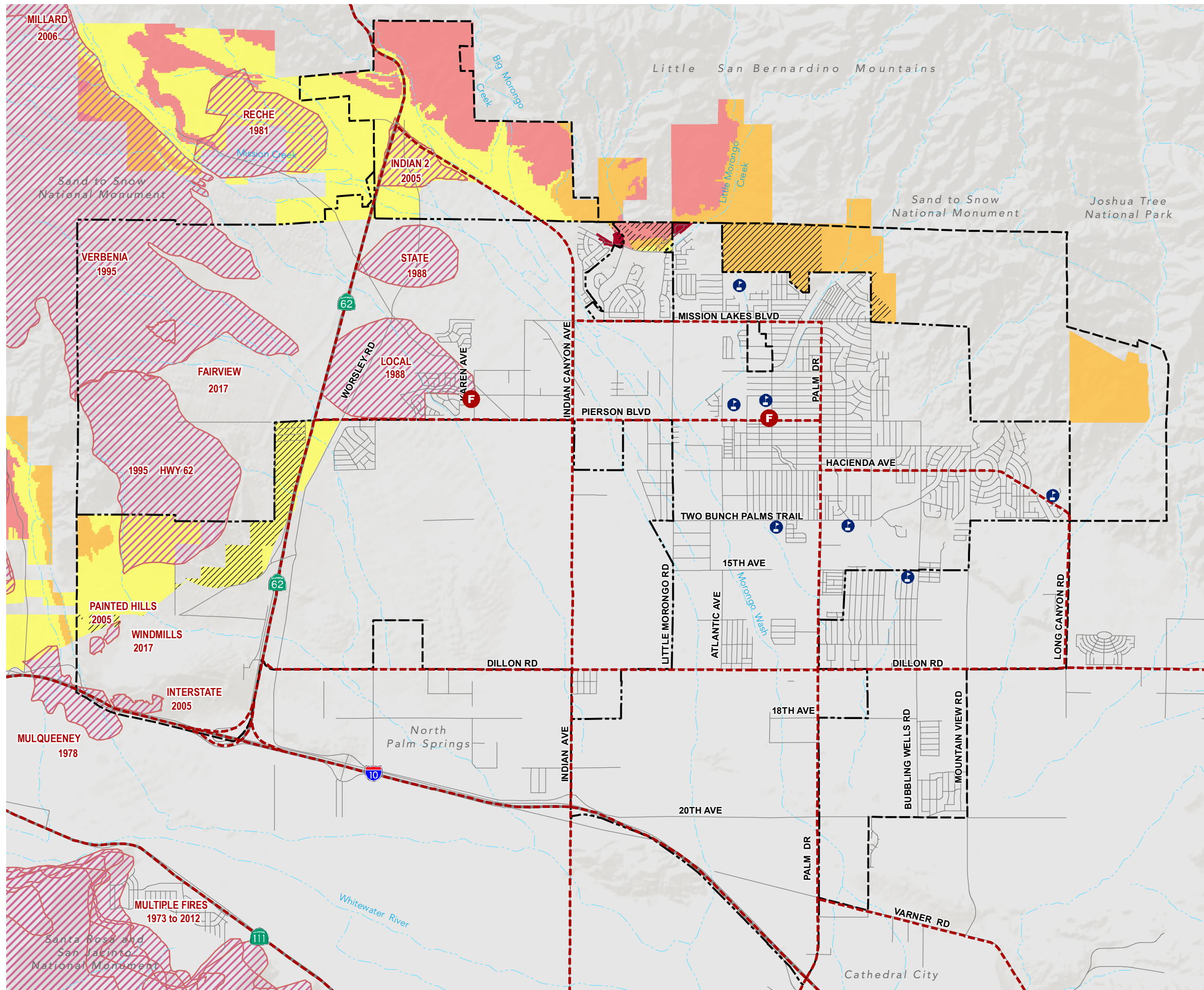
The California Health and Safety Code defines a hazardous material as any material that, due to quantity, concentration, physical, or chemical characteristics, poses a significant potential hazard to public health and safety or to the environment.

Commercial and industrial businesses located in Desert Hot Springs use hazardous materials, including such businesses as dry cleaners, auto service providers, landscape contractors, and paint shops. Additionally, marijuana production creates new kinds of hazardous waste that requires special attention. Desert Hot Springs’ land use pattern generally separates industry from residential uses, although large-scale industrial activities have the potential to impact broad areas in the event of an accident. Also, commercial freight carriers transporting hazardous substances along major roads or railways present potential hazards. Federal, State, and County agencies enforce regulations for hazardous waste generators and users, and these regulations provide a high degree of protection.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides the authority to control hazardous waste. The EPA maintains a database of sites that generate, transport, treat, store and dispose of hazardous waste. As of 2019, eight such sites are located within the planning area, one of which is designated as a “transporter;” the remaining are “small generators.” California law requires State agencies to compile a list of all properties affected by hazardous waste (Cortese List).



# Figure SN-5: Wildfire Hazards



**Fire Hazard Severity Zones (State Responsibility Areas)**

- Very High
- High
- Moderate

**Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Local Responsibility Areas)**

- Very High

Historic Fire Perimeters (1973 to 2017)

Evacuation Routes

F Riverside County Fire Stations

Existing and Planned Residential Development in Local and State Responsibility Areas

**Base Map Features**

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Water Courses
- + Public Schools

Source: CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program, 2009 and Riverside County GIS (accessed August 2019.)

Date: August 2019





## NOISE PLAN

Noise generally is defined as unwanted sound. Noise can impact essential parts of life such as work, rest, sleep, and communication and can result in negative impacts to people's quality of life. Consideration of noise-generating sources and ambient noise conditions in land use planning and decision-making activities helps guard against deterioration of health and well-being. This noise plan establishes the framework for identifying noise sources and conditions that affect land use.

Every city in California is required to identify noise-sensitive land uses and noise sources, quantify areas of noise impact, and establish goals, policies, and programs so that residents will be protected from excessive noise. Section 65302(f) of the Government Code identifies the specific noise analysis and policy direction that must be included in a General Plan, with attention paid as well to Section 46050.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

### Noise Setting and Background

While noise is inherent part of city living, people who live in desert environments expect to quiet conditions. Many factors impact how people perceive and react to noise, such as the time of day, the noise source, and their expectations for the noise environment. In Desert Hot Springs, the most significant and constant noise source is roadway/freeway traffic noise. At a more localized level, activities such as landscape maintenance and construction activities can interfere with enjoyment of outdoor neighborhood life. Controlling roadway noise can be difficult since State and Federal laws control motor vehicle noise. However, the location of noise-sensitive land uses relative to significant noise sources can help address roadway noise concerns. For more localized impacts, City ordinance can help.

### Measurement and Perception

Sound intensity is measured and expressed in decibels (dB), with an adjustment referred to as the A-weighted measure to correct for the relative frequency response of the human ear. Of the various scale available for measuring noise, the A-weighted sound pressure level (dBA) is the scale of measurement that is most effective in measuring noise at a community level. The A-scale

approximates the frequency response of the average ear when listening to most ordinary everyday sounds.

The limit to using decibels as the basic measurement of sound is that decibels represent a rough connection between the physical intensity of sound and its perceived loudness to the human ear. For example, a 10-decibel increase in sound level is perceived by the human ear as only doubling of the loudness of the sound. Ambient sounds in the urban environment generally range from 30 dBA (very quiet) to 100 dBA (very loud).

The time of day can also play a significant role in how people perceive noise. Noise typically is more bothersome at night than during the daytime because the ambient noise level is generally lower at night, particularly in the desert.

The duration of a sound also affects how someone perceives noise, or how much of a nuisance it may be to them. A certain level of noise may be acceptable depending on the duration experienced by someone. For example, a truck passing by may be more tolerable than the noise made by a long train. Measures of noise exposure have been developed to consider not just the A-level variation of noise but also the duration of the disturbance. That's where the Community Equivalent Noise Level, or CNEL, comes into play.

### Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)

The CNEL measurement weights the average noise levels for the evening hours (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) by increasing them by 5 dB and weights the average noise levels for the nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) by increasing them by 10 dB. The daytime noise levels are combined with these weighted levels and are averaged to obtain a CNEL value. Table SN-1 (Typical Noise Levels in the Environment) indicates the outdoor CNEL at typical locations throughout the Southern California area.

### Effects of Noise on People

In general, noise may affect the average individual through hearing loss, obstruction with oral communication, and by interfering with sleep. The ability to understand speech is increasingly difficult when sound exceeds 60 dBA. Sound levels exceeding 40 to 45 dBA can impact sleeping habits within a residence.



Prolonged sound exceeding 85 dBA may result in temporary or even permanent hearing loss. State and Federal safety and health regulations protect workers at levels of exposure that exceed 90 dBA for an eight-hour workday.

**Table SN-1: Typical Noise Levels in the Environment**

Common Noise Source	Noise Level (dBA)		Effect
Thunderclap (near)	Uncomfortably Loud	120 dBA	Threshold of pain begins around 125 dB  Regular exposure to sound over 100 dB of more than one-minute risks permanent hearing loss.
Symphony Orchestra Power Saw (chainsaw)		110 dBA	
Stereos (over 100 watts)			
Garbage Truck/Cement Mixer	Very Loud	100 dBA	No more than 15 minutes of unprotected exposure recommended for sounds between 90–100 dB  Very annoying (88 dB)
Motorcycle Average City Traffic Garbage Disposal		90 dBA	
Vacuum Cleaner, Hair Dryer	Moderately Loud	80 dBA	85 dB is the level at which hearing damage (8 hrs.) begins Intrusive; interferes with telephone conversation
Normal Conversation		70 dBA	
Quiet Office	Quiet	60 dBA	Comfortable hearing levels (Under 60 dB)
Refrigerator		50 dBA	
Whisper		40 dBA	
Rustling Leaves	Very Quiet	30 dBA	Very quiet (30 dB)
Normal Breathing		20 dBA	
		10 dBA	
		0 dBA	Just audible (20 dB)

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders 2010; American Medical Association and the Canadian Hearing Society of Ontario; and National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health, 1990.

## Noise/Land Use Compatibility Standards

In California and Desert Hot Springs specifically, a CNEL of 65 dBA is used as a standard for maximum outdoor noise levels in residential areas.

Particularly sensitive land uses—also called sensitive receptors—include residences, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals and nursing homes, and resort areas. In addition, parks, golf courses, and other outdoor activity areas can be sensitive to noise disturbances. Commercial and industrial uses, conventional hotels and motels, playgrounds and neighborhood ballparks, and other outdoor spectator sport arenas are less sensitive to noise. Least sensitive to noise are heavy commercial and industrial uses, transportation, communication, and utility land uses.

Land use decisions and the development review process are key ways to minimize noise impacts on sensitive land uses. Noise compatibility may be achieved by not locating conflicting land uses adjacent to one another and by incorporating buffers and noise control techniques in the overall site design process. This can be achieved by integrating increased setbacks, dense landscaping, building transitions, walls, and building construction techniques. Table SN-2 (Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines) illustrates the ranges of allowable exterior noise levels for various land uses in Desert Hot Springs. To supplement adopted and future adopted noise regulations, this table should be applied to individual projects and their noise analyses to determine specific land use compatibility and to establish significance thresholds.

**Table SN-2: Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines**

Land Uses	CNEL, dB						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Residential land uses: Single and multifamily dwellings, group quarters	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
Residential land uses: Mobile homes	A	B	C	C	D	D	D
Transient lodging: Hotels and motels	A	A	B	B	C	C	D
Schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes & convalescent hospitals	A	A	B	C	C	D	D
Recreation land uses: Golf courses, open space (with walking, bicycling or horseback riding trails, etc.)	A	A	A	A	B	C	C
Playgrounds, neighborhood parks	A	A	A	B	C	D	D
Office building, person business, and professional services	A	A	A	B	B	C	D
Commercial land uses: Retail trade, movie theaters, restaurants, bars, entertainment activities, services	A	A	A	A	B	B	C
Heavy commercial/industrial: wholesale, manufacturing, utilities, transportation, communications	A	A	A	A	B	B	B
Auditoriums, concert halls, amphitheaters, music shells, meeting halls	B	B	C	C	D	D	D
Residential land uses: Single & multifamily dwellings, group quarters	A	A	A	B	B	D	D

### Explanatory Notes:

- A. Normally Acceptable: With no special noise reduction requirements assuming standard construction.
- B. Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirement is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.
- C. Generally Unacceptable: New construction is discouraged. If new construction does proceed, a detailed analysis of noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.
- D. Land Use Discouraged: New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.
- E. The residential exterior noise standard of 65 dBA shall generally be applicable only to outdoor living areas, such as rear yard areas.

## **Baseline and Future Noise Environments**

As noted above, Interstate 10 and State Route 62 represent the dominant community noise sources, along with the arterial roadways. To a lesser extent, wind energy facilities also contribute to the overall noise environment, although these sources are fairly localized, as are activities on commercial/industrial properties.

Since the primary contributor to noise is traffic, noise contours for baseline (2019) and projected future conditions were developed based on the traffic volumes included in the General Plan traffic study and utilized the Traffic Noise Model lookup tables developed by the Federal Highway Administration.

## **Managing the Noise Environment**

Desert Hot Springs will address noise issues by making wise land use decisions. Site development plans and proposed land uses will take into account how roadway and localize noise impacts properties. Reviewing each project at the time it is proposed will help assure impacts can be minimized. Project design mitigation, simple and sophisticated technical fixes, and acoustical barriers will be applied to each project to address noise.

In areas near arterials, site planning and design standards provide direct and integrated noise impact mitigation. Applied mitigation measures include the use of buffer zones consisting of earthen berms, walls, and landscaping between sensitive land uses and roadways and other noise sources. In addition, site planning and building orientation can provide shielding of outdoor living spaces, and orient operable window away from roadways. Effective acoustical materials can also be incorporated into building windows and walls, which adequately reduce outdoor noise.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

To create a safe community, the City must recognize and prepare against natural and human-caused hazards. Providing a high level of public safety and emergency services is a high priority. Maintaining, improving, and when necessary, expanding the City's public safety services, programs, and infrastructure will ensure a safe, educated, and protected community. Emergency preparation and agency coordination are key to safety in the event of a disaster. Emergency situations can arise from earthquakes, floods, and fires, or human-caused events such as hazardous materials spills. These goals and policies indicate the City's intent to promote safety and security through prevention and mitigation.

### Fire and Police Services

#### **GOAL SN-1: HIGH LEVEL OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ADEQUATELY ADDRESSING WILDFIRES**

**Policy SN-1.1: Police and Fire Protection.** Provide a high level of police and fire protection by providing a level of funding necessary to assure that levels are maintained per City Council policy and additional staff is provided to address growth.

**Policy SN-1.2: Level of Service.** Periodically review the level, quality, innovation, and cost-effectiveness of police and fire protection services, including contract services, and remain flexible when considering the most effective means of providing these services to the community.

**Policy SN-1.3: New Development Impacts.** Require all new and improved developments to be reviewed for their impact on safety and the provision of police and fire protection services.

**Policy SN-1.4: Development Proposal Review.** Require development proposals to be transmitted to the Police Department and the Fire Marshal for review. Any input shall be incorporated into project design or conditions of approval, as appropriate.

**Policy SN-1.5: Vehicle Access.** Require that emergency, police, fire, and paramedic vehicle access be provided with all new developments to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshal and Police Chief.

**Policy SN-1.6: Sufficient Fire Flows.** Coordinate with the Water District to assure sufficient water pressures are available to provide adequate fire flows for all existing and proposed development.

**Policy SN-1.7: Adequate Fire Resources.** Ensure that the City has adequate Fire Department resources (fire stations, personnel, and equipment) to meet response time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide a high level of service to the community.

**Policy SN-1.8: Fire Enforcement.** Enforce fire standards and regulations in the course of reviewing building plans and conducting building inspections.

**Policy SN-1.9: Onsite Wildfire Prevention Measures.** Require special on-site fire protection measures to be specified during project review for areas where the fire hazard potential exist, specifically areas of hilly areas with slopes of 10 percent or greater, access problems, lack of water or sufficient pressure, or excessively dry brush.

**Policy SN-1.10: Fire Department Inspections.**

Require commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings and multi-family development to be periodically inspected by the Fire Department to assure compliance with applicable fire codes and to educate building and development managers on fire safety issues.

**Policy SN-1.11: Fire Suppression Systems.**

Regulate and enforce the installation of fire protection water system standards for all new construction projects, including the installation of fire hydrants providing adequate fire flow, fire sprinkler, or suppression systems.

**Policy SN-1.12: National Fire Guidelines.** Strive to comply with and maintain National Fire Protection Association guidelines, including Standard 1710 requirements for emergency response times and staffing of fire fighter crews responding to emergencies.

**Policy SN-1.13: Consistent Level of Service as City Grows.** The City shall make every effort to assure the same or greater level of fire protection as provided to City residents as City limits are expanded.

**Policy SN-1.14: Additional Fire Station.** Pursue new fire stations facilities in areas of high needs and development growth.

**Policy SN-1.15: Fire Department Review.** Continue to involve the Fire Department in the development review process to ensure that fire safety is addressed in new and modified developments.

**Policy SN-1.16: Fire Department Review.** Minimize new residential developments within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.17: Essential Public Facilities.** Locate essential public facilities out of high-risk, wildfire-prone areas unless additional mitigation measures are put into place above the minimum fire protection standards, where feasible.

**Policy SN-1.18: Government Code.** New development will adhere to California Government Code sections 51175 to 51189 related to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.19: Fire Safe Regulations.** New development will adhere to the latest Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations.

**Policy SN-1.20: Building and Fire Codes.** New development will adhere to all requirements in the California Building Code and California Fire Code.

**Policy SN-1.21: Fire Protection Plan.** Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to submit a fire protection plan that addresses landscape/fuel modification installation, incorporate open areas to complement defensible spaces, recognize possible refuge areas, and identify multiple ingress and egress routes.

**Policy SN-1.22: Fire Risk Pre-Plans.** Require new development within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare pre-plans for fire risk areas that address resident evacuation and to effectively communicate those plans, including identifying the location and direction of evacuation routes.

**Policy SN-1.23: Roadside Fuel Reduction Plan.** Require new development within and adjoining Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prepare a roadside

fuel reduction plan to prevent fires along public roads caused by vehicles.

**Policy SN-1.24: Defensible Space Clearances.** Require new development, and as feasible with existing development, to provide long-term maintenance of defensible space clearances around structures, subdivisions, and fuel breaks within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

**Policy SN-1.25: Non-Conforming Development.** Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to identify non-conforming buildings related to fire safety standards and consult with property owners to bring them into compliance with the most current building and fire safety standards.

**Policy SN-1.26: At-Risk Occupants.** Conduct a survey, as feasible, of existing residential structures within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to determine at-risk occupants such as elderly care facilities, shut-ins, or schools that would pose a significant concern for evacuation and/or shelter-in-place during a wildfire event; develop a plan, as feasible, to accommodate these target occupants.

**GOAL SN-2: A SAFER COMMUNITY THROUGH HIGH LEVEL OF POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**Policy SN-2.1: Adequate Police Resources.** Maintain adequate resources (stations, personnel, and equipment) to enable the Police Department to meet response time standards, keep pace with growth, and provide high levels of service.

**Policy SN-2.2: Staff Ratio.** Strive to maintain a police staffing ratio of at least 1.5 sworn officers per 1,000 residents.

**Policy SN-2.3: Police Response Times.** Strive to meet a three-minute response time for priority one and priority two calls for service.

**Policy SN-2.4: Police Training.** Maintain a well-trained police force to meet changing needs and conditions by continually updating and revising public safety techniques and providing for effective evaluation and training of personnel.

**Policy SN-2.5: Public Safety Plan.** Update the City's Public Safety Plan every five years to assess the City's safety needs, evaluate challenges for the following five years, and identify areas of opportunity and priority for the execution of plan Objectives.

**Policy SN-2.6: Police Facilities.** Locate police substations and offices in those areas of the City particularly vulnerable to crime.

**Policy SN-2.7: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.** Promote the concepts of crime reduction through thoughtful design of projects, specifically using the concepts of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED). These should include at a minimum using boundaries—perceived and real—to control access to sites, focusing more eyes-on-the-street by promoting designs with windows looking onto streets and using front entries, and promoting individual design to foster sense of ownership.

**Policy SN-2.8: City Beautification.** Work with law enforcement agencies and community groups to promote litter

pick-up, graffiti removal, basic repairs, and other neighborhood beautification efforts.

**Policy SN-2.9: Communication with Various Local Groups.** Provide regular opportunities for communications between the Police Department and community members, non-profit organizations, local agencies, volunteer groups, homeowner and business associations, and similar groups to become a more informed community related to community policing.

**Policy SN-2.10: Neighborhood Watch Program.** Continue and encourage Neighborhood Watch programs community wide.

**Policy SN-2.11: Citizen's on Patrol Program.** Assist the Police Department in promoting the Citizen's on Patrol Program and similar programs.

**Policy SN-2.12: Gang Activity Monitoring.** Continue to monitor the status of gang activity in the community and, as appropriate, develop and/or implement gang intervention and education programs.

**Policy SN-2.13: Police Support Programs.** Support and encourage participation in the police youth programs as an effective means of introducing youth to the importance and benefits of local law enforcement.

**Policy SN-2.14: Integrating Cannabis Businesses.** Continue to explore new ways to integrate cannabis-related businesses into the City in a manner that is safe and does not create negative impacts.

**Policy SN-2.15: Graffiti Removal.** Continue an aggressive campaign to remove graffiti quickly to reduce crime.

**Policy SN-2.16: Traffic Safety.** Encourage traffic safety programs to reduce traffic accidents and increase pedestrian safety on all streets.

## Hazardous Materials

**GOAL SN-3: LOWER RISK OF EXPOSURE OF LIFE, PROPERTY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS AND WASTE**

**Policy SN-3.1: Hazardous Materials Discharge.** Prevent unauthorized discharges of hazardous materials and promote the proper disposal, handling, transport, delivery, treatment, recovery, recycling, and storage of hazardous materials.

**Policy SN-3.2: Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials.** Require the general location and siting of facilities which involve the use and/or storage of hazardous, highly flammable, or explosive materials to be designed in a manner that assures the highest level of safety in strict conformance with fire codes and all other applicable codes and regulations.

**Policy SN-3.4: Hazardous Waste Siting.** Discourage the siting of facilities that utilize hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes within one-quarter mile of any private or public school or use that supports sensitive receptors. Mitigation shall be incorporated into any project that may expose sensitive receptors to hazardous materials or waste to avoid or minimize health impacts.

**Policy SN-3.6: Hazardous Waste Generation.** Encourage businesses, particularly cannabis-related businesses, to utilize practices and technologies that will reduce the generation of hazardous wastes.



**Policy SN-3.7: Phase I Site Assessment.** Require a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment prior to entitlement approval for development or redevelopment on any site previously developed with industrial, commercial, or energy uses, or sites suspected of contamination due to illegal dumping or other factors.

**Policy SN-3.8: Consultation.** Continue to consult with Federal, State, and County agencies to reduce risks to residents associated with the use or transport of hazardous materials.

**Policy SN-3.9: Disposal Education.** Continue to educate the community regarding the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.

**Policy SN-3.10: Permitting.** Ensure proper permitting of hazardous materials storage, use and disposal with the Riverside County Fire Department and appropriate County, State, and Federal agencies.

**Policy SN-3.11: Permitting Process.** Continue to implement and update as necessary, existing permitting process between the City, Riverside County Environmental Health, and Riverside County Hazardous Materials Team for the establishment of facilities, which manufacture, store, use, or dispose of hazardous and toxic materials within the community or adjacent areas.

**Policy SN-3.12: Minimize Exposure.** Minimize exposure of critical facilities and residences to hazardous materials.

## Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness

**GOAL SN-4: RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS THAT ASSURES READINESS TO RESPOND**

## TO NATURAL AND HUMAN-CAUSED DISASTERS

**Policy SN-4.1: Emergency Operation Plan.** Maintain and update the City's Emergency Operations Plan to keep it current with staffing and technical capabilities of the City and cooperating agencies.

**Policy SN-4.2: Evacuation Preparedness.** Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the establishment of emergency evacuation routes and plans to preserve or reestablish the use of Palm Drive, Mission Lakes Boulevard, Pierson Boulevard, Dillon Road, Hacienda Avenue, Interstate 10, and State Highway 62 as emergency evacuation routes.

**Policy SN-4.3: Evacuation Route Closures.** Identify locations and develop appropriate solutions and/or alternatives to key roadways that would be closed to traffic due to major flooding thus restricting emergency evacuation.

**Policy SN-4.4: Vulnerabilities.** Consider and assess vulnerability to natural and human-caused disasters when reviewing proposals for the siting and development of critical and essential public/quasi-public facilities.

**Policy SN-4.5: Available Public Information.** Ensure adequate provision of public information to resident and businesses on actions to minimize damage and to facilitate recovery from natural and human-caused disasters.

**GOAL SN-5: RESILIENT AGAINST THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**



**Policy SN-5.1: Cooling Centers.** Establish cooling centers to reduce the resident’s vulnerability to extreme heat events and severe storms.

**Policy SN-5.2: Power Sources.** Encourage redundant power sources such as generators and wind energy to help assure power is available for increased power needs in heat events.

**Policy SN-5.3: Design to Minimize Extreme Heat.** Require the design of projects to address the possible effects of extreme heat events such as requiring shade trees and shade shelter areas, shaded playgrounds, bus shelters, and placement of structures that account for proper sun exposure to reduce the heat within structures.

## Natural Hazards Plan

### **GOAL SN-6: RESILIENCY AGAINST SEISMIC HAZARDS AND PREPAREDNESS TO RESPOND AFTER A SEISMIC EVENT**

**Policy SN-6.1: Alquist-Priolo Act.** Implement the Alquist-Priolo Act and Public Resources Code Section 2621 to prohibit new structures within earthquake fault zones.

**Policy SN-6.2: Seismic Review.** Review and determine the adequacy of geotechnical and fault hazard studies prepared within the City by a County Geologist, the State Geologist, or a contract geological engineer.

**Policy SN-6.3: Geotechnical Studies.** Require geotechnical studies for development proposals located in areas with soils susceptible to liquefaction to or other forms of ground failure. If found to have the

potential for liquefaction, further analysis may be necessary to determine level of hazard risk and propose appropriate mitigation measures.

**Policy SN-6.4: Fault Zones.** Accept the Riverside County designated fault zone for the Blind Canyon Fault (unless subsequent data indicate otherwise), and apply standard measures as would be required of any California Division of Mines and Geology designated fault zone.

**Policy SN-6.5: Utilities and Vital Service Providers.** Consult with utilities and vital service providers to confirm the design of existing and proposed infrastructure to withstand substantial seismic events, and to strengthen or relocate facilities to safeguard water, electricity, natural gas, and other transmission and distribution systems.

**Policy SN-6.6: Water District Consultation.** Consult with the Mission Springs Water District and the Coachella Valley Water District in their efforts to recharge groundwater basins underlying the City in order to prevent subsidence and associated damage to existing and future development.

**Policy SN-6.7: Wind-Driven Erosion.** Continue to implement control measures to prevent wind-driven and water-driven erosion from construction activities and vacant parcels.

**Policy SN-6.8: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Maintain the City’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as an extension of the General Plan Safety Element, in conjunction with Riverside County and other key organizations.

**Policy SN-6.9:** **CERT.** Continue to assure community education through the Riverside County Community Emergency Response (CERT) trainings and certifications.

**GOAL SN-7: ASSURE RESILIENCY AGAINST FLOODING HAZARDS, AND PROVIDE THE TOOLS NEEDED TO RESPOND TO FLOOD EVENTS**

**Policy SN-7.1: Flood Control Improvements.** Require developers to coordinate with adjacent property owners in the planning and funding of flood control improvements, where a Master Drainage Plan or Area Drainage Plan does not exist.

**Policy SN-7.2: Flood Zones.** Prohibit development in drainages, especially in Flood Zones A and AO, unless all standards of elevation and flood proofing have been implemented to the satisfaction of the City’s Building Department, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District.

**Policy SN-7.3: Coordination.** Coordinate with Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to plan and provide adequate flood control protection.

**Policy SN-7.4: Master Drainage Plan.** Expand the Desert Hot Springs Master Drainage Plan to address drainage and flooding concerns of development on the Mission Creek and Morongo Wash drainage areas.

**Policy SN-7.5: Flood Insurance Rate Maps.** Assist in the modification of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps as appropriate, as flood control improvements are implemented.

**Policy SN-7.6: All-Weather Crossings of Drainage Channels.** Assure that major roadways in the City feature all-weather crossings of drainage channels to ensure adequate emergency service access as well as general traffic.

**Policy SN-7.7: Hydrological Studies.** Require new development proposals to provide hydrological studies prepared by a State-certified civil engineer for any project that would change existing site runoff. Such studies shall assess the impact of any change in runoff that could result in increased erosion and sedimentation potential or flooding of downstream properties.

**Policy SN-7.8: Appropriate Flood Plain Uses.** Promote uses that are more resilient to flooding, such as parks, trails, golf and other recreational features in flood plain areas.

**GOAL SN-8: A NOISE ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES PEACE AND QUIET THAT COMPLEMENTS THE CITY’S SPA RESORT CHARACTER**

**Policy SN-8.1: Sensitive Land Uses.** Protect noise-sensitive land uses from high noise levels from both existing and future noise sources. Sensitive uses include residences, resorts and community open space, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, and convalescent homes.

**Policy SN-8.2: Noise Impacts.** Assess proposed development and associated traffic for the potential to generate adverse and incompatible noise impacts. Require mitigation for identified impacts.

**Policy SN-8.3: Noise Mitigation.** Require the installation of sound walls, earthen berms, wall, window noise insulation,

and other mitigation measures for new development in areas that may exceed the City's noise limit standards.

**Policy SN-8.4: Circulation Pattern.** Encourage a Citywide circulation pattern that places primary traffic loads on major arterials and preserves local neighborhood noise environments by controlling traffic speeds to the greatest extent practical.

**Policy SN-8.5: Compatible Land Uses.** Designate land uses that are compatible with higher noise levels adjacent to major arterial roads and highways, the Interstate 10 corridor, or designated industrial lands.

**Policy SN-8.6: Truck Routes.** Designate primary truck routes and clearly mark these routes through the City. Other than vehicles providing local service, construction traffic, and delivery trucks, through traffic shall be limited to those as detailed in the Circulation chapter.

**Policy SN-8.7: Wind Farm Noise Impacts.** Strive to minimize noise impacts from existing and future wind farm development.

**Policy SN-8.8: Interior Noise Standards.** Enforce quantitative exterior and interior noise standards from Table CS-1 for various types of sensitive land uses.

**Policy SN-8.9: Exterior Noise Standards.** Allow for an exceedance of exterior noise standards for all land use types as long as adequate mitigation is provided for interior noise reduction.

**Policy SN-8.10: Noise-generating Uses.** Require specific design for noise-generating uses such as restaurants, bars, and industrial business located near sensitive uses such as residential.

**Policy SN-8.11: Noise Level Compliance.** Require new development to monitor and document compliance with all applicable noise level limits in areas subject to potentially significant noise impacts.

**Policy SN-8.12: Delivery or Service Noise Generation.** Limit delivery or service hours for businesses with potential noise-generating features such as trash bins, docks, loading areas that are located near sensitive uses such as residences, schools, and hospitals.

**Policy SN-8.13: Noise-reducing Pavement.** Encourage the use of noise-reducing paving materials such as rubberized asphalt for road surfacing projects near sensitive land uses.

**Policy SN-8.14: Noise Complaint Response.** Respond timely to noise complaints and provide monitoring when necessary.