

## **2.8 Recommendations for Mitigation of Soil Instability Hazards**

### **2.8.1 Regulation and Governance**

Land use and development in Riverside County is regulated by the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan, County Building and Grading Ordinances (*including the Uniform Building Code*), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and specific resolutions adopted by the County Board of Supervisors (Kupferman, 1995). Since July 1, 1999, the County of Riverside has enforced the 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC) by State Mandate, per California Health and Safety Code, Section 18938. This Technical Background Report will be utilized to support and implement policies for a new Safety Element of the County General Plan. In addition, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Riverside is required to prepare initial studies addressing potential adverse impact of proposed projects. Additional mitigation of geologic hazards in Riverside County is established by the Land Use Ordinance of Riverside County, Ordinance 348, amended October 21, 1999.

### **2.8.2 Mitigation of Slope Instability**

As a result of this study, a GIS-based Landslide and Slope Instability Map has been prepared for Riverside County. The mapping defines "Landslide Management Zones". Proposed development in these areas should be required to conduct geotechnical studies to determine slope stability and provide mitigation measures where needed.

Slopes steeper than 10% can be made unstable by activities of man. Therefore, it is recommended that the County adopt hillside development guidelines. Hillside development guidelines should enforce existing grading codes, and can require aesthetic guidelines that improve the hillside appearance and preserve slope stability. For example, guidelines could require that slopes be returned to their natural appearance and steepness after grading and undergrounding for a reservoir.

To reduce debris flow potential, not only do the existing debris basins require continued maintenance, but environmental preservation of the mountain ranges is required. Development of the hillside terrain will only increase the potential for debris flows. Thus the County should actively pursue natural preservation of these ranges. The County should also establish an education and warning system to activate following significant wildland fires on the hillsides above the County. This can include mailers to households in the affected areas, public meetings, and/or door-to-door education.