



The following sections of the Safety Element summarize mitigation goals, specific policies, and key topics identified in the Technical Background Report. Issues and policies are organized by the following topics:

- Seismic Hazards;
- Slope and Soil Instability Hazards;
- Flood and Inundation Hazards;
- Fire Hazards;
- Hazardous Waste and Materials; and
- Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery



### **Other General Plan Elements**

The Safety Element is only one of several components of the General Plan. Other social, economic, political and aesthetic factors must be considered and balanced with safety needs. Rather than compete with the policies of related elements, the Safety Element provides policy direction and designs safety improvements that complement the intent and policies of other General Plan elements.

Crucial relationships exist between the Safety Element and the other General Plan elements. How land uses are determined in areas prone to natural hazards, what regulations limit development in these areas, and how hazards are mitigated for existing development, are all issues that tie the elements together. For instance, Land Use Element diagrams and policies must consider the potential for various hazards identified in the Safety Element and must be consistent with the policies to address those hazards. The Multipurpose Open Space Element is also closely tied to the Safety Element. Floodplains, for example, are not only hazard areas, but also often serve as sensitive habitat for threatened or endangered species, or provide recreation or passive open space opportunities for residents and visitors. As such, flood and inundation policies balance the need to protect public health and safety with the need to protect habitat and open space. Safety Element policies, especially those concerning evacuation routes and critical facilities, must also be consistent with those of the Circulation Element.



### **Area Plans**

Together, the Safety Element and Technical Background Report provide a comprehensive set of hazard maps and policies that cover all unincorporated areas of the County. The 19 area plans described in the General Plan, Chapter 1 Introduction, provide additional policy direction, as appropriate, as well as depict major hazards on more detailed maps than the countywide maps can provide. They show more precisely where hazard areas are, providing a more visible link between geography, land use, and policies. For additional policy guidance in specific areas, please refer to the applicable area plan.