



Issues and Policies

The following issues and policies are organized under the headings of “General” - those that apply to all natural hazards and “Hazard Specific” - those that only apply to a specific hazard type (i.e., flood or seismic).

Those policies that are “General” are subcategorized by types of policies: code conformance, special development regulations, or hazard reduction. Following the general policies are those that are categorized by specific hazard types.

Additional safety policies that only apply to a specific geographical area of the County may be found in any of the General Plan’s 19 area plans.

In addition to this Safety Element, land use and development in Riverside County are regulated by the other elements and area plans of the General Plan, County Building and Grading Ordinances, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and specific resolutions adopted by the County Board of Supervisors.

GENERAL ISSUES & POLICIES

Code Conformance & Development Regulations

The County Department of Building and Safety provides technical expertise in reviewing and enforcing the County Building and Fire Codes. These codes establish site-specific investigation requirements, construction standards, and inspection procedures to ensure that development does not pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the public. Every three years, the County's Building and Fire Codes are adapted from the Uniform Building and Fire Codes. They contain baseline minimum standards to guard against unsafe development. As discussed in the Technical Background Report, project variables may modify the implementation of a particular standard.

At a minimum, it is imperative to enforce the most recently adopted regulatory codes for new development and significant redevelopment, including the County’s Land Use Ordinance and Land Division Ordinance, which support the Building and Fire Codes. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) adds another level of safety review, requiring that environmental constraints be considered prior to approval of significant projects. Additional guidelines and standards are introduced through the Safety Element. Table 1.1, Multi-Hazard Safety Actions, identifies the relationship between these various regulatory and planning tools and the hazards that they address.

