



S 7.11 Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and/or utilize the Capital Improvement Program, to strengthen, relocate, or take other appropriate measures to safeguard high-voltage lines, water, sewer, natural gas and petroleum pipelines, and trunk electrical and telephone conduits that (AI 4):

- extend through areas of high liquefaction potential;
- cross active faults; or
- traverse earth cracks or landslides.

S 7.12 Require extra design considerations for lifelines across subsidence areas.

Earthquake Response System

Half of the magnitude 5.0 and greater earthquakes in California are preceded by immediate foreshocks (earthquakes within 72 hours and 10 kilometers of their mainshock). In 1991, using this information, a group of scientists developed an earthquake preparation system based on anomalous earthquake activity along the southern San Andreas fault. This system could be adapted by the County of Riverside to respond to short-term increases in hazard from the San Andreas fault.

Certainly, thoughtfulness and care must be exercised to construct a system that will enhance public safety without promoting rumors or fear. Also, the system must not be a substitute for long-term mitigation efforts. Such potential difficulties do not reduce the usefulness of short-term, pre-event response plans. Over time, new data and additional research should allow similar systems to be developed for other major southern California faults.



State Seismic Hazard Zones:

The Alquist-Priolo

Earthquake Fault Hazards Zones Act addresses only the hazard of surface fault rupture - a phenomenon that only accounts for a relatively small percentage of earthquake losses.

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act was enacted to address the other 95% of earthquake losses. This Act requires the State Geologist to: 1) compile maps identifying seismic hazard zones, for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failure and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes; 2) submit these maps to all affected cities, counties, state agencies, and the State Mining and Geology Board for review; and 3) provide official maps to affected cities, counties, and state agencies.

For additional information regarding Seismic Hazard Zones, please visit the Division of Mines & Geology at: <http://www.consvr.ca.gov/dmg/>.

Policies:

S 7.13 Develop a system to respond to short-term increases in hazard on the southern San Andreas fault, based on probabilities associated with foreshocks. (AI 85)

Emergency Evacuation

The State of California Government Code Section 65302 (g) requires local governments to assess the potential impact that flooding, and failure of dams or other water retention structures, might have on their jurisdiction. Safety Elements of General Plans must assess the impact of flooding from storm activity such as a 100-year flood event. A 100-year flood event is a flood that has a 1/100 chance of occurring in any one year, and a 26% chance of occurring during a typical 30 year home mortgage. Smaller-scale flooding generally associated with overburdened storm drain and canal systems can damage property and hinder emergency activities such as fire department access or evacuation.

Policies:

S 7.14 Regularly review and clarify emergency evacuation plans for dam failure, inundation, fire and hazardous materials releases. (AI 88)



- S 7.15 Develop a blueprint for managing evacuation plans, including allocation of buses, designation and protection of disaster routes, and creation of traffic control contingencies. (AI 84, 88)
- S 7.16 During countywide earthquake drills, encourage communication and cooperation between emergency response staff and designated contacts at hospitals, high-occupancy buildings, and dependent care facilities.
- S 7.17 Adopt inundation alert and readiness levels corresponding with official forecasts by the State Office of Emergency Services, regarding earthquake prediction and potential for dam failure.

Disaster Recovery Plans

Communities around the world have recovered and reconstructed from catastrophic events. Emergency and disaster management literature about their experiences demonstrates many common patterns of recovery activity. In preparing a Safety Element for adoption, Riverside County is well positioned to learn from the disasters of others, and include advance-planning policies that provide the overall direction for future recovery planning and action. A Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance is one component of a pre-event strategy, which itself is part of a detailed plan in a disaster preparedness, response and recovery program.

There is a point, though, when it becomes apparent that some things should **not** be rebuilt; that there are other, more appropriate uses for the land; that rebuilding today only lays the seeds for some future disaster - that fixing today is not worth wrecking tomorrow. Once that realization is reached, genuine progress in disaster reduction can be achieved.

Riverside County should prepare a recovery ordinance. At present, only a few other jurisdictions utilize the provisions of this Act, including the Cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Whittier, as well as the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino. Over time, this law will prove increasingly valuable as more experience is gained from earthquakes and other major disasters.

Policies:

- S 7.18 Develop plans for short-term and long-term post-disaster recovery. (AI 103)

Public Information and Outreach

Effective June 1, 1998, per the State Natural Hazards Disclosure Act, sellers of real property and their agents must provide prospective buyers with a "Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement" when the property being sold lies within one or more State-mapped hazard areas. If a property is located in a Seismic Hazard Zone as shown on a map issued by the State Geologist, the seller or the seller's agent must disclose this fact to potential buyers. Currently, State-issued Seismic Hazard Zone maps for Riverside County have yet to be prepared. Consequently, the hazard maps prepared for this element will be used for the purpose of notifying potential buyers during real estate transactions.



The Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 1986 authorizes local governments to prepare before a disaster for expeditious and orderly recovery and reconstruction afterward. It enables localities to prepare pre-disaster plans and ordinances which may include: an evaluation of the vulnerability of specific areas under its jurisdiction to damage from a potential disaster, together with streamlined procedures for the appropriate modification of existing general plans or zoning ordinances affecting those areas after a disaster; a contingency plan of action and organization for post-disaster short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction; and, a pre-disaster ordinance to provide adequate local authorization for post-disaster activities.