




## Hazards

**H**azards are natural and man-made conditions that must be respected if life and property are to be protected as growth and development occur. As the ravages of wildland fires, floods, dam failures, earthquakes and other disasters become clearer through news, public awareness and sound public policy combine to require serious attention to these conditions.

Portions of the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area may be subjected to hazards such as flooding, dam inundation, seismic occurrences, and wildland fire. These hazards are depicted on the hazards maps, Figure 10 to Figure 14. These hazards are located throughout The Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area at varying degrees of risk and danger. Some hazards must be avoided entirely while the potential impacts of others can be mitigated by special building techniques. The following policies provide additional direction for relevant issues specific to the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area.

 Since 1965, eleven Gubernatorial and Presidential flood disaster declarations have been declared for Riverside County. State law generally makes local government agencies responsible for flood control in California.

## LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES

### Flooding and Dam Inundation

The failure of the Diamond Valley Lake dams could pose a significant flood hazard if this 800,000-acre-foot facility were to surge into the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), failure of this dam could result in flooding as far away as the Antelope/French Valleys.



*The Diamond Valley Lake holds billions of gallons of water when at capacity.*

In addition to hazards posed by dam failures, hazards to life and property could result from a significant flood event along the Salt Creek and the San Jacinto River. Winchester and Romoland are within the 100 and 500-year floodplains, as shown on Figure 10, Flood Hazards. The floodplains follow existing creeks and most significantly affect lowland areas. The floodplains may also contain rare and significant ecosystems such as riparian habitats or vernal pools that are also subject to serious loss.

Many techniques may be used to address the danger of flooding, such as avoiding floodplains, altering the water channels, building techniques, elevating structures that are in floodplains, and enforcing setbacks. This set of policies address the hazards associated with flooding and dam inundation.

#### Policies:



HVWAP 17.1 Protect life and property from the hazards of potential dam failures and flood events through adherence to the Flood and Inundation section of the General Plan Safety Element.



HVWAP 17.2 Adhere to the flood proofing and flood protection requirements of the Flood Management Review Board.



HVWAP 17.3 Protect proposed development projects that are subject to flood hazards, surface ponding, high erosion potential, or sheet