




Hazards

Hazards 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




flow by requiring submission to the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for review.

Wildland Fire Hazard

Due to its rural and mountainous nature, some of the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area is subjected to a high risk of fire hazards. These risks are greater in rural areas and along urban edges. The fire hazards within this planning area are concentrated in the areas designated as Open Space-Recreation, such as Double Butte; Open Space-Conservation Habitat and Open Space-Recreation, such as in the Dawson Mountains; and the Rural Residential and Rural Mountainous designations, such as in the Lakeview Mountains. These land use designations limit the density and type of structures that could be exposed to wildland fires. Methods to address this hazard include techniques such as creating setbacks that buffer development from hazard areas, maintaining brush clearance to reduce potential fuel, low fuel value landscaping, and building techniques. In still other cases, safety oriented organizations such as Fire Safe can provide assistance in educating the public and promoting practices that contribute to improved public safety. Refer to Figure 11, Wildfire Susceptibility, to see the locations of the wildfire zones within the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area.

 **Fire Fact:**
Santa Ana winds create a special hazard. Named by the early settlers at Santa Ana, these hot, dry winds enhance the fire danger throughout southern California.


Liquefaction occurs primarily in saturated, loose, fine to medium-grained soils in areas where the groundwater table is within about 50 feet of the surface. Shaking causes the soils to lose strength and behave as liquid. Excess water pressure is vented upward through fissures and soil cracks and a water-soil slurry bubbles onto the ground surface. The resulting features are known as "sand boils", "sand blows" or "sand volcanoes." Liquefaction-related effects include loss of bearing strength, ground oscillations, lateral spreading, and flow failures or slumping.

Policies:

HVWAP 18.1 Protect life and property from wildfire hazards through adherence to the Fire Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.

Seismic

There are no seismic faults located within the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area. There are however, faults outside of the area, such as the San Jacinto and San Andreas faults, that pose significant seismic threat to the life and property of Harvest Valley/Winchester residents. Threats from seismic events include groundshaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and landslides. The area directly south of Double Butte, including the community of Winchester, has a high susceptibility to liquefaction. There are areas of very susceptible shallow groundwater sediments along Salt Creek. The use of building techniques, the enforcement of setbacks, and practical avoidance measures will help to mitigate the potentially dangerous circumstances. Refer to Figure 12, Seismic Hazards, for the location of faults and liquefaction areas within the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area.

Policies:



HVWAP 19.1 Protect life and property from seismic related events through adherence to the Seismic Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.

Slope

The Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area is home to several mountain ranges and hillsides that have extremely steep slopes. While they contribute