



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 Southwest 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 Southwest 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 Southwest planning area.

LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES

Flooding and Dam Inundation

As shown on Figure 10, Flood Hazards, three dams pose a flood hazard in the Southwest planning area. Failure of the 51,000-acre-foot Vail Lake facility could cause flooding in the Pauba and Murrieta Valleys as well as a three-mile area adjacent to Interstate 15. Failure of the 43,000-acre-foot Lake Skinner Facility could result in flooding along Tualota and Warm Springs Creeks, and eventually the Murrieta Creek. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), failure of the 800,000-acre-foot Diamond Valley Lake, which is located immediately north in the Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan, could result in flooding in the French Valley and eventually the Santa Margarita River.

In addition to hazards posed by dam failures, hazards to life and property could result from a significant flood event on the Santa Margarita River, as well as Murrieta, Temecula, Warm Springs, Santa Gertrudis, and Pechanga Creeks. The areas within the 100 and 500 year flood events can be found on Figure 10, Flood Hazards. Floodplains follow existing creeks and mostly affect lowland areas. The flood plains may also contain rare and significant ecosystems such as riparian habitats or vernal pools.

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

Policies:



SWAP 17.1 Protect life and property from the hazards of potential dam failures and flood events through adherence to the Flood and

 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.