



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 Palo Verde planning area may be subjected to hazards such as flooding, dam inundation, seismic occurrences, and, even wildland fire. These hazards are depicted on the hazards maps, Figures 7 to Figure 11 and are located throughout the Palo Verde 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 Palo Verde planning area.

LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES

Flooding and Dam Inundation



The Riverside County Municipal Dam

The Palo Verde Valley is an ancient floodplain of the Colorado River. The valley was regularly inundated until the construction of dams upstream. Dam inundation is a an unlikely but real threat. Failure of an upstream dam could result in significant hazard to life and property. The Colorado River flooded in 1983, and today the 100-year flood plain spans most of the extensive area between the Colorado River and the Palo Verde Mesa. The 100-year flood plain also encompasses a very high liquefaction potential due to a combination of soil types and shallow ground water.

Of the many techniques that may be used to address the danger of flooding and dam inundation, the most applicable to this area is maintaining uses that can tolerate periodic flooding. That is a major reason why agricultural and recreation-oriented uses make sense here. This set of policies address the hazards associated with flooding and dam inundation.

Policies:



PVAP 13.1 Protect life and property from the hazards of flood events through adherence to the Flood and Inundation Hazards of the General Plan Safety Element.

PVAP 13.2 Adhere to the flood proofing, flood protection requirements, and Flood Management Review requirements of Riverside County.

PVAP 13.3 Require that proposed development projects, which are subject to flood hazards, surface ponding, high erosion potential, or sheet flow, be submitted and approved by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.



*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.*