



Wildland Fire Hazard

Due to the arid nature of the western portion of Palo Verde, much of that area is vulnerable to the risk of fire hazards, particularly in the northwestern sector. However, this area is sparsely populated so the actual threat to life and property is minimal. Methods to address this hazard include techniques such as avoidance of high-risk areas, creating setbacks that buffer development from hazard areas, maintaining brush clearance to reduce potential fuel, low fuel 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 8, Wildfire Susceptibility, for the location and extent of the wildfire zones within Palo Verde.

Policies:



PVAP 14.1 Protect life and property from wildfire hazards through adherence to the Fire Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.



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.

Seismic

Given the pervasive nature of earthquake faults in California, it is gratifying that there are relatively few seismic hazards and seismically related hazards present in the Palo Verde planning area. There are however, some faults outside of the planning area in San Diego County that pose seismic threat to life and property here. The most significant fault within Palo Verde is in the northeastern sector of the area, mostly in the Big Maria Mountains. Threats from seismic events include ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and landslides. In the Palo Verde planning area, liquefaction poses the most significant threat from a seismic event. Generally, the use of building techniques and practical avoidance measures will help to mitigate potentially dangerous seismic events. Refer to Figure 9, Seismic Hazards, for the location of faults within Palo Verde.

Policies:

PVAP 15.1 Protect life and property from seismic related incidents through adherence to the Seismic Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.

Slope

The Palo Verde planning area is home to mountain ranges that have extremely steep slopes. While this terrain helps to form the character and the backdrop of the Palo Verde planning area, their abrupt slopes are highly vulnerable to erosion, rockslides, and landslides. There is little opportunity under current designations for significant impact on these slopes, but it is important to avoid damage to their natural character through grading and scarring. The following policies are intended to ensure the public life and property while protecting important features that define the character of Palo Verde. Figure 10, Steep Slope, depicts the slope areas in Palo Verde. Also refer to Figure 11, Slope Instability, for areas of possible landslide.