




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 this planning area may be subjected to hazards such as flooding, dam inundation, seismic occurrences, and wildland fire. This is not at all surprising, given the extremes of topography and extent of potential water movement in this portion of the County. These hazards are depicted on the hazards maps, Figures 10 to 14. These hazards are located throughout the Pass 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 or other methods. The following policies provide additional direction for specific hazardous conditions.

LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES

Flooding

 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.

As shown on Figure 10, Flood Hazards, some portions of the Pass are flood-prone. When flooding does occur, it originates in the steep mountainous areas to the north and south and often produces spectacular flash floods. These floods can reach unusually high velocities when they reach the valley floor where most of the development is located. Their speed and volume also allows them to carry a significant amount of debris. When this occurs, debris can block flood control channels, particularly where they cross under roadways or rail lines, forcing water to spill over into adjacent areas. The drainages particularly subject to flooding are the Noble and Little San Gorgonio Creeks located north of Cherry Valley, and Smith and Pershing Creeks located in Highland Springs. Flash flooding is the most life-threatening hazard because only minimum notice can be given, and the combined flow of flood water and debris can be extremely damaging.

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

Policies:



PASS 16.1 Protect life and property from the hazards of flood events through adherence to the Flood and Inundation Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.



PASS16.2 Adhere to the flood proofing, flood protection requirements, and flood management review requirements of Riverside County.