



## Hazards

**H**azards 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, earthquakes, and other disasters become clearer through the news, public awareness and sound public policy combine to require serious attention to these conditions.

Portions of Western Coachella Valley are subjected to hazards such as flooding, dam inundation, wind erosion and blowsand, seismic occurrences, and wildland fire. These hazards are depicted on the hazards maps, Figure 11 to Figure 15, and are located throughout the Western Coachella Valley 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 Western Coachella Valley.

### LOCAL HAZARD POLICIES

#### Flooding and Dam Inundation

One-hundred-year flood zones have been identified throughout the planning area. Western Coachella Valley has experienced severe flooding many times throughout its history, resulting in the loss of lives and millions of dollars in property damage. Alluvial fan runoff from mountain ranges and hills after severe storms is a source of much of the area's flooding potential. The tremendous capital investments made in dikes, channels, levees, and dams over this century have not, however, eliminated flood hazards. Development has occurred without adequate protection in some areas.

**Policies:**



WCVAP 18.1 Adhere to the flood proofing, flood protection requirements, and Flood Management Review requirements of the County Ordinance Regulating Flood Hazard Areas.

WCVAP 18.2 Protect proposed development projects that are subject to flood hazards, surface ponding, high erosion potential, or sheet flow by requiring submission to the Coachella Valley Water District or the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for review.

WCVAP 18.3 Create flood control projects that maximize multi-recreational use and water recharge when possible.



WCVAP 18.4 Protect life and property from the hazards of flood events through adherence to the Flood & Inundation Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.