



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 12, Wildfire Susceptibility, to see the locations of the wildfire zones within the Western Coachella Valley area.

Policies:



WCVAP 20.1 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/Liquefaction

Western Coachella Valley is traversed by several active and potentially active fault zones, including the San Andreas Fault, and has experienced several earthquakes of moderate magnitude since records have been kept. The primary seismic hazards which result are ground-shaking and the potential for ground rupture along the surface trace of the fault. Secondary seismic hazards result from the interaction of ground-shaking with existing soil and bedrock conditions, and include liquefaction, settlement, and landslides.

Policies:

WCVAP 21.1 Protect life and property from seismic related incidents through adherence to the Seismic Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element.

Slope

The large amounts of mountainous terrain throughout the Western Coachella Valley area raises a number of land use and safety concerns regarding slope, including drainage, erosion, fire, and vehicular access. Continued urbanization of hillside areas can lead to increased risk and damage from erosion and slope failures. The probability of landslides and mudslides can be affected by hillside development and associated site designs, grading, and landscaping techniques, particularly in areas inherently prone to such slope failures. Development of hillside areas can also impact the extraordinary scenic values of the Coachella Valley.

Policies:



WCVAP 22.1 Protect life and property through adherence to the Slope & Soil Instability Hazards section of the General Plan Safety Element, the Environmentally Sensitive Lands section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element, the Hillside Development and Slope section of the General Plan Land Use Element, and the policies of the Mountainous and Open Space Land Use Designations.

WCVAP 22.2 Prohibit development on slopes exceeding 25 percent.