

City of Riverside

PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Introduction 1
- Purpose and Content 2
- Document Organization 3
- State Requirements 4
- Data Sources & Methodology 5
- General Plan Consistency 5

Section 2: Public Safety Policies 6
- Technical Background Report Overview 11



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND CONTENT

The Public Safety Element of the General Plan provides the City with proactive measures to reduce the risk of hazards and adequately, expediently, and efficiently responds to immediate safety threats.

This Public Safety Element identifies public safety issues and needs anticipated to be of ongoing concern to Riverside during the planning period. This Element describes the major hazards that might affect the City, as well as the strategies available to respond when an accident or emergency occurs. Implementation of these strategies is outlined in Section 2: Public Safety Policies. Accompanied under a separate cover, the Riverside Action Plan contains the actions the City must take to establish, implement, maintain, and enforce City plans intended to identify, manage, control, and mitigate potential natural and human-caused hazards.

Recognizing how essential public safety is to all communities, the State has legislation requiring cities to periodically revise the Public Safety Elements (PSE) of their General Plans.

- Assembly Bill (AB) 747 requires revision of the PSE upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP), but not less than once every 8 years.
- Senate Bill (SB) 1035 requires the safety element to be revised to identify new information on fire hazards, flood hazards, and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element.

The City of Riverside Public Safety Element is an eight-year plan for the 2021-2029 period. The Public Safety Element serves as an integrated part of the larger General Plan but is updated more frequently in accordance with State requirements to ensure its relevancy and accuracy.

The Public Safety Element identifies policies and actions that focus on:

1. Reducing risk from hazards related to natural events and disasters[1];
2. Minimizing risk from hazards associated with air and ground transportation;
3. Providing high quality and responsive public safety and health services;
4. Reducing homelessness; and
5. Identifying key potential impacts of climate change.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The Public Safety Element is organized into primary pieces: The Public Safety Plan and Technical Background Report with Public Safety Policy Actions contained in the Riverside Action Plan under a separate cover. The **Public Safety Plan** outlines the City's commitment to public safety preparedness and response as one guiding principle that reflects an overarching statement of the public safety needs and concerns within the City. The Technical Background Report supports the Public Safety Plan with the following major components.

- **Community Profile:** A profile and analysis of the natural and human-caused hazards in the City.
- **Public Safety Constraints:** A review of public safety related constraints to housing production on identified Opportunity Sites.

APPENDICES

The following summarizes the appendices of the Public Safety Element:

- **Appendix A:** Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

[1] Disaster is defined as a sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

State law requires public safety elements to be updated periodically to reflect new information not available during the previous revision.

Assembly Bill (AB) 747 requires revision of the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP), but not less than once every 8 years, to identify new information relating to flood and fire hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the City or county that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element.

Senate Bill (SB) 1035 requires the safety element to be revised to identify new information on fire hazards, flood hazards, and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the City or county that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element.

The City of Riverside periodically updates the Public Safety Element in accordance with AB 747, SB 379 (land use related to the general plan safety element), and SB 1035 and coordinates Public Safety Element Updates with updates to the General Plan for the addition of Environmental Justice Policies in accordance with SB 1000, Land use: general plans: safety and environmental justice (2015–2016).

The Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for the City of Riverside planning area was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Consistent with AB 2140 (General Plans: Safety Element) requirements, the link to the City's LHMP page is provided here: https://riversideca.gov/fire/divisions/office-emergency-management/lhmp (direct file link is here: https://riversideca.gov/fire/sites/riversideca.gov.fire/files/Riverside%202023%20LHMP%20Final%20-%20FEMA%20Approved.pdf)

DATA SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

In preparing the Public Safety Element, various sources of information were consulted. These include:

- Recent data available from the City and other governmental agencies including departmental plans (e.g., City of Riverside Hazard Mitigation Plan, Housing Element Update), and departmental policies and procedures (e.g., City of Riverside Fire Department [RFD] and City of Riverside Police Department [RPD] strategic plans);
- Geographic information systems (GIS) data provided by City departments;
- Available data sources online (e.g., statewide policies, regulations, and guidance);
- Interviews with City of Riverside departmental staff; and
- The Riverside General Plan 2025 Public Safety Element, last updated February 2018.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY

The Public Safety Element is one of the State-required Elements of the General Plan and must be consistent with the other elements. The **principles, policies, and actions within the Public Safety Element relate directly to, and are consistent with, other elements of the general plan.** The modification of the applicable policies in the Public Safety Element is done as part of the adoption of the Housing Element to ensure consistency.

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES



The Public Safety Element (PSE) of the City of Riverside General Plan provides the City with proactive measures to reduce the risk of hazards and adequately, expediently, and efficiently responds to immediate safety threats. The Public Safety Element (PSE) establishes a Guiding Principle, Policies and Programs, Action Items and Key Performance Indicators for Public Safety in the City of Riverside.

Assembly Bill (AB) 747 requires revision of the Public Safety Element of General Plans upon each revision of the Housing Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to identify new information relating to flood and fire hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the City or county that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element. The Public Safety Element provides a reference and a link to the LHMP, in accordance with AB 2140 requirements.

Senate Bill (SB) 1035 requires the Public Safety Element of General Plans to be revised to identify new information on fire hazards, flood hazards, and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county that was not available during the previous revision of the Public Safety Element. The updated PSE includes updated information on natural hazards and risks and also includes policies and action items related to climate adaptation and resiliency.

The PSE is based on information sources including data from City and other governmental agencies including City Departmental Plans (e.g., Hazard Mitigation Plan) and Departmental policies and procedures (e.g., Riverside Fire Department (RFD) and Riverside Police Department (RPD) Strategic plans); Geographic Information Systems data provided by City Departments, and interviews with City Departmental staff.

The PSE references a stand-alone Action Plan under separate cover that identifies the Actions that the City will implement to meet each Policy identified in the PSE. Each Public Safety Policy/Program is associated with specific Action Items that City Departments would implement to implement the Policy/Program. Action Items are categorized with respect to the expected timeline for implementation. These categories are Ongoing (meaning the City Department activity identified in the Action Item is already occurring and will continue); Short-term (implementation within 6-12 months); Medium-term (within 12-36 months); and Long-term (greater than 36 months). Each Policy is associated with a City Department that is the City Lead for implementing the Policy, and identifies associated City Programs and Departments that will interact with the City Lead Department to implement the Policy.

NATURAL HAZARDS

SEISMIC HAZARD

Programs and Action Items address City participation in federal, state, and local earthquake preparedness programs, establishment of an outreach and training program for earthquake preparedness, and implementation of a Seismic Safety Program to inventory seismic-vulnerable buildings and provide mitigation of seismic risks.

FLOOD HAZARD

Programs and Action Items address City coordination with Riverside County for maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of flood control facilities; establishing a Flood Hazard Plan to inventory flood-vulnerable buildings and provide mitigation of flood risks; and implementation of a project review and permitting processes to certify that new development will not contribute to flood hazards.

WILDLAND FIRE RISK

Programs and Action Items address periodic update of the RFD Strategic Plan and maintain the City's Class I ISO rating; establishing a Wildfire Hazard Plan to inventory facilities in high-fire risk areas and provide mitigation; and development of educational materials regarding fire safety. Programs and Action Items also address specific requirements for development and land use management in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within the City, including conformance to Municipal, California, and International fire codes, and conformance to requirements of CCR 14. VHFHSZ and SRA areas within the City are identified in maps included in the stand-alone Technical Background Report (TBR) for the Public Safety Element.

DROUGHT

Programs and Action Items address updating the Urban Water Management Plan and establishing a Drought Contingency Plan for anticipation and response to upcoming drought conditions.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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Programs and Action Items address establishing a Hazardous Materials Plan including safety protocols and enforcement mechanisms for hazardous materials use; establishing safe ground transport routes for hazardous materials; and establishing a training and emergency preparedness program for rail-related transport of hazardous materials.

TRANSPORTATION

AIRCRAFT HAZARD

Program and Action Item addresses City participation in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission Joint Land Use Study and incorporation of City issues and concerns into the Land Use Compatibility Plan update.

RAIL HAZARD

Programs and Action Items address coordination with rail operators and continued implementation of railroad Quiet Zone improvements and grade-separations at rail crossings.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST SAFETY

Programs and Action Items address implementation of the City Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Complete Streets Ordinance and Trail Master Plan (PACT); and implementation of infrastructure improvements and the Citywide Community Engagement Policy to enhance safety.

VEHICLE SAFETY

Program and Action Item addresses development of a Local Roadway Safety Plan to identify high-hazard roadway intersections and road segments and prioritize safety measures.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

POLICE SERVICES

Programs and Action Items address period update to the RPD Strategic Plan; coordination with Riverside County and local universities concerning law enforcement; and siting of a new police headquarters facility.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Program and Action Item addresses continued engagement of residents and businesses in the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Programs and Action Items address identification of actions to address natural and human-caused hazards in coordination with the Hazard Mitigation Plan; periodic conduct of City Department emergency operations exercises; periodic reviews of City emergency procedures and inspection of equipment; providing educational materials concerning emergency preparedness; and updating the City's information sharing infrastructure.

Programs and Action Items also address identification and planning of evacuation routes, development of evacuation and shelter-in-place plans in coordination with CalFire and other local and regional jurisdictions, and verification of compliance of private/public road emergency access routes to requirements of CCR Sections 1273 and 1274 (SRA/VHFHSZ Fire Safe Regulations).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Program and Action Item addresses implementation of periodic reviews and monitoring of City participation in mutual and automatic aid agreements to ensure resource keep pace with planned or proposed developments.

PANDEMIC

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Programs and Action Items address continued implementation and maintenance of the City's Recovery Framework Plan and Pandemic Plan, and providing educational materials concerning pandemic and public health resources and services.

HOMELESSNESS

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Programs and Action Items include continued implementation of the Public Safety and Engagement Team Program; continued coordination with non-profit organizations; and continued implementation of the Multidisciplinary Regional Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan in coordination with adjacent jurisdictions.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Programs and Action Items address conduct of a comprehensive vulnerability assessment to identify climate risks and adaptation needs; and implementation of a Climate Action Plan including climate adaptation strategies, including strategies for disproportionately affected and environmental justice communities.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Program and Action Item addresses establishment of processes to incorporate climate resilience into City Department planning practices and procedures, following California Adaptation and Resiliency Program guidance and other relevant guidance.

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND REPORT OVERVIEW

The PSE includes a stand-alone Technical Background Report that provides regulatory requirements for the Public Safety Element. These include specific regulatory requirements for providing updated data on natural hazard risk and information concerning climate adaptation and resiliency. Technical Background Report provides information concerning City Department activities, policies, programs, and strategic plans related to public safety, including police and fire services, emergency operations, emergency preparedness and emergency response public health services, planning, public works, public utilities, drought preparation and response, and homelessness solutions. This information supports the development of Policies and Action Items that are included in the PSE and stand-alone Action Plan.

The Technical Background Report identifies and maps areas of the City that are subject to natural hazard risks and human-caused hazard risks, including seismic hazard areas; soil shrink-swell and soil liquefaction areas; flooding and dam inundation risk areas; Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) areas; State Responsibility Areas (SRA); areas of historic fires within VHFHSZ areas; and airport land use compatibility zones, and maps housing opportunity zones that overlay with mapped hazard areas. Developments may or may not be planned for any specific opportunity zone identified, and areas of the City that are subject to natural hazard risks and/or human-caused hazard risks are not completely avoidable in identification of housing opportunity zones.

Developments proposed in Opportunity Site areas within or adjacent to identified hazard zones would be subject to City processes and procedures for project-specific development review; Action Items identified in the stand-alone Action Plan include implementation of review processes for project-specific developments and assessment and mitigation of hazards. The City's development review process would further identify and characterize site-specific hazards, and mitigation measures would be applied to reduce the potential impacts of identified hazards in accordance with applicable standards. These include requirements for proposed developments to conform to design and construction standards for proposed projects in seismic hazard, flood hazard, and fire zone areas; conform with land uses identified in airport land use plans; and conform with other applicable design and construction requirements.

The Public Safety Policies represent the policy program the city of Riverside will implement during the 6th Cycle 2021-2029 Planning Period. The Public Safety Program includes a Guiding Principle and Policies. The Guiding Principle serves as the overarching vision and core value that will guide each policy and action in the Public Safety Element. While the Guiding Principle is the vision of the communities' values and aspirations for the future of their City, the policies serve as the lens that is focused on addressing the needs. The actions, included in the Action Plan under a separate cover, are the steps the City must takes to realize their vision.

The Guiding Principle encompasses what the City has heard throughout the Public Safety Element Planning Process and reflects the sentiments and values expressed by the community. The policies address specific needs of the community, a description of each policy is provided that explains the program, how it works, and who it benefits. Implementation Details are provided that summarize how the city currently implements or should implement each program. The Actions are the steps the City must take to implement each Policy. The Actions are provided in the Riverside Action Plan under separate cover. The Riverside Action Plan will serve as the implementation plan for the Public Safety Element as well as for all future elements of the General Plan.

Guiding Principle

Comprehensively address the public safety needs and concerns of its residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors in a proactive and coordinated way to ensure protection from foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards.

POLICY PSE-1 – NATURAL HAZARDS

Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to geologic conditions, seismic activity, flooding, drought, and structural and wildland fires.

POLICY PSE-2 – HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Minimize the risk of potential hazards associated with management and transport of hazardous materials.

POLICY PSE-3 – TRANSPORTATION

Minimize the risk of potential hazards associated with air and ground transportation.

POLICY PSE-4 – EMERGENCY SERVICES

Provide high-quality and responsive police, fire, and emergency services to all residents and businesses in Riverside.

POLICY PSE-5 – PANDEMIC

Provide high-quality and responsive public health services to all residents of Riverside.

POLICY PSE-6 – HOMELESSNESS

Reduce homelessness in Riverside through coordinated implementation of and equitable accessibility to public safety, economic, and social programs.

POLICY PSE-7 – CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

Identify key potential impacts of climate change on City organizations, infrastructure, natural resources, and residents and develop adaptation pathways and resiliency pathways to address them.