



Chapter 7

Safety Element

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Community safety and security is an essential component to the overall health of Buena Park. The City fosters a safe and secure environment by anticipating and planning for potential emergencies and promoting practices to preserve residents' health and welfare. The Safety Element identifies and evaluates public health and safety hazards, and outlines the means of limiting risks and minimizing losses that occur because of natural and human-caused disasters. This Element also addresses emergency preparedness and coordinated response to reduce the potential loss of life and property in the event of a local or regional disaster.



The General Plan's Community Facilities Element discusses police and fire-rescue emergency facilities and services.

7.2 AUTHORITY FOR THE ELEMENT

California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that a General Plan include "...a safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risk associated with the effects of seismically induced surface ruptures, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence, liquefaction and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to chapter 7.8 (commencing with §2690) of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding and wild land and urban fires."

7.3 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

NATURAL HAZARDS

Natural hazards have the potential to cause loss of life and damage to buildings and infrastructure. Natural hazards that threaten Buena Park include earthquakes, floods, and severe rainstorms. Buena Park can avoid or mitigate potential impacts by preparing for incidents that may result from these hazards.

Seismic Hazards

The City of Buena Park is located in a seismically active region, with a number of nearby faults (refer to [Exhibit SAF-1, Regional Faults](#), page 2). The Norwalk Fault traverses the north and northeast portion of Buena Park, and the Los Coyotes Fault is located near the City's northern boundary. Faults located within five miles of the City include the Whittier-Elsinore, Newport-Inglewood, and Los Alamitos faults. The Norwalk Fault is the only fault located within the City; however, no surface trace has been associated with this fault. Furthermore, the Norwalk Fault is not a state-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.

Buena Park is subject to seismic shaking due to the close proximity and potential earthquake magnitude of nearby faults. The extent of ground shaking depends on the magnitude of the earthquake and the distance between the City and the earthquake epicenter. While the Norwalk Fault has the greatest potential of causing the greatest extent of ground shaking in the City, the Whittier-Elsinore Fault and Newport-Inglewood Fault could also result in significant ground shaking.

A related seismic hazard of some concern in the City of Buena Park is liquefaction. Liquefaction is the loss of soil strength or stiffness due to a buildup of pore-water pressure during a seismic event. It is associated primarily with relatively loose, saturated, fine- to medium-grained unconsolidated soils. Seismic ground shaking of relatively loose, granular soils that are saturated or submerged can cause the soils to liquefy and temporarily behave as a dense fluid. According to the California Geologic Survey Quadrangles, liquefaction susceptibility is considered high throughout the majority of the City. **Because of this liquefaction risk, the areas of the City south of Malvern Avenue are most susceptible to damage resulting from an earthquake.** The northern part of the City is not generally recognized as susceptible to liquefaction except for those areas adjoining Coyote Creek. **Section 6 of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an extensive discussion of the various seismic hazards in the area.**

Landslide potential in Buena Park is considered to be low due to the flat topography of the City. However, there is the potential for landslides in the Coyote Hills area due to the sloping topography, though the City is not located within an area identified as having the potential for earthquake-induced landslides (refer to [Exhibit SAF-2, Liquefaction/Landslide Potential](#), page 2).

Soil conditions subject to settlement include unconsolidated soils or areas where weak soils of variable thickness overlie firm soil or bedrock. The type of materials that would most likely experience seismically-induced settlement and differential compaction are deposits of alluvium, clays, silts, and possibly poorly constructed manmade fills. **Structures built on such soil conditions are likely to suffer settlement damage in the event of strong seismic shaking.** Moderately expansive soil potential occurs in the west-central portion of Buena Park (near State Route 91 and Valley View Street and Orangethorpe Avenue) and in the southern portion of Buena Park (near Carbon Creek). Refer to [Exhibit SAF-3, Differential Settlement and Expansion Potential](#), on page 2.

Flooding and Severe Storm Hazards

Large winter storms can lead to localized flooding in the City of Buena Park, especially in its northern portion. The majority of the City is located outside the annual-one-percent chance (100-year) of flooding (refer to [Exhibit SAF-4, FEMA Flood Zones](#), page [2](#)). However, certain portions of the City lie in Zone AO, identified as having a 100-year, shallow-flooding risk with average depths between one and three feet.

[Buena Park Municipal Code Title 18, Division II](#), is the City's floodplain management ordinance. It specifies how the City reviews development within known floodplains, its program for flood hazard reduction, and variance procedures.

Orange County Public Works, through its OC Environmental Resources division, maintains and manages the Fullerton Creek, Carbon Creek, and Coyote Creek stormwater channels that cross the City. These channels are engineered to control both natural creek drainage and urban runoff caused by the above referenced storms. There are no levees or other flood-control structures in the city other than these storm channels. As climate change generates larger and potentially wetter storms, the capacities of these channels may become inadequate over time.

The City is located near four dams that can pose flooding hazards: Brea Dam, Carbon Canyon Dam, Fullerton Dam, and Prado Dam (refer to [Exhibit SAF-5 through Exhibit SAF-8](#), pages 2-2). Section 8 of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan contains an extensive discussion of dam failure modes, possible effects, and historical dam failures in the region.

While tornados are infrequent in the area, tornado-like winds have occurred in Buena Park. High winds have the potential to damage roofs and structures, bring down power lines, disrupt telephone, [electrical](#), and cable television services, and blow over trees.

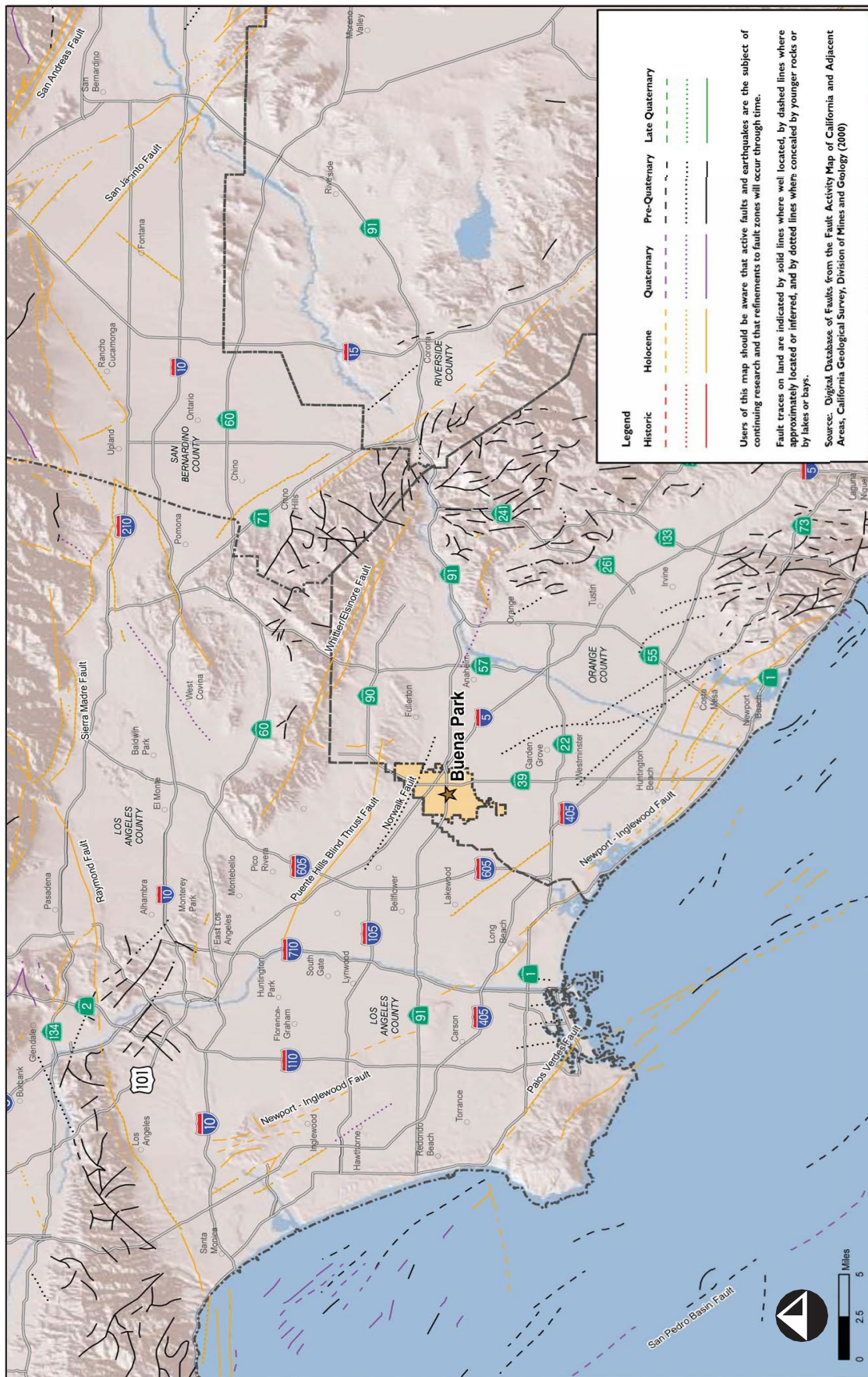
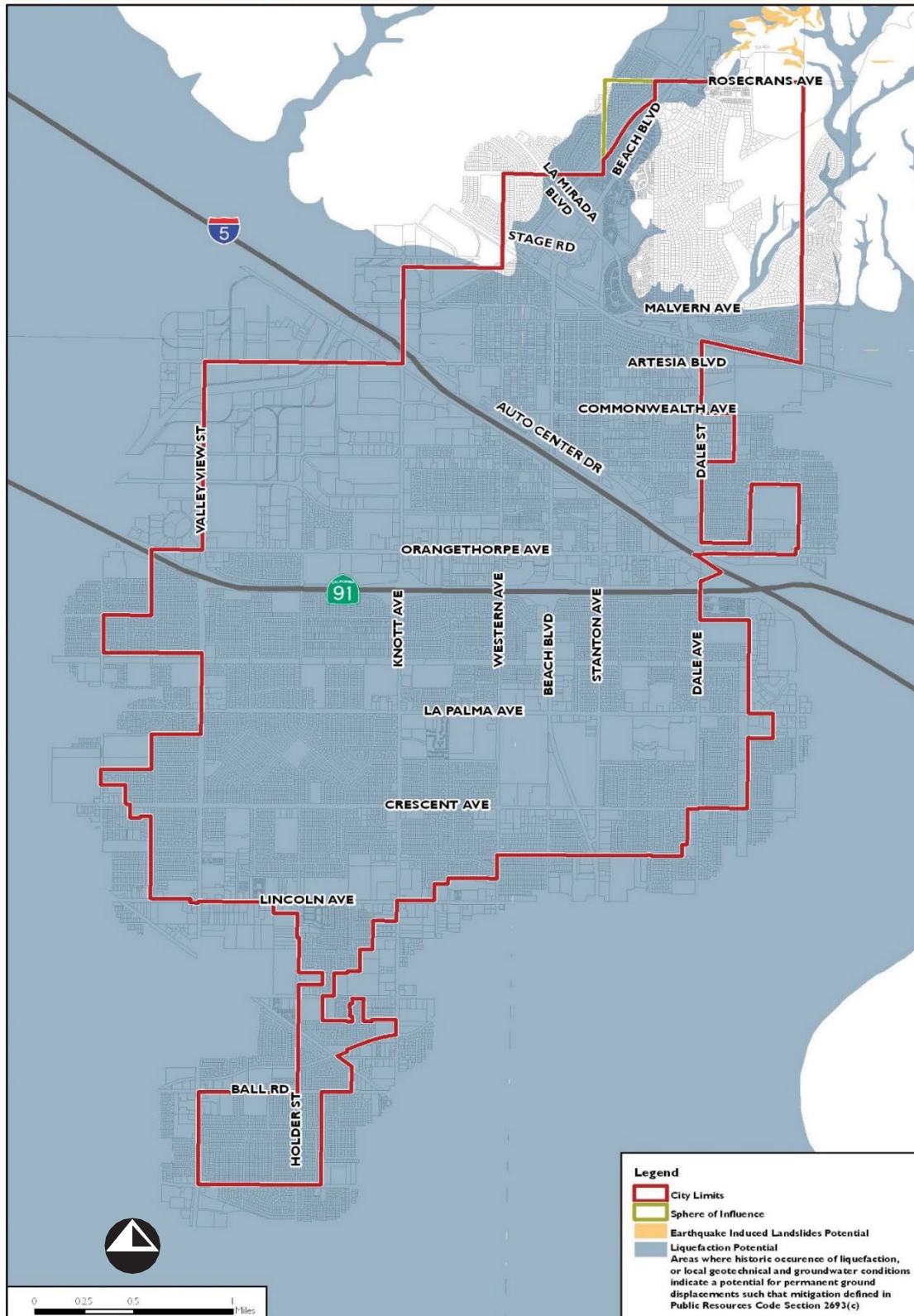


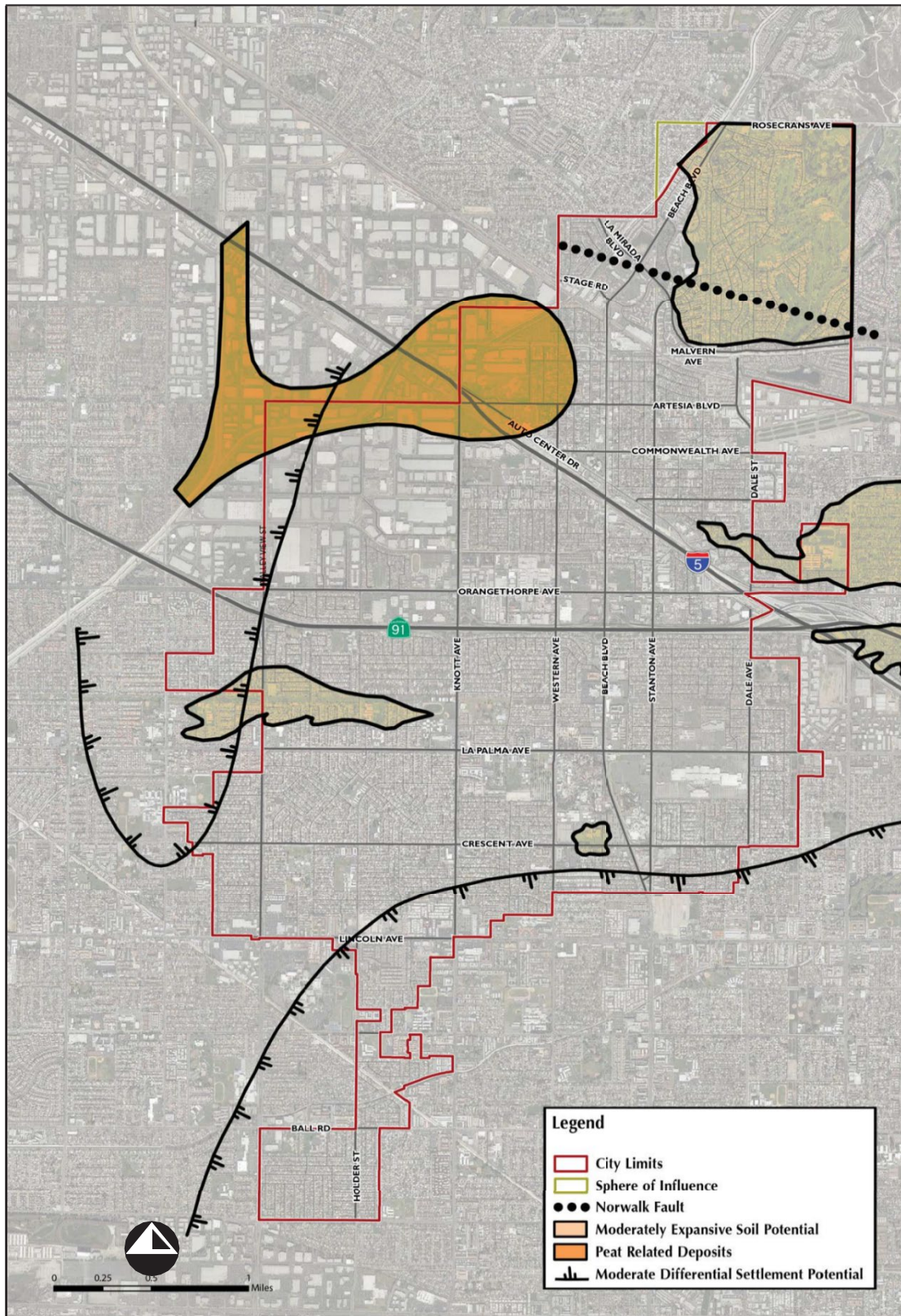
Exhibit SAF-1, Regional Faults

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Source: State of California Department of Conservation, Seismic Hazard Zonation Program, Seismic Hazard Zones Map; La Habra, Anaheim, Los Alamitos and Whittier Quadrangles.

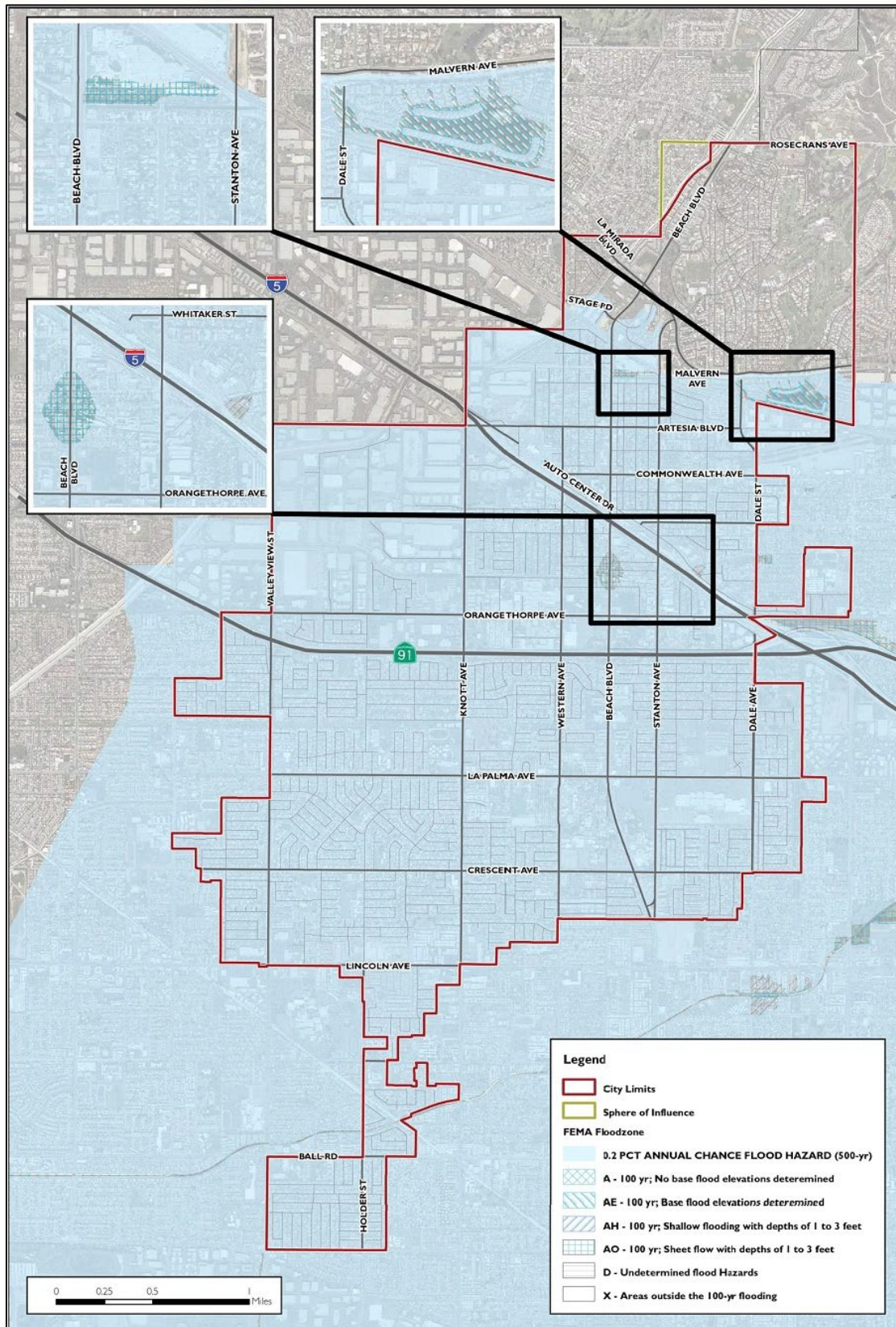
Exhibit SAF-2, Liquefaction/Landslide Potential



Source: Draft EIR for the Buena Park General Plan Update, August 11, 1994. Note: Boundaries are approximate.

Exhibit SAF-3, Differential Settlement and Expansion Potential

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Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DFIRM Data, Effective December 3, 2009.

Exhibit SAF-4, FEMA Flood Zones

(Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Light blue = Maximum High Pool; dark blue = Top of Active Storage)

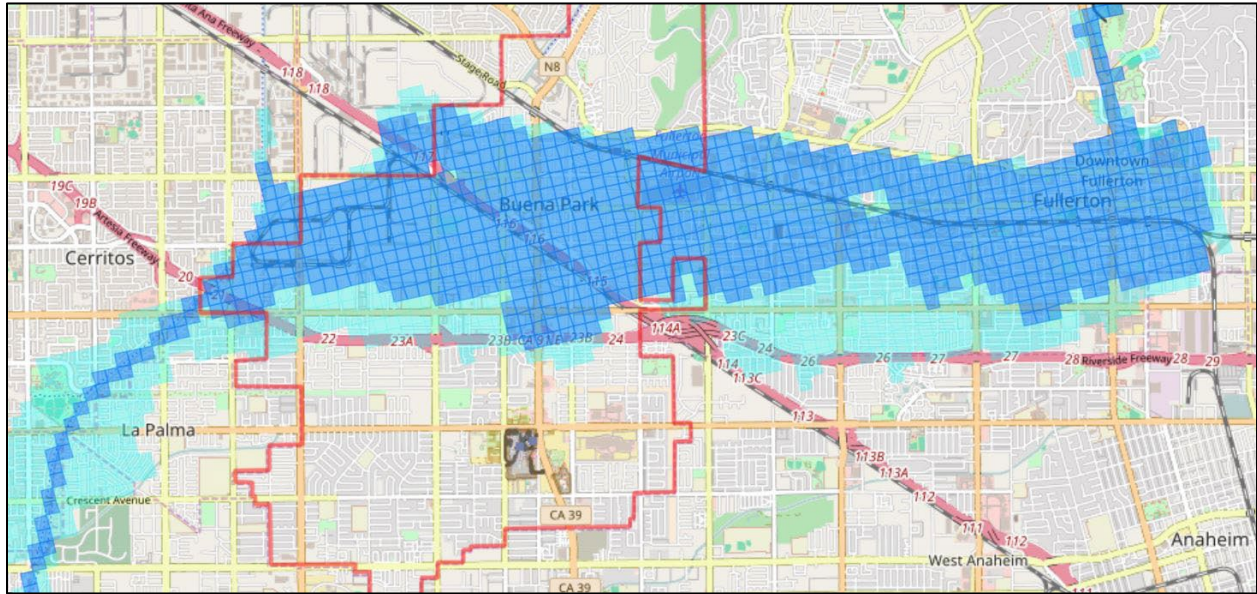


Exhibit SAF-5, Brea Dam MH and TAS inundation zones

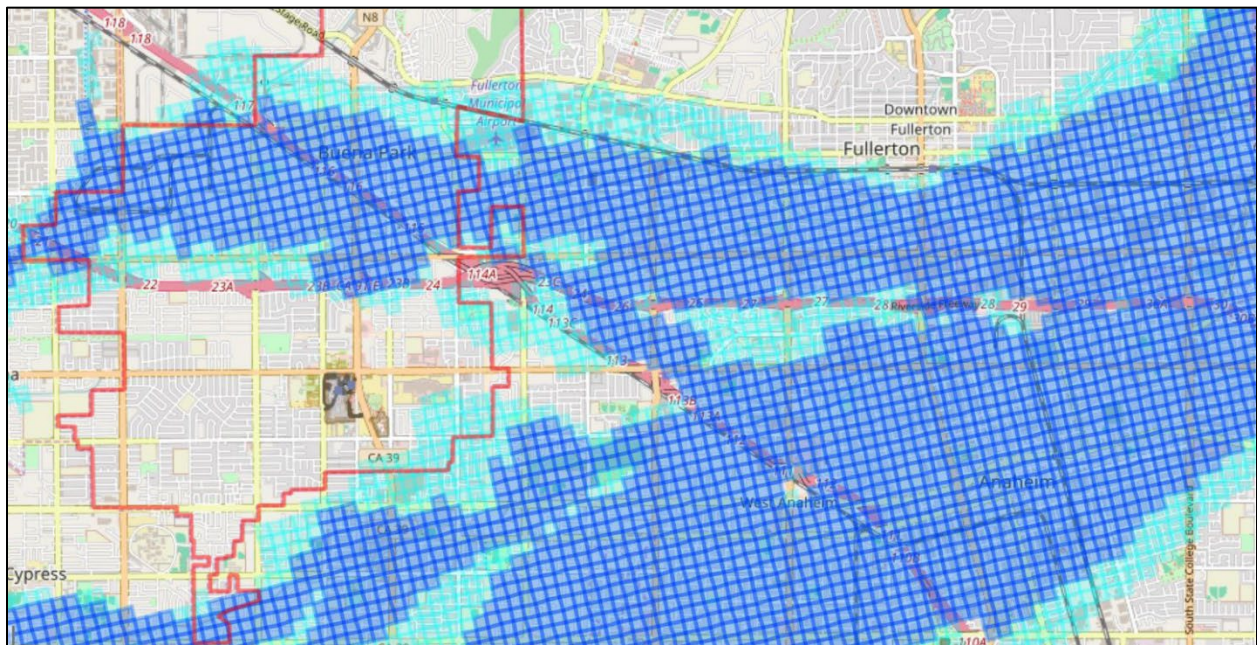


Exhibit SAF-6, Carbon Canyon Dam MH and TAS inundation zones

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(Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Light blue = Maximum High Pool; dark blue = Top of Active Storage)

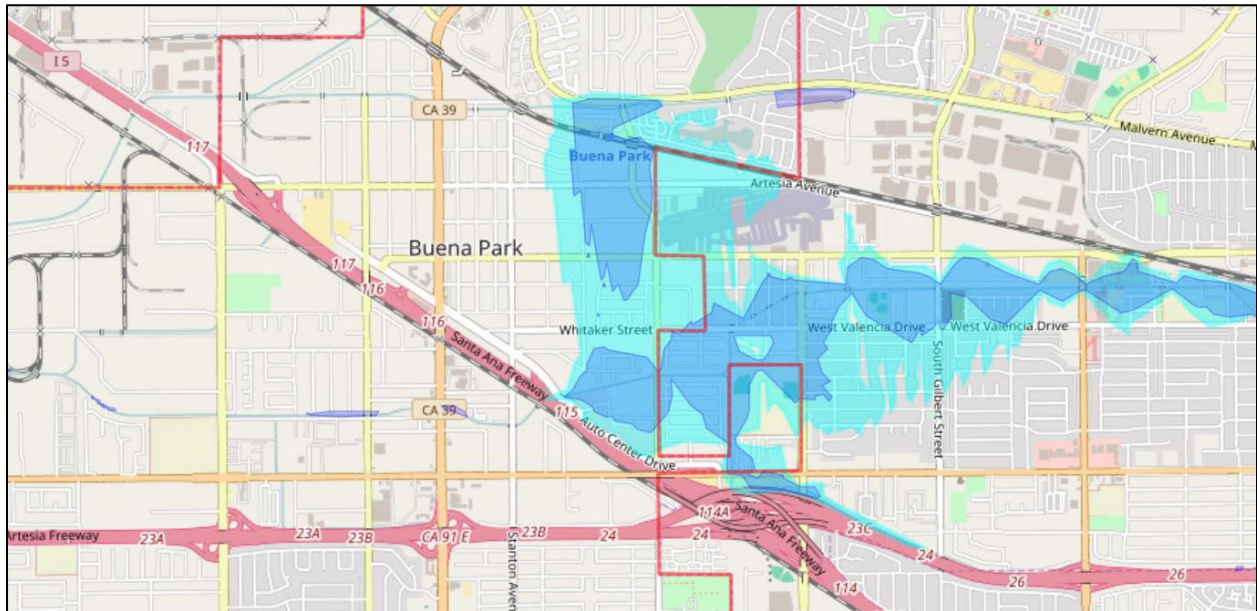


Exhibit SAF-7, Fullerton Dam MH and TAS inundation zones

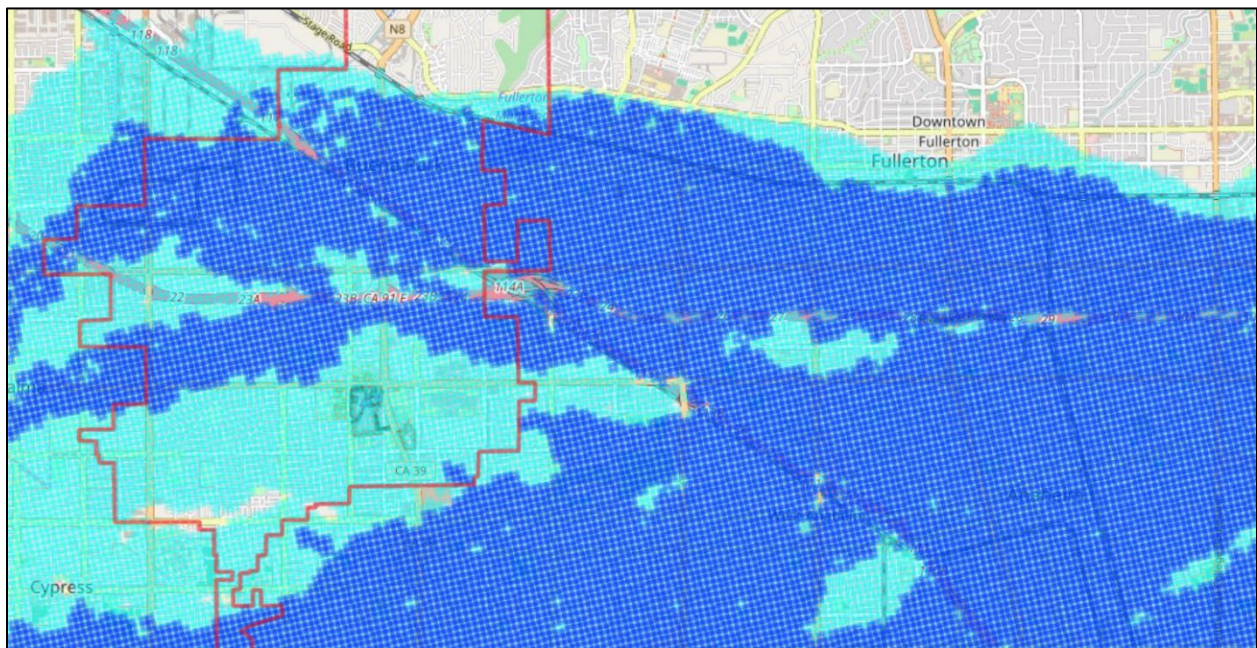


Exhibit SAF-8, Prado Dam MH and TAS inundation zones

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RESILIENT CITIES: REDUCING DISASTER RISK

While communities may not be able to prevent a hazardous event such as an earthquake, we can control the way we build our cities and prepare to respond when the event occurs. The Making Cities Resilient campaign is an international effort to help cities prepare for hazardous natural events and reduce the risk that these events will cause disasters. A disaster-resilient city engages community members in planning a sustainable city, takes steps to anticipate hazards and protect assets, can organize itself when hazardous events occur, and can quickly recover from hazardous events.

The Making Cities Resilient Campaign has a ten-point checklist of actions that cities should take to become disaster resilient, summarized as follows:

- Organize and coordinate community risk reduction and preparedness.
- Incentivize private investment in risk reduction.
- Gather, disseminate, and use data on hazards and vulnerabilities.
- Invest in physical infrastructure that reduces risk.
- Ensure safety of schools and health facilities.
- Enforce risk-compliant building codes and land-use planning principles.
- Educate the community about reducing disaster risk.
- Protect ecosystem functions that reduce hazards.
- Prepare emergency communication systems and hold public preparedness drills.
- Support disaster survivors.

A disaster-resilient city also adapts to climate change by preparing for natural hazards that are expected to be caused by climate change, and by protecting ecosystem functions that reduce natural hazards such as flooding. The term “resilient city” is used more broadly to mean a city that is adapting to climate change in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

Source: “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready 2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign,” UNISDR

Fire Hazards

Urban fires are most likely to occur within Buena Park due to the urbanized nature of the City. Urban fires are largely related to fires involving a structure and/or its contents, and the cause of such fires is often human carelessness and negligence. Because Buena Park’s climate includes long periods of hot, dry weather sometimes combined with high-velocity winds, the potential exists for large, spreading fires. Delayed reporting to proper authorities, combustible construction materials, the absence of automatic sprinklers, and inadequate emergency vehicles and water supplies can exacerbate the threat of a fire.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has prepared maps for Fire Hazard Severity Zones where local government agencies have Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). The Orange County map of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in the LRA (March 2025) identifies a VHFHSZ at the north end of the City just south of Rosecrans Avenue, including Ralph B. Clark Regional Park and the Los Coyotes Golf Course (refer to Exhibit SAF-9, below), and extending north and east into the City of Fullerton. This hazard zone includes part of the Los Coyotes Village condominium development, and three (3) single-family parcels.

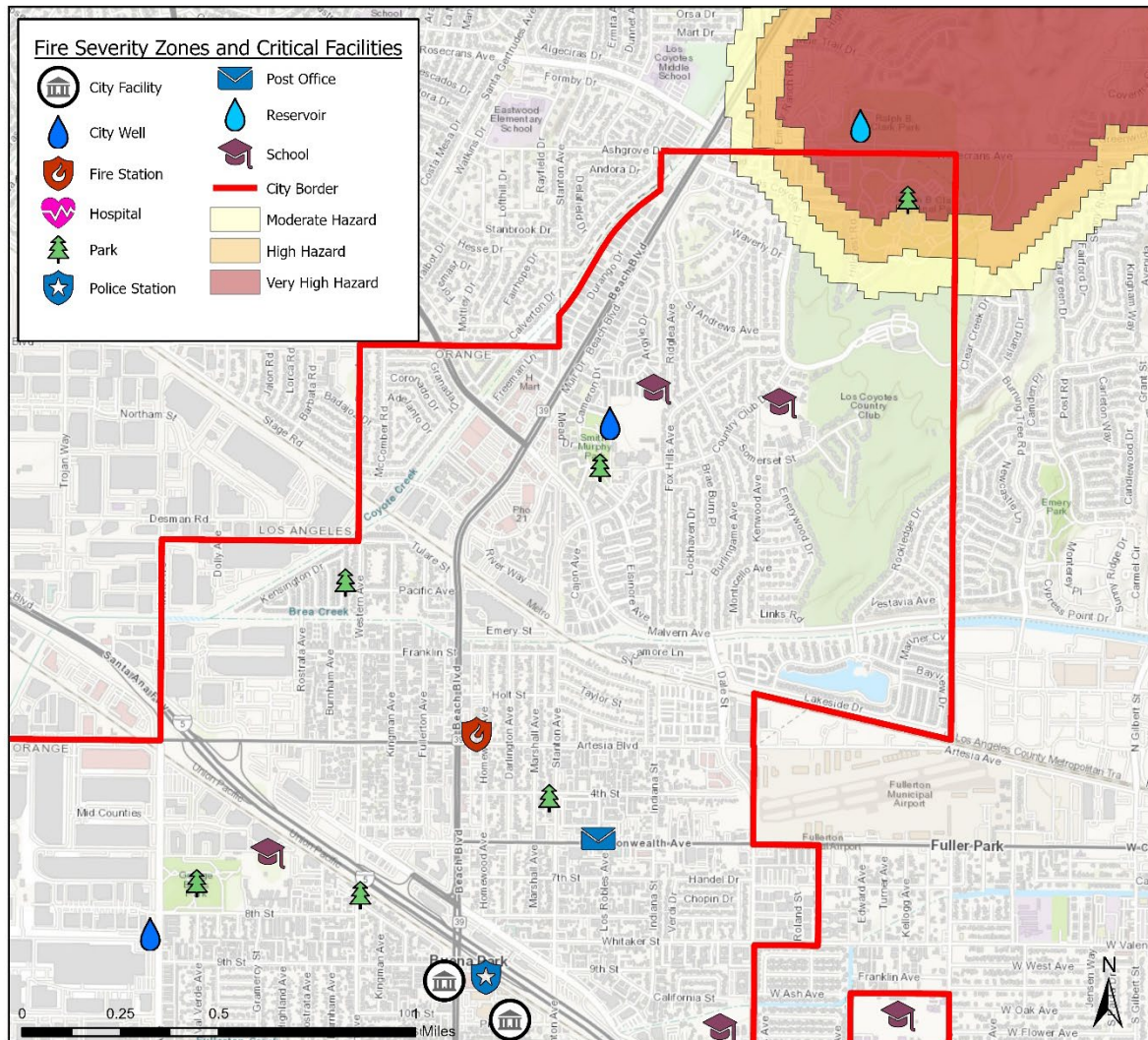


Exhibit SAF-9, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Buena Park has not historically been subject to wildfires, but other cities in the region have had to deal with them in the past. An interactive map of historic wildfires for the State can be found on the CAL FIRE [Historic California Wildfires](#) interactive map.

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Buena Park General Plan Chapter 4, *Community Facilities*, discusses the City's water distribution system; its operational, fire, and emergency water storage; and fire flow considerations.

The California Building Commission adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface codes in late 2005 to be effective in 2008. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated fire hazard severity zones are used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The updated zones are also used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and maintaining 100-foot defensible space clearance.

Climate Change

The effects of anthropogenic changes to the Earth's climate have been forecast and observed since the 1980s. However, it was not until the 21st century that public attention became more focused on global climate change and its consequences became obvious to casual observers.

In a macro sense, climate change promises to bring more of everything to Buena Park: longer droughts, more severe storms, higher temperatures, stronger winds, more invasive pests, and faster groundwater consumption, to name a few likely impacts. The degree and timing of these impacts depends on how fast climate change occurs, its magnitude, and whether mitigation efforts taken now and in the near future will slow these impacts.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan sections 8 and 9 include discussion of climate change and its impacts on dam breaches and drought in the City.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are any substances that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, pose a significant present or potential hazard to human health or safety or to the environment. The risks posed by accidental hazardous material releases may include long-term environmental pollution and public health problems.

Many types of businesses use various chemicals and hazardous materials, and their routine business operations involve chemicals that are manufactured, warehoused, or transported. Currently, a variety of existing business operations in the City use, store, or transport hazardous substances, as well as generate hazardous waste. These sites present risk to both users and adjacent properties.

Transportation routes also present some risks to the release of hazardous materials. The SR-91 and I-5 freeways are heavily traveled routes open to vehicles carrying hazardous materials. Major surface streets in the City that provide freeway access include Valley View Street, Knott Avenue, Beach Boulevard, Auto Center Drive, and La Palma Avenue. Rail lines that go through the City are also used for the transport of hazardous materials and wastes.

Additionally, a number of underground hazardous material pipelines cross through the City of Buena Park. These lines transport natural gas and oil products. Natural gas lines may leak in

relatively small quantities from cracks, flaws, or damaged areas of the pipeline, which can typically be repaired. However, rupture of these lines could result in leakage and possible contamination, explosion, and/or fire.

TERRORISM

The increased concern over terrorism and the potential for terrorist activity has brought public safety issues into the forefront of our nation. The City of Buena Park is home to Knott's Berry Farm, one of the most popular entertainment attractions in California, which could be an attractive target for terrorist attacks. Additionally, Buena Park is located within Orange County and borders Los Angeles County, two of the most target-rich population centers in the United States. Buena Park recognizes the need to address terrorism planning and policy issues and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan that acknowledges the potential for terrorist activities. The City's approach to terrorism focuses on prevention and adequate response in the event of a terrorist attack through strong coordination with federal, state, and local agencies.

7.4 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

The City of Buena Park adopted an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in December 2016 and revised it in 2021. The Plan and its annexes outline a comprehensive emergency management program for the City. The EOP sets the City's emergency management policy and strategy. It also identifies who is responsible for mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of natural disasters, technological accidents, human-caused emergencies, and other major incidents/hazards.



FIRE PROTECTION

Buena Park is a member of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Joint Powers Authority. OCFA provides the City with fire protection and emergency medical services response. Services include structural fire protection, emergency medical and rescue services, hazardous materials inspections and response, fire prevention planning and inspection, and public education activities. OCFA also participates in disaster planning as it relates to emergency operations, including high-occupancy areas and school sites, and may participate in community disaster drills planned by others.

Fire resources are deployed based upon a regional service delivery system, assigning personnel and equipment to emergency incidents without regard to jurisdictional boundaries. The equipment used by the department has the versatility to respond to both urban and wildland emergency conditions. OCFA operates 78 fire stations countywide, with three stations located in the City of Buena Park.

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OCFA's Standard of Cover for fire services in urban areas (such as the City) is shown below. Response times are from receipt of the service call to a unit on-scene.

- First-in engines should arrive on-scene to medical aids and/or fires within seven minutes, twenty seconds, eighty percent of the time.
- First-in truck companies should arrive on-scene to fires within twelve minutes, eighty percent of the time.
- First-in paramedic companies should arrive on-scene at all medical aids within ten minutes, eighty percent of the time.

Fire response times in the City were an average of seven minutes, thirty-eight seconds in 2024, which is within OCFA standards.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Buena Park Police Department (BPPD) provides police protection services to the City. The Department operates one station at 6640 Beach Boulevard, which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As of December 2024/January 2025, the department has 157 sworn and civilian staff members. BPPD is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, a standard met by only 1,000 of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. In California alone, there are approximately 600 law enforcement agencies, and BPPD is 1 of the only 16 California accredited agencies.

The BPPD dispatched over 32,600 calls for service in 2024. Response times vary according to the priority of the reported incident; Priority 1 includes the most serious crimes and life-threatening situations. Average response times in January 2025 are shown below. Response times are from receipt of the service call to the arrival of the first unit on-scene.

- Priority 1: Four minutes, twenty-four seconds
- Priority 2: Eleven minutes, five seconds
- Priority 3: Fourteen minutes, fifty-seven seconds

HAZARD MITIGATION

In 2017, the City developed the Buena Park [Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(LHMP\)](#) in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The City updated the LHMP in 2022 and made minor adjustments in 2024. The LHMP incorporates a process in which 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, involves planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. As such, the City considers the LHMP to be an essential part of this Safety Element.

EVACUATION PLANNING

The vast majority of Buena Park is fully developed on a grid-style street plan. This provides multiple evacuation routes leading in various directions that residents and visitors can follow if a major escapable emergency (such as urban fire or flooding) occurs.

Buena Park General Plan Chapter 3, *Mobility*, includes a discussion of road types and specifications in Buena Park. The [Orange County Public Works Standard Plans](#) specify the widths and capacities of the five types of roads present in the City.

The most notable exception to this general rule is the area around Los Coyotes Country Club in northeastern Buena Park. A web of streets crosses the suburban residential development along the western and southern flanks of this gentle rise, connecting in several places to either Beach Boulevard or Malvern Avenue. As residents in this area use these streets every day, they are likely well acquainted with alternate routes to enter or leave their neighborhoods.

The country club clubhouse itself—located on the top of a low hill—relies on a single divided two-lane road that leads a quarter-mile from the main street network to the clubhouse’s main driveway. An eighty-unit condominium complex was completed in early 2024 across this road from the clubhouse. This would be a response concern in a high-hazard area. However, the clubhouse and residential complex are over half a mile from the nearest undeveloped land and are surrounded on three sides by a minimum of 230 feet of highly manicured, extensively irrigated lawn in the form of golf course fairways. This constitutes an excellent firebreak as well as an escape route of last resort.

Four local dams pose a potential inundation hazard to various parts of the City south of Malvern Avenue. The extent of the possible inundation zones ranges from minimal (Fullerton Dam) to widespread (Prado Dam) (refer to Exhibit SAF-5 through Exhibit SAF-8, pages 2-2), depending on the amount of water in each impoundment at the time of the release. As noted earlier, Section 8 of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan discusses dam failure in some depth. In 2024 the City completed an operations plan for evacuating the Brea and Fullerton Dam inundation zones; similar plans for the remaining two dams will proceed over the next several years.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The changing climate conditions throughout the region have the potential to impact some of the natural hazards that affect the City of Buena Park. Some of the projected conditions include a rise in average temperatures, changes in precipitation, longer periods of drought, increase in total days of extreme heat, and changes in the size and frequency of wildfires in the region. Cal-Adapt has documented historical conditions and charted out future conditions based upon the current trends associated with climate change (refer to [Exhibit SAF-10, Potential Climate Change Effects for Buena Park](#) on page 17).

With the current trends of climate change models projecting the increase in temperature over the next century, annual mean temperatures are expected to increase between 3 and 8 degrees, which

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will impact all who reside and do business within the city. The increase in mean temperature will also result in the amount of extreme heat days on average throughout the year. An extreme heat day is defined as when the daily maximum temperature is over 98 degrees. The historic average number of days of extreme heat within the city is two (2) per year and this is projected to increase to a total of 11 days per year by the end of the century. The projected increase in temperature has the potential to negatively impact residents who live in poorly insulated structures and houses that do not meet current building codes.

The climate change projections also infer that the annual precipitation will slightly increase along with the expected rise in temperature. These future rain events will most likely be more intense than what is currently observed and can vary greatly between years of drought and abundance. The projected averages at the end of the century are expected to range from 9.7 – 15.3 inches of rain which can lead to reduced water supply during the lows, and flooding during the highs. Increased rainfall can lead to some areas of the city that have not experienced flooding in the past, to be impacted by more severe storms. This can also impact the steeper topography of the area near Los Coyotes Country Club above Malvern Avenue to introduce more instability, which could lead to landslides, mudslides, and more erosion.

The projected rise in average temperatures and increased range of rainfall projected can result in harsher conditions, leading to a higher chance of wildfires in the region. Since climate change is not an isolated hazard, but one that impacts many other hazards affecting the city, these increased temperatures can affect both water supplies as well as vegetation growth. Years that see large amounts of precipitation, followed by years of drought can lead to a spike in growth of vegetation that will dry up and be primed to burn. Since the city has a small section that is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, these zones and can be at greater risk of wildfires.

Annual Average Maximum Temperature (annual mean)	
Historic (1961-1990)	Future (2070-2099)
75.8 °F	78.9 – 82.0 °F
Extreme Heat Days (average per year)	
Current	Future (2070-2099)
1 – 3 days (2 average)	6 – 32 days (11 average)
Warm Nights (average per year)	
Current	Future (2070-2099)
1 – 14 nights (7 average)	19 – 58 nights (37 average)
Annual Precipitation (annual mean)	
Historic (1961-1990)	Future (2070-2099)
12.8 inches	9.7 – 15.3 inches

Source: <https://cal-adapt.org/>, 2025.

Exhibit SAF-10, Potential Climate Change Effects for Buena Park

7.5 PRINCIPLES, GOALS, AND POLICIES

PRINCIPLE: SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

The City's proximity to a number of regional faults, along with the potential for ground failure and liquefaction in some areas, presents a known risk. While seismic activity cannot be prevented, the potential for loss of life or property can be reduced through mitigation or other appropriate measures.

Goal SAF-1: Decrease in the potential risk of seismic and geologic hazards to the community.

- Policy SAF-1.1: Seek to avoid or minimize seismic risk by appropriately designating land uses and adhering to current building codes.
- Policy SAF-1.2: Enforce the requirements of current building codes relative to seismic design for all new development or redevelopment.
- Policy SAF-1.3: Require geologic and soils reports for all new development or redevelopment, especially in identified areas of the Norwalk Fault Zone and areas with high liquefaction potential.
- Policy SAF-1.4: Require appropriate mitigation measures and/or conditions of approval relative to terrain, soils, slope stability, and erosion for new development or redevelopment in order to reduce hazards.
- Policy SAF-1.5: Ensure that schools, hospitals, and critical facilities, such as fire, police, or emergency service facilities, **meet** the standards outlined in Title 24 of the California Administrative Code.

Public safety is also addressed in the Community Facilities Element through the goals and policies related to fire and police protection services.

PRINCIPLE: FLOOD HAZARDS

There are areas in the northern portion of the City that are subject to periodic flooding problems. In addition, the City is located within the alluvial plains formed by the Santa Ana River, as well as the inundation areas of several dams. Thus, it is important to protect life and property from flood hazards.

Goal SAF-2: Provision of adequate flood protection to protect the community.

- Policy SAF-2.1: Seek to provide adequate flood protection from 100-year (or other state-defined scenario) flood frequency storms.
- Policy SAF-2.2: Improve defensive measures against 100-year (or other state-defined scenario) flood conditions through land use **regulation** and design, such as increased pervious surfaces, onsite water capture and re-use, minimized building footprints, etc.
- Policy SAF-2.3: Require that new development or redevelopment located within areas identified within **a** 100-year flood plain meet the requirements of the current building code and the National Flood Insurance Protection Program.
- Policy SAF-2.4: Work with the Orange County Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, to ensure future flood control plans incorporate adequate seismic safety measures.
- Policy SAF-2.5: Continue to implement adopted flood control programs and regulations.
- Policy SAF-2.6: Continue to monitor regional flood hazard improvements in the Santa Ana River Basin area to understand impacts of 100- **and 500-year** storms within the City.
- Policy SAF-2.7: **Continue planning evacuation operations in the City's forecasted dam inundation zones.**
- Policy SAF-2.8: **Manage future flood risk by prioritizing the use of nature-based solutions.**

PRINCIPLE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City will be cognizant of natural and **human-caused** hazards, and will maintain an adequate state of preparedness. These are two of the most effective ways to reduce the potential loss of life and property in the event of a local or regional disaster.

Goal SAF-3: A reduction in the potential for loss of life and property from natural and human-caused disasters.

- Policy SAF-3.1: Strengthen coordination among and between City officials and other agencies that provide disaster response or relief services.
- Policy SAF-3.2: Coordinate with local and regional jurisdictions to conduct emergency and disaster preparedness exercises to test operational and emergency plans.
- Policy SAF-3.3: **Monitor alerts, warnings, and advisories issued by local, state, and federal law enforcement, intelligence, public health, and emergency management agencies, and take appropriate actions to prepare for or prevent imminent threats as required.**
- Policy SAF-3.4: **Improve emergency preparedness and planning with a particular focus on disproportionately vulnerable populations.**

PRINCIPLE: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

It is important for the City to administer appropriate safety procedures to protect the public from accidents involving the transportation, handling, and use of hazardous materials.

Goal SAF-4: Minimize the threat posed by a release of hazardous materials to public health and safety and to the environment.

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- Policy SAF-4.1: Strictly enforce federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the use, storage, and transportation of toxic, explosive, and other hazardous and extremely hazardous materials to prevent unauthorized discharges.
- Policy SAF-4.2: Periodically review and amend the appropriate ordinances that regulate the storage and handling of hazardous materials to conform to the standards and definitions of the state and other regulatory agencies.
- Policy SAF-4.3: Continue to monitor the operations of businesses and individuals that handle hazardous materials using the planning and business permit processes.
- Policy SAF-4.4: Periodically review the emergency plans of transportation and flammable gas/liquid distribution companies.
- Policy SAF-4.5: Explore the possibility of identifying specific routes for the transport of hazardous materials.
- Policy SAF-4.6: Develop an educational awareness program for residents and businesses about the dangers of hazardous materials.
- Policy SAF-4.7: Maintain cooperative relationships with the chemical handlers, response agencies, and community representatives to ensure an informed and coordinated response to chemical emergencies.

PRINCIPLE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY

It is important for the City to plan its responses to the effects of ongoing climate change in the region, and to try whenever possible to increase the City's resilience to the challenging new conditions created by more extreme weather events fueled by climate change.

Goal SAF-5: Minimize the economic and physical threats posed by climate change and the attendant extreme weather and climatic events.

- Policy SAF-5.1: Identify populations that will disproportionately experience the consequences of climate change.

- Policy SAF-5.2: Address underlying health inequities for all residents, including those related to hazards such as localized air pollution, extreme heat, and flooding.
- Policy SAF-5.3: Prioritize solutions towards reducing climate change risks for vulnerable populations and communities.
- Policy SAF-5.4: Incorporate adaptation initiatives that provide multiple co-benefits, including reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, support for the local economy, enhancements to the natural environment, or alleviating underlying health inequities.
- Policy SAF-5.5: Incorporate inclusive decision making in climate-adaptation planning efforts.
- Policy SAF-5.6: Promote the integration of economic development and climate adaptation to provide sustainable benefits.
- Policy SAF-5.7: Leverage land use planning to reduce exposure to climate hazards.
- Policy SAF-5.8: Design and implement nature-based projects and green infrastructure to protect and enhance the adaptive capacity of natural resources and urban environments.
- Policy SAF-5.9: Consider short- and long-term actions in the capital improvement program which would promote resilience of physical infrastructure to climate change impacts.
- Policy SAF-5.10: Prioritize efforts to restore residents' access to basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, public transportation, telephone lines, and wireless communication during and after climate hazard events.
- Policy SAF-5.11: Align public infrastructure and investment decisions with the Buena Park Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
- Policy SAF-5.12: Participate in regional planning efforts related to climate change adaptation.

PRINCIPLE: FIRE PROTECTION

With the constant changes to the built environment and how it interacts with the urban-wildlife interface, Buena Park strives to increase fire safety. The City acknowledges the importance of coordinating with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) to ensure the community's fire protection needs are adequately met.

Goal SAF-6: Decrease wildfire hazards to the community.

- Policy SAF-6.1: Minimize new residential development within a VHFHSZ unless fire protection plans are submitted to harden structures against possible wildfires.
- Policy SAF-6.2: Place all new essential public facilities outside of any VHFHSZ, unless infeasible.
- Policy SAF-6.3: Enforce City and State building and fire codes within the VHFHSZ, and incorporate new techniques and best practices as they become available to reduce future risks to all new development or redevelopment within a VHFHSZ.
- Policy SAF-6.4: Require appropriate mitigation measures and/or conditions of approval relative to areas of varying fire hazard severity based upon the proximity of terrain, soils, slope stability, and erosion for new development or redevelopment in order to reduce hazards.
- Policy SAF-6.5: Ensure existing access points to open space areas within a VHFHSZ are maintained for fire suppression with respect to roadway widths, obstructions, and other criteria.
- Policy SAF-6.6: Continue to leverage the City's fire service provider's review of new development to ensure development complies with any fuel modification requirements, creation of defensible space, and habitat restoration by replacing invasive and fire-susceptible plants with indigenous species, thus reducing baseline fire risk in the City's VHFHSZ and elsewhere as applicable.

- Policy SAF-6.7: Work with the City's fire service provider and surrounding jurisdictions that are subject to the continuous VHFHSZ that may impact the City to coordinate vegetation management strategies and wildfire hazard protection and prevention services.
- Policy SAF-6.8: Maintain a weed abatement program to ensure clearing of dry brush areas.
- Policy SAF-6.9: Provide for the long-term maintenance of fire hazard reduction projects and activities, such as fuel clearing and vegetation management, with the City administering these activities on public lands and working with fire protection agencies and landowners to ensure maintenance of privately held parcels.
- Policy SAF-6.10: Following major wildfire events, reevaluate development standards and current building codes for new development or redevelopment in order to reduce hazards for the VHFHSZ and apply stricter standards for redevelopment as needed to maintain high levels of wildfire protection.
- Policy SAF-6.11: The City will continue to work with property owners on street and building addressing as required in the Municipal Code and California Building Code. Street signage shall follow the latest edition of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Policy SAF-6.12: The City shall identify residential developments within VHFHSZ areas lacking at least two available and identified emergency evacuation routes, and recommend appropriate improvements to enhance evacuation capacity and safety.
- Policy SAF-6.13: Proposed developments within a VHFHSZ shall be located in areas with a minimum of two distinct and reliable ingress and egress routes.
- Policy SAF-6.14: Public roads within a VHFHSZ that do not meet current roadway width and fire access standards shall be evaluated and improved, where feasible, to enhance emergency access and evacuation. Hazardous vegetation conditions shall be mitigated in accordance with applicable defensible space and vegetation management regulations.

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- Policy SAF-6.15: For proposed new development located within a VHFHSZ, require upkeep of landscaped areas as per OCFA standards detailed in Vegetation Management Guideline: Technical Design for New Construction Fuel Modification Plans and Maintenance Program.
- Policy SAF-6.16: New development within a VHFHSZ shall be designed to ensure adequate and reliable ingress and egress for emergency response and evacuation, with multiple access points where feasible, consistent with California Fire Code.
- Policy SAF-6.17: Residential development within a VHFHSZ shall be designed to provide multiple unobstructed evacuation routes with sufficient capacity to support community evacuation while maintaining emergency responder access.
- Policy SAF-6.18: The City shall conduct periodic assessments of residential areas within all VHFHSZ to identify deficiencies in access and evacuation routes, and shall develop and prioritize mitigation measures and capital improvement plans to enhance emergency egress and emergency responder access where feasible.
- Policy SAF-6.19: Maintain educational programs and continue public outreach efforts to all members of the community pertaining to defensible space and evacuation routes.
- Policy SAF-6.20: The City will continue to update and follow best practices for fire safety such as vegetative clearance maintenance of all roads and community fire breaks, as adopted in Ordinance 1713.
- Policy SAF-6.21: The City shall continue to work with OCFA to ensure the highest level of fire-fighting and emergency service training to current and best practices.