

# City of Cerritos

## Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Draft Plan

Adopted October 28, 2004



**Prepared under contract with:**

*Emergency Planning Consultants  
San Diego, California  
Carolyn J. Harshman, President*

## **Special Recognition**

The Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMAC) of Los Angeles County prepared planning guide materials that were utilized by the City of Cerritos in preparing this Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The DMAC plan guide was patterned after the Hazard Mitigation Plan from Clackamas County, Oregon. The City is grateful to DMAC and the Clackamas County Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee for their contributions to this project.

### Special Thanks

Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team:

City of Cerritos

City of Bellflower

City of Norwalk

City of Artesia

City of Hawaiian Gardens

### Acknowledgements

City of Cerritos Elected Officials:

- Robert Hughlett Ed. D., Mayor
- John F. Crawley, Mayor Pro Tem
- Paul W. Bowlen, Councilmember
- Gloria A Kappe, Councilmember
- Laura Lee, Councilmember
- Art Gallucci, City Manager

Office of Disaster Management

- Area E: Fan Abel, Coordinator

### Mapping

Other than Internet-sourced maps, the City of Cerritos provided all of the maps included in this plan.

### Consulting Services

Project Management and planning services for this project were provided under contract by Emergency Planning Consultants.

- Project Management Services: Carolyn J. Harshman, President
- Planning Services: Carolyn J. Harshman, President  
Daniel Robeson, Jr., Associate

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Note: The maps in this plan were provided by the City of Cerritos or were acquired from public Internet sources. Care was taken in the creation of these maps, but they are provided "as is". The City of Cerritos cannot accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions or positional accuracy, and therefore, there are no warranties that accompany these products (the maps). Although information from land surveys may have been used in the creation of these products, in no way does this product represent or constitute a land survey. Users are cautioned to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

# City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

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## **PART I – MITIGATION ACTIONS**

### **Executive Summary: Hazard Mitigation Action Plan**

The City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist City of Cerritos in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms.

### **How is the Plan Organized?**

The Mitigation Plan contains a Mitigation Actions Matrix, background on the purpose and methodology used to develop the mitigation plan, a profile of City of Cerritos, sections on three natural hazards that occur within the City, and a number of appendices. All of the sections are described in detail in Section 1, Introduction.

### **Who Participated in Developing the Plan?**

The City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is the result of a collaborative planning effort between City of Cerritos, City of Bellflower, City of Norwalk, City of Artesia, and City of Hawaiian Gardens citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional and state organizations. Public participation played a key role in development of goals and action items. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, and public outreach activities were conducted to include City of Cerritos residents in plan development. A project Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team guided the process of developing the plan.

### **The Planning Team was comprised of the following individuals:**

City of Cerritos – Luis Estevez, Management Analyst
City of Cerritos – Emely Merina, Emergency Services Coordinator
City of Cerritos – Doug Kellam, Management Analyst
City of Bellflower – Joel Hockman, Director of Public Safety
City of Bellflower – Mario Suarez, City Planner
City of Bellflower – Jon Terkeurst, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent
City of Norwalk – Noel Ford, Water Supervisor
City of Norwalk – Dave Verhaaf, Maintenance Supervisor
City of Norwalk – Adriana Figueroa, Management Assistant

City of Norwalk - Don Murray, Building and Safety
City of Artesia – Madalena Galindo, Human Resource Generalist
City of Artesia – Dennis Harkins, Assistant Planner
City of Hawaiian Gardens – Steven Peguero, Community Relations Officer
City of Hawaiian Gardens – Yvonne Knight, Community Relations Officer
City of Hawaiian Gardens – Juana G. Hernandez, Senior Clerk
Emergency Planning Consultants – Carolyn J. Harshman, President

**What is the Plan Mission?**

The mission of the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural hazards. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the City towards building a Disaster Resistant Community.

**What are the Plan Goals?**

The plan goals describe the overall direction that City of Cerritos agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are stepping-stones between the broad direction of the mission statement and the specific recommendations outlined in the action items.

**Protect Life and Property**

Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.

Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.

Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development in high hazard areas and encouraging preventative measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

**Public Awareness**

Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.

Provide information on tools; partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

## **Natural Systems**

Balance natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation to protect life, property, and the environment.

## **Partnerships and Implementation**

Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, business, and industry to gain a vested interest in implementation.

Encourage leadership within public and private sector organizations to prioritize and implement local and regional hazard mitigation activities.

## **Emergency Services**

Establish policy to ensure mitigation projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.

Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations, business, and industry.

Coordinate and integrate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures.

## **How are the Action Items Organized?**

The action items are a listing of activities in which City agencies and citizens can be engaged to reduce risk. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation (see Executive Summary, Attachment 1: Mitigation Actions Matrix).

The action items are organized within the attached Matrix, which lists all of the multi-hazard and hazard-specific action items included in the mitigation plan. Data collection and research and the public participation process resulted in the development of these action items (see Appendix B). The Matrix includes the following information for each action item:

**Coordinating Organization.** The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, county, or regional agencies that are capable of or responsible for implementing activities and programs.

**Timeline.** Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the time line for implementation.

**Plan Goals Addressed.** The plan goals addressed by each action item are included as a way to monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins. The plan goals are organized into the following five areas:

**Protect Life and Property**  
**Public Awareness**  
**Natural Systems**  
**Partnerships and Implementation**  
**Emergency Services**

### **How Will the Plan be Implemented, Monitored, and Evaluated?**

The Plan Maintenance Section (Section 2) of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the City will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this section includes an explanation of how City of Cerritos government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the City’s General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building & Safety Codes.

### **Plan Adoption**

Adoption of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan by the local jurisdiction’s governing body is one of the prime requirements for approval of the plan. Once the plan is completed, the City Council will be responsible for adopting the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The local agency governing body has the responsibility and authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards. The City Council will periodically need to re-adopt the plan as it is revised to meet changes in the natural hazard risks and exposures in the community. The approved Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be significant in the future growth and development of the community.

### **Coordinating Body**

A City of Cerritos Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be responsible for coordinating implementation of Plan action items and undertaking the formal review process. The City Council (or other authority) will assign representatives from City agencies, including, but not limited to, the current Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members.

### **Convener**

The City Council has adopted the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and

the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will take responsibility for plan implementation. The City Manager will serve as a convener to facilitate the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee meetings, and will assign tasks such as updating and presenting the Plan to the members of the Committee. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members.

### **Implementation through Existing Programs**

City of Cerritos addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through its General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and City Building & Safety Codes. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations that are closely related to the goals and objectives of these existing planning programs. City of Cerritos will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures.

### **Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's approaches to identify costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later. Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can provide decision makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

### **Formal Review Process**

The City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The evaluation process includes a firm schedule and timeline, and identifies the local agencies and organizations participating in plan evaluation. The convener will be responsible for contacting the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members and organizing the annual meeting. Committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan.

### **Continued Public Involvement**

City of Cerritos is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual review and updates of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and made available at City Hall and at all City operated public libraries. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in City newsletters. The plan also includes

the address and the phone number of the City Planning Division, responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan. In addition, copies of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns.

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
<b>Multi-Hazard Action Items</b>								
MH #1-1	Integrate the goals and action items from the City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing regulatory documents and programs, where appropriate.	City Manager or Designee	1-5 years				X	
MH #1-2	Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement local mitigation activities.	City Manager or Designee	Ongoing				X	
MH #1-3	Establish a formal role for the City of Cerritos Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop a sustainable process for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating citywide mitigation activities.	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing				X	
MH #1-4	Develop public and private partnerships to foster natural hazard mitigation program coordination and collaboration in the City of Cerritos.	City Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing				X	
MH #1-5	Develop inventories of at-risk buildings and infrastructure and prioritize mitigation projects.	City Manager or Designee	1-5 Years	X			X	

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
MH #1-6	Strengthen emergency services preparedness and response by linking emergency services with natural hazard mitigation programs and enhancing public education on a regional scale.	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing					X
MH #1-7	Develop, enhance, and implement education programs aimed at mitigating natural hazards, and reducing the risk to citizens, public agencies, private property owners, businesses, and schools.	City Manager or Designee	Ongoing	X	X			
MH #1-8	Conduct annual tabletop disaster exercises with local law enforcement, emergency managers, town and county officials, the LEPC and other disaster response agencies.	Emergency Response Planning Team						X
MH #1-9	All Building Code Compliance	Community Development	Ongoing	X				
MH #1-10	Adopt Uniform Building Code.	Community Development	Ongoing	X				

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
MH #1-11	Retrofit Traffic Signals for coordination with Emergency Vehicle Response.	Public Works Department	1-2 years	X				
MH #1-12	Develop a Business Continuity Planning Display. The display will be designed to raise the awareness level of why it is important to have a Business Continuity Plan, how to develop a plan, and will encourage businesses to make sure that their plan fits in with the County's plan. This display will be appropriate for use at local Chamber of Commerce meetings and activities, civic group gatherings and other business-related gatherings.	Emergency Response Planning Team					X	
MH #1-13	Conduct a study of Public facilities for redesign.	City Manager or designee	After an event has occurred	X				
<b>Earthquake Action Items</b>								

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
EQ #2-1	Integrate new earthquake hazard mapping data for the City of Cerritos and improve technical analysis of earthquake hazards.	City GIS Division	2 years	X			X	
EQ #2-2	Incorporate the Regional Earthquake Transportation Evacuation Routes developed by the Regional Emergency Managers Group into The City's general Plan.	Community Development and Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing					X
EQ #2-3	Identify funding sources for structural and nonstructural retrofitting of structures that are identified as seismically vulnerable.	City Manager or Designee	Ongoing		X		X	
EQ #2-4	Encourage seismic strength evaluations of critical facilities in the City to identify vulnerabilities for mitigation of public infrastructure, and critical facilities to meet current seismic standards.	City Manager or designee	Ongoing	X				X
EQ #2-5	Encourage reduction of nonstructural and structural earthquake hazards in homes, schools, businesses, and	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing	X	X			

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
	government offices.							
EQ #2-6	Saf-2 Saf-2.1 – Outreach materials	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing		X			
EQ #2-7	Install and improve back-up power to critical facilities.	Public Works	2 years					X
EQ #2-8	Provide new home and property buyers with information on quality redevelopment and safe housing development. The information is probably most efficiently dispersed at the town hall and other community owned, public facilities.	Community Development	Ongoing		X			
<b>Flood Action Items</b>								
FLD #3-1	Develop better urban flood warning systems.	Emergency Response Planning Team	1-2 years	X				X
FLD #3-2	Enhance data and mapping for flooding information within the City and identify and map flood-prone areas.		Ongoing	X				X
FLD #3-3	Saf-1 Gen Plan Saf-1.4 maintenance of flood control facilities	Public Works	Ongoing	X				

# City of Cerritos

## Mitigation Actions Matrix

Natural Hazard	Action Item	Coordinating Organization	Timeline	Plan Goals Addressed				
				Protect Life and Property	Public Awareness	Natural Systems	Partnerships and Implementation	Emergency Services
FLD #3-4	Saf-1 Gen Plan Saf-1.2 Identify storm drain improvements	Public Works	Ongoing	X				
FLD #3-5	Saf-1 Gen Plan Saf-1.3 Annual review of SEMS and evacuation routes	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing		X		X	
FLD #3-6	Saf-1 Gen Plan Saf-1.1 Flood damage control	Public Works	Ongoing					X
<b>Windstorm Action Items</b>								
WS #4-1	Develop and implement programs to keep falling trees from threatening lives, property, and public infrastructure during windstorm events.	Public Works Department	Ongoing				X	X
WS #4-2	Enhance strategies for debris management after windstorm events.	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing				X	X
WS #4-3	Support/encourage electrical utilities to use underground construction methods where possible to reduce power outages from windstorms.	City Manager or Designee	Ongoing			X	X	
WS #4-4	Increase public awareness of windstorm mitigation activities.	Emergency Response Planning Team	Ongoing	X	X			

# **City of Cerritos Mitigation Actions Matrix**

## **Section 1**

### **Introduction**

Throughout history, the people living in the area that now comprises the City of Cerritos have dealt with various natural hazards. Photos, journal entries, and newspapers from the 1800s and the early 1900s often depict area residents dealing with the affects of earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms.

Although there were fewer people in the area, natural hazards adversely affected the lives of those who depended on the land and climate for food and welfare. As the population in the area continued to increase, exposure to the affects from natural hazards was magnified.

The City of Cerritos is the 52nd most populous City in Los Angeles County, and offers the benefits of living in a Mediterranean type of climate. The City itself is relatively flat with an elevation of only 34 feet. Recognized as a Tree City U.S.A., Cerritos is characterized by the unique and attractive landscape that makes the area so popular. However, the potential impacts of natural hazards associated with the terrain, make the environment and population vulnerable to natural disasters.

The City of Cerritos, like most of California is vulnerable to earthquakes, and to a lesser extent, flooding, and windstorms. It is impossible to predict exactly when a natural disaster will occur, or to what extent they will affect the City. However, with careful planning and collaboration among public agencies, private sector organizations, and citizens within the community, it is possible to mitigate these hazards and minimize the losses that can result from these natural disasters.

### **Why Develop a Mitigation Plan?**

As the costs of damages from natural disasters continue to increase, the community realizes the importance of identifying effective ways of reducing its vulnerability. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans assist communities in reducing risk from natural hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the City.

The plan provides a set of action items to reduce risk from natural hazards through education and outreach programs and to foster the development of partnerships, and implementation of preventative activities such as land use programs that restrict and control development in areas subject to damage from natural hazards.

The resources and information within the Mitigation Plan:

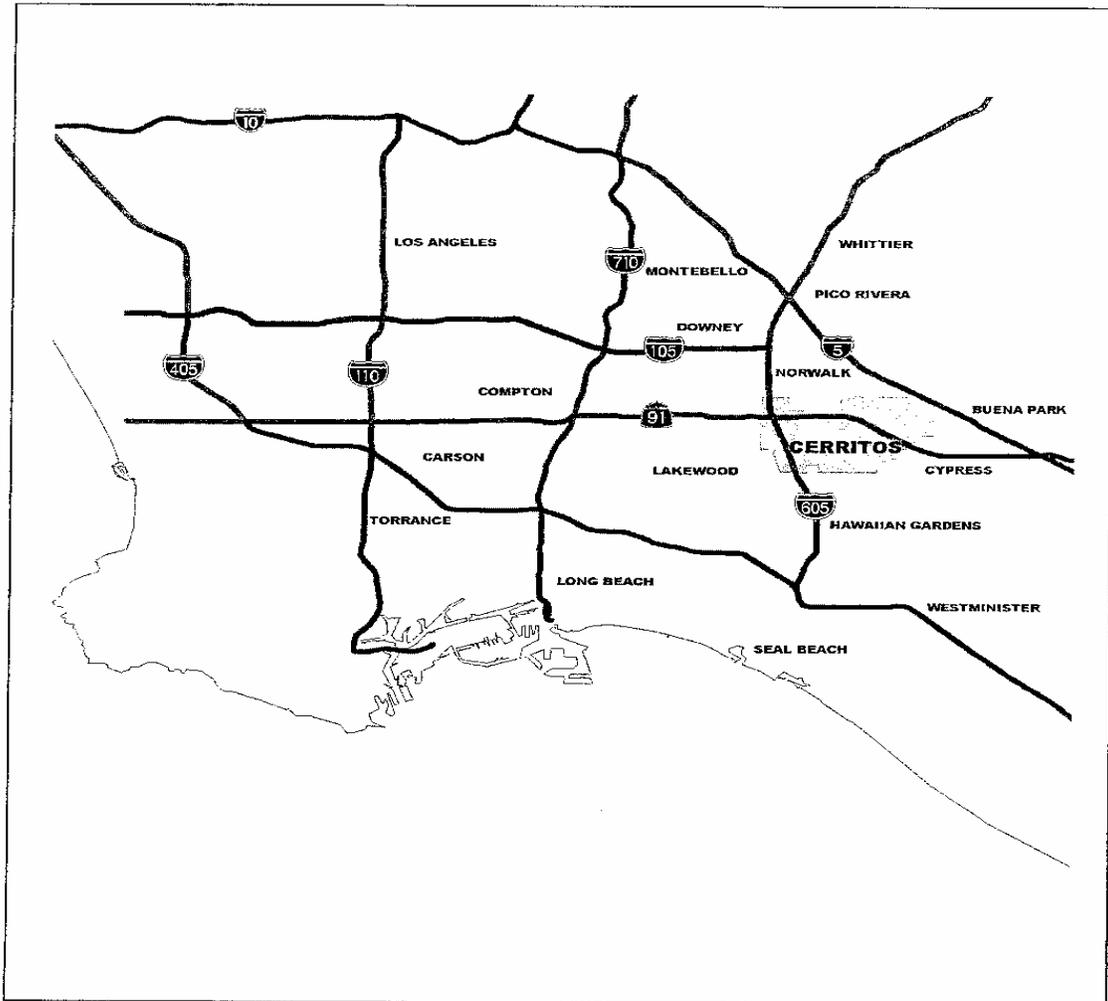
- (1) Establish a basis for coordination and collaboration among agencies and the public in City of Cerritos;
- (2) Identify and prioritize future mitigation projects; and
- (3) Assist in meeting the requirements of federal assistance programs.

The mitigation plan works in conjunction with other City plans, including the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan.

**Whom Does the Mitigation Plan Affect?**

The City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan affects the entire city. Map 1-1 shows major roads in the City of Cerritos. This plan provides a framework for planning for natural hazards. The identified resources and background information contained in the plan are applicable Citywide, and the goals and recommendations can lay the groundwork for other local mitigation plans and partnerships.

**Map 1-1: Base Map of City of Cerritos (Source: City of Cerritos General Plan)**



NOT TO SCALE

### Regional Location Map



JN: 10100483  
February 7, 2003

Exhibit I-1

## Natural Hazard Land Use Policy in California

Planning for natural hazards should be an integral element of any city's land use planning program. All California cities and counties have General Plans and the implementing ordinances that are required to comply with the statewide planning regulations.

The continuing challenge faced by local officials and state government is to keep the

network of local plans effective in responding to the changing conditions and needs of California's diverse communities, particularly in light of the very active seismic region in which we live.

This is particularly true in the case of planning for natural hazards where communities must balance development pressures with detailed information on the nature and extent of hazards.

Planning for natural hazards, calls for local plans to include inventories, policies, and ordinances to guide development in hazard areas. These inventories should include the compendium of hazards facing the community, the built environment at risk, the personal property that may be damaged by hazard events and most of all, the people who live in the shadow of these hazards.

### **Support for Natural Hazard Mitigation**

All mitigation is local, and the primary responsibility for development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and policies lies with local jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions, however, are not alone. Partners and resources exist at the regional, state and federal levels. Numerous California state agencies have a role in natural hazards and natural hazard mitigation. Some of the key agencies include:

- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and the administration of federal funds after a major disaster declaration;
- The Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) gathers information about earthquakes and communicates this information to end-users and to the general public, to help increase earthquake awareness, reduce economic losses and save lives.
- The California Division of Forestry (CDF) is responsible for all aspects of wildland fire protection and administers forest practices and regulations on non-federal lands.
- The California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) is responsible for geologic hazard characterization, public education, and the development of partnerships aimed at reducing risk.
- The California Division of Water Resources (DWR) plans, designs, constructs, operates, and maintains the State Water Project; regulates dams; provides flood protection and assists in emergency management. It also educates the public, and serves local water needs by providing technical assistance.

## **Plan Methodology**

Information in the Mitigation Plan is based on research from a variety of sources. Staff from the City of Cerritos conducted data research and analysis, facilitated steering committee meetings and public workshops, and developed the final mitigation plan. The research methods and various contributions to the plan include:

### ***Input from the planning team:***

The Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team convened four times to guide development of the Mitigation Plan. The Team played an integral role in developing the mission, goals, and action items for the Mitigation Plan. The Team consisted of representatives of five local government entities, including:

City of Cerritos  
City of Bellflower  
City of Norwalk  
City of Artesia  
City of Hawaiian Gardens

### ***Stakeholder interviews:***

City staff distributed copies of the Plan to agencies and specialists from organizations interested in natural hazards planning. The data and support gained from the review process was very valuable to the overall planning effort. A complete listing of all stakeholders (reviewers) is located in Appendix B.

## **State and federal guidelines and requirements for mitigation plans:**

Following are the Federal requirements for approval of a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan:

- Open public involvement, with public meetings that introduce the process and project requirements.
- The public must be afforded opportunities for involvement in: identifying and assessing risk, drafting a plan, and public involvement in approval stages of the plan.
- Community cooperation, with opportunity for other local government agencies, the business community, educational institutions, and non-profits to participate in the process.
- Incorporation of local documents, including the local General Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, the Building Codes, and other pertinent documents.

The following components must be part of the planning process:

- Complete documentation of the planning process.
- A detailed risk assessment on hazard exposures in the community.
- A comprehensive mitigation strategy, which describes the goals & objectives,

including proposed strategies, programs & actions to avoid long-term vulnerabilities.

- A plan maintenance process, which describes the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan and integration of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan into other planning mechanisms.
- Formal adoption by the City Council.
- Plan Review by both State OES and FEMA

These requirements are spelled out in greater detail in the following plan sections and supporting documentation.

Public participation opportunities were created through use of local media, the City's website, distribution of a natural hazards questionnaire, and the City Council public hearing. In addition, the makeup of a multi-jurisdictional planning team insured a constant exchange of data and input from outside organizations.

Through its consultant, Emergency Planning Consultants, the City had access to numerous existing mitigation plans from around the country, as well as current FEMA hazard mitigation planning standards (386 series).

Other reference materials consisted of county and city mitigation plans, including:

Clackamas County (Oregon) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan  
Six County (Utah) Association of Governments  
Upper Arkansas Area Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Urbandale-Polk County, Iowa Plan  
Hamilton County, Ohio Plan  
Natural Hazard Planning Guidebook from Butler County, Ohio

Hazard specific research: City of Cerritos staff collected data and compiled research on three hazards: earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms. Research materials came from the City General Plan, the City's Threat Assessment contained in the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan, and state agencies including OES and CDF. The City of Cerritos staff conducted research by referencing historical local newspapers, interviewing long time residents, long time City of Cerritos employees and locating City of Cerritos information in historical documents.

The City of Cerritos staff identified current mitigation activities, resources and programs, and potential action items from research materials and stakeholder interviews.

### **Public Input**

The City of Cerritos encouraged public participation and input in the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan by posting its activities in the media and on the Internet. In addition, the City distributed natural hazards questionnaires at the Community Festival held in April 2004. Citizens were encouraged to review the Plan Draft and participate in the City

Council public meeting, which was held on October 28, 2004.

The resources and information cited in the mitigation plan provide a strong local perspective and help identify strategies and activities to make City of Cerritos more disaster resistant.

### **How Is the Plan Used?**

Each section of the mitigation plan provides information and resources to assist people in understanding the City and the hazard-related issues facing citizens, businesses, and the environment. Combined, the sections of the plan work together to create a document that guides the mission to reduce risk and prevent loss from future natural hazard events.

The structure of the plan enables people to use a section of interest to them. It also allows City government to review and update sections when new data becomes available. The ability to update individual sections of the mitigation plan places less of a financial burden on the City. Decision-makers can allocate funding and staff resources to selected pieces in need of review, thereby avoiding a full update, which can be costly and time-consuming. New data can be easily incorporated, resulting in a natural hazards mitigation plan that remains current and relevant to City of Cerritos.

The mitigation plan is organized into three parts: Part I contains an executive summary, Mitigation Actions Matrix, introduction, and a plan maintenance section. Part II contains a city profile, risk assessment, and hazard-specific sections. Part III includes the appendices. Each section of the plan is described below.

### **Part I: Mitigation Actions**

#### **Executive Summary: Hazard Mitigation Action Plan**

The Action Plan provides an overview of the mitigation plan mission, goals, and action items.

#### **Attachment 1: Mitigation Actions Matrix**

The plan action items are included in this section, and address multi-hazard issues, as well as hazard-specific activities that can be implemented to reduce risk and prevent loss from future natural hazard events.

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

The Introduction describes the background and purpose of developing the mitigation plan for City of Cerritos.

#### **Section 2: Plan Maintenance**

This section provides information on plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

## **Part II: Hazard Analysis**

### **Section 3: Community Profile**

This section presents the history, geography, demographics, and socioeconomics of the City of Cerritos. It serves as a tool to provide an historical perspective of natural hazards in the City.

### **Section 4: Risk Assessment**

This section provides information on hazard identification, vulnerability and risk associated with natural hazards in City of Cerritos.

### **Sections 5-7: Hazard Specific Information**

Hazard-specific information on the three chronic hazards is addressed in this plan. Chronic hazards occur with some regularity and may be predicted through historic evidence and scientific methods. The chronic hazards addressed in the plan include:

Section 5: Earthquakes

Section 6: Flooding

Section 7: Windstorms

Each of the hazard-specific sections includes information on the history, hazard causes and characteristics, hazard assessment, goals and action items, and local, state, and national resources.

## **Part III: Resources**

The plan appendices are designed to provide users of the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan with additional information to assist them in understanding the contents of the mitigation plan, and potential resources to assist them with implementation.

### **Appendix A: Plan Resource Directory**

The resource directory includes City, regional, state, and national resources and programs that may be of technical and/or financial assistance to City of Cerritos during plan implementation.

### **Appendix B: Public Participation Process**

This appendix includes specific information on the various public processes used during development of the plan.

### **Appendix C: Benefit Cost Analysis**

This section describes FEMA's requirements for benefit cost analysis in natural hazards mitigation, as well as various approaches for conducting economic analysis of proposed mitigation activities.

### **Appendix D: List of Acronyms**

This section provides a list of acronyms for City, regional, state, and federal agencies and organizations that may be referred to within the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

### **Appendix E: Glossary**

This section provides a glossary of terms used throughout the plan.

### **Appendix F: Inventory of Assets – Proportion of Buildings/Values/People in Hazard Areas**

### **Appendix G: Inventory of Assets – Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Facilities in Hazard Areas**

### **Appendix H: Estimated Losses in Hazard Areas**

**Section 2:**

**Plan Maintenance**

The Plan Maintenance Section of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the City will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this Section includes an explanation of how the City of Cerritos government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the City’s General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building and Safety Codes.

**Monitoring and Implementing the Plan**

**Plan Adoption**

The City Council will be responsible for adopting the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This governing body has the authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards. Once the plan has been adopted, the City’s Emergency Services Coordinator will be responsible for submitting it to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services will then submit the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. This review will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201. Upon acceptance by FEMA, the City will gain eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

**Coordinating Body**

The City’s Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be responsible for coordinating implementation of plan action items and undertaking the formal review process. The City Council (or other authority) will assign representatives from City agencies, including, but not limited to, the current Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members. The City has formed a Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee that consists of members from City agencies including:

City of Cerritos – Management Analyst – Planning (Currently Vacant)
City of Cerritos – Emely Merina, Emergency Services Coordinator
City of Cerritos – Doug Kellam, Management Analyst – Public Works

In order to make this Committee as broad and useful as possible, the City Manager will engage other relevant organizations and agencies in hazard mitigation. Other potential additions to the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee could include:

- An elected official
- A representative from the Chamber of Commerce
- An insurance company representative
- Community Planning Organization representatives
- A representative from the City Manager's Office
- Representation from professional organizations such as the Home Builders Association

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will meet no less than quarterly. Meeting dates will be scheduled once the final Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee has been established. These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss the progress of the action items and maintain the partnerships that are essential for the sustainability of the mitigation plan.

### **Convener**

The City Council has adopted the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, and the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will take responsibility for plan implementation. The City Manager (or designee) will serve as a convener to facilitate the Committee meetings, and will assign tasks such as updating and presenting the Plan to the members of the Committee. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of the Committee members.

### **Implementation through Existing Programs**

The City addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through its General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and City Building and Safety Codes. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations - many of which are closely related to the goals and objectives of existing planning programs. The City will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures.

The City's Building & Safety Department is responsible for administering the Building & Safety Codes. In addition, the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will work with other agencies at the state level to review, develop and ensure Building & Safety Codes that are adequate to mitigate or prevent damage by natural hazards. This is to ensure that life-safety criteria are met for new construction.

The goals and action items in the mitigation plan may be achieved through activities recommended in the City's Capital Improvement Plans (CIP). Various City departments develop CIP plans, and review them on an annual basis. Upon annual review of the CIP, the Committee will work with the City Departments to identify action items in the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan consistent with CIP planning goals and integrate them where appropriate.

Within six months of formal adoption of the Mitigation Plan, the recommendations listed above will be incorporated into the process of existing planning mechanisms at the City level. The meetings of the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will provide an opportunity for Committee members to report back on the progress made on the integration of mitigation planning elements into the City's planning documents and procedures.

### **Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects**

FEMA's approaches to identify the costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies, measures, or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis.

Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later.

Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can provide decision-makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

Given federal funding, the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will use a FEMA-approved benefit/cost analysis approach to identify and prioritize mitigation action items. For other projects and funding sources, the Committee will use other approaches to understand the costs and benefits of each action item and develop a prioritized list. For more information regarding economic analysis of mitigation action items, please see Appendix C of the Plan.

### **Evaluating and Updating the Plan**

#### **Formal Review Process**

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The evaluation process includes a firm schedule and timeline, and identifies the local agencies and organizations participating in plan evaluation. The convener or designee will be responsible for contacting the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members and organizing the annual meeting.

Committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan.

The Committee will review the goals and action items to determine their relevance to changing situations in the City, as well as changes in State or Federal policy, and to ensure they are addressing current and expected conditions. The Committee will also

review the Risk Assessment portion of the Plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified, given any new available data. The coordinating organizations responsible for the various action items will report on the status of their projects, the success of various implementation processes, difficulties encountered, success of coordination efforts, and which strategies should be revised.

The convener will assign the duty of updating the plan to one or more of the Committee members. The designated Committee members will have three months to make appropriate changes to the Plan before submitting it to the Committee members, and presenting it to the City Council (or other authority). The Committee will also notify all holders of the City's Plan when changes have been made. Every five years the updated Plan will be submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review.

### **Continued Public Involvement**

The City is dedicated to involving the public directly in review and updates of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members are responsible for the annual review and update of the plan.

The public will also have the opportunity to provide feedback about the Plan. Copies of the Plan will be catalogued and kept at all of the appropriate agencies in the City. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in the quarterly city newsletter, which reaches every household in the City. The plan also includes the address and the phone number of the City Planning Division, responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan.

In addition, copies of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City's Website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns.

A public meeting will also be held after each annual evaluation, or as deemed necessary by the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee. The meetings will provide the public a forum for which they can express any concerns, opinions, or ideas about the Plan. The City Public Information Officer will be responsible for using City resources to publicize the annual public meetings and maintain public involvement through the public access cable channel, Website, and local newspapers.

### **Section 3:**

#### **Community Profile**

##### Why Plan for Natural Hazards in City of Cerritos?

Natural hazards impact citizens, property, the environment, and the economy of City of Cerritos. Earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms have exposed City of Cerritos residents and businesses to the financial and emotional costs of recovering after natural disasters. The risk associated with natural hazards increases as more people move to areas affected by natural hazards.

Even in those communities that are essentially “built-out” i.e., have little or no vacant land remaining for development; population density continues to increase when low-density housing is replaced with medium and high-density development projects.

The inevitability of natural hazards that will affect Cerritos create an urgent need to develop strategies, coordinate resources, and increase public awareness to reduce risk and prevent loss from future natural hazard events. Identifying the risks posed by natural hazards, and developing strategies to reduce the impact of a hazard event can assist in protecting life and property of citizens and communities. Local residents and businesses can work together with the City to create a natural hazards mitigation plan that addresses the potential impacts of hazard events.

#### **Geography and the Environment**

City of Cerritos has an area of 8.9 square miles and is located in southern Los Angeles County.

The City is 34 feet above sea level and borders Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs on the north, Bellflower and Lakewood to the west, La Mirada, Buena Park and La Palma to the east and southeast, and Lakewood to the South. The City also surrounds the City of Artesia on Artesia’s western, southern, and eastern boundaries.

#### **Community Profile**

The City of Cerritos is as rich in history. The area comprising the City of Cerritos was first settled in the 1700’s and the city itself was incorporated April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1956.

According to the City of Cerritos General Plan, the City is served by the Artesia Freeway (SR-91) running east-west in the northern and central portions of the City. Additionally, The San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) runs north-south in the western portion of the City and the Santa Anna Freeway runs northwest to southeast, north of Cerritos. The arterial roadways serving the City of Cerritos are as follows: Alondra Blvd., 166<sup>th</sup> Street, Artesia Boulevard, 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, South Street, 195<sup>th</sup> Street, Dell Amo Boulevard, and Orangethorpe Avenue.

The Southern Pacific Railway serves the city running north-south through the eastern portion of the City. Additionally the Union Pacific Railway runs diagonally northeast-southwest through the City. Passenger transportation is provided by MTA.

### **Major Rivers**

As stated in the City of Cerritos General Plan, the San Gabriel River runs along the western border of the City and Coyote Creek borders the southeast portion of the City. Both channels of water are identified as floodways and have a potential impact on the City of Cerritos. The river channel is part of the County Flood Control District and the City is protected by levees with walls twenty feet high.

### **Climate**

Temperatures in the City of Cerritos range from 52 degrees in the winter months to 74 degrees in the summer months. However the temperatures can vary over a wide range, particularly when the Santa Ana winds blow, bringing higher temperatures and very low humidity.

Rainfall in the city averages 13 inches of rain per year. However the term “average rainfall” is misleading because over the recorded history of rainfall in the City of Cerritos rainfall amounts have ranged from no rain at all in some years to 25 inches of rain in very wet years.

Furthermore, actual rainfall in Southern California tends to fall in large amounts during sporadic and often heavy storms rather than consistently over storms at somewhat regular intervals. In short, rainfall in Southern California might be characterized as feast or famine within a single year. Because the metropolitan basin is largely built out, water originating in higher elevation communities can have a sudden impact on adjoining communities that have a lower elevation.

### **Minerals and Soils**

The characteristics of the minerals and soils present in City of Cerritos give an indication of past events and the potential types of hazards that may occur in the future. Rock hardness and soil characteristics can determine whether or not an area will be prone to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, liquefaction and landslides.

The City of Cerritos General Plan states, “Cerritos lies in the northeastern portion of the coastal plain, where sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the subsurface attain great thickness. This portion of the plain is immediately underlain by a sequence of alluvial deposits about 1,000 feet in thickness, consisting predominantly of marine and non-marine sand and silt. Newer alluvial deposits exist along the San Gabriel River” (Source: Cerritos General Plan SAF-5).

Sandy silt and silt containing clay are moderately dense and firm, and are primarily considered to be prone to liquefaction, an earthquake related hazard.

### **Other Significant Geologic Features**

The City of Cerritos, like most of the Los Angeles Basin, is in an area of one or more known earthquake faults, and potentially many more unknown faults, particularly so-called lateral or blind thrust faults. As noted in the Cerritos General Plan, the major faults that have the potential to affect the greater Los Angeles Basin, and therefore the City of Cerritos are the: San Andreas, Newport-Inglewood, Palos Verdes, Whittier-Elsinore, Santa Monica, Norwalk, and Elysian Park.

The fault that is the closest, and has the most potential to cause damage to the City of Cerritos is the Norwalk Fault. This 16-mile fault runs approximately one mile north of Cerritos. The Norwalk fault has been active in the past, and may be the cause of a recent 4.7 magnitude earthquake.

The Los Angeles Basin has a history of powerful and relatively frequent earthquakes, dating back to the powerful 8.0+ San Andreas earthquake of 1857, which did substantial damage to the relatively few buildings that existed at the time. Paleoseismological research indicates that large (8.0+) earthquakes occur on the San Andreas Fault at intervals between 45 and 332 years, with an average interval of 140 years<sup>1</sup>. Other lesser faults have also caused very damaging earthquakes since 1857. Notable earthquakes include the Long Beach earthquake of 1933, the San Fernando Earthquake of 1971, the 1987 Whittier Earthquake and the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

In addition, many areas in the Los Angeles Basin have sandy soils that are subject to liquefaction. According to the City of Cerritos General Plan, the City, due to its unstable sandy and silt-filled soil, is named as a liquefaction zone. Additionally, water is identified within several feet of the surface indicating that liquefaction is a seismic concern within the city.

According to the City of Cerritos General Plan, there is minimal to no risk posed to the City of Cerritos due to landslides.

### **Population and Demographics**

City of Cerritos, according to the 2000 Census, has a population of about 51,488 in an area of 8.9 square miles. The population of the City of Cerritos has steadily increased from the mid 1800's through 2000, and increased by 9% from 1990 to 2000 according to the 2000 Census.

The increase of people living in City of Cerritos creates more community exposure, and

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<sup>1</sup> Peacock, Simon M.,  
<http://aamc.geo.lsa.umich.edu/eduQuakes/EQpredLab/EQprediction.peacock.html>

changes how agencies prepare for and respond to natural hazards. For example, more people living on the urban fringe can increase risk of fire. Wildfire has an increased chance of starting due to human activities in the urban/rural interface, and has the potential to injure more people and cause more property damage. But an urban/wildland fire is not the only exposure to the City of Cerritos. In the 1987 publication, Fire Following Earthquake issued by the All Industry Research Advisory Council, Charles Scawthorn explains how a post-earthquake urban conflagration would develop. The conflagration would be started by fires resulting from earthquake damage, but made much worse by the loss of pressure in the fire mains, caused by either lack of electricity to power water pumps, and /or loss of water pressure resulting from broken fire mains.

Furthermore, increased density can affect risk. For example, narrower streets are more difficult for emergency service vehicles to navigate, the higher ratio of residents to emergency responders affects response times, and homes located closer together increase the chances of fires spreading.

Natural hazards do not discriminate, but the impacts in terms of vulnerability and the ability to recover vary greatly among the population. According to Peggy Stahl of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preparedness, Training, and Exercise Directorate, “80% of the disaster burden falls on the public, and within that number, a disproportionate burden is placed upon special needs groups: women, children, minorities, and the poor.”<sup>2</sup>

According the 2000 census figures, the demographic make up of the city is as follows:

Caucasian	21.4%
Hispanic	10.4%
African American	6.7%
Asian	58.4%
Native American	.3%
Other	3.9%

The ethnic and cultural diversity suggests a need to address multi-cultural needs and services.

Although the percentage of poverty in the City of Cerritos (5%) is about one-third that of the state's (13.7%), 5.4% of the people living in poverty in City of Cerritos are under 18 years old, and 5.3% are over 65.

Vulnerable populations, including seniors, disabled citizens, women, and children, as well as those people living in poverty, may be disproportionately impacted by natural hazards.

Examining the reach of hazard mitigation policies to special needs populations may assist

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<sup>2</sup> [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

in increasing access to services and programs. FEMA's Office of Equal Rights addresses this need by suggesting that agencies and organizations planning for natural disasters identify special needs populations, make recovery centers more accessible, and review practices and procedures to remedy any discrimination in relief application or assistance.

The cost of natural hazards recovery can place an unequal financial responsibility on the general population when only a small proportion may benefit from governmental funds used to rebuild private structures. Discussions about natural hazards that include local citizen groups, insurance companies, and other public and private sector organizations can help ensure that all members of the population are a part of the decision-making processes.

### **Land and Development**

Development in Southern California from the earliest days was a cycle of boom and bust. The Second World War however dramatically changed that cycle. Military personnel and defense workers came to Southern California to fill the logistical needs created by the war effort. The available housing was rapidly exhausted and existing commercial centers proved inadequate for the influx of people. Immediately after the war, construction began on the freeway system, and the face of Southern California was forever changed. Home developments and shopping centers sprang up everywhere and within a few decades the central basin of Los Angeles County was virtually built out. This pushed new development further and further away from the urban center.

The City of Cerritos General Plan addresses the use and development of private land, including residential and commercial areas. This plan is one of the City's most important tools in addressing environmental challenges including transportation and air quality; growth management; conservation of natural resources; clean water and open spaces.

The environment of most Los Angeles County cities is nearly identical with that of their immediate neighbors and the transition from one incorporated municipality to another is seamless to most people. Seamless too are the exposures to the natural hazards that affect all of Southern California.

### **Housing and Community Development**

In the City of Cerritos, the demand for housing outstrips the available supply, and the recent low interest rates have further fueled a pent up demand. According to the 2000 Census, there are 15,580 housing units in the City of Cerritos. Of those, 13,364 are single-family homes, or 85.8% of all available housing and 2,216 are multiple unit homes, or 14.2 % of the total existing housing units. There are 12,852 owner occupied units in the City of Cerritos and 2,538 renter occupied units. Approximately 16.5% of the units are being rented in Cerritos and 83.5% of the units are owned. The change in median home prices decreased from \$297,600 in 1990 to \$281,000 in 2000.

## **Employment and Industry**

According to the 2000 Census, Management (48.1%), sales and office occupations (31.3%), as well as service occupations (8.3%) are City of Cerritos principal employment activities. Educational, health and social services (20.4%), manufacturing (15.5%), and retail trade (12.1%) make up the major industries in the City of Cerritos. The City of Cerritos has a labor force of 25,441 persons, less than 1% of the countywide workforce.

Mitigation activities are needed at the business level to ensure the safety and welfare of workers and limit damage to industrial infrastructure. Employees are highly mobile, commuting from surrounding areas to industrial and business centers. This creates a greater dependency on roads, communications, accessibility and emergency plans to reunite people with their families. Before a natural hazard event, large and small businesses can develop strategies to prepare for natural hazards, respond efficiently, and prevent loss of life and property.

## **Transportation and Commuting Patterns**

Private automobiles are the dominant means of transportation in Southern California and in the City of Cerritos. However, according to the City of Cerritos General Plan, the City meets its public transportation needs through two city transit services, Cerritos on Wheels (COW) and Cerritos Dial-a-ride. Additionally, MTA operates the Orange County Transportation Authority, Long Beach Transit, and Norwalk Transit within or through the City of Cerritos. MTA buses also connect to Metrolink service in Fullerton.

According to the 2000 Census, the City has a population of 51,488 and a daytime population estimated at around 30,000. The mean travel time to work for the residents of the City of Cerritos is 29.3 minutes.

As stated in the City's General Plan, Cerritos is served by the Artesia Freeway (SR-91) and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605), connecting the City to adjoining parts of Los Angeles County. The City's 136-mile road system includes 86 miles of arterial highways and 50 miles of local roads, and 16 bridges. As daily transit rises, there is an increased risk that a natural hazard event will disrupt the travel plans of residents across the region, as well as local, regional and national commercial traffic. Localized flooding can render roads unusable. A severe winter storm has the potential to disrupt the daily driving routine of hundreds of thousands of people. Natural hazards can disrupt automobile traffic and shut down local and regional transit systems.

## **Section 4:**

### **Risk Assessment**

#### **What is a Risk Assessment?**

Conducting a risk assessment can provide information: on the location of hazards; the value of existing land and property in hazard locations; and an analysis of risk to life, property, and the environment that may result from natural hazard events. Specifically, the three levels of a risk assessment are as follows:

#### **1) Hazard Identification**

This is the description of the geographic extent, potential intensity and the probability of occurrence of a given hazard. Maps are frequently used to display hazard identification data. The City of Cerritos has identified three major hazards that affect this geographic area. These hazards - earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms - were identified through an extensive process that utilized input from the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team. The geographic extent of each of the identified hazards has been identified by the City of Cerritos utilizing the maps contained in the City General Plan and the MHFP Threat Assessment, and are illustrated in the tables, maps, and photos listed on page iii.

#### **2) Profiling Hazard Events**

The various maps within this plan (identified on page iii) help to describe the causes and characteristics of each hazard, and identify what part of the City's population, infrastructure, and environment may be vulnerable to each specific hazard. A profile of each hazard discussed in this plan is provided in each hazard section. For a full description of the history of hazard specific events, please see the appropriate hazard chapter.

#### **3) Vulnerability Assessment/Inventorying Assets**

This is a combination of hazard identification with an inventory of the existing (or planned) property development(s) and population(s) exposed to a hazard. Critical facilities are of particular concern because these entities provide essential products and services to the general public that are necessary to preserve the welfare and quality of life in the City and fulfill important public safety, emergency response, and/or disaster recovery functions. The critical facilities have been identified and are illustrated in Table 4-2. A description of the critical facilities in the City is also provided in this section. In addition, this plan includes a community issues summary in each hazard section to identify the most vulnerable and problematic areas in the City, including critical facilities and essential facilities.

#### **4) Risk Analysis**

Estimating potential losses involves assessing the damage, injuries, and financial costs likely to be sustained in a geographic area over a given period of time. This level of analysis involves using mathematical models. The two measurable components of risk analysis are magnitude of the harm that may result and the likelihood of the harm occurring. Describing vulnerability in terms of dollar losses provides the community and the state with a common framework in which to measure the effects of hazards on assets. For each hazard where data was available, quantitative estimates for potential losses are included in the hazard assessment.

#### **5) Assessing Vulnerability/Analyzing Development Trends**

This step provides a general description of land uses and development trends within the community so that mitigation options can be considered in land use planning and future land use decisions. This plan provides a comprehensive description of the character of City of Cerritos in the Community Profile. This description includes the geography and environment, population and demographics, land use and development, housing and community development, employment and industry, and transportation and commuting patterns. Analyzing these components of City of Cerritos can help in identifying potential problem areas and can serve as a guide for incorporating the goals and ideas contained in this mitigation plan into other community development plans.

Hazard assessments are subject to the availability of hazard-specific data. Gathering data for a hazard assessment requires a commitment of resources on the part of participating organizations and agencies. Each hazard-specific section of the plan includes a section on hazard identification using data and information from City, County or State agency sources.

Regardless of the data available for hazard assessments, there are numerous strategies the City can take to reduce risk. These strategies are described in the action items detailed in each hazard section of this plan. Mitigation strategies can further reduce disruption to critical services, reduce the risk to human life, and alleviate damage to personal and public property and infrastructure. Action items throughout the hazard sections provide recommendations to collect further data to map hazard locations and conduct hazard assessments.

#### **Federal Requirements for Risk Assessment**

Recent federal regulations for hazard mitigation plans outlined in 44 CFR Part 201, include a requirement for risk assessment. This risk assessment requirement is intended to provide information that will help communities to identify and prioritize mitigation activities that will reduce losses from the identified hazards. There are three hazards profiled in the mitigation plan, including earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms. The Federal criteria for risk assessment and information on how the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan meets those criteria is outlined in Table 4-1 below.

**Table 4-1: Federal Criteria for Risk Assessment**

<b>Section 322 Plan Requirement</b>	<b>How is this addressed?</b>
Identifying Hazards	Each hazard section includes an inventory of the best available data sources that identify hazard areas. To the extent data are available; the existing maps identifying the location of the hazard were utilized. The Executive Summary and the Risk Assessment sections of the plan include a list of the hazard maps.
Profiling Hazard Events	Each hazard section includes documentation of the history, and causes and characteristics of the hazard in the City.
Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets	Where data is available, the vulnerability assessment for each hazard addressed in the mitigation plan includes an inventory of all publicly owned land within hazardous areas. Each hazard section provides information on vulnerable areas in the City within the Community Issues section. Each hazard section also identifies potential mitigation strategies.
Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses:	The Risk Assessment Section of this mitigation plan identifies key critical facilities in the City and includes a map of these facilities. Vulnerability assessments have been completed for the hazards addressed in the plan, and quantitative estimates were made for each hazard where data was available.
Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends	The City of Cerritos Profile Section of this plan provides a description of the development trends in the City, including the geography and environment, population and demographics, land use and development, housing and community development, employment and industry, and transportation and commuting patterns.

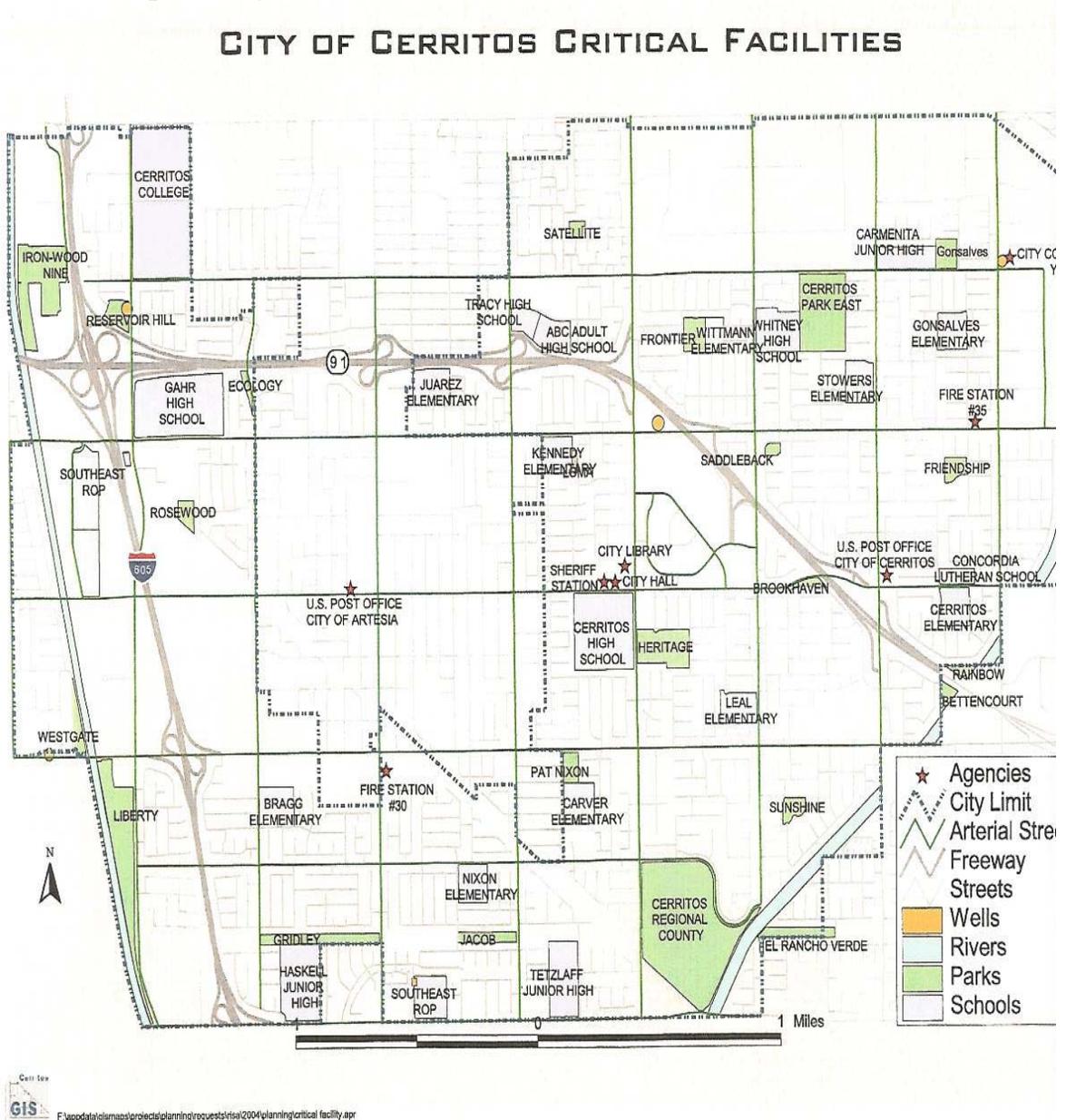
**Critical and Essential Facilities**

Facilities critical to government response and recovery activities (i.e. life safety and property and environmental protection) include: 911 centers, emergency operations centers, police and fire stations, public works facilities, communications centers, sewer and water facilities, hospitals, bridges and roads, shelters, and shelters. Also, Facilities that, if damaged, could cause serious secondary impacts may also be considered "critical." A hazardous material facility is one example of this type of critical facility.

Critical and essential facilities are those facilities that are vital to the continued delivery

of key government services or that may significantly impact the public's ability to recover from the emergency. These facilities may include: buildings such as the jail, law enforcement center, public services building, community corrections center, the courthouse, and juvenile services building and other public facilities such as schools. The following Tables/Maps illustrate the critical and essential facilities within the City of Cerritos.

**Map 4-1 City of Cerritos Critical Facilities (Source: Cerritos GIS)**



**Table 4-2: City of Cerritos Critical and Essential Facilities Vulnerable to Hazards**

<b>EQ</b>	<b>Flood</b>	<b>Wind</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Address</b>
X	X	X	Fire Station # 30	19030 S. Pioneer Blvd.
X	X	X	Fire Station #35	13717 E. Artesia Blvd.
X	X	X	Sheriff Station	18325 S. Bloomfield
X	X	X	City Corporate Yard	16540 Marquardt Ave.
X	X	X	US Post Office – City of Cerritos	11721 E. 183 <sup>rd</sup> Street
X	X	X	City Library	12890 S. Towne Center Dr.
X	X	X	City Hall	18125 S. Bloomfield Ave
X	X	X	Cerritos College	11110 E. Alondra Blvd. Norwalk
X	X	X	Gahr High School	11111 Artesia Blvd.
X	X	X	Southeast ROP	20122 Cabrillo Lane
X	X	X	Bragg Elementary	11501 Bos Street
X	X	X	Haskell Junior High	11525 Del Amo Blvd.
X	X	X	Tetzlaff Junior High	12351 Del Amo Blvd.
X	X	X	Carver Elementary	19200 Ely Ave.
X	X	X	Nixon Elementary	19600 Jacob Ave.
X	X	X	Cerritos High School	12500 E. 183 <sup>rd</sup> Street

**Summary**

Natural hazard mitigation strategies can reduce the impacts concentrated at large employment and industrial centers, public infrastructure, and critical facilities. Natural hazard mitigation for industries and employers may include developing relationships with emergency management services and their employees before disaster strikes, and establishing mitigation strategies together. Collaboration among the public and private sector to create mitigation plans and actions can reduce the impacts of natural hazards.

# Section 5: Earthquake Hazards in the City of Cerritos

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## **Why Are Earthquakes a Threat to the City of Cerritos?**

The most recent significant earthquake event affecting Southern California was the January 17, 1994 Northridge Earthquake. At 4:31 A.M. on Monday, January 17, a moderate but very damaging earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 struck the San Fernando Valley. In the following days and weeks, thousands of aftershocks occurred, causing additional damage to affected structures.

In all, 57 people were killed and more than 1,500 people seriously injured. For days afterward, thousands of homes and businesses were without electricity; tens of thousands had no gas; and nearly 50,000 had little or no water. Approximately 15,000 structures were moderately to severely damaged, which left thousands of people temporarily homeless. 66,500 buildings were inspected. Nearly 4,000 were severely damaged and over 11,000 were moderately damaged. Several collapsed bridges and overpasses created commuter havoc on the freeway system. Extensive damage was caused by ground shaking, but earthquake triggered liquefaction and dozens of fires also caused additional severe damage. This extremely strong ground motion in large portions of Los Angeles County resulted in record economic losses.

However, the earthquake occurred early in the morning on a holiday. This circumstance considerably reduced the potential effects. Many collapsed buildings were unoccupied, and most businesses were not yet open. The direct and indirect economic losses ran into the 10's of billions of dollars.

Historical and geological records show that California has a long history of seismic events. Southern California is probably best known for the San Andreas Fault, a 400-mile long fault running from the Mexican border to a point offshore, west of San Francisco. "Geologic studies show that over the past 1,400 to 1,500 years large earthquakes have occurred at about 130 year intervals on the southern San Andreas Fault. As the last large earthquake on the southern San Andreas occurred in 1857, that section of the fault is considered a likely location for an earthquake within the next few decades."<sup>1</sup>

But San Andreas is only one of dozens of known earthquake faults that crisscross Southern California. Some of the better known faults include the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier, Chatsworth, Elsinore, Hollywood, Los Alamitos, Puente Hills, and Palos Verdes faults. Beyond the known faults, there are a potentially large number of "blind" faults that underlie the surface of Southern California. One such blind fault was involved in the Whittier Narrows earthquake in October 1987.

Although the most famous of the faults, the San Andreas, is capable of producing an earthquake with a magnitude of 8+ on the Richter scale, some of the "lesser" faults have the potential to inflict greater damage on the urban core of the Los Angeles Basin. Seismologists believe that a 6.0 earthquake on the Newport-Inglewood would result in far more death and destruction than a "great" quake on the San Andreas, because the San Andreas is relatively remote from the urban centers of Southern California.

For decades, partnerships have flourished between the USGS, Cal Tech, the California Geological Survey and universities to share research and educational efforts with Californians. Tremendous earthquake mapping and mitigation efforts have been made in California in the past two decades, and public awareness has risen remarkably during this time. Major federal, state, and local government agencies and private organizations support earthquake risk reduction, and have made significant contributions in reducing the adverse impacts of earthquakes. Despite the progress, the majority of California communities remain unprepared because there is a general lack of understanding regarding earthquake hazards among Californians.

**Table 5-1: Earthquake Events in the Southern California Region**

<b>Southern California Region Earthquakes with a Magnitude 5.0 or Greater</b>			
1769	Los Angeles Basin	1916	Tejon Pass Region
1800	San Diego Region	1918	San Jacinto
1812	Wrightwood	1923	San Bernardino Region
1812	Santa Barbara Channel	1925	Santa Barbara
1827	Los Angeles Region	1933	Long Beach
1855	Los Angeles Region	1941	Carpenteria
1857	Great Fort Tejon Earthquake	1952	Kern County
1858	San Bernardino Region	1954	W. of Wheeler Ridge
1862	San Diego Region	1971	San Fernando
1892	San Jacinto or Elsinore Fault	1973	Point Mugu
1893	Pico Canyon	1986	North Palm Springs
1894	Lytle Creek Region	1987	Whittier Narrows
1894	E. of San Diego	1992	Landers
1899	Lytle Creek Region	1992	Big Bear
1899	San Jacinto and Hemet	1994	Northridge
1907	San Bernardino Region	1999	Hector Mine
1910	Glen Ivy Hot Springs		

Source:

[http://geology.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http%3A%2F%2Fpasadena.wr.usgs.gov%2Finfo%2Fcahist\\_earthqs.html](http://geology.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http%3A%2F%2Fpasadena.wr.usgs.gov%2Finfo%2Fcahist_earthqs.html)

To better understand the earthquake hazard, the scientific community has looked at historical records and accelerated research on those faults that are the sources of the earthquakes occurring in the Southern California region. Historical earthquake records can generally be divided into records of the pre-instrumental period and the instrumental

period. In the absence of instrumentation, the detection of earthquakes is based on observations and felt reports, and is dependent upon population density and distribution. Since California was sparsely populated in the 1800s, the detection of pre-instrumental earthquakes is relatively difficult. However, two very large earthquakes, the Fort Tejon in 1857 (7.9) and the Owens Valley in 1872 (7.6) are evidence of the tremendously damaging potential of earthquakes in Southern California. More recently, two 7.3 earthquakes struck Southern California, in Kern County (1952) and Landers (1992). The damage from these four large earthquakes was limited because they occurred in areas which were sparsely populated at the time they happened. The seismic risk is much more severe today than in the past because the population at risk is in the millions, rather than a few hundred or a few thousand persons.

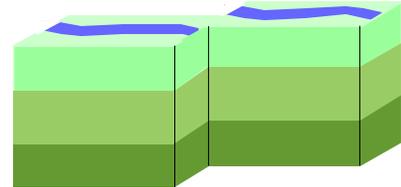
### History of Earthquake Events in Southern California

Since seismologists started recording and measuring earthquakes, there have been tens of thousands of recorded earthquakes in Southern California, most with a magnitude below three. No community in Southern California is beyond the reach of a damaging earthquake. Figure 4-1 describes the historical earthquake events that have affected Southern California.

**Figure 5-1 Causes and Characteristics of Earthquakes in Southern California**

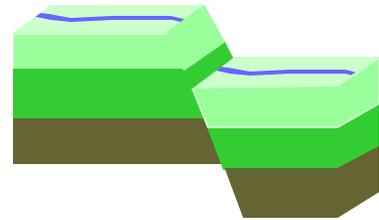
#### Earthquake Faults

A fault is a fracture along between blocks of the earth's crust where either side moves relative to the other along a parallel plane to the fracture.



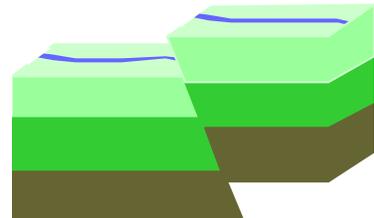
#### Strike-slip

Strike-slip faults are vertical or almost vertical rifts where the earth's plates move mostly horizontally. From the observer's perspective, if the opposite block looking across the fault moves to the right, the slip style is called a right lateral fault; if the block moves left, the shift is called a left lateral fault.



#### Dip-slip

Dip-slip faults are slanted fractures where the blocks mostly shift vertically. If the earth above an inclined fault moves down, the fault is called a normal fault, but when the rock above the fault moves up, the fault is called a reverse fault. Thrust faults have a reverse fault with a dip of 45 ° or less.



Dr. Kerry Sieh of Cal Tech has investigated the San Andreas Fault at Palmett Creek. "The record at Palmett Creek shows that rupture has recurred about every 130 years, on average, over the past 1500 years. But actual intervals have varied greatly, from less than 50 years

to more than 300. The physical cause of such irregular recurrence remains unknown.”<sup>2</sup> Damage from a great quake on the San Andreas would be widespread throughout Southern California.

## **Earthquake Related Hazards**

Ground shaking, landslides, liquefaction, and amplification are the specific hazards associated with earthquakes. The severity of these hazards depends on several factors, including soil and slope conditions, proximity to the fault, earthquake magnitude, and the type of earthquake.

### **Ground Shaking**

Ground shaking is the motion felt on the earth's surface caused by seismic waves generated by the earthquake. It is the primary cause of earthquake damage. The strength of ground shaking depends on the magnitude of the earthquake, the type of fault, and distance from the epicenter (where the earthquake originates). Buildings on poorly consolidated and thick soils will typically see more damage than buildings on consolidated soils and bedrock.

### **Earthquake-Induced Landslides**

Earthquake-induced landslides are secondary earthquake hazards that occur from ground shaking. They can destroy the roads, buildings, utilities, and other critical facilities necessary to respond and recover from an earthquake. Many communities in Southern California have a high likelihood of encountering such risks, especially in areas with steep slopes.

### **Liquefaction**

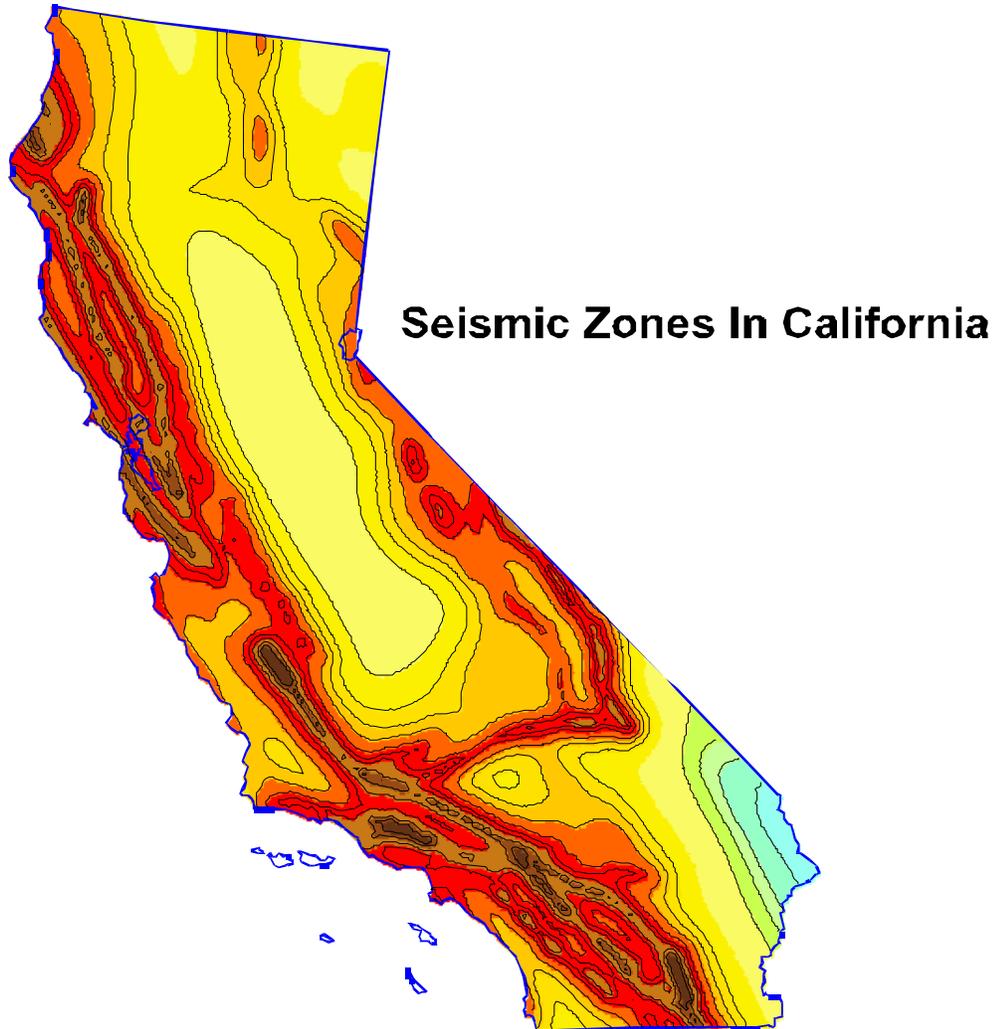
Liquefaction occurs when ground shaking causes wet granular soils to change from a solid state to a liquid state. This results in the loss of soil strength and the soil's ability to support weight. Buildings and their occupants are at risk when the ground can no longer support these buildings and structures. Many communities in Southern California are built on ancient river bottoms and have sandy soil. In some cases this ground may be subject to liquefaction, depending on the depth of the water table.

### **Amplification**

Soils and soft sedimentary rocks near the earth's surface can modify ground shaking caused by earthquakes. One of these modifications is amplification. Amplification increases the magnitude of the seismic waves generated by the earthquake. The amount of amplification is influenced by the thickness of geologic materials and their physical properties. Buildings and structures built on soft and unconsolidated soils can face greater risk.<sup>3</sup> Amplification can also occur in areas with deep sediment filled basins and on ridge tops.

## Map 5-1: Seismic Zones in California

### Earthquake Hazard Assessment



**Darker Shaded Areas indicate Greater Potential Shaking**

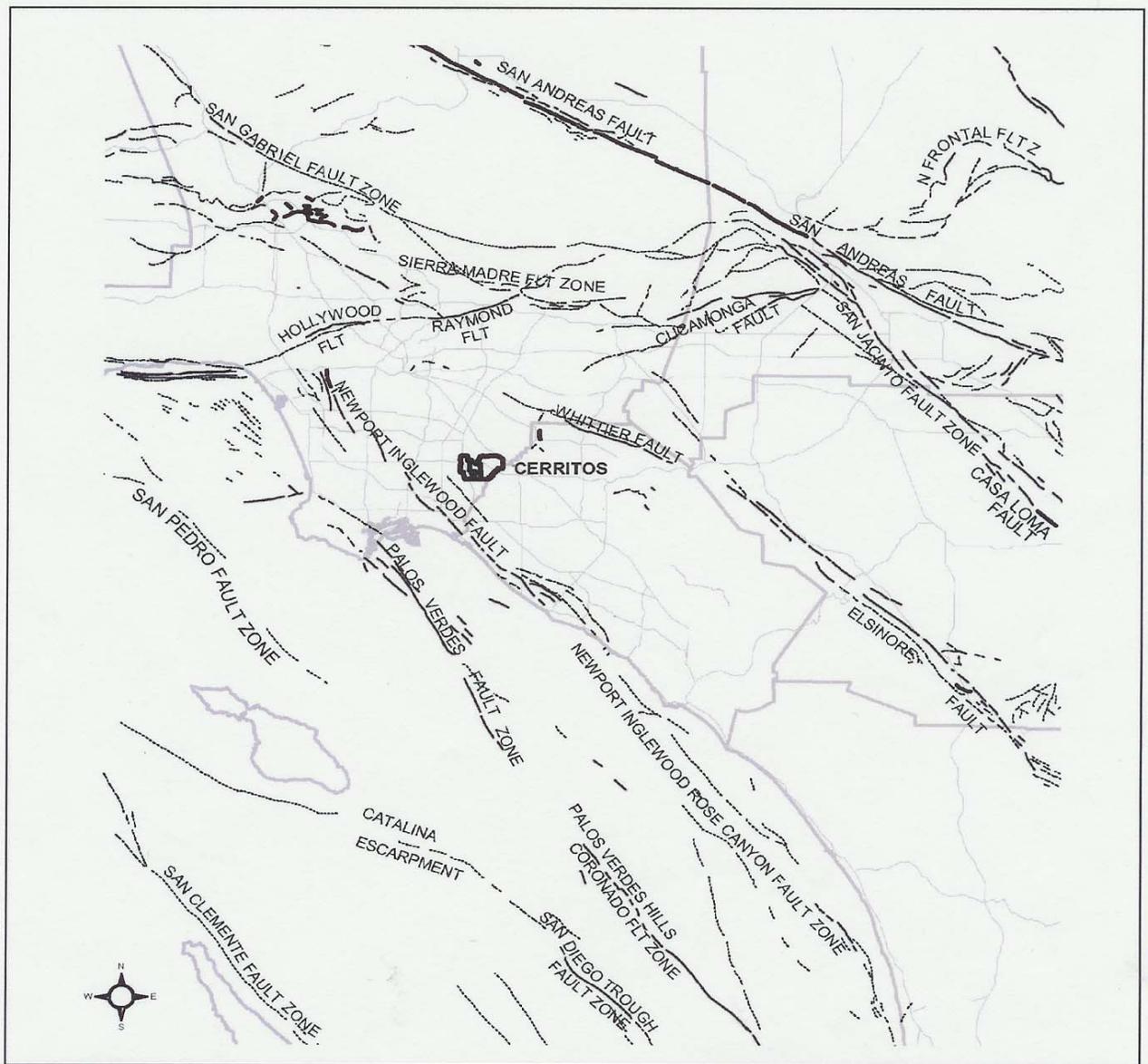
Source: USGS Website

**Hazard Identification**

In California, many agencies are focused on seismic safety issues: the State's Seismic Safety Commission, the Applied Technology Council, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, United States Geological Survey, Cal Tech, the California Geological Survey as well as a number of universities and private foundations.

These organizations, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, have undertaken a rigorous program in California to identify seismic hazards and risks including active fault identification, bedrock shaking, tsunami inundation zones, ground motion amplification, liquefaction, and earthquake induced landslides. Seismic hazard maps have been published and are available for many communities in California through the State Division of Mines and Geology.

**Map 5-2: Regional Active Faults (Source: City of Cerritos General Plan)**



- Cerritos City Boundary
- Roads
- County Boundary

- Quaternary fault (age undifferentiated) .Most faults of this category show displacement sometime during the past 1.6 million years.
- Late Quaternary fault displacement (during the last 700,000 years).
- Holocene fault displacement (during past 10,000 years).
- Faults along which historic (last 200 years) displacement has occurred and is associated with one or more of the following:
  - a) a recorded earthquake with surface rupture.
  - b) fault creep slippage - slow ground displacement usually without accompanying earthquakes.
  - c) displaced survey lines.

Source: Department of Conservation; Division of Mines and Geology; Fault Activity Map of California and Adjacent Areas with Locations and Ages of Recent Volcanic Eruptions; 1994

Compilation and Interpretation by Charles W. Jennings; with assistance from: George J. Saucedo.

Most of the data shown on this map were compiled from 1989 to 1992.

A Preliminary version was released in 1992. Additional data were added and revisions made in 1993 and 1994; this map supersedes the 1992 version. This compilation was completed before the preliminary Earthquake Fault Zones Maps of 1994 were completed so there may be minor differences.

Caution: This fault map and accompanying report are for use as a guide only and should not be used to replace site specific evaluation.



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## Regional Fault Map

Exhibit SAF-3

City of Cerritos, like most of the Los Angeles Basin, lie over the area of one or more known earthquake faults, and potentially many more unknown faults, particularly so-called lateral or blind thrust faults. As noted in the Cerritos General Plan, the major faults that have the potential to affect the greater Los Angeles Basin, and therefore the City of Cerritos are the: San Andreas, Newport-Inglewood, Palos Verdes, Whittier-Elsinore, Santa Monica, Norwalk, and Elysian Park.

The fault that is the closest, and has the most potential to cause damage to the City of Cerritos is the Norwalk Fault. This 16 mile in length fault runs approximately one mile north of Cerritos. The Norwalk fault has been active in the past, and may be the cause of a recent 4.7 magnitude earthquake.

In California, each earthquake is followed by revisions and improvements in the Building Codes. The 1933 Long Beach resulted in the Field Act, affecting school construction. The 1971 Sylmar earthquake brought another set of increased structural standards. Similar re-evaluations occurred after the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes. These code changes have resulted in stronger and more earthquake resistant structures.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. This state law was a direct result of the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake, which was associated with extensive surface fault ruptures that damaged numerous homes, commercial buildings, and other structures. Surface rupture is the most easily avoided seismic hazard.<sup>4</sup>

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, passed in 1990, addresses non-surface fault rupture earthquake hazards, including liquefaction and seismically induced landslides.<sup>5</sup> The State Department of Conservation operates the Seismic Mapping Program for California. Extensive information is available at their website:  
<http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp/index.htm>

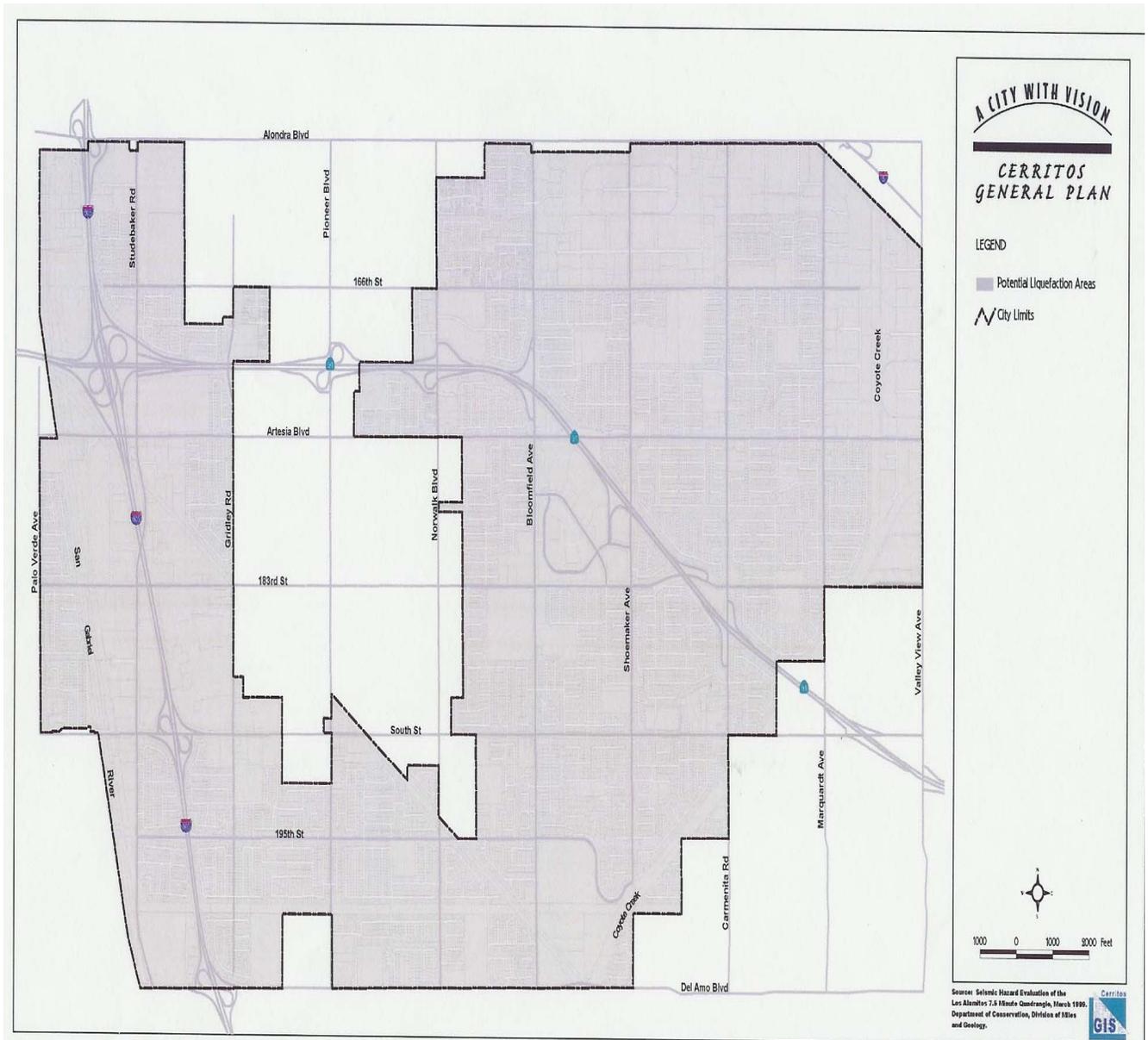
### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The effects of earthquakes span a large area, and large earthquakes occurring in many parts of the Southern California region would probably be felt throughout the region. However, the degree to which the earthquakes are felt, and the damages associated with them may vary. At risk from earthquake damage are large stocks of old buildings and bridges: many high tech and hazardous materials facilities: extensive sewer, water, and natural gas pipelines; earth dams; petroleum pipelines; and other critical facilities and private property located in the county. The relative or secondary earthquake hazards, which are liquefaction, ground shaking, amplification, and earthquake-induced landslides, can be just as devastating as the earthquake.

The City of Cerritos General Plan states that the entire City of Cerritos is in a liquefaction zone. Liquefaction occurs when ground shaking causes wet granular soils to change from

a solid state to a liquid state. This results in the loss of soil strength and the soil's ability to support weight. Buildings and their occupants are at risk when the ground can no longer support these buildings and structures. Table 4-3 identifies the local population centers in City of Cerritos that have soils vulnerable to liquefaction.

**Map 5-3: Liquefaction Areas in the City of Cerritos  
(Source: City of Cerritos General Plan)**



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**Potential Liquefaction Areas**  
 Exhibit SAF-4

Southern California has many active landslide areas, and a large earthquake could trigger accelerated movement in these slide areas, in addition to jarring loose other unknown areas of landslide risk.

## **Risk Analysis**

Risk analysis is the third phase of a hazard assessment. Risk analysis involves estimating the damage and costs likely to be experienced in a geographic area over a period of time<sup>6</sup>. Factors included in assessing earthquake risk include population and property distribution in the hazard area, the frequency of earthquake events, landslide susceptibility, buildings, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness of the region. This type of analysis can generate estimates of the damages to the region due to an earthquake event in a specific location. FEMA's software program, HAZUS, uses mathematical formulas and information about building stock, local geology and the location and size of potential earthquakes, economic data, and other information to estimate losses from a potential earthquake.<sup>7</sup> The HAZUS software is available from FEMA at no cost.

For greater Southern California there are multiple worst case scenarios, depending on which fault might rupture, and which communities are in proximity to the fault. But damage will not necessarily be limited to immediately adjoining communities. Depending on the hypocenter of the earthquake, seismic waves may be transmitted through the ground to unsuspecting communities. In the Northridge 1994 earthquake, Santa Monica suffered extensive damage, even though there was a range of mountains between it and the origin of the earthquake.

Damages for a large earthquake almost anywhere in Southern California are likely to run into the billions of dollars. Although building codes are some of the most stringent in the world, ten's of thousands of older existing buildings were built under much less rigid codes. California has laws affecting unreinforced masonry buildings (URM's) and although many building owners have retrofitted their buildings, hundreds of pre-1933 buildings still have not been brought up to current standards. The City of Cerritos has no unreinforced masonry buildings.

Non-structural bracing of equipment and contents is often the most cost-effective type of seismic mitigation. Inexpensive bracing and anchoring may be the most cost effective way to protect expensive equipment. Non-structural bracing of equipment and furnishings will also reduce the chance of injury for the occupants of a building.

## **Community Earthquake Issues**

### **What is Susceptible to Earthquakes?**

Earthquake damage occurs because humans have built structures that cannot withstand severe shaking. Buildings, airports, schools, and lifelines (highways and utility lines) suffer damage in earthquakes and can cause death or injury to humans. The welfare of homes, major businesses, and public infrastructure is very important. Addressing the reliability of buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure, and understanding the

potential costs to government, businesses, and individuals as a result of an earthquake, are challenges faced by the city.

### **Dams**

The City of Cerritos General Plan states that the Whittier Narrows Dam and the Prado Dam pose potential flooding hazards to the City of Cerritos. The Whittier Narrows Dam is located 11 miles upstream from the City and the Prado Dam is 27 miles upstream from the City. As for the Whittier Narrows Dam, should dam inundation occur the entire City of Cerritos would be in the inundation path except for the region north of SR-91 Freeway and east of Bloomfield Ave. The water would reach the City of Cerritos within 15 hours and would be four feet deep. If the Prado Dam were to fail, the floodwaters would flow along the Santa Ana River and inundate the city from the northwest to the southwest. Additionally, the floodwaters would reach the City of Cerritos in 8.5 hours and be seven feet deep.

There are a total of 103 dams in Los Angeles County, owned by 23 agencies or organizations, ranging from the Federal government to Home Owner Associations.<sup>8</sup> These dams hold billions of gallons of water in reservoirs. Releases of water from the major reservoirs are designed to protect Southern California from floodwaters and to store domestic water. Seismic activity can compromise the dam structures, and the resultant flooding could cause catastrophic flooding. Following the 1971 Sylmar earthquake the Lower Van Norman Dam showed signs of structural compromise, and tens of thousands of persons had to be evacuated until the dam could be drained. The dam has never been refilled.

### **Buildings**

The built environment is susceptible to damage from earthquakes. Buildings that collapse can trap and bury people. Lives are at risk and the cost to clean up the damages is great. In most California communities, including the City of Cerritos, many buildings were built before 1993 when building codes were not as strict. In addition, retrofitting is not required except under certain conditions and can be expensive. Therefore, the number of buildings at risk remains high. The California Seismic Safety Commission makes annual reports on the progress of the retrofitting of unreinforced masonry buildings.

### **Infrastructure and Communication**

Residents in the City of Cerritos commute frequently by automobiles and public transportation such as buses and light rail. An earthquake can greatly damage bridges and roads, hampering emergency response efforts and the normal movement of people and goods. Damaged infrastructure strongly affects the economy of the community because it disconnects people from work, school, food, and leisure, and separates businesses from their customers and suppliers.

### **Bridge Damage**

Even modern bridges can sustain damage during earthquakes, leaving them unsafe for use. Some bridges have failed completely due to strong ground motion. Bridges are a vital transportation link - with even minor damages making some areas inaccessible. Because bridges vary in size, materials, location and design, any given earthquake will affect them differently. Bridges built before the mid-1970's have a significantly higher risk of suffering structural damage during a moderate to large earthquake compared with those built after 1980 when design improvements were made.

Much of the interstate highway system was built in the mid to late 1960's. The bridges in the City of Cerritos are state, county or privately owned (including railroad bridges). Caltrans has retrofitted most bridges on the freeway systems; however there are still some county maintained bridges that are not retrofitted. The FHWA requires that bridges on the National Bridge Inventory be inspected every 2 years. Caltrans checks when the bridges are inspected because they administer the Federal funds for bridge projects.

### **Damage to Lifelines**

Lifelines are the connections between communities and outside services. They include water and gas lines, transportation systems, electricity, and communication networks. Ground shaking and amplification can cause pipes to break open, power lines to fall, roads and railways to crack or move, and radio and telephone communication to cease. Disruption to transportation makes it especially difficult to bring in supplies or services. Lifelines need to be usable after earthquake to allow for rescue, recovery, and rebuilding efforts and to relay important information to the public.

### **Disruption of Critical Services**

Critical facilities include police stations, fire stations, hospitals, shelters, and other facilities that provide important services to the community. These facilities and their services need to be functional after an earthquake event. Many critical facilities are housed in older buildings that are not up to current seismic codes.

### **Businesses**

Seismic activity can cause great loss to businesses, both large-scale corporations and small retail shops. When a company is forced to stop production for just a day, the economic loss can be tremendous, especially when its market is at a national or global level. Seismic activity can create economic loss that presents a burden to large and small shop owners who may have difficulty recovering from their losses.

Forty percent of businesses do not reopen after a disaster and another twenty-five percent fail within one year according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Similar statistics from the United States Small Business Administration indicate that over ninety percent of businesses fail within two years after being struck by a disaster.<sup>9</sup>

### **Individual Preparedness**

Because the potential for earthquake occurrences and earthquake related property damage is relatively high in the City of Cerritos, increasing individual preparedness is a significant need. Strapping down heavy furniture, water heaters, and expensive personal property, as well as being earthquake insured, and anchoring buildings to foundations are just a few steps individuals can take to prepare for an earthquake.

### **Death and Injury**

Death and injury can occur both inside and outside of buildings due to collapsed buildings falling equipment, furniture, debris, and structural materials. Downed power lines and broken water and gas lines can also endanger human life.

### **Fire**

Downed power lines or broken gas mains may trigger fires. When fire stations suffer building or lifeline damage, quick response to extinguish fires is less likely. Furthermore, major incidents will demand a larger share of resources, and initially smaller fires and problems will receive little or insufficient resources in the initial hours after a major earthquake event. Loss of electricity may cause a loss of water pressure in some communities, further hampering fire fighting ability.

### **Debris**

After damage to a variety of structures, much time is spent cleaning up bricks, glass, wood, steel or concrete building elements, office and home contents, and other materials. Developing a strong debris management strategy is essential in post-disaster recovery. Disasters do not exempt the City of Cerritos from compliance with AB 939 regulations.

### **Damage Estimates of an 8.3 Earthquake**

The City of Cerritos Multi-Hazard Functional Plan highlights the following losses that could occur if the City experienced an 8.3 magnitude earthquake.

**Mass Casualty/Fatality** – The City estimates 44 people would lose their lives and there would be 176 major injuries, and 1320 minor injuries.

**Sheltering** – There could be as many as 1,000 people displaced due to an earthquake of this magnitude.

**Highways and Bridges** – Damage to the transportation systems are expected to be catastrophic and delays and detours are to be expected.

**Communications** – Communications Systems will be affected due to the loss of electrical power and power sources. Additionally, it will be difficult for repair workers to fix equipment in affected areas.

**Radio and Broadcast Systems** – There will be a decreased functioning of radio systems and commercial broadcast systems. All radio and TV operations may be out of service for as long as 24 hours however after that period, 50% of the services are expected to be available

**Water Supply and Waste Disposal** – Due to loss of power and damage to water supplies water availability could be compromised. Sewage treatment facilities could have serious waste disposal issues due to damage and power loss.

**Electric Power** – Disruption to power plants is expected to reduce output by 50%.

**Natural Gas** – Natural gas lines could be damaged and leaks and loss of service are to be expected. Fires along gas lines will pose additional threats.

#### End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/earthq3/when.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gps.caltech.edu/~sieh/home.html>

<sup>3</sup> Planning for Natural Hazards: The California Technical Resource Guide, Department of Land Conservation and Development (July 2000)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/rghm/ap/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Burby, R. (Ed.) Cooperating with Nature: Confronting Natural Hazards with Land Use Planning for Sustainable Communities (1998), Washington D.C., Joseph Henry Press.

<sup>7</sup> FEMA HAZUS <http://www.fema.gov/hazus/hazus2.htm> (May 2001).

<sup>8</sup> Source: Los Angeles County Public Works Department, March 2004

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.chamber101.com/programs\\_committee/natural\\_disasters/DisasterPreparedness/Forty.htm](http://www.chamber101.com/programs_committee/natural_disasters/DisasterPreparedness/Forty.htm)

# Section 6: Flooding Hazards in the City of Cerritos

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### **Why are Floods a Threat to the City of Cerritos?**

There are a number of rivers in the Southern California region, but the river with the best recorded history is the Los Angeles River. The flood history of the Los Angeles River is generally indicative of the flood history of much of Southern California.

Although there has never been a major flood event in the City of Cerritos there are multiple waterways and dams that pose a threat to the city. The National Flood Insurance Program has classified the City of Cerritos as a “Zone C” or city of minimal flood hazard. As stated in the City of Cerritos General Plan, the San Gabriel River runs along the western border of the City and Coyote Creek borders the southeast portion of the City. Both channels of water are identified as floodways and have a potential impact on the City of Cerritos. Additionally, the Whittier Narrows Dam and Prado Dam pose a potential threat due to dam inundation.

### **Historic Flooding in Los Angeles County**

Records show that since 1811, the Los Angeles River has flooded 30 times, on average once every 6.1 years. But averages are deceiving, for the Los Angeles basin goes through periods of drought and then periods of above average rainfall. Between 1889 and 1891 the river flooded every year, and from 1941 to 1945, the river flooded 5 times. Conversely, from 1896 to 1914, a period of 18 years, and again from 1944 to 1969, a period of 25 years, the river did not have serious floods.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 6-1: Major Floods of the Los Angeles River**

<b>Major Floods of the Los Angeles River</b>	
1811	Flooding
1815	Flooding
1825	L.A. River changed its course back from the Ballona wetlands to San Pedro
1832	Heavy flooding
1861-62	Heavy flooding. Fifty inches of rain falls during December and January.
1867	Floods create a large, temporary lake out to Ballona Creek.
1876	The Novician Deluge
1884	Heavy flooding causes the river to change course again, turning east to Vernon and then southward to San Pedro.
1888-1891	Annual floods
1914	Heavy flooding. Great damage to the harbor.
1921	Flooding
1927	Moderate flood
1934	Moderate flood starting January 1. Forty dead in La Canada.
1938	Great County-wide flood with 4 days of rain. Most rain on day 4.

1941-44	L.A. River floods five times.
1952	Moderate flooding
1969	One heavy flood after 9 day storm. One moderate flood.
1978	Two moderate floods
1979	Los Angeles experiences severe flooding and mudslides.
1980	Flood tops banks of river in Long Beach. Sepulveda Basin spillway almost opened.
1983	Flooding kills six people.
1992	15 year flood. Motorists trapped in Sepulveda basin. Six people dead.
1994	Heavy flooding
Sources: <a href="http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/target/units/river/tour/hist.html">http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/target/units/river/tour/hist.html</a> and ( <a href="http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/History/hi01i.htm">http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/History/hi01i.htm</a> )	

While the City of Cerritos is 20 miles southeast of Los Angeles, it is not so far away as to not be affected by the heavy rains that brought flooding to Los Angeles. In addition, the towering mountains that give the Los Angeles region its spectacular views also wring a great deal of rain out of the storm clouds that pass through. Because the mountains are so steep, the rainwater moves rapidly down the slopes and across the coastal plains on its way to the ocean.

“The Santa Monica, Santa Susana and Verdugo Mountains, which surround three sides of the valley, seldom reach heights above three thousand feet. The Western San Gabriel Mountains, in contrast, have elevations of more than seven thousand feet. These higher ridges often trap eastern-moving winter storms. Although downtown Los Angeles averages just fifteen inches of rain a year, some mountain peaks in the San Gabriels receive more than forty inches of precipitation annually”<sup>2</sup>

Naturally, this rainfall moves rapidly down stream, often with severe consequences for anything in its path. In extreme cases, flood-generated debris flows will roar down a canyon at speeds near 40 miles per hour with a wall of mud, debris and water tens of feet high.

In Southern California, stories of floods, debris flows, persons buried alive under tons of mud and rock and persons swept away to their death in a river flowing at thirty-five miles an hour are without end.

### **What Factors Create Flood Risk?**

Flooding occurs when climate, geology, and hydrology combine to create conditions where water flows outside of its usual course. In the City of Cerritos, geography and climate combine to create potential seasonal flooding conditions.

### Winter Rainfall

Over the last 125 years, the average annual rainfall in Los Angeles is 14.9 inches. But the term “average” means very little as the annual rainfall during this time period has ranged from only 4.35 inches in 2001-2002 to 38.2 inches in 1883-1884. In fact, in only fifteen of the past 125 years, has the annual rainfall been within plus or minus 10% of the 14.9 inch average. And in only 38 years has the annual rainfall been within plus or minus 20% of the 14.9 inch average. This makes the Los Angeles basin a land of extremes in terms of annual precipitation.

### Monsoons

Another relatively regular source for heavy rainfall, particularly in the mountains and adjoining cities is from summer tropical storms. Table 6-2 lists tropical storms that have had significant rainfall in the past century, and the general areas affected by these storms. These tropical storms usually coincide with El Niño years.

**Table 6-2: Tropical Cyclones of Southern California**

<b>Tropical cyclones that have affected Southern California during the 20th Century</b>			
<b>Month-Year</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Area(s) Affected</b>	<b>Rainfall</b>
July 1902	20th & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Deserts & Southern Mountains	up to 2"
Aug. 1906	18th & 19th	Deserts & Southern Mountains	up to 5"
Sept. 1910	15th	Mountains of Santa Barbara County	2"
Aug. 1921	20th & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Deserts & Southern Mountains	up to 2"
Sept. 1921	30th	Deserts	up to 4"
Sept. 1929	18th	Southern Mountains & Deserts	up to 4"
Sept. 1932	28 <sup>th</sup> - Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mountains & Deserts, 15 Fatalities	up to 7"
Aug. 1935	25th	Southern Valleys, Mountains & Deserts	up to 2"
Sept. 1939	4th - 7th	Southern Mountains, Southern & Eastern Deserts	up to 7"
	11th & 12th	Deserts, Central & Southern Mountains	up to 4"
	19th - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Deserts, Central & Southern Mountains	up to 3"
	25th	Long Beach, W/ Sustained Winds of 50 Mph Surrounding Mountains	5" 6 to 12"
Sept. 1945	9th & 10th	Central & Southern Mountains	up to 2"
Sept. 1946	30 <sup>th</sup> - Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Southern Mountains	up to 4"
Aug. 1951	27th - 29th	Southern Mountains & Deserts	2 to 5"
Sept. 1952	19th - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Central & Southern Mountains	up to 2"
July 1954	17th - 19th	Deserts & Southern Mountains	up to 2"
July 1958	28th & 29th	Deserts & Southern Mountains	up to 2"

<b>Tropical cyclones that have affected Southern California during the 20th Century</b>			
Sept. 1960	9th & 10th	Julian	3.40"
Sept. 1963	17th - 19th	Central & Southern Mountains	up to 7"
Sept. 1967	1st - 3rd	Southern Mountains & Deserts	2"
Oct. 1972	6th	Southeast Deserts	up to 2"
Sept. 1976	10th & 11th	Central & Southern Mountains. Ocotillo, CA was Destroyed 3 Fatalities	6 to 12"
Aug. 1977	n/a	Los Angeles	2"
		Mountains	up to 8"
Oct. 1977	6th & 7th	Southern Mountains & Deserts	up to 2
Sept. 1978	5th & 6th	Mountains	3"
Sept. 1982	24th - 26th	Mountains	up to 4"
Sept. 1983	20th & 21st	Southern Mountains & Deserts	up to 3"
<a href="http://www.fema.gov/nwz97/el_n_scal.shtm">http://www.fema.gov/nwz97/el_n_scal.shtm</a>			

### **Geography and Geology**

The greater Los Angeles Basin is the product of rainstorms and erosion for millennia. “Most of the mountains that ring the valleys and coastal plain are deeply fractured faults and, as they (the mountains) grew taller, their brittle slopes were continually eroded. Rivers and streams carried boulders, rocks, gravel, sand, and silt down these slopes to the valleys and coastal plain....In places these sediments are as much as twenty thousand feet thick”<sup>3</sup>

Much of the coastal plain rests on the ancient rock debris and sediment washed down from the mountains. This sediment can act as a sponge, absorbing vast quantities of rain in those years when heavy rains follow a dry period. But like a sponge that is near saturation, the same soil fills up rapidly when a heavy rain follows a period of relatively wet weather. So even in some years of heavy rain, flooding is minimal because the ground is relatively dry. The same amount of rain following a wet period of time can cause extensive flooding.

The greater Los Angeles basin is for all intents and purposes developed. This leaves precious little open land to absorb rainfall. This lack of open ground forces water to remain on the surface and rapidly accumulate. If it were not for the massive flood control system with its concrete lined river and stream beds, flooding would be a much more common occurrence. And the tendency is towards even less and less open land. In-fill building is becoming a much more common practice in many areas. Developers tear down an older home, which typically covers up to 40% of the lot size and replacing it with three or four town homes or apartments, which may cover 90-95% of the lot. Another potential source of flooding is “asphalt creep.” The street space between the curbs of a street is a part of the flood control system. Water leaves property and

accumulates in the streets, where it is directed towards the underground portion of the flood control system. The carrying capacity of the street is determined by the width of the street and the height of the curbs along the street. Often, when streets are being resurfaced, a one to two inch layer of asphalt is laid down over the existing asphalt. This added layer of asphalt subtracts from the rated capacity of the street to carry water. Thus the original engineered capacity of the entire storm drain system is marginally reduced over time. Subsequent re-paving of the street will further reduce the engineered capacity even more.

## **Flood Terminology**

### **Floodplain**

A floodplain is a land area adjacent to a river, stream, lake, estuary, or other water body that is subject to flooding. This area, if left undisturbed, acts to store excess flood water. The floodplain is made up of two sections: the floodway and the flood fringe.

### **100-Year Flood**

The 100-year flooding event is the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in magnitude in any given year. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a flood occurring once every 100 years. The 100-year floodplain is the area adjoining a river, stream, or watercourse covered by water in the event of a 100-year flood.

### **Floodway**

The floodway is one of two main sections that make up the floodplain. Floodways are defined for regulatory purposes. Unlike floodplains, floodways do not reflect a recognizable geologic feature. For NFIP purposes, floodways are defined as the channel of a river or stream, and the overbank areas adjacent to the channel. The floodway carries the bulk of the floodwater downstream and is usually the area where water velocities and forces are the greatest. NFIP regulations require that the floodway be kept open and free from development or other structures that would obstruct or divert flood flows onto other properties.

The City of Cerritos regulations prohibit all development in the floodway. The NFIP floodway definition is "the channel of a river or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

### **Flood Fringe**

The flood fringe refers to the outer portions of the floodplain, beginning at the edge of the floodway and continuing outward.

### **Base Flood Elevation (BFE)**

The term "Base Flood Elevation" refers to the elevation (normally measured in feet above sea level) that the base flood is expected to reach. Base flood elevations can be set at levels other than the 100-year flood. Some communities choose to use higher frequency

flood events as their base flood elevation for certain activities, while using lower frequency events for others. For example, for the purpose of storm water management, a 25-year flood event might serve as the base flood elevation; while the 500-year flood event may serve as base flood elevation for the tie down of mobile homes. The regulations of the NFIP focus on development in the 100-year floodplain.

### **Characteristics of Flooding**

Two types of flooding could affect the City of Cerritos: riverine flooding and urban flooding (see descriptions below). In addition, any low-lying area has the potential to flood. The flooding of developed areas may occur when the amount of water generated from rainfall and runoff exceeds a storm water system's capability to remove it.

### **Riverine Flooding**

Riverine flooding is the overbank flooding of rivers and streams. The natural processes of riverine flooding add sediment and nutrients to fertile floodplain areas. Flooding in large river systems typically results from large-scale weather systems that generate prolonged rainfall over a wide geographic area, causing flooding in hundreds of smaller streams, which then drain into the major rivers. Map 6-1 shows the various river basins (or flood zones) in the City of Cerritos.

Shallow area flooding is a special type of riverine flooding. FEMA defines shallow flood hazards as areas that are inundated by the 100-year flood with flood depths of only one to three feet. These areas are generally flooded by low velocity sheet flows of water.

### **Urban Flooding**

As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads and parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization of a watershed changes the hydrologic systems of the basin. Heavy rainfall collects and flows faster on impervious concrete and asphalt surfaces. The water moves from the clouds, to the ground, and into streams at a much faster rate in urban areas. Adding these elements to the hydrological systems can result in flood waters that rise very rapidly and peak with violent force.

Most of the City of Cerritos has a high concentration of impermeable surfaces that either collect water, or concentrate the flow of water in unnatural channels. During periods of urban flooding, streets can become swift moving rivers and basements can fill with water. Storm drains often back up with vegetative debris causing additional, localized flooding.

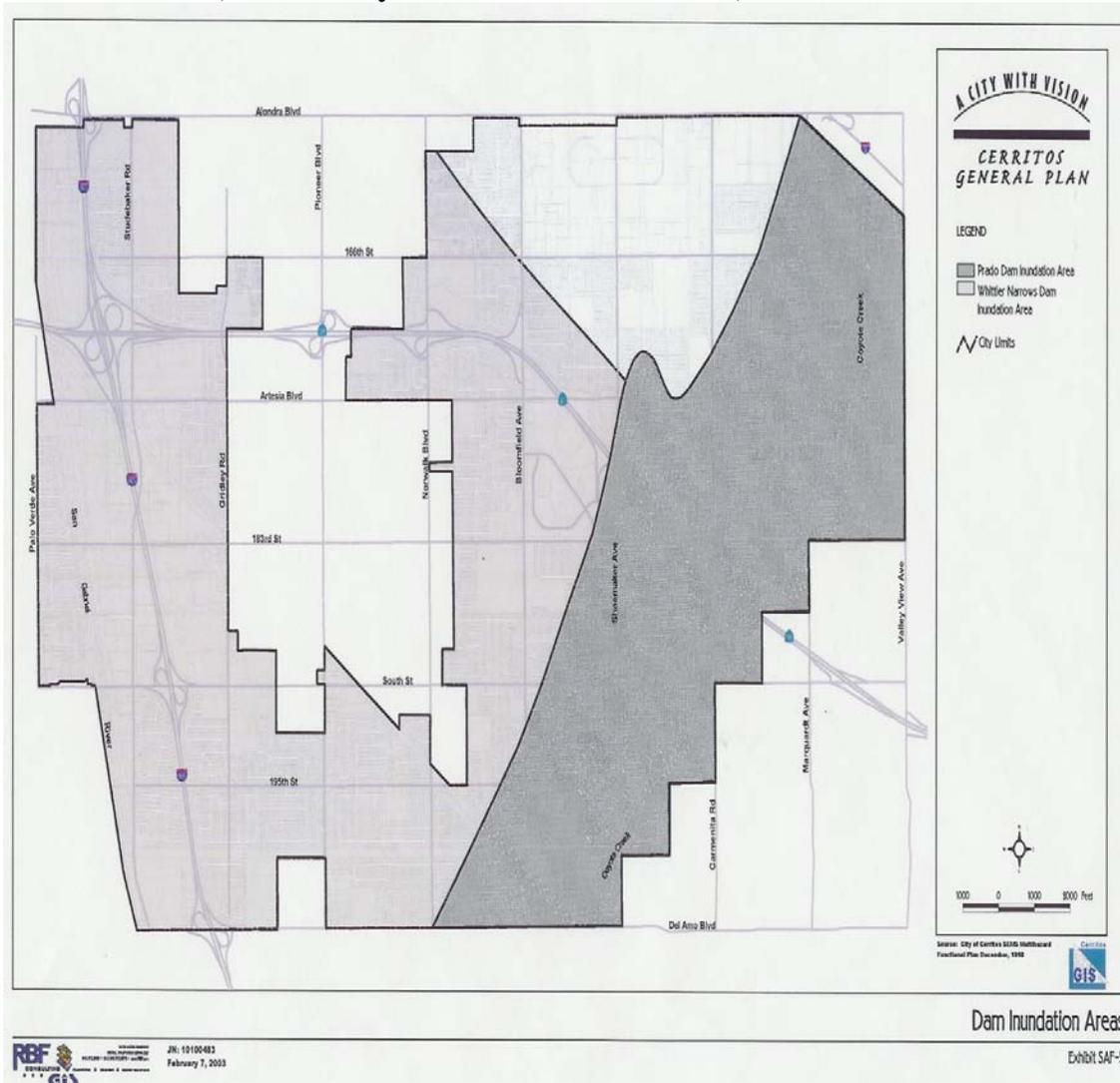
### **Dam Failure Flooding**

Loss of life and damage to structures, roads, and utilities may result from a dam failure. Economic losses can also result from a lowered tax base and lack of utility profits. These effects would certainly accompany the failure of one of the major dams in the City of Cerritos. Because dam failure can have severe consequences, FEMA requires that all dam owners develop Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for warning, evacuation, and post-flood actions. Although there may be coordination with county officials in the development of the EAP, the responsibility for developing potential flood inundation

maps and facilitation of emergency response is the responsibility of the dam owner. For more detailed information regarding dam failure flooding, and potential flood inundation zones for a particular dam in the county, refer to the City of Cerritos Emergency Action Plan.

The City of Cerritos General Plan states that the Whittier Narrows Dam and the Prado Dam pose potential flooding hazards to the City of Cerritos. The Whittier Narrows Dam is located 11 miles upstream from the City and the Prado Dam is 27 miles upstream from the City. As for the Whittier Narrows Dam, should dam inundation occur the entire City of Cerritos would be in the inundation path except for the region north of SR-91 Freeway and east of Bloomfield Ave. The water would reach the City of Cerritos within 15 hours and would be four feet deep. If the Prado Dam were to fail, the floodwaters would flow along the Santa Ana River and inundate the city from the northwest to the southwest. Additionally, the floodwaters would reach the City of Cerritos in 8.5 hours and be seven feet deep.

**Map 6-1: Dam Inundation Areas in the City of Cerritos**  
 (Source: City of Cerritos General Plan)



There have been a total of 45 dam failures in California, since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The significant dam failures in Southern California are listed in Table 6-3.

**Table 6-3: Dam Failures in Southern California**

Dam Failures in Southern California			
Sheffield	Santa Barbara	1925	Earthquake slide
Puddingstone	Pomona	1926	Overtopping during construction
Lake Hemet	Palm Springs	1927	Overtopping

Saint Francis	San Francis Quito Canyon	1928	Sudden failure at full capacity through foundation, 426 deaths
Cogswell	Monrovia	1934	Breaching of concrete cover
Baldwin Hills	Los Angeles	1963	Leak through embankment turned into washout, 3 deaths
<a href="http://cee.engr.ucdavis.edu/faculty/lund/dams/Dam_History_Page/Failures.htm">http://cee.engr.ucdavis.edu/faculty/lund/dams/Dam_History_Page/Failures.htm</a>			

The two most significant dam failures are the St. Francis Dam in 1928 and the Baldwin Hills Dam in 1963.

“The failure of the St. Francis Dam, and the resulting loss of over 500 lives in the path of a roaring wall of water, was a scandal that resulted in the almost complete destruction of the reputation of its builder, William Mulholland.

Mulholland was an immigrant from Ireland who rose up through the ranks of the city's water department to the position of chief engineer. It was he who proposed, designed, and supervised the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which brought water from the Owens Valley to the city. The St. Francis Dam, built in 1926, was 180 feet high and 600 feet long; it was located near Saugus in the San Francis Quito Canyon.

The dam gave way on March 12, 1928, three minutes before midnight. Its waters swept through the Santa Clara Valley toward the Pacific Ocean, about 54 miles away. 65 miles of valley was devastated before the water finally made its way into the ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. At its peak the wall of water was said to be 78 feet high; by the time it hit Santa Paula, 42 miles south of the dam, the water was estimated to be 25 feet deep. Almost everything in its path was destroyed: livestock, structures, railways, bridges, and orchards. By the time it was over, parts of Ventura County lay under 70 feet of mud and debris. Over 500 people were killed and damage estimates topped \$20 million.”<sup>4</sup>

The Baldwin Hills dam failed during the daylight hours, and was one of the first disaster events documented a live helicopter broadcast.

“The Baldwin Hills Dam collapsed with the fury of a thousand cloudbursts, sending a 50-foot wall of water down Cloverdale Avenue and slamming into homes and cars on Dec. 14, 1963.

Five people were killed. Sixty-five hillside houses were ripped apart, and 210 homes and apartments were damaged. The flood swept northward in a V-shaped path roughly bounded by La Brea Avenue and Jefferson and La Cienega boulevards.

The earthen dam that created a 19-acre reservoir to supply drinking water for West Los Angeles residents ruptured at 3:38 p.m. As a pencil-thin crack widened to a 75-foot gash, 292 million gallons surged out. It took 77 minutes for the lake to empty. But it took a generation for the neighborhood below to recover. And two decades passed before the Baldwin Hills ridge top was reborn.

The cascade caused an unexpected ripple effect that is still being felt in Los Angeles and beyond. It foreshadowed the end of urban-area earthen dams as a major element of the Department of Water and Power's water storage system. It prompted a tightening of Division of Safety of Dams control over reservoirs throughout the state.

The live telecast of the collapse from a KTLA-TV helicopter is considered the precursor to airborne news coverage that is now routine everywhere.”<sup>5</sup>

**Photo 6-1: Baldwin Hills Dam**



Baldwin Hills Dam - Dark spot in upper right hand quadrant shows the beginning of the break in the dam.

### **Debris Flows**

Another flood related hazard that can affect certain parts of the Southern California region are debris flows. Most typically debris flows occur in mountain canyons and the foothills against the San Gabriel Mountains. However, any hilly or mountainous area with intense rainfall and the proper geologic conditions may experience one of these very sudden and devastating events.

“Debris flows, sometimes referred to as mudslides, mudflows, lahars, or debris avalanches, are common types of fast-moving landslides. These flows generally occur during periods of intense rainfall or rapid snow melt. They usually start on steep hillsides as shallow landslides that liquefy and accelerate to speeds that are typically about 10 miles per hour, but can exceed 35 miles per hour. The consistency of debris flow ranges from watery mud to thick, rocky mud that can carry large items such as boulders, trees, and cars. Debris flows from many different sources can combine in channels, and their destructive power may be greatly increased. They continue flowing down hills and through channels, growing in volume with the addition of water, sand, mud, boulders, trees, and other materials. When the flows reach flatter ground, the debris spreads over a broad area, sometimes accumulating in thick deposits that can wreak havoc in developed areas.”<sup>6</sup>

## **Coastal Flooding**

Low lying coastal communities of Southern California have one other source of flooding, coastal flooding. This occurs most often during storms which bring higher than normal tides. Storms, the time of year and the tidal cycle can sometimes work to bring much higher than normal tides which cause flooding in low lying coastal areas. This hazard however is limited to those areas.

## **What is the Effect of Development on Floods?**

When structures or fill are placed in the floodway or floodplain water is displaced. Development raises the river levels by forcing the river to compensate for the flow space obstructed by the inserted structures and/or fill. When structures or materials are added to the floodway or floodplain and no fill is removed to compensate, serious problems can arise. Flood waters may be forced away from historic floodplain areas. As a result, other existing floodplain areas may experience flood waters that rise above historic levels. Local governments must require engineer certification to ensure that proposed developments will not adversely affect the flood carrying capacity of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Displacement of only a few inches of water can mean the difference between no structural damage occurring in a given flood event, and the inundation of many homes, businesses, and other facilities. Careful attention should be given to development that occurs within the floodway to ensure that structures are prepared to withstand base flood events. In highly urbanized areas, increased paving can lead to an increase in volume and velocity of runoff after a rainfall event, exacerbating the potential flood hazards. Care should be taken in the development and implementation of storm water management systems to ensure that these runoff waters are dealt with effectively.

## **How are Flood-Prone Areas Identified?**

Flood maps and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) are often used to identify flood-prone areas. The NFIP was established in 1968 as a means of providing low-cost flood insurance to the nation's flood-prone communities. The NFIP also reduces flood losses through regulations that focus on building codes and sound floodplain management. NFIP regulations (44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 1, Section 60, 3) require that all new construction in floodplains must be elevated at or above base flood level.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) Floodplain maps are the basis for implementing floodplain regulations and for delineating flood insurance purchase requirements. A Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is the official map produced by FEMA which delineates SFHA in communities where NFIP regulations apply. FIRMs are also used by insurance agents and mortgage lenders to determine if flood insurance is required and what insurance rates should apply.

Water surface elevations are combined with topographic data to develop FIRMs. FIRMs illustrate areas that would be inundated during a 100-year flood, floodway areas, and elevations marking the 100-year-flood level. In some cases they also include base flood elevations (BFEs) and areas located within the 500-year floodplain. Flood Insurance

Studies and FIRMs produced for the NFIP provide assessments of the probability of flooding at a given location. FEMA conducted many Flood Insurance Studies in the late 1970s and early 1980s. These studies and maps represent flood risk at the point in time when FEMA completed the studies. However, it is important to note that not all 100-year or 500-year floodplains have been mapped by FEMA.

FEMA flood maps are not entirely accurate. These studies and maps represent flood risk at the point in time when FEMA completed the studies, and does not incorporate planning for floodplain changes in the future due to new development. Although FEMA is considering changing that policy, it is optional for local communities. Man-made and natural changes to the environment have changed the dynamics of storm water run-off since then.

### **Flood Mapping Methods and Techniques**

Although many communities rely exclusively on FIRMs to characterize the risk of flooding in their area, there are some flood-prone areas that are not mapped but remain susceptible to flooding. These areas include locations next to small creeks, local drainage areas, and areas susceptible to manmade flooding.

Communities find it particularly useful to overlay flood hazard areas on tax assessment parcel maps. This allows a community to evaluate the flood hazard risk for a specific parcel during review of a development request. Coordination between FEMA and local planning jurisdictions is the key to making a strong connection with GIS technology for the purpose of flood hazard mapping.

FEMA and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), a private company, have formed a partnership to provide multi-hazard maps and information to the public via the Internet. ESRI produces GIS software, including ArcViewC9 and ArcInfoC9 . The ESRI web site has information on GIS technology and downloadable maps. The hazards maps provided on the ESRI site are intended to assist communities in evaluating geographic information about natural hazards. Flood information for most communities is available on the ESRI web site. Visit [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com) for more information.

## **Hazard Assessment**

### **Hazard Identification**

Hazard identification is the first phase of flood-hazard assessment. Identification is the process of estimating: (1) the geographic extent of the floodplain (i.e., the area at risk from flooding); (2) the intensity of the flooding that can be expected in specific areas of the floodplain; and (3) the probability of occurrence of flood events. This process usually results in the creation of a floodplain map. Floodplain maps provide detailed information that can assist jurisdictions in making policies and land-use decisions.

### **Data Sources**

FEMA mapped the 100 -year and 500-year floodplains through the Flood Insurance

Study (FIS) in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in August of 1987. There were previous studies done, including a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) study, which mapped the floodplain in March of 1978, this is when the City of Cerritos initially entered into the NFIP. The county has updated portions of the USACE and FEMA maps through smaller drainage studies in the county since that time. The City of Cerritos is no longer located within the 100-year floodplain.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

Vulnerability assessment is the second step of flood-hazard assessment. It combines the floodplain boundary, generated through hazard identification, with an inventory of the property within the floodplain. Understanding the population and property exposed to natural hazards will assist in reducing risk and preventing loss from future events.

Because site-specific inventory data and inundation levels given for a particular flood event (10-year, 25-year, 50-year, 100-year, 500-year) are not readily available, calculating a community's vulnerability to flood events is not straightforward. The amount of property in the floodplain, as well as the type and value of structures on those properties, should be calculated to provide a working estimate for potential flood losses.

Appendix F describes the number of acres, tax lots, and the value of property within the City of Cerritos 100-year floodplain, as well as properties vulnerable to other identified natural hazards.

### **Disruption of Critical Services**

Critical facilities include police stations, fire stations, hospitals, shelters, and other facilities that provide important services to the community. These facilities and their services need to be functional after a flooding event.

### **Risk Analysis**

Risk analysis is the third and most advanced phase of a hazard assessment. It builds upon the hazard identification and vulnerability assessment. A flood risk analysis for the City of Cerritos should include two components: (1) the life and value of property that may incur losses from a flood event (defined through the vulnerability assessment); and (2) the number and type of flood events expected to occur over time. Within the broad components of a risk analysis, it is possible to predict the severity of damage from a range of events. Flow velocity models can assist in predicting the amount of damage expected from different magnitudes of flood events. The data used to develop these models is based on hydrological analysis of landscape features. Changes in the landscape, often associated with human development, can alter the flow velocity and the severity of damage that can be expected from a flood event.

Using GIS technology and flow velocity models, it is possible to map the damage that can be expected from flood events over time. It is also possible to pinpoint the effects of certain flood events on individual properties. At the time of publication of this plan, data was insufficient to conduct a risk analysis for flood events in the City of Cerritos.

However, the current mapping projects will result in better data that will assist in understanding risk. This plan includes recommendations for building partnerships that will support the development of a flood risk analysis in the City of Cerritos.

## **Community Flood Issues**

### **What is Susceptible to Damage During a Flood Event?**

The largest impact on communities from flood events is the loss of life and property. During certain years, property losses resulting from flood damage are extensive. Development in the floodplains of the City of Cerritos will continue to be at risk from flooding because flood damage occurs on a regular basis throughout the county. Property loss from floods strikes both private and public property.

### **Property Loss Resulting from Flooding Events**

The type of property damage caused by flood events depends on the depth and velocity of the flood waters. Faster moving flood waters can wash buildings off their foundations and sweep cars downstream. Pipelines, bridges, and other infrastructure can be damaged when high waters combine with flood debris. Extensive damage can be caused by basement flooding and landslide damage related to soil saturation from flood events. Most flood damage is caused by water saturating materials susceptible to loss (i.e., wood, insulation, wallboard, fabric, furnishings, floor coverings, and appliances). In many cases, flood damage to homes renders them unlivable.

### **Mobilehomes**

Statewide, the 1996 floods destroyed 156 housing units. Of those units, 61 % were mobilehomes and trailers. Many older manufactured home parks are located in floodplain areas. Mobilehomes have a lower level of structural stability than stick-built homes, and must be anchored to provide additional structural stability during flood events. Because of confusion in the late 1980s resulting from multiple changes in NFIP regulations, there are some communities that do not actively enforce anchoring requirements. Lack of enforcement of manufactured home construction standards in floodplains can contribute to severe damages from flood events. The City of Cerritos is no longer located within the 100-year floodplain.

### **Business/Industry**

Flood events impact businesses by damaging property and by interrupting business. Flood events can cut off customer access to a business as well as close a business for repairs. A quick response to the needs of businesses affected by flood events can help a community maintain economic vitality in the face of flood damage. Responses to business damages can include funding to assist owners in elevating or relocating flood-prone business structures.

### **Public Infrastructure**

Publicly owned facilities are a key component of daily life for all citizens of the county. Damage to public water and sewer systems, transportation networks, flood control

facilities, emergency facilities, and offices can hinder the ability of the government to deliver services. Government can take action to reduce risk to public infrastructure from flood events, as well as craft public policy that reduces risk to private property from flood events.

### **Roads**

During natural hazard events, or any type of emergency or disaster, dependable road connections are critical for providing emergency services. Roads systems in the City of Cerritos are maintained by multiple jurisdictions. Federal, state, county, and city governments all have a stake in protecting roads from flood damage. Road networks often traverse floodplain and floodway areas. Transportation agencies responsible for road maintenance are typically aware of roads at risk from flooding.

### **Bridges**

Bridges are key points of concern during flood events because they are important links in road networks, river crossings, and they can be obstructions in watercourses, inhibiting the flow of water during flood events. The bridges in the City of Cerritos are state, county, city, or privately owned. A state-designated inspector must inspect all state, county, and city bridges every two years; but private bridges are not inspected, and can be very dangerous. The inspections are rigorous, looking at everything from seismic capability to erosion and scour.

The three highest priority bridges in the City of Cerritos are currently being upgraded by replacing the earthquake resistant bearing pads using county funds or have been identified within the City's five-year Capital Improvements Program. These bridges include:

Carmenita Road at Coyote Creek (upgraded)  
Del Amo Boulevard at Coyote Creek  
Marquardt Avenue at Coyote Creek

### **Storm Water Systems**

There is a drainage master plan, and City of Cerritos public works staff is aware of local drainage threats. The problems are often present where storm water runoff enters culverts or goes underground into storm sewers. Inadequate maintenance can also contribute to the flood hazard in urban areas.

### **Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

The City of Cerritos derives its water from two sources, the Metropolitan Water District from the Colorado River, and local ground water from three deep wells within the City of Cerritos. There is one sanitary district in the City of Cerritos, and one sewage treatment facility. The City of Cerritos provides water to the residents as part of city services.

### **Water Quality**

Environmental quality problems include bacteria, toxins, and pollution.

## Flood Endnotes

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1. <http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/target/units/river/tour/hist.html>
2. Gumprecht, Blake, 1999, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.
3. Ibid
4. [http://www.usc.edu/isd/archives/la/scandals/st\\_francis\\_dam.html](http://www.usc.edu/isd/archives/la/scandals/st_francis_dam.html)
5. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/surroundings/la-me-surround11dec11,0,1754871.story?coll=la-adelphia-right-rail>
6. <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/talkdiz/landslide.shtm#what>

# Section 7: Windstorm Hazards in the City of Cerritos

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### **Why are Severe Windstorms a Threat to the City of Cerritos?**

Severe windstorms pose a significant risk to life and property in the region by creating conditions that disrupt essential systems such as public utilities, telecommunications, and transportation routes. High winds can and do occasionally cause tornado-like damage to local homes and businesses. Severe windstorms can present a very destabilizing effect on the dry brush that covers local hillsides and urban wildland interface areas. High winds can have destructive impacts, especially to trees, power lines, and utility services.

**Figure 7-1: Santa Ana Winds (Source: NASA's "Observatorium")**



### **Santa Ana Winds and Tornado-Like Wind Activity**

Based on local history, most incidents of high wind in the City of Cerritos are the result of the Santa Ana wind conditions. While high impact wind incidents are not frequent in the area, significant Santa Ana Wind events and sporadic tornado activity have been known to negatively impact the local community.

### **What are Santa Ana Winds?**

“Santa Ana winds are generally defined as warm, dry winds that blow from the east or northeast (offshore). These winds occur below the passes and canyons of the coastal ranges of Southern California and in the Los Angeles basin. Santa Ana winds often blow with exceptional speed in the Santa Ana Canyon (the canyon from which it derives its name). Forecasters at the National Weather Service offices in Oxnard and San Diego usually place speed minimums on these winds and reserve the use of "Santa Ana" for winds greater than 25 knots.”<sup>1</sup> These winds accelerate to speeds of 35 knots as they move through canyons and passes, with gusts to 50 or even 60 knots.

“The complex topography of Southern California combined with various atmospheric conditions creates numerous scenarios that may cause widespread or isolated Santa Ana events. Commonly, Santa Ana winds develop when a region of high pressure builds over the Great Basin (the high plateau east of the Sierra Mountains and west of the Rocky mountains including most of Nevada and Utah). Clockwise circulation around the center of this high-pressure area forces air downslope from the high plateau. The air warms as it descends toward the California coast at the rate of 5 degrees F per 1000 feet due to compressional heating. Thus, compressional heating provides the primary source of warming. The air is dry since it originated in the desert, and it dries out even more as it is heated.”<sup>2</sup>

These regional winds typically occur from October to March, and, according to most accounts are named either for the Santa Ana River Valley where they originate or for the Santa Ana Canyon, southeast of Los Angeles, where they pick up speed.

### What are Tornadoes?

Tornadoes are spawned when there is warm, moist air near the ground, cool air aloft, and winds that speed up and change direction. An obstruction, such as a house, in the path of the wind causes it to change direction. This change increases pressure on parts of the house, and the combination of increased pressures and fluctuating wind speeds creates stresses that frequently cause structural failures.

In order to measure the intensity and wind strength of a tornado, Dr. T. Theodore Fujita developed the Fujita Tornado Damage Scale. This scale compares the estimated wind velocity with the corresponding amount of suspected damage. The scale measures six classifications of tornadoes with increasing magnitude from an “F0” tornado to a “F6+” tornado.

**Table 7-1: Fujita Tornado Damage Scale**

Scale	Wind Estimate (mph)	Typical Damage
F0	< 73	<b>Light damage.</b> Some damage to chimneys and TV antennas; breaks twigs off trees; pushes over shallow-rooted trees.
F1	73-112	<b>Moderate damage.</b> Peels surface off roofs; windows broken; light trailer houses pushed or overturned; some trees uprooted or snapped; moving automobiles pushed off the road. 74 mph is the beginning of hurricane wind speed.
F2	113-157	<b>Considerable damage.</b> Roofs torn off frame houses leaving strong upright walls; weak buildings in rural areas demolished; trailer houses destroyed; large trees snapped or uprooted; railroad boxcars pushed over; light object missiles generated; cars blown off highway.
F3	158-206	<b>Severe damage.</b> Roofs and some walls torn off frame houses; some rural buildings completely demolished; trains overturned; steel-framed hangar-warehouse-type structures torn; cars lifted off the ground; most trees in a forest

		uprooted snapped, or leveled.
F4	207-260	<b>Devastating damage.</b> Whole frame houses leveled, leaving piles of debris; steel structures badly damaged; trees debarked by small flying debris; cars and trains thrown some distances or rolled considerable distances; large missiles generated.
F5	261-318	<b>Incredible damage.</b> Whole frame houses tossed off foundations; steel-reinforced concrete structures badly damaged; automobile-sized missiles generated; trees debarked; incredible phenomena can occur.
F6-F12	319 to sonic	<b>Inconceivable damage.</b> Should a tornado with the maximum wind speed in excess of F5 occur, the extent and types of damage may not be conceived. A number of missiles such as iceboxes, water heaters, storage tanks, automobiles, etc. will create serious secondary damage on structures.
Source: <a href="http://weather.latimes.com/tornadoFAQ.asp">http://weather.latimes.com/tornadoFAQ.asp</a>		

### Microbursts

Unlike tornados, microbursts, are strong, damaging winds which strike the ground and often give the impression a tornado has struck. They frequently occur during intense thunderstorms. The origin of a microburst is downward moving air from a thunderstorm's core. But unlike a tornado, they affect only a rather small area.

University of Chicago storm researcher Dr Ted Fujita first coined the term “downburst” to describe strong, downdraft winds flowing out of a thunderstorm cell that he believed were responsible for the crash of Eastern Airlines Flight 66 in June of 1975.<sup>3</sup>

A downburst is a straight-direction surface wind in excess of 39 mph caused by a small-scale, strong downdraft from the base of convective thundershowers and thunderstorms. In later investigations into the phenomena he defined two sub-categories of downbursts: the larger macrobursts and small microbursts.<sup>4</sup>

Macroburst are downbursts with winds up to 117 mph, which spread across a path greater than 2.5 miles wide at the surface and which last from 5 to 30 minutes. The microburst, on the other hand is confined to an even smaller area, less than 2.5 miles in diameter from the initial point of downdraft impact. An intense microburst can result in damaging winds near 270 km/hr (170 mph) and often last for less than five minutes.<sup>5</sup>

“Downbursts of all sizes descend from the upper regions of severe thunderstorms when the air accelerates downward through either exceptionally strong evaporative cooling or by very heavy rain which drags dry air down with it. When the rapidly descending air strikes the ground, it spreads outward in all directions, like a fast-running faucet stream hitting the sink bottom.

When the microburst wind hits an object on the ground such as a house, garage or tree, it can flatten the buildings and strip limbs and branches from the tree. After striking the ground, the powerful outward running

gust can wreak further havoc along its path. Damage associated with a microburst is often mistaken for the work of a tornado, particularly directly under the microburst. However, damage patterns away from the impact area are characteristic of straight-line winds rather than the twisted pattern of tornado damage.”<sup>6</sup>

Tornados, like those that occur every year in the Midwest and Southeast parts of the United States, are a rare phenomenon in most of California, with most tornado-like activity coming from microbursts.

### Local History of Windstorm Events

While the effects of Santa Ana Winds are often overlooked, it should be noted that in 2003, two deaths in Southern California were directly related to the fierce condition. A falling tree struck one woman in San Diego.<sup>7</sup> The second death occurred when a passenger in a vehicle was hit by a flying pickup truck cover launched by the Santa Ana Winds.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 7-2: Santa Ana Wind Events during 2003**

<b>The following Santa Ana wind events were featured in news resources during 2003:</b>	
January 6, 2003 OC Register	“One of the strongest Santa Ana windstorms in a decade toppled 26 power poles in Orange early today, blew over a mobile derrick in Placentia, crushing two vehicles, and delayed Metrolink rail service.” This windstorm also knocked out power to thousands of people in northeastern Orange County.
January 8, 2003 CBSNEWS.com	“Santa Ana’s roared into Southern California late Sunday, blowing over trees, trucks and power poles. Thousands of people lost power.”
March 16, 2003 dailybulletin.com	Fire Officials Brace for Santa Ana Winds - - “The forest is now so dry and so many trees have died that fires, during relatively calm conditions, are running as fast and as far as they might during Santa Ana Winds. Now the Santa Ana season is here. Combine the literally tinder dry conditions with humidity in the single digits and 60-80 mph winds, and fire officials shudder.”

**Table 7-3: Major Windstorms in the City of Cerritos and Surrounding Communities**

Date	Location and Damage
November 5-6, 1961	Santa Ana winds. Fire in Topanga Canyon
February 10-11, 1973	Strong storm winds: 57 mph at Riverside, 46 Newport Beach. Some 200 trees uprooted in Pacific Beach alone
October 26-27, 1993	Santa Ana winds. Fire in Laguna Hills
October 14, 1997	Santa Ana winds: gusts 87 mph in central Orange County. Large fire in Orange County
December 29, 1997	Gusts 60+ mph at Santa Ana

March 28-29, 1998	Strong storm winds in Orange County: sustained 30-40 mph. Gust 70 mph at Newport Beach, gust 60 Huntington Beach. Trees down, power out, and damage across Orange and San Diego Counties. 1 illegal immigrant dead in Jamul.
September 2, 1998	Strong winds from thunderstorms in Orange County with gusts to 40mph. Large fires in Orange County
December 6, 1998	Thunderstorm in Los Alamitos and Garden Grove: gust 50-60 mph called "almost a tornado"
December 21-22, 1999	Santa Ana winds: gust 68 mph at Campo, 53 Huntington Beach, 44 Orange. House and tree damage in Hemet.
March 5-6, 2000	Strong thunderstorm winds at the coast: gust 60 mph at Huntington Beach Property damage and trees downed along the coast
April 1, 2000	Santa Ana winds: gust 93 mph at Mission Viejo, 67 Anaheim Hills
December 25-26, 2000	Santa Ana winds: gust 87 mph at Fremont Canyon. Damage and injuries in Mira Loma, Orange and Riverside Counties
February 13, 2001	Thunderstorm gust to 89 mph in east Orange
Source: <a href="http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sandiego/research/Guide/weatherhistory.pdf">http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sandiego/research/Guide/weatherhistory.pdf</a>	

The following is a glimpse of major tornado-like events to hit the City of Cerritos, and surrounding areas:

**Table 7-4: Major Tornado-like Events in Orange County**

<i>Major Tornado-like Events in the Orange County Area 1958-2001</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location and Damage</b>
<i>April 1, 1958</i>	<i>Tornado: Laguna Beach</i>
<i>February 19, 1962</i>	<i>Tornado: Irvine</i>
<i>April 8, 1965</i>	<i>Tornado: Costa Mesa</i>
<i>November 7, 1966</i>	<i>Newport Beach and Costa Mesa: Property Damage</i>
<i>March 16, 1977</i>	<i>Tornado skipped from Fullerton to Brea Damage to 80 homes and injured four people</i>
<i>February 9, 1978</i>	<i>Tornado: Irvine. Property damage and 6 injured</i>
<i>January 31, 1979</i>	<i>Tornado Santa Ana Numerous power outages</i>
<i>November 9, 1982</i>	<i>Tornadoes in Garden Grove and Mission Viejo. Property damage</i>
<i>January 13, 1984</i>	<i>Tornado: Huntington Beach. Property damage</i>
<i>March 16, 1986</i>	<i>Tornado: Anaheim. Property damage</i>
<i>February 22-24, 1987</i>	<i>Tornadoes and waterspouts: Huntington Beach</i>
<i>January 18, 1988</i>	<i>Tornadoes: Mission Viejo and San Clemente. Property damage</i>

<i>February 28, 1991</i>	<i>Tornado: Tustin</i>
<i>March 27, 1991</i>	<i>Tornado: Huntington Beach</i>
<i>December 7, 1992</i>	<i>Tornadoes: Anaheim and Westminster Property damage</i>
<i>January 18, 1993</i>	<i>Tornado: Orange County Property damage</i>
<i>February 8, 1993</i>	<i>Tornado: Brea. Property damage</i>
<i>February 7, 1994</i>	<i>Tornado from Newport Beach to Tustin. Roof and window damage. Trees were also knocked down</i>
<i>December 13, 1994</i>	<i>Two waterspouts about 0.5 mile off Newport Beach</i>
<i>December 13, 1995</i>	<i>Funnel cloud near Fullerton Airport</i>
<i>March 13, 1996</i>	<i>Funnel cloud in Irvine</i>
<i>November 10-11, 1997</i>	<i>Waterspout came ashore at Newport Pier on the 10<sup>th</sup> and dissipated over western Costa Mesa. Tornadoes in Irvine on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a funnel cloud developed. 10<sup>th</sup>: Winds estimated at 60-70 mph. 11<sup>th</sup>: Minor power outages occurred with little property damage. A fisherman was blown from one end of Newport Pier to the other. Property and vehicle damage in Irvine from flying debris. Ten cars were thrown a few feet.</i>
<i>December 21, 1997</i>	<i>Waterspout and tornado in Huntington Beach. Damage to boats, houses, and city property</i>
<i>February 24, 1998</i>	<i>Tornado in Huntington Beach. Property damage with a power outage, roof flew ¼ mile</i>
<i>March 13-14, 1998</i>	<i>Numerous waterspouts between Long Beach, Huntington Beach, and Catalina</i>
<i>March 31-April 1, 1998</i>	<i>Numerous funnel clouds reported off Orange County coastline, two of which became waterspouts off Orange County. One waterspout briefly hit the coast off the Huntington Beach pier.</i>
<i>June 6, 1998</i>	<i>Two funnel clouds off Dana Point</i>
<i>December 31, 1998</i>	<i>Funnel clouds in Santa Ana. Waterspout off Costa Mesa coast</i>
<i>February 21, 2000</i>	<i>Tornado: Anaheim Hills. Property damage</i>
<i>October 28, 2000</i>	<i>Funnel clouds around Newport Beach and Costa Mesa</i>
<i>January 10, 2001</i>	<i>Funnel cloud at Orange County airport and Newport Beach</i>
<i>February 24, 2001</i>	<i>Tornado in Orange. Damage to warehouse, 6 structures, fences, and telephone wires.</i>
<i>Source: <a href="http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sandiego/research/Guide/weatherhistory.pdf">http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sandiego/research/Guide/weatherhistory.pdf</a></i>	

## **Windstorm Hazard Assessment**

### **Hazard Identification**

A windstorm event in the region can range from short term microburst activity lasting only minutes to a long duration Santa Ana wind condition that can last for several days as in the case of the January 2003 Santa Ana wind event. Windstorms in the City of Cerritos area can cause extensive damage including heavy tree stands, exposed coastal properties, road and highway infrastructure, and critical utility facilities.

The map shows clearly the direction of the Santa Ana winds as they travel from the stable, high-pressure weather system called the Great Basin High through the canyons and towards the low-pressure system off the Pacific. Clearly the area of the City of Cerritos is in the direct path of the ocean-bound Santa Ana winds.

### **Vulnerability and Risk**

With an analysis of the high wind and tornado events depicted in the “Local History” section, we can deduce the common windstorm impact areas including impacts on life, property, utilities, infrastructure and transportation. Additionally, if a windstorm disrupts power to local residential communities, the American Red Cross and City resources might be called upon for care and shelter duties. Displacing residents and utilizing City resources for shelter staffing and disaster cleanup can cause an economic hardship on the community.

## **Community Windstorm Issues**

### **What is Susceptible to Windstorms?**

#### **Life and Property**

Based on the history of the region, windstorm events can be expected, perhaps annually across widespread areas of the region, which can be adversely impacted during a windstorm event. This can result in the involvement of City of Cerritos emergency response personnel during a wide-ranging windstorm or microburst tornadic activity. Both residential and commercial structures with weak reinforcement are susceptible to damage. Wind pressure can create a direct and frontal assault on a structure, pushing walls, doors, and windows inward. Conversely, passing currents can create lift suction forces that pull building components and surfaces outward. With extreme wind forces, the roof or entire building can fail causing considerable damage.

Debris carried along by extreme winds can directly contribute to loss of life and indirectly to the failure of protective building envelopes, siding, or walls. When severe windstorms strike a community, downed trees, power lines, and damaged property can be major hindrances to emergency response and disaster recovery.

The Beaufort Scale below, coined and developed by Sir Francis Beaufort in 1805, illustrates the effect that varying wind speed can have on sea swells and structures:

**Table 7-5: Beaufort Scale**

<b>BEAUFORT SCALE</b>		
Beaufort Force	Speed (mph)	Wind Description - State of Sea - Effects on Land
0	Less 1	Calm - Mirror-like - Smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	Light - Air Ripples look like scales; No crests of foam - Smoke drift shows direction of wind, but wind vanes do not
2	4-7	Light Breeze - Small but pronounced wavelets; Crests do not break - Wind vanes move; Leaves rustle; You can feel wind on the face
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze - Large Wavelets; Crests break; Glassy foam; A few whitecaps - Leaves and small twigs move constantly; Small, light flags are extended
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze - Longer waves; Whitecaps - Wind lifts dust and loose paper; Small branches move
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze - Moderate, long waves; Many whitecaps; Some spray - Small trees with leaves begin to move
6	25-31	Strong Breeze - Some large waves; Crests of white foam; Spray - Large branches move; Telegraph wires whistle; Hard to hold umbrellas
7	32-38	Near Gale - White foam from breaking waves blows in streaks with the wind - Whole trees move; Resistance felt walking into wind
8	39-46	Gale - Waves high and moderately long; Crests break into spin drift, blowing foam in well marked streaks - Twigs and small branches break off trees; Difficult to walk
9	47-54	Strong Gale - High waves with wave crests that tumble; Dense streaks of foam in wind; Poor visibility from spray - Slight structural damage
10	55-63	Storm - Very high waves with long, curling crests; Sea surface appears white from blowing foam; Heavy tumbling of sea; Poor visibility - Trees broken or uprooted; Considerable structural damage
11	64-73	Violent Storm - Waves high enough to hide small and medium sized ships; Sea covered with patches of white foam; Edges of wave crests blown into froth; Poor visibility - Seldom experienced inland; Considerable structural damage
12	>74	Hurricane - Sea white with spray. Foam and spray render visibility almost non-existent - Widespread damage. Very rarely experienced on land.
Source: <a href="http://www.compuweather.com/decoder-charts.html">http://www.compuweather.com/decoder-charts.html</a>		

### **Disruption of Critical Services**

Critical facilities include police stations, fire stations, hospitals, shelters, and other facilities that provide important services to the community. These facilities and their services need to be functional after an earthquake event.

### **Utilities**

Historically, falling trees have been the major cause of power outages in the region. Windstorms such as strong microbursts and Santa Ana Wind conditions can cause flying debris and downed utility lines. For example, tree limbs breaking in winds of only 45 mph can be thrown over 75 feet. As such, overhead power lines can be damaged even in relatively minor windstorm events. Falling trees can bring electric power lines down to the pavement, creating the possibility of lethal electric shock. Rising population growth and new infrastructure in the region creates a higher probability for damage to occur from windstorms as more life and property are exposed to risk.

### **Infrastructure**

Windstorms can damage buildings, power lines, and other property and infrastructure due to falling trees and branches. During wet winters, saturated soils cause trees to become less stable and more vulnerable to uprooting from high winds.

Windstorms can result in collapsed or damaged buildings or blocked roads and bridges, damaged traffic signals, streetlights, and parks, among others. Roads blocked by fallen trees during a windstorm may have severe consequences to people who need access to emergency services. Emergency response operations can be complicated when roads are blocked or when power supplies are interrupted. Industry and commerce can suffer losses from interruptions in electric services and from extended road closures. They can also sustain direct losses to buildings, personnel, and other vital equipment. There are direct consequences to the local economy resulting from windstorms related to both physical damages and interrupted services.

### **Increased Fire Threat**

Perhaps the greatest danger from windstorm activity in Southern California comes from the combination of the Santa Ana winds with the major fires that occur every few years in the urban/wildland interface. With the Santa Ana winds driving the flames, the speed and reach of the flames is even greater than in times of calm wind conditions. The higher fire hazard raised by a Santa Ana wind condition requires that even more care and attention be paid to proper brush clearances on property in the wildland/urban interface areas.

### **Transportation**

Windstorm activity can have an impact on local transportation in addition to the problems caused by downed trees and electrical wires blocking streets and highways. During periods of extremely strong Santa Ana winds, major highways can be temporarily closed to truck and recreational vehicle traffic. However, typically these disruptions are not long lasting, nor do they carry a severe long term economic impact on the region.

End Notes:

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1 <http://nimbo.wrh.noaa.gov/Sandiego/snawind.html>

2 Ibid

3 Keith C. Heidorn at <http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/13646/100918>, June 1, 2003

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

7 [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com), January 8, 2003

8 [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/01/06/national/](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/01/06/national/)

## Appendix A - Resources

### Master Resource Directory

The Resource Directory provides contact information for local, regional, state, and federal programs that are currently involved in hazard mitigation activities. The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee may look to the organizations on the following pages for resources and technical assistance. The Resource Directory provides a foundation for potential partners in action item implementation.

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will continue to add contact information for organizations currently engaged in hazard mitigation activities. This section may also be used by various community members interested in hazard mitigation information and projects.

<b>American Public Works Association</b>			
Level: National	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.apwa.net">http://www.apwa.net</a>	
2345 Grand Boulevard		Suite 500	
Kansas City, MO 64108-2641		Ph: 816-472-6100	Fax: 816-472-1610
Notes: The American Public Works Association is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services.			
<b>Association of State Floodplain Managers</b>			
Level: Federal	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.floods.org">www.floods.org</a>	
2809 Fish Hatchery Road			
Madison, WI 53713		Ph: 608-274-0123	
Notes: The Association of State Floodplain Managers is an organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood preparedness, warning and recovery			
<b>Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC)</b>			
Level: National	Hazard: Earthquake	<a href="http://www.bssconline.org">www.bssconline.org</a>	
1090 Vermont Ave., NW		Suite 700	
Washington, DC 20005		Ph: 202-289-7800	
Notes: The Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) develops and promotes building earthquake risk mitigation regulatory provisions for the nation.			

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<b>California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/">http://www.dot.ca.gov/</a>
120 S. Spring Street		
Los Angeles, CA 90012	Ph: 213-897-3656	
Notes: CalTrans is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the California State Highway System, as well as that portion of the Interstate Highway System within the state's boundaries. Alone and in partnership with Amtrak, Caltrans is also involved in the support of intercity passenger rail service in California.		
<b>California Resources Agency</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://resources.ca.gov/">http://resources.ca.gov/</a>
1416 Ninth Street		Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814	Ph: 916-653-5656	
Notes: The California Resources Agency restores, protects and manages the state's natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future generations using solutions based on science, collaboration and respect for all the communities and interests involved.		
<b>California Division of Forestry (CDF)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/index.php">http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/index.php</a>
210 W. San Jacinto		
Perris CA 92570	Ph: 909-940-6900	
Notes: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection protects over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. CDF emphasizes the management and protection of California's natural resources.		
<b>California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/index.htm">www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/index.htm</a>
801 K Street		MS 12-30
Sacramento, CA 95814	Ph: 916-445-1825	Fax: 916-445-5718
Notes: The California Geological Survey develops and disseminates technical information and advice on California's geology, geologic hazards, and mineral resources.		

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<b>California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://ceres.ca.gov/">http://ceres.ca.gov/</a>
900 N St.		Suite 250
Sacramento, Ca. 95814		Ph: 916-653-2238
Notes: CERES is an excellent website for access to environmental information and websites.		
<b>California Department of Water Resources (DWR)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://wwwdwr.water.ca.gov">http://wwwdwr.water.ca.gov</a>
1416 9th Street		
Sacramento, CA 95814		Ph: 916-653-6192
Notes: The Department of Water Resources manages the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments.		
<b>California Department of Conservation: Southern California Regional Office</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.consrv.ca.gov">www.consrv.ca.gov</a>
655 S. Hope Street		#700
Los Angeles, CA 90017-2321		Ph: 213-239-0878      Fax: 213-239-0984
Notes: The Department of Conservation provides services and information that promote environmental health, economic vitality, informed land-use decisions and sound management of our state's natural resources.		
<b>California Planning Information Network</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.calpin.ca.gov">www.calpin.ca.gov</a>
Notes: The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) publishes basic information on local planning agencies, known as the California Planners' Book of Lists. This local planning information is available on-line with new search capabilities and up-to-the-minute updates.		

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<b>EPA, Region 9</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/region09">http://www.epa.gov/region09</a>
75 Hawthorne Street		
San Francisco, CA 94105	Ph: 415-947-8000	Fax: 415-947-3553
Notes: The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment through the themes of air and global climate change, water, land, communities and ecosystems, and compliance and environmental stewardship.		
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>
1111 Broadway		Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607	Ph: 510-627-7100	Fax: 510-627-7112
Notes: The Federal Emergency Management Agency is tasked with responding to, planning for, recovering from and mitigating against disasters.		
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mitigation Division</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/fima/planhowto.shtm">www.fema.gov/fima/planhowto.shtm</a>
500 C Street, S.W.		
Washington, D.C. 20472	Ph: 202-566-1600	
Notes: The Mitigation Division manages the National Flood Insurance Program and oversees FEMA's mitigation programs. It has of a number of programs and activities of which provide citizens Protection, with flood insurance; Prevention, with mitigation measures and Partnerships, with communities throughout the country.		
<b>Floodplain Management Association</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.floodplain.org">www.floodplain.org</a>
P.O. Box 50891		
Sparks, NV 89435-0891	Ph: 775-626-6389	Fx: 775-626-6389
Notes: The Floodplain Management Association is a nonprofit educational association. It was established in 1990 to promote the reduction of flood losses and to encourage the protection and enhancement of natural floodplain values. Members include representatives of federal, state and local government agencies as well as private firms.		

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<b>Gateway Cities Partnership</b>			
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.gatewaycities.org">www.gatewaycities.org</a>	
7300 Alondra Boulevard		Suite 202	
Paramount, CA 90723		Ph: 562-817-0820	
<p>Notes: Gateway Cities Partnership is a 501 C 3 non-profit Community Development Corporation for the Gateway Cities region of southeast LA County. The region comprises 27 cities that roughly speaking extends from Montebello on the north to Long Beach on the South, the Alameda Corridor on the west to the Orange County line on the east.</p>			
<b>Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)</b>			
Level: State	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.oes.ca.gov">www.oes.ca.gov</a>	
P.O. Box 419047			
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9047		Ph: 916 845- 8911	Fax: 916 845- 8910
<p>Notes: The Governor's Office of Emergency Services coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for assuring the state's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade, and war-caused emergencies, and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts.</p>			
<b>Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance</b>			
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi		
42060 N. Tenth Street West			
Lancaster, CA 93534		Ph: 661-945-2741	Fax: 661-945-7711
<p>Notes: The Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance, (GA VEA) is a 501 (c)(6) nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) affiliated organization the Antelope Valley Economic Research and Education Foundation. GA VEA is a public-private partnership of business, local governments, education, non-profit organizations and health care organizations that was founded in 1999 with the goal of attracting good paying jobs to the Antelope Valley in order to build a sustainable economy.</p>			

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>Landslide Hazards Program, USGS</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Landslide	<a href="http://landslides.usgs.gov/index.html">http://landslides.usgs.gov/index.html</a>
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive		MS 906
Reston, VA 20192		Ph: 703-648- 4000
<p>Notes: The NLIC website provides good information on the programs and resources regarding landslides. The page includes information on the National Landslide Hazards Program Information Center, a bibliography, publications, and current projects. USGS scientists are working to reduce long-term losses and casualties from landslide hazards through better understanding of the causes and mechanisms of ground failure both nationally and worldwide.</p>		
<b>Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.laedc.org">www.laedc.org</a>
444 S. Flower Street		34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071		Ph: 213-236-4813      Fax: 213- 623-0281
<p>Notes: The LAEDC is a private, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization established in 1981 with the mission to attract, retain and grow businesses and jobs in the Los Angeles region. The LAEDC is widely relied upon for its Southern California Economic Forecasts and Industry Trend Reports. Lead by the renowned Jack Kyser (Sr. Vice President, Chief Economist) his team of researchers produces numerous publications to help business, media and government navigate the LA region's diverse economy.</p>		
<b>Los Angeles County Public Works Department</b>		
Level: County	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://ladpw.org">http://ladpw.org</a>
900 S. Fremont Ave.		
Alhambra, CA 91803		Ph: 626-458-5100
<p>Notes: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works protects property and promotes public safety through Flood Control, Water Conservation, Road Maintenance, Bridges, Buses and Bicycle Trails, Building and Safety, Land Development, Waterworks, Sewers, Engineering, Capital Projects and Airports</p>		

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program</b>			
Level: Federal	Hazard: Wildfire	<a href="http://www.firewise.org/">www.firewise.org/</a>	
1 Batterymarch Park			
Quincy, MA 02169-7471		Ph: 617-770-3000	Fax: 617 770-0700
Notes: FIREWISE maintains a Website designed for people who live in wildfire- prone areas, but it also can be of use to local planners and decision makers. The site offers online wildfire protection information and checklists, as well as listings of other publications, videos, and conferences.			
<b>National Resources Conservation Service</b>			
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/</a>	
14th and Independence Ave., SW		Room 5105-A	
Washington, DC 20250		Ph: 202-720-7246	Fax: 202-720-7690
Notes: NRCS assists owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources, by delivering technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs. Cost shares and financial incentives are available in some cases.			
<b>National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)</b>			
Level: Federal	Hazard: Wildfire	<a href="http://www.nifc.gov">www.nifc.gov</a>	
3833 S. Development Ave.			
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354		Ph: 208-387- 5512	
Notes: The NIFC in Boise, Idaho is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Seven federal agencies work together to coordinate and support wildland fire and disaster operations.			
<b>National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)</b>			
Level: National	Hazard: Wildfire	<a href="http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/home/index.asp">http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/home/index.asp</a>	
1 Batterymarch Park			
Quincy, MA 02169-7471		Ph: 617-770-3000	Fax: 617 770-0700
Notes: The mission of the international nonprofit NFPA is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education			

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP)</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/nfip/">www.fema.gov/nfip/</a>
500 C Street, S.W.		
Washington, D.C. 20472	Ph: 202-566-1600	
Notes: The Mitigation Division manages the National Flood Insurance Program and oversees FEMA's mitigation programs. It has of a number of programs and activities providing citizens Protection, with flood insurance; Prevention, with mitigation measures and Partnerships, with communities throughout the country.		
<b>National Oceanic /Atmospheric Administration</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.noaa.gov">www.noaa.gov</a>
14th Street & Constitution Ave NW		Room 6013
Washington, DC 20230	Ph: 202-482-6090	Fax: 202-482-3154
Notes: NOAA's historical role has been to predict environmental changes, protect life and property, provide decision makers with reliable scientific information, and foster global environmental stewardship.		
<b>National Weather Service, Office of Hydrologic Development</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/</a>
1325 East West Highway		SSMC2
Silver Spring, MD 20910	Ph: 301-713-1658	Fax: 301-713-0963
Notes: The Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD) enhances National Weather Service (NWS) products by: infusing new hydrologic science, developing hydrologic techniques for operational use, managing hydrologic development by NWS field office, providing advanced hydrologic products to meet needs identified by NWS customers		
<b>National Weather Service</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/</a>
520 North Elevar Street		
Oxnard, CA 93030	Ph: 805-988- 6615	
Notes: The National Weather Service is responsible for providing weather service to the nation. It is charged with the responsibility of observing and reporting the weather and with issuing forecasts and warnings of weather and floods in the interest of national safety and economy. Briefly, the priorities for service to the nation are: 1. protection of life, 2. protection of property, and 3. promotion of the nation's welfare and economy.		

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<b>San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.valleynet.org">www.valleynet.org</a>
4900 Rivergrade Road		Suite A310
Irwindale, CA 91706	Ph: 626-856-3400	Fax: 626-856-5115
<p>Notes: The San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership is a non-profit corporation representing both public and private sectors. The Partnership is the exclusive source for San Gabriel Valley-specific information, expertise, consulting, products, services, and events. It is the single organization in the Valley with the mission to sustain and build the regional economy for the mutual benefit of all thirty cities, chambers of commerce, academic institutions, businesses and residents.</p>		
<b>Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County</b>		
Level: County	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.lacsd.org/">http://www.lacsd.org/</a>
1955 Workman Mill Road		
Whittier, CA 90607	Ph:562-699-7411 x2301	
<p>Notes: The Sanitation Districts provide wastewater and solid waste management for over half the population of Los Angeles County and turn waste products into resources such as reclaimed water, energy, and recyclable materials.</p>		
<b>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://smmc.ca.gov/">http://smmc.ca.gov/</a>
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six		Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065	Ph: 323-221-8900	
<p>Notes: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy helps to preserve over 55,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.</p>		
<b>South Bay Economic Development Partnership</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.southbaypartnership.com">www.southbaypartnership.com</a>
3858 Carson Street		Suite 110
Torrance, CA 90503	Ph: 310-792-0323	Fax: 310-543-9886
<p>Notes: The South Bay Economic Development Partnership is a collaboration of business, labor, education and government. Its primary goal is to plan an implement an economic development and marketing strategy designed to retain and create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the South Bay of Los Angeles County.</p>		

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.aqmd.gov">www.aqmd.gov</a>
21865 E. Copley Drive		
Diamond Bar, CA 91765		Ph: 800-CUT-SMOG
<p>Notes: AQMD is a regional government agency that seeks to achieve and maintain healthful air quality through a comprehensive program of research, regulations, enforcement, and communication. The AQMD covers Los Angeles and Orange Counties and parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.</p>		
<b>Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC)</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Earthquake	<a href="http://www.scec.org">www.scec.org</a>
3651 Trousdale Parkway		Suite 169
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0742		Ph: 213-740-5843      Fax: 213/740-0011
<p>Notes: The Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) gathers new information about earthquakes in Southern California, integrates this information into a comprehensive and predictive understanding of earthquake phenomena, and communicates this understanding to end-users and the general public in order to increase earthquake awareness, reduce economic losses, and save lives.</p>		
<b>Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.scag.ca.gov">www.scag.ca.gov</a>
818 W. Seventh Street		12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017		Ph: 213-236-1800      Fax: 213-236-1825
<p>Notes: The Southern California Association of Governments functions as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Association of Governments is mandated by the federal government to research and draw up plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, and air quality.</p>		

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>State Fire Marshal (SFM)</b>		
Level: State	Hazard: Wildfire	<a href="http://osfm.fire.ca.gov">http://osfm.fire.ca.gov</a>
1131 "S" Street		
Sacramento, CA 95814	Ph: 916-445-8200	Fax: 916-445-8509
<p>Notes: The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) supports the mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) by focusing on fire prevention. SFM regulates buildings in which people live, controls substances which may, cause injuries, death and destruction by fire; provides statewide direction for fire prevention within wildland areas; regulates hazardous liquid pipelines; reviews regulations and building standards; and trains and educates in fire protection methods and responsibilities.</p>		
<b>The Community Rating System (CRS)</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Flood	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm">http://www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm</a>
500 C Street, S.W.		
Washington, D.C. 20472	Ph: 202-566-1600	
<p>Notes: The Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes community floodplain management efforts that go beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP. Property owners within the County would receive reduced NFIP flood insurance premiums if the County implements floodplain management practices that qualify it for a CRS rating. For further information on the CRS, visit FEMA's website.</p>		
<b>United States Geological Survey</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.usgs.gov/">http://www.usgs.gov/</a>
345 Middlefield Road		
Menlo Park, CA 94025	Ph: 650-853-8300	
<p>Notes: The USGS provides reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.</p>		
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.usace.army.mil">http://www.usace.army.mil</a>
P.O. Box 532711		
Los Angeles, CA 90053- 2325	Ph: 213-452- 3921	
<p>Notes: The United States Army Corps of Engineers work in engineering and environmental matters. A workforce of biologists, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, natural resource managers and other professionals provide engineering services to the nation including planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects.</p>		

## Appendix A - Resources

<b>USDA Forest Service</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Wildfire	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us">http://www.fs.fed.us</a>
1400 Independence Ave. SW		
Washington, D.C. 20250-0002	Ph: 202-205-8333	
Notes: The Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands.		
<b>USGS Water Resources</b>		
Level: Federal	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.water.usgs.gov">www.water.usgs.gov</a>
6000 J Street		Placer Hall
Sacramento, CA 95819-6129	Ph: 916-278-3000	Fax: 916-278-3070
Notes: The USGS Water Resources mission is to provide water information that benefits the Nation's citizens: publications, data, maps, and applications software.		
<b>Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC)</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Earthquake	<a href="http://www.wsspc.org/home.html">www.wsspc.org/home.html</a>
125 California Avenue		Suite D201, #1
Palo Alto, CA 94306	Ph: 650-330-1101	Fax: 650-326-1769
Notes: WSSPC is a regional earthquake consortium funded mainly by FEMA. Its website is a great resource, with information clearly categorized - from policy to engineering to education.		
<b>Westside Economic Collaborative C/O Pacific Western Bank</b>		
Level: Regional	Hazard: Multi	<a href="http://www.westside-1a.or">http://www.westside-1a.or</a>
120 Wilshire Boulevard		
Santa Monica, CA 90401	Ph: 310-458-1521	Fax: 310-458-6479
Notes: The Westside Economic Development Collaborative is the first Westside regional economic development corporation. The Westside EDC functions as an information gatherer and resource center, as well as a forum, through bringing business, government, and residents together to address issues affecting the region: Economic Diversity, Transportation, Housing, Workforce Training and Retraining, Lifelong Learning, Tourism, and Embracing Diversity.		

## Appendix B:

### The Public Participation Process

Public participation is a key component to any strategic planning process. It is very important that such broad-reaching plans not be written in isolation. Agency participation offers an opportunity for impacted departments and organizations to provide expertise and insight into the planning process. Citizen participation offers the public the chance to voice their ideas, interests, and opinions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also requires public input during the development of mitigation plans.

The City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan integrates a cross-section of public input throughout the planning process. To accomplish this goal, the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team developed a public participation process through five components: (1) developing a Planning Team comprised of knowledgeable individuals representing the City of Cerritos, and the neighboring Cities of Bellflower, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, and Norwalk; (2) conducting a survey of “Levels of Concerns” to verify the primary concerns of citizens and business owners as relates to natural hazards; (3) soliciting the assistance of local media representatives and community newsletters to announce the progress of the planning activities and to announce the availability of the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; (4) creating opportunities for the citizens and public agencies to review the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; (5) conducting public hearings at the Planning Commission and City Council where the public had an opportunity to express their views concerning the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Integrating public participation during the development of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan has ultimately resulted in increased public awareness. Through public involvement, the mitigation plan reflects community issues, concerns, and new ideas and perspectives on mitigation opportunities and plan action items.

#### **Advisory Committee**

Hazard mitigation in the City of Cerritos is overseen by the Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee, which consists of representatives from various city departments. The members have an understanding of how the community is structured and how residents, businesses, and the environment may be affected by natural hazard events. The Committee guided the development of the Plan, and assisted in developing plan goals and action items, identifying stakeholders and plan reviewers, and sharing local expertise to create a more comprehensive plan. The majority of the Committee also participated on the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team. The plan was disseminated to the City of Cerritos Water Department, ABC Unified School District, Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles County Public Works Department, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, City of Cerritos Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross.

1. DMA 2000 training workshop attended by City staff in February 2004 in the City of Norwalk. The workshop was hosted by the Area E Disaster Management group.
2. Updates regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan were provided to the Emergency Response Planning Team at their meetings of March 19, April 23, and June 18.
3. City Council provided their approval to move forward with retaining the services of Emergency Planning Consultants to assist staff in creating the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Meeting #1: Pre-Training April 22, 2004**

The meeting was hosted by the City of Cerritos. EPC delivered pre-training to the Planning Team and Working Groups. The pre-training consisted of the history of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the purpose and role of hazard mitigation, and the planning process. The Pre-Training lasted approximately 2 hours.

**Meeting #2: Kick-Off Meeting April 22, 2004**

EPC facilitated a workshop where participants had an opportunity to learn about various natural hazards, assess and rank the local threats, examine hazard maps, and complete the FEMA Worksheets contained in [FEMA 386-2 Understanding Your Risks](#). Part of the discussion included a presentation by EPC of historical disaster events across the country. Those slides served as a backdrop for discussing potential mitigation activities.

There was an extensive discussion on various methods of engaging the public in the mitigation process. The Planning Team prepared a draft media release and discussed a public opinion survey provided by EPC. EPC committed to revising the media release and survey and distributing electronic copies to each of the Planning Team entities. The Kick-Off Meeting lasted approximately 7 hours.

**Meeting #3 Pre-Training: Mitigation June 10, 2004**

The meeting was hosted by the City of Cerritos. EPC delivered pre-training to the Planning Team. The pre-training consisted of the concepts and issues related to developing mitigation actions. The pre-training lasted approximately 1 hour.

**Meeting #4 Mitigation Actions June 10, 2004**

EPC delivered the Draft Hazard Analysis and the Planning Team discussed missing information, data, and maps. EPC distributed copies of the Mitigation Actions Planning Tools to assist the Team in developing Goals and Action Items appropriate to their natural hazards. The Planning Tools provided a process for collecting the mitigation actions presently in practice in the City of Cerritos, as well as identifying future mitigation actions.

A brainstorming process was then conducted to develop the goals for the Plan. Throughout the planning process and workshops, the City's consultant reminded the planning team of the importance of considering benefit/cost issues. The entire Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team discussed sample goal language then broke into individual jurisdictions to finalize goal language.

Following a discussion of alternative ranking techniques, the Team agreed to cluster the rankings of the Mitigation Actions by type of actions as follows: #1 Multi-Hazard, #2 Earthquakes, and #3 Flooding.

The next task was to examine a FEMA-approved Mitigation Plan to get an idea of how mitigation actions are written. Each of the jurisdictions was pleased to convey the broad range of mitigation actions already being practiced. The Planning Tools, developed by EPC, consisted of nearly 300 mitigation actions gathered from dozens of Mitigation Plans across the country. The Planning Team broke into individual jurisdictions to develop their own mitigation actions, utilizing the sample plans and Planning Tools list. Because of the plan samples and Tools, the process of identifying appropriate mitigations actions was accomplished in a very efficient manner.

### **Public Meetings**

City of Cerritos conducted two public meetings where the Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented and discussed: The Planning Commission meeting of September 1, 2004; and the City Council meeting of October 28, 2004. The City Council was very supportive of the overall goal established by the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team to become a Disaster Resistant Community. The results of the citizen survey were discussed.

The draft plan was also presented at the Crime Prevention Town Hall meeting of June 8, 2004 and comments and suggestions were taken from the public.

### **Invitation Process**

The City Public Information Officer worked with the Chairperson to identify possible public notice sources. A press release was submitted to the Chambers of Commerce, local daily and weekly print media. The local community access cable television channel also carried the meeting announcement. A notice was also placed in the monthly city newsletter that is mailed to all residents. The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was made available on the City's website, City Library and the Community Development Public Counter for public review and comments from August 2, 2004 until October 28, 2004.

### **Results**

The Chairperson began the presentation by providing an overview of meeting objectives to the participants. The citizens were encouraged to present their views and make suggestions on possible mitigation actions. The City's Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee Chair presented the staff report on the Plan, including an overview of the Hazard Analysis, Mitigation Goals, and Mitigation Actions. The staff presentation concluded with a summary of the input received during the public review of the document. The Committee Chair then fielded questions from the City Council.

The Planning Commission and City Council were unanimous in their adoption of the City of Cerritos Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

## Appendix B-Attachment 1

### Survey Results

The City of Cerritos distributed a survey at the Cerritos Community Fair on April 24, 2004 and on the City's Website asking participants to rank their concerns about the following hazards: earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms. Approximately 60 survey responses were received and yielded the following results:

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
Earthquake	27	13	10	5	1
Flooding	9	4	15	14	14
Windstorm	4	6	14	12	16

## Appendix B-Attachment 2

### Newspaper Article

# City prepares hazard mitigation plan

**T**he City of Cerritos has begun preparing a hazard mitigation plan that will identify ways to minimize potential damage from natural hazards before a disaster occurs. The plan is being prepared with the assistance of emergency planning consultants. The City is part of a multi-jurisdictional planning team that includes the cities of Norwalk, Artesia, Bellflower and Hawaiian Gardens. The team was created in an effort to better utilize the resources of various jurisdictions and to more effectively address the hazards that impact the entire region.

The planning document will focus on potential impacts of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods and windstorms. Upon completion of the draft local hazard mitigation plan, a copy of the document will be available for review at City Hall during the month of August. Following the review period, the plan will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

Residents are asked to complete a survey which assesses the community's level of concern for earthquake, flooding and windstorm hazards. The survey is available at the Community Development counter at City Hall and on the City's web site at [www.ci.cerritos.ca.us/citygov/commdev.html](http://www.ci.cerritos.ca.us/citygov/commdev.html).

## Appendix B-Attachment 2

### Public Hearing Notice

PROOF OF PUBLICATION	County Clerk's Filing Stamp	
(2015.5 C.C.P.)		
Los Cerritos Community Newspaper Group 13017 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos CA 90703, Suite D-136 (562) 407-3873		
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		
I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter.	<b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</b> <b>CITY OF CERRITOS</b> NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Cerritos will hold a public hearing on <b>Thursday, October 28, 2004</b> at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter:  <b>A REVIEW OF THE NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY</b>  This City Council hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of the Cerritos City Hall, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California.  A Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan has been prepared as a part of the City's compliance to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which provides the basis for federal assistance to state and local governments impacted by disasters.  Written comments will be accepted through 5:00 p.m., October 28, 2004 and should be sent or hand delivered to:  City of Cerritos Public Works Department 18125 Bloomfield Avenue P.O. Box 3130 Cerritos, CA 90703  Should you have any questions, please call Doug Kellam, Management Analyst, at (562) 916-1227. Copies of the report are available for inspection at the Public Works Department, City of Cerritos, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  Dated: October 14, 2004  Josephine Triggs, City Clerk  Published by Los Cerritos Community News October 14, 2004	
I am the principal clerk of the printer of the <u>Los Cerritos Community News</u> , a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published Thursdays each week in the County of Los Angeles, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, under the date of November 4, 2002 in Case Number VS010701 that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:  <u>10-14-04</u>		
All in the year of 2004 I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.		
DATED AT CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA,  THIS <u>14</u> DAY OF <u>October</u> , 200 <u>4</u>		
Signature <u>Elizabeth Vital</u> Elizabeth Vital		
Los Cerritos Community News 13017 Artesia Blvd. Suite D-136, Cerritos, CA 90703		

**Appendix B-Attachment 2**

**City Council Resolution**

## Appendix C:

### Economic Analysis of Natural Hazard Mitigation Projects

Benefit/Cost Analysis is a key mechanism used by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other state and federal agencies in evaluating hazard mitigation projects, and is required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

This Appendix outlines several approaches for conducting economic analysis of natural hazard mitigation projects. It describes the importance of implementing mitigation activities, different approaches to economic analysis of mitigation strategies, and methods to calculate costs and benefits associated with mitigation strategies. Information in this section is derived in part from: Federal Emergency Management Agency Publication 331, Report on Costs and Benefits of Natural Hazard Mitigation.

This section is not intended to provide a comprehensive description of benefit/cost analysis, nor is it intended to provide the details of economic analysis methods that can be used to evaluate local projects. It is intended to (1) raise benefit/cost analysis as an important issue, and (2) provide some background on how economic analysis can be used to evaluate mitigation projects.

#### **Why Evaluate Mitigation Strategies?**

Mitigation activities reduce the cost of disasters by minimizing property damage, injuries, and the potential for loss of life, and by reducing emergency response costs, which would otherwise be incurred.

Evaluating natural hazard mitigation provides decision-makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects. Evaluating mitigation projects is a complex and difficult undertaking, which is influenced by many variables. First, natural disasters affect all segments of the communities they strike, including individuals, businesses, and public services such as fire, police, utilities, and schools.

Second, while some of the direct and indirect costs of disaster damages are measurable, some of the costs are non-financial and difficult to quantify in dollars. Third, many of the impacts of such events produce “ripple-effects” throughout the community, greatly increasing the disaster’s social and economic consequences.

While not easily accomplished, there is value, from a public policy perspective, in assessing the positive and negative impacts from mitigation activities, and obtaining an instructive benefit/cost comparison. Otherwise, the decision to pursue or not pursue various mitigation options would not be based on an objective understanding of the net benefit or loss associated with these actions.

## **What are Some Economic Analysis Approaches for Mitigation Strategies?**

The approaches used to identify the costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies, measures, or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. The distinction between the two methods is the way in which the relative costs and benefits are measured. Additionally, there are varying approaches to assessing the value of mitigation for public sector and private sector activities.

### **Benefit/Cost Analysis**

Benefit/Cost Analysis is used in natural hazards mitigation to show if the benefits to life and property protected through mitigation efforts exceed the cost of the mitigation activity. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster related damages later. Benefit/cost analysis is based on calculating the frequency and severity of a hazard, avoided future damages, and risk.

In benefit/cost analysis, all costs and benefits are evaluated in terms of dollars, and a net benefit/cost ratio is computed to determine whether a project should be implemented (i.e., if net benefits exceed net costs, the project is worth pursuing). A project must have a benefit/cost ratio greater than 1 in order to be funded.

### **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis**

Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. This type of analysis, however, does not necessarily measure costs and benefits in terms of dollars. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can also be organized according to the perspective of those with an economic interest in the outcome. Hence, economic analysis approaches are covered for both public and private sectors as follows.

#### **Investing in public sector mitigation activities**

Evaluating mitigation strategies in the public sector is complicated because it involves estimating all of the economic benefits and costs regardless of who realizes them, and potentially to a large number of people and economic entities. Some benefits cannot be evaluated monetarily, but still affect the public in profound ways. Economists have developed methods to evaluate the economic feasibility of public decisions that involve a diverse set of beneficiaries and non-market benefits.

#### **Investing in private sector mitigation activities**

Private sector mitigation projects may occur on the basis of one of two approaches: it may be mandated by a regulation or standard, or it may be economically justified on its own merits. A building or landowner, whether a private entity or a public agency, are required to conform to a mandated standard may consider the following options:

1. Request cost sharing from public agencies;
2. Dispose of the building or land either by sale or demolition;
3. Change the designated use of the building or land and change the hazard mitigation compliance requirement; or

4. Evaluate the most feasible alternatives and initiate the most cost effective hazard mitigation alternative.

The sale of a building or land triggers another set of concerns. For example, real estate

Estimating the costs and benefits of a hazard mitigation strategy can be a complex process.

Employing the services of a specialist can assist in this process.

disclosure laws can be developed which require sellers of real property to disclose known defects and deficiencies in the property, including earthquake weaknesses and hazards to prospective purchasers. Correcting deficiencies can be expensive and time consuming, but their existence can prevent the sale of the building. Conditions of a sale regarding the deficiencies and the price of the building can be negotiated between a buyer and seller.

### **How can an Economic Analysis be Conducted?**

Benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis are important tools in evaluating whether or not to implement a mitigation activity. A framework for evaluating alternative mitigation activities is outlined below:

**1. Identify the Alternatives:** Alternatives for reducing risk from natural hazards can include structural projects to enhance disaster resistance, education and outreach, and acquisition or demolition of exposed properties, among others. Different mitigation project can assist in minimizing risk to natural hazards, but do so at varying economic costs.

**2. Calculate the Costs and Benefits:** Choosing economic criteria is essential to systematically calculating costs and benefits of mitigation projects and selecting the most appropriate alternative. Potential economic criteria to evaluate alternatives include:

- **Determine the project cost.** This may include initial project development costs, and repair and operating costs of maintaining projects over time.

- **Estimate the benefits.** Projecting the benefits or cash flow resulting from a project can be difficult. Expected future returns from the mitigation effort depend on the correct specification of the risk and the effectiveness of the project, which may not be well known. Expected future costs depend on the physical durability and potential economic obsolescence of the investment. This is difficult to project. These considerations will also provide guidance in selecting an appropriate salvage value. Future tax structures and rates must be projected. Financing alternatives must be researched, and they may include retained

earnings, bond and stock issues, and commercial loans.

- **Consider costs and benefits to society and the environment.** These are not easily measured, but can be assessed through a variety of economic tools including existence value or contingent value theories. These theories provide quantitative data on the value people attribute to physical or social environments. Even without hard data, however, impacts of structural projects to the physical environment or to society should be considered when implementing mitigation projects.

- **Determine the correct discount rate.** Determination of the discount rate can just be the risk-free cost of capital, but it may include the decision maker's time preference and also a risk premium. Including inflation should also be considered.

**3. Analyze and Rank the Alternatives:** Once costs and benefits have been quantified, economic analysis tools can rank the alternatives. Two methods for determining the best alternative given varying costs and benefits include net present value and internal rate of return.

- **Net Present Value** - Net present value is the value of the expected future returns of an investment minus the value of expected future cost expressed in today's dollars. If the net present value is greater than the project costs, the project may be determined feasible for implementation. Selecting the discount rate, and identifying the present and future costs and benefits of the project calculates the net present value of projects.

- **Internal Rate of Return** - Using the internal rate of return method to evaluate mitigation projects provides the interest rate equivalent to the dollar returns expected from the project. Once the rate has been calculated, it can be compared to rates earned by investing in alternative projects. Projects may be feasible to implement when the internal rate of return is greater than the total costs of the project.

Once the mitigation projects are ranked on the basis of economic criteria, decision-makers can consider other factors, such as risk; project effectiveness; and economic, environmental, and social returns in choosing the appropriate project for implementation.

### **How are Benefits of Mitigation Calculated?**

#### **Economic Returns of Natural Hazard Mitigation**

The estimation of economic returns, which accrue to building or landowner as a result of natural hazard mitigation, is difficult. Owners evaluating the economic feasibility of mitigation should consider reductions in physical damages and financial losses. A partial list follows:

- Building damages avoided

- Content damages avoided
- Inventory damages avoided
- Rental income losses avoided
- Relocation and disruption expenses avoided
- Proprietor's income losses avoided

These parameters can be estimated using observed prices, costs, and engineering data. The difficult part is to correctly determine the effectiveness of the hazard mitigation project and the resulting reduction in damages and losses. Equally as difficult is assessing the probability that an event will occur. The damages and losses should only include those that will be borne by the owner. The salvage value of the investment can be important in determining economic feasibility. Salvage value becomes more important as the time horizon of the owner declines. This is important because most businesses depreciate assets over a period of time.

### **Additional Costs from Natural Hazards**

Property owners should also assess changes in a broader set of factors that can change as a result of a large natural disaster. These are usually termed "indirect" effects, but they can have a very direct effect on the economic value of the owner's building or land. They can be positive or negative, and include changes in the following:

- Commodity and resource prices
- Availability of resource supplies
- Commodity and resource demand changes
- Building and land values
- Capital availability and interest rates
- Availability of labor
- Economic structure
- Infrastructure
- Regional exports and imports
- Local, state, and national regulations and policies
- Insurance availability and rates

Changes in the resources and industries listed above are more difficult to estimate and require models that are structured to estimate total economic impacts. Total economic impacts are the sum of direct and indirect economic impacts. Total economic impact models are usually not combined with economic feasibility models. Many models exist to estimate total economic impacts of changes in an economy. Decision makers should understand the total economic impacts of natural disasters in order to calculate the benefits of a mitigation activity. This suggests that understanding the local economy is an important first step in being able to understand the potential impacts of a disaster, and the benefits of mitigation activities.

### **Additional Considerations**

Conducting an economic analysis for potential mitigation activities can assist decision-makers in choosing the most appropriate strategy for their community to reduce risk and prevent loss from natural hazards. Economic analysis can also save time and resources from being spent on

inappropriate or unfeasible projects. Several resources and models are listed on the following page that can assist in conducting an economic analysis for natural hazard mitigation activities.

Benefit/cost analysis is complicated, and the numbers may divert attention from other important issues. It is important to consider the qualitative factors of a project associated with mitigation that cannot be evaluated economically. There are alternative approaches to implementing mitigation projects. Many communities are looking towards developing multi-objective projects. With this in mind, opportunity rises to develop strategies that integrate natural hazard mitigation with projects related to watersheds, environmental planning, community economic development, and small business development, among others. Incorporating natural hazard mitigation with other community projects can increase the viability of project implementation.

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## Appendix D: Acronyms & Abbreviations

### **Federal**

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ATC	Applied Technology Council
b/ca	benefit/cost analysis
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BSSC	Building Seismic Safety Council
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRS	Community Rating System
DOE	Department of Energy
EDA	Economic Development Administration
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ER	Emergency Relief
EWP	Emergency Watershed Protection (NRCS Program)
FAS	Federal Aid System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA Program)
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNS	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (International)
GSA	General Services Administration
HAZUS	Hazards U.S.
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HMST	Hazard Mitigation Survey Team
HUD	Housing and Urban Development (United States, Department of)
IBHS	Institute for Business and Home Safety
ICC	Increased Cost of Compliance
IHMT	Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team
NCDC	National Climate Data Center
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHMP	Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (also known as "409 Plan")
NIBS	National Institute of Building Sciences
NIFC	National Interagency Fire Center
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service

NWS	National Weather Service
SBA	Small Business Administration
SHMO	State Hazard Mitigation Officer
TOR	Transfer of Development Rights
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
URM	Unreinforced Masonry
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFA	United States Fire Administration
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WSSPC	Western States Seismic Policy Council

## **California**

A&W	Alert and Warning
AA	Administering Areas
AAR	After Action Report
ARC	American Red Cross
ARP	Accidental Risk Prevention
ATC20	Applied Technology Council20
ATC21	Applied Technology Council21
BCP	Budget Change Proposal
BSA	California Bureau of State Audits
CAER	Community Awareness & Emergency Response
CalARP	California Accidental Release Prevention
CalBO	California Building Officials
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalREP	California Radiological Emergency Plan
CALSTARS	California State Accounting Reporting System
CalTRANS	California Department of Transportation
CBO	Community Based Organization
CD	Civil Defense
CDF	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEPEC	California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council
CESRS	California Emergency Services Radio System
CHIP	California Hazardous Identification Program
CHMIRS	California Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting System
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CLETS	California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
CSTI	California Specialized Training Institute

CUEA	California Utilities Emergency Association
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
DAD	Disaster Assistance Division (California Office of Emergency Services)
DFO	Disaster Field Office
DGS	California Department of General Services
DHSRHB	California Department of Health Services, Radiological Health Branch
DO	Duty Officer
DOC	Department Operations Center
DOF	California Department of Finance
DOJ	California Department of Justice
DPA	California Department of Personnel Administration
DPIG	Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant
DR	Disaster Response
DSA	Division of the State Architect
DSR	Damage Survey Report
DSW	Disaster Service Worker
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EAS	Emergency Alerting System
EDIS	Emergency Digital Information System
EERI	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
EMA	Emergency Management Assistance
EMI	Emergency Management Institute
EMMA	Emergency Managers Mutual Aid
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPEDAT	Early Post Earthquake Damage Assessment Tool
EPI	Emergency Public Information
EPIC	Emergency Public Information Council
ESC	Emergency Services Coordinator
FAY	Federal Award Year
FDAA	Federal Disaster Assistance Administration
FEAT	Governor's Flood Emergency Action Team
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FIR	Final Inspection Reports
FIRESCOPE	Firefighting Resources of Southern California Organized for Potential Emergencies
FMA	Flood Management Assistance
FSR	Feasibility Study Report
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographical Information System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HAZMIT	Hazardous Mitigation

HAZUS	Hazards United States (an earthquake damage assessment prediction tool)
HAD	Housing and Community Development
HEICS	Hospital Emergency Incident Command System
HEPG	Hospital Emergency Planning Guidance
HIA	Hazard Identification and Analysis Unit
HMEP	Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IDE	Initial Damage Estimate
IA	Individual Assistance
IFG	Individual & Family Grant (program)
IRG	Incident Response Geographic Information System
IPA	Information and Public Affairs (of state Office of Emergency Services)
LAN	Local Area Network
LEMMA	Law Enforcement Master Mutual Aid
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
MARAC	Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Council
MHFP	Multi-Hazard Functional Plan
MHID	Multi-Hazard Identification
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBC	Nuclear, Biological, Chemical
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NEMIS	National Emergency Management Information System
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NSF	National Science Foundation
NWS	National Weather Service
OA	Operational Area
OASIS	Operational Area Satellite Information System
OCC	Operations Coordination Center
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OEP	Office of Emergency Planning
OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
OSHPD	Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
OSPR	Oil Spill Prevention and Response
PA	Public Assistance
PC	Personal Computer
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PIO	Public Information Office
POST	Police Officer Standards and Training
PPA/CA	Performance Partnership Agreement/Cooperative Agreement (FEMA)
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PTAB	Planning and Technological Assistance Branch
PTR	Project Time Report

RA	Regional Administrator (OES)
RADEF	Radiological Defense (program)
RAMP	Regional Assessment of Mitigation Priorities
RAPID	Railroad Accident Prevention & Immediate Deployment
RDO	Radiological Defense Officer
RDMHC	Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Center
REPI	Reserve Emergency Public Information
RES	Regional Emergency Staff
RIMS	Response Information Management System
RMP	Risk Management Plan
RPU	Radiological Preparedness Unit (OES)
RRT	Regional Response Team
SAM	State Administrative Manual
SARA	Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act
SAVP	Safety Assessment Volunteer Program
SBA	Small Business Administration
SCO	California State Controller's Office
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SEPIC	State Emergency Public Information Committee
SLA	State and Local Assistance
SONGS	San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWEPC	Statewide Emergency Planning Committee
TEC	Travel Expense Claim
TRU	Transuranic
TTT	Train the Trainer
UPA	Unified Program Account
UPS	Uninterrupted Power Source
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WC	California State Warning Center
WAN	Wide Area Network
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Project

## Appendix E

### Glossary

Acceleration	The rate of change of velocity with respect to time. Acceleration due to gravity at the earth's surface is 9.8 meters per second squared. That means that every second that something falls toward the surface of earth its velocity increases by 9.8 meters per second.
Asset	Any manmade or natural feature that has value, including, but not limited to people; buildings; infrastructure like bridges, roads, and sewer and water systems; lifelines like electricity and communication resources; or environmental, cultural, or recreational features like parks, dunes, wetlands, or landmarks.
Base Flood	Flood that has a 1 percent probability of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also known as the 100-year flood.
Base Flood Elevation (BFE)	Elevation of the base flood in relation to a specified datum, such as the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The Base Flood Elevation is used as the standard for the National Flood Insurance Program.
Bedrock	The solid rock that underlies loose material, such as soil, sand, clay, or gravel.
Building	A structure that is walled and roofed, principally above ground and permanently affixed to a site. The term includes a manufactured home on a permanent foundation on which the wheels and axles carry no weight.
Coastal High Hazard Area	Area, usually along an open coast, bay, or inlet that is subject to inundation by storm surge and, in some instances, wave action caused by storms or seismic sources.
Coastal Zones	The area along the shore where the ocean meets the land as the surface of the land rises above the ocean. This land/water interface includes barrier islands, estuaries, beaches, coastal wetlands, and land areas having direct drainage to the ocean.
Community Rating System (CRS)	An NFIP program that provides incentives for NFIP communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. When the community completes specified activities, the insurance premiums of policyholders in these communities are reduced.
Computer-Aided Design And Drafting (CADD)	A computerized system enabling quick and accurate electronic 2-D and 3-D drawings, topographic mapping, site plans, and profile/cross-section drawings.

Contour	A line of equal ground elevation on a topographic (contour) map.
Critical Facility	Facilities that are critical to the health and welfare of the population and that are especially important following hazard events. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, shelters, police and fire stations, and hospitals.
Debris	The scattered remains of assets broken or destroyed in a hazard event. Debris caused by a wind or water hazard event can cause additional damage to other assets.
Digitize	To convert electronically points, lines, and area boundaries shown on maps into x, y coordinates (e.g., latitude and longitude, universal transverse mercator (UTM), or table coordinates) for use in computer applications.
Displacement Time	The average time (in days) which the building's occupants typically must operate from a temporary location while repairs are made to the original building due to damages resulting from a hazard event.
Duration	How long a hazard event lasts.
Earthquake	A sudden motion or trembling that is caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of earth's tectonic plates.
Erosion	Wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments, during a flood or storm or over a period of years, through the action of wind, water, or other geologic processes.
Erosion Hazard Area	Area anticipated being lost to shoreline retreat over a given period of time. The projected inland extent of the area is measured by multiplying the average annual long-term recession rate by the number of years desired.
Essential Facility	Elements important to ensure a full recovery of a community or state following a hazard event. These would include: government functions, major employers, banks, schools, and certain commercial establishments, such as grocery stores, hardware stores, and gas stations.
Extent	The size of an area affected by a hazard or hazard event.
Extratropical Cyclone	Cyclonic storm events like Nor'easters and severe winter low-pressure systems. Both West and East coasts can experience these non-tropical storms that produce gale-force winds and precipitation in the form of heavy rain or snow. These cyclonic storms, commonly called Nor'easters on the East Coast because of the direction of the storm winds, can last for several days and can be very large – 1,000-mile wide storms are not uncommon.

Fault	A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by a shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are differentially displaced parallel to the plane of fracture.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Independent agency created in 1978 to provide a single point of accountability for all Federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
Fire Potential Index (FPI)	Developed by USGS and USFS to assess and map fire hazard potential over broad areas. Based on such geographic information, national policy makers and on-the-ground fire managers established priorities for prevention activities in the defined area to reduce the risk of managed and wildfire ignition and spread. Prediction of fire hazard shortens the time between fire ignition and initial attack by enabling fire managers to pre-allocate and stage suppression forces to high fire risk areas.
Flash Flood	A flood event occurring with little or no warning where water levels rise at an extremely fast rate.
Flood	A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters, (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, or (3) mudflows or the sudden collapse of shoreline land.
Flood Depth	Height of the flood water surface above the ground surface.
Flood Elevation	Elevation of the water surface above an established datum, e.g. National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, North American Vertical Datum of 1988, or Mean Sea Level.
Flood Hazard Area	The area shown to be inundated by a flood of a given magnitude on a map.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	Map of a community, prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that shows both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
Flood Insurance Study (FIS)	A study that provides an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations in a community or communities.
Floodplain	Any land area, including watercourse, susceptible to partial or complete inundation by water from any source.

Frequency	A measure of how often events of a particular magnitude are expected to occur. Frequency describes how often a hazard of a specific magnitude, duration, and/or extent typically occurs, on average. Statistically, a hazard with a 100-year recurrence interval is expected to occur once every 100 years on average, and would have a 1 percent chance – its probability – of happening in any given year. The reliability of this information varies depending on the kind of hazard being considered.
Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity	Rates tornadoes with numeric values from F0 to F5 based on tornado wind speed and damage sustained. An F0 indicates minimal damage such as broken tree limbs or signs, while an F5 indicates severe damage sustained.
Functional Downtime	The average time (in days) during which a function (business or service) is unable to provide its services due to a hazard event.
Geographic Area Impacted	The physical area in which the effects of the hazard are experienced.
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	A computer software application that relates physical features on the earth to a database to be used for mapping and analysis.
Ground Motion	The vibration or shaking of the ground during an earthquake. When a fault ruptures, seismic waves radiate, causing the ground to vibrate. The severity of the vibration increases with the amount of energy released and decreases with distance from the causative fault or epicenter, but soft soils can further amplify ground motions.
Hazard	A source of potential danger or adverse condition. Hazards in this how to series will include naturally occurring events such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, coastal storms, landslides, and wildfires that strike populated areas. A natural event is a hazard when it has the potential to harm people or property.
Hazard Event	A specific occurrence of a particular type of hazard.
Hazard Identification	The process of identifying hazards that threaten an area.
Hazard Mitigation	Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects.
Hazard Profile	A description of the physical characteristics of hazards and a determination of various descriptors including magnitude, duration, frequency, probability, and extent. In most cases, a community can most easily use these descriptors when they are recorded and displayed as maps.

HAZUS (Hazards U.S.)	A GIS-based nationally standardized earthquake loss estimation tool developed by FEMA.
Hurricane	An intense tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74-miles-per-hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or "eye." Hurricanes develop over the north Atlantic Ocean, northeast Pacific Ocean, or the south Pacific Ocean east of 160°E longitude. Hurricane circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
Hydrology	The science of dealing with the waters of the earth. A flood discharge is developed by a hydrologic study.
Infrastructure	Refers to the public services of a community that have a direct impact on the quality of life. Infrastructure includes communication technology such as phone lines or Internet access, vital services such as public water supplies and sewer treatment facilities, and includes an area's transportation system such as airports, heliports; highways, bridges, tunnels, roadbeds, overpasses, railways, bridges, rail yards, depots; and waterways, canals, locks, seaports, ferries, harbors, dry docks, piers and regional dams.
Intensity	A measure of the effects of a hazard event at a particular place.
Landslide	Downward movement of a slope and materials under the force of gravity.
Lateral Spreads	Develop on gentle slopes and entail the sidelong movement of large masses of soil as an underlying layer liquefies in a seismic event. The phenomenon that occurs when ground shaking causes loose soils to lose strength and act like viscous fluid. Liquefaction causes two types of ground failure: lateral spread and loss of bearing strength.
Liquefaction	Results when the soil supporting structures liquefies. This can cause structures to tip and topple.
Lowest Floor	Under the NFIP, the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement) of a structure.
Magnitude	A measure of the strength of a hazard event. The magnitude (also referred to as severity) of a given hazard event is usually determined using technical measures specific to the hazard.

Mitigation Plan	A systematic evaluation of the nature and extent of vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards typically present in the state and includes a description of actions to minimize future vulnerability to hazards.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Federal program created by Congress in 1968 that makes flood insurance available in communities that enact minimum floodplain management regulations in 44 CFR §60.3.
National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD)	Datum established in 1929 and used in the NFIP as a basis for measuring flood, ground, and structural elevations, previously referred to as Sea Level Datum or Mean Sea Level. The Base Flood Elevations shown on most of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency are referenced to NGVD.
National Weather Service (NWS)	Prepares and issues flood, severe weather, and coastal storm warnings and can provide technical assistance to Federal and state entities in preparing weather and flood warning plans.
Nor'easter	An extra-tropical cyclone producing gale-force winds and precipitation in the form of heavy snow or rain.
Outflow	Follows water inundation creating strong currents that rip at structures and pound them with debris, and erode beaches and coastal structures.
Planimetric	Describes maps that indicate only man-made features like buildings.
Planning	The act or process of making or carrying out plans; the establishment of goals, policies and procedures for a social or economic unit.
Probability	A statistical measure of the likelihood that a hazard event will occur.
Recurrence Interval	The time between hazard events of similar size in a given location. It is based on the probability that the given event will be equaled or exceeded in any given year.
Repetitive Loss Property	A property that is currently insured for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses (occurring more than ten days apart) of at least \$1000 each have been paid within any 10-year period since 1978.
Replacement Value	The cost of rebuilding a structure. This is usually expressed in terms of cost per square foot, and reflects the present-day cost of labor and materials to construct a building of a particular size, type and quality.
Richter Scale	A numerical scale of earthquake magnitude devised by seismologist C.F. Richter in 1935.

Risk	The estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage. Risk is often expressed in relative terms such as a high, moderate or low likelihood of sustaining damage above a particular threshold due to a specific type of hazard event. It also can be expressed in terms of potential monetary losses associated with the intensity of the hazard.
Riverine	Of or produced by a river.
Scale	A proportion used in determining a dimensional relationship; the ratio of the distance between two points on a map and the actual distance between the two points on the earth's surface.
Scarp	A steep slope.
Scour	Removal of soil or fill material by the flow of flood waters. The term is frequently used to describe storm-induced, localized conical erosion around pilings and other foundation supports where the obstruction of flow increases turbulence.
Seismicity	Describes the likelihood of an area being subject to earthquakes.
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	An area within a floodplain having a 1 percent or greater chance of flood occurrence in any given year (100-year floodplain); represented on Flood Insurance Rate Maps by darkly shaded areas with zone designations that include the letter A or V.
Stafford Act	The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-107 was signed into law November 23, 1988 and amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. The Stafford Act is the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to FEMA and its programs.
State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	The representative of state government who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other state and Federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities.
Storm Surge	Rise in the water surface above normal water level on the open coast due to the action of wind stress and atmospheric pressure on the water surface.
Structure	Something constructed. (See also Building)
Substantial Damage	Damage of any origin sustained by a structure in a Special Flood Hazard Area whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage.

Super Typhoon	A typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph or more.
Surface Faulting	The differential movement of two sides of a fracture – in other words, the location where the ground breaks apart. The length, width, and displacement of the ground characterize surface faults.
Tectonic Plate	Torsionally rigid, thin segments of the earth's lithosphere that may be assumed to move horizontally and adjoin other plates. It is the friction between plate boundaries that cause seismic activity.
Topographic	Characterizes maps that show natural features and indicate the physical shape of the land using contour lines. These maps may also include manmade features.
Tornado	A violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
Tropical Cyclone	A generic term for a cyclonic, low-pressure system over tropical or subtropical waters.
Tropical Depression	A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of less than 39 mph.
Tropical Storm	A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds greater than 39 mph and less than 74 mph.
Tsunami	Great sea wave produced by submarine earth movement or volcanic eruption.
Typhoon	A special category of tropical cyclone peculiar to the western North Pacific Basin, frequently affecting areas in the vicinity of Guam and the North Mariana Islands. Typhoons whose maximum sustained winds attain or exceed 150 mph are called super typhoons.
Vulnerability	Describes how exposed or susceptible to damage an asset is. Vulnerability depends on an asset's construction, contents, and the economic value of its functions. Like indirect damages, the vulnerability of one element of the community is often related to the vulnerability of another. For example, many businesses depend on uninterrupted electrical power – if an electric substation is flooded, it will affect not only the substation itself, but a number of businesses as well. Often, indirect effects can be much more widespread and damaging than direct ones.
Vulnerability Assessment	The extent of injury and damage that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area. The vulnerability assessment should address impacts of hazard events on the existing and future built environment.

Water Displacement	When a large mass of earth on the ocean bottom sinks or uplifts, the column of water directly above it is displaced, forming the tsunami wave. The rate of displacement, motion of the ocean floor at the epicenter, the amount of displacement of the rupture zone, and the depth of water above the rupture zone all contribute to the intensity of the tsunami.
Wave Run-up	The height that the wave extends up to on steep shorelines, measured above a reference level (the normal height of the sea, corrected to the state of the tide at the time of wave arrival).
Wildfire	An uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, exposing and possibly consuming structures.
Zone	A geographical area shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Proportion of Buildings/Values/People in an Earthquake Event*

Type of Structure (Occupancy Class)	Number of Structures			Value of Structures			Number of People		
	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	\$ in City	\$ in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area
<b>Residential</b>	15,607	15,607	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	51,488	51,488	100%
<b>Commercial</b>	330	330	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Industrial</b>	300	300	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Agricultural</b>	2	2	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Religious/ Non-Profit</b>	18	18	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Government</b>	65	65	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	800	800	100%
<b>Education</b>	19	19	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Utilities</b>	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Total</b>	16,341	16,341	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	82,288	82,288	100%

DNA = Data Not Available

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Proportion of Buildings/Values/People in a Flooding Event*

Type of Structure (Occupancy Class)	Number of Structures			Value of Structures			Number of People		
	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	\$ in City	\$ in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area
<b>Residential</b>	15,607	15,607	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	54,488	15,488	100%
<b>Commercial</b>	330	330	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Industrial</b>	300	300	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Agricultural</b>	2	2	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Religious/ Non-Profit</b>	18	18	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Government</b>	65	65	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	800	800	100%
<b>Education</b>	19	19	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Utilities</b>	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Total</b>	16,341	16,341	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	82,288	82,288	100%

DNA = Data Not Available

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Proportion of Buildings/Values/People in a Windstorm Event*

Type of Structure (Occupancy Class)	Number of Structures			Value of Structures			Number of People		
	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	\$ in City	\$ in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area	# in City	# in Hazard Area	% in Hazard Area
<b>Residential</b>	15,607	15,607	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	54,488	15,488	100%
<b>Commercial</b>	330	330	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Industrial</b>	300	300	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	15,000	15,000	100%
<b>Agricultural</b>	2	2	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Religious/ Non-Profit</b>	18	18	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Government</b>	65	65	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	800	800	100%
<b>Education</b>	19	19	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Utilities</b>	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	100%	DNA	DNA	DNA
<b>Total</b>	16,341	16,341	100%	252,857	7,717	100%	82,288	82,288	100%

DNA = Data Not Available

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Critical Facilities in Earthquake Area*

<b>Name or Description of Asset</b>	<b>Source of Data</b>	<b>Size of Building (sq ft)</b>	<b>Replacement Value (\$)</b>	<b>Contents Value (\$)</b>	<b>Function Use or Value (\$)</b>	<b>Displacement Cost (\$ per day)</b>
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	JPIA	150,000	\$78,607,367	16,425,867	9,000,000	DNA
<b>Library</b>	JPIA	80,000	\$44,696,877	8,395,915	DNA	DNA
<b>CPE</b>	JPIA	15,500	\$4,351,933	192,033	DNA	DNA
<b>City Hall</b>	JPIA	53,288	\$9,950,043	3,185,402	N/A	DNA
<b>City Yard</b>	JPIA	24,257	\$1,741,171	637,314	N/A	DNA
<b>Fire Station</b>	JPIA	10,575	\$2,190,172		N/A	DNA
<b>Swim Center</b>	JPIA	38,909	\$7,752,855	223,148	DNA	DNA
<b>Senior Center</b>	JPIA	22,500	\$5,468,592	692,283	DNA	DNA
<b>Sheriff's Station</b>	JPIA	15,000	\$16,757,938	1,012,762	N/A	DNA
<b>Parking Structure</b>	JPIA		10,051,955		N/A	DNA

DNA = Data Not Available

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Critical Facilities in Flooding Area*

<b>Name or Description of Asset</b>	<b>Source of Data</b>	<b>Size of Building (sq ft)</b>	<b>Replacement Value (\$)</b>	<b>Contents Value (\$)</b>	<b>Function Use or Value (\$)</b>	<b>Displacement Cost (\$ per day)</b>
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	JPIA	150,000	\$78,607,367	16,425,867	9,000,000	DNA
<b>Library</b>	JPIA	80,000	\$44,696,877	8,395,915	DNA	DNA
<b>CPE</b>	JPIA	15,500	\$4,351,933	192,033	DNA	DNA
<b>City Hall</b>	JPIA	53,288	\$9,950,043	3,185,402	N/A	DNA
<b>City Yard</b>	JPIA	24,257	\$1,741,171	637,314	N/A	DNA
<b>Fire Station</b>	JPIA	10,575	\$2,190,172		N/A	DNA
<b>Swim Center</b>	JPIA	38,909	\$7,752,855	223,148	DNA	DNA
<b>Senior Center</b>	JPIA	22,500	\$5,468,592	692,283	DNA	DNA
<b>Sheriff's Station</b>	JPIA	15,000	\$16,757,938	1,012,762	N/A	DNA
<b>Parking Structure</b>	JPIA		10,051,955		N/A	DNA

DNA = Data Not Available

# Inventory of City of Cerritos Assets

## *Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Critical Facilities in Windstorm Area*

<b>Name or Description of Asset</b>	<b>Source of Data</b>	<b>Size of Building (sq ft)</b>	<b>Replacement Value (\$)</b>	<b>Contents Value (\$)</b>	<b>Function Use or Value (\$)</b>	<b>Displacement Cost (\$ per day)</b>
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	JPIA	150,000	\$78,607,367	16,425,867	9,000,000	DNA
<b>Library</b>	JPIA	80,000	\$44,696,877	8,395,915	DNA	DNA
<b>CPE</b>	JPIA	15,500	\$4,351,933	192,033	DNA	DNA
<b>City Hall</b>	JPIA	53,288	\$9,950,043	3,185,402	N/A	DNA
<b>City Yard</b>	JPIA	24,257	\$1,741,171	637,314	N/A	DNA
<b>Fire Station</b>	JPIA	10,575	\$2,190,172		N/A	DNA
<b>Swim Center</b>	JPIA	38,909	\$7,752,855	223,148	DNA	DNA
<b>Senior Center</b>	JPIA	22,500	\$5,468,592	692,283	DNA	DNA
<b>Sheriff's Station</b>	JPIA	15,000	\$16,757,938	1,012,762	N/A	DNA
<b>Parking Structure</b>	JPIA		10,051,955		N/A	DNA

DNA = Data Not Available

# Estimated Losses

## *Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Critical Facilities in Earthquake Area*

Structure Loss					Contents Loss				
Name of Structure	Structure Replacement Value (\$)	X	Percent Damage (%)	=	Loss to Structure (\$)	Replacement Value of Contents (\$)	Percent Damage (%)	=	Loss To Contents (\$)
Performing Arts Center	78,607,364	X	18.6	=	14,620,970	16,425,867	18.6	=	3,055,211
Library	44,696,877	X	18.6	=	8,313,247	8,395,915	18.6	=	1,561,640
CPE	4,351,933	X	18.6	=	809,459	492,038	18.6	=	
City Hall	9,950,043	X	18.6	=	1,850,707	3,185,402	18.6	=	592,484
City Yard	1,741,171	X	18.6	=	323,857	637,314	18.6	=	118,540
Senior Center	5,468,592	X	18.6	=	1,017,158	692,263	18.6	=	128,764
Sheriff's Station	16,757,948	X	18.6	=	3,116,976	1,012,762	18.6	=	188,373
Parking Structure	10,051,455	X	18.6	=	1,869,570	N/A	N/A	=	N/A

Name of Structure	Average Daily Operating Budget (\$)	X	Functional Downtime (# of days)	+	Displacement Cost per Day (\$)	X	Displacement Time (\$)	X	Structure Use & Function Loss (\$)	Total Function Loss (\$)
Performing Arts Center	33,483	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	3,010,770	20,686,951
Library	13,242	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	191,780	27,071,197
CPE	DNA	X	DNA	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	DNA	900,978
City Hall	DNA	X	DNA	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	DNA	2,443,191
City Yard	54,360	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	4,892,400	5,334,797
Senior Center	3,823	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	344,070	1,489,992
Sheriff's Station	24,657	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	2,219,130	5,524,479
Parking Structure	N/A	X	N/A	+	N/A	X	N/A	X	N/A	1,869,570
<b>Total</b>										<b>\$65,321,155</b>

DNA=Data Not Available

# Estimated Losses

## *Detailed Inventory of City-Owned Critical Facilities in Flooding Area*

Structure Loss					Contents Loss				
Name of Structure	Structure Replacement Value (\$)	X	Percent Damage (%)	=	Loss to Structure (\$)	Replacement Value of Contents (\$)	Percent Damage (%)	=	Loss To Contents (\$)
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	78,607,364	X	7	=	5,502,515	16,425,867	7	=	1,149,810
<b>Library</b>	44,696,877	X	10	=	4,469,487	8,395,915	10	=	839,592
<b>CPE</b>	4,351,933	X	12	=		492,038	12	=	59,045
<b>City Hall</b>	9,950,043	X	12	=	1,194,005	3,185,402	12	=	382,248
<b>City Yard</b>	1,741,171	X	10	=	174,171	637,314	10	=	63,731
<b>Senior Center</b>	5,468,592	X	10	=	546,859	692,263	10	=	69,226
<b>Sheriff's Station</b>	16,757,948	X	5	=	837,897	1,012,762	5	=	50,638
<b>Parking Structure</b>	10,051,455	X	3	=	301,544	N/A	N/A	=	N/A

Name of Structure	Average Daily Operating Budget (\$)	X	Functional Downtime (# of days)	+	Displacement Cost per Day (\$)	X	Displacement Time (\$)	X	Structure Use & Function Loss (\$)	Total Function Loss (\$)
<b>Performing Arts Center</b>	33,483	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	3,010,770	<b>9,663,095</b>
<b>Library</b>	13,242	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	191,780	<b>6,500,859</b>
<b>CPE</b>	DNA	X	DNA	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	DNA	<b>569,277</b>
<b>City Hall</b>	DNA	X	DNA	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	DNA	<b>1,576,253</b>
<b>City Yard</b>	54,360	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	4,892,400	<b>5,130,302</b>
<b>Senior Center</b>	3,823	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	344,070	<b>960,155</b>
<b>Sheriff's Station</b>	24,657	X	90	+	DNA	X	DNA	X	2,219,130	<b>3,107,665</b>
<b>Parking Structure</b>	N/A	X	N/A	+	N/A	X	N/A	X	N/A	<b>301,544</b>
<b>Total</b>										<b>27,809,150</b>

DNA=Data Not Available