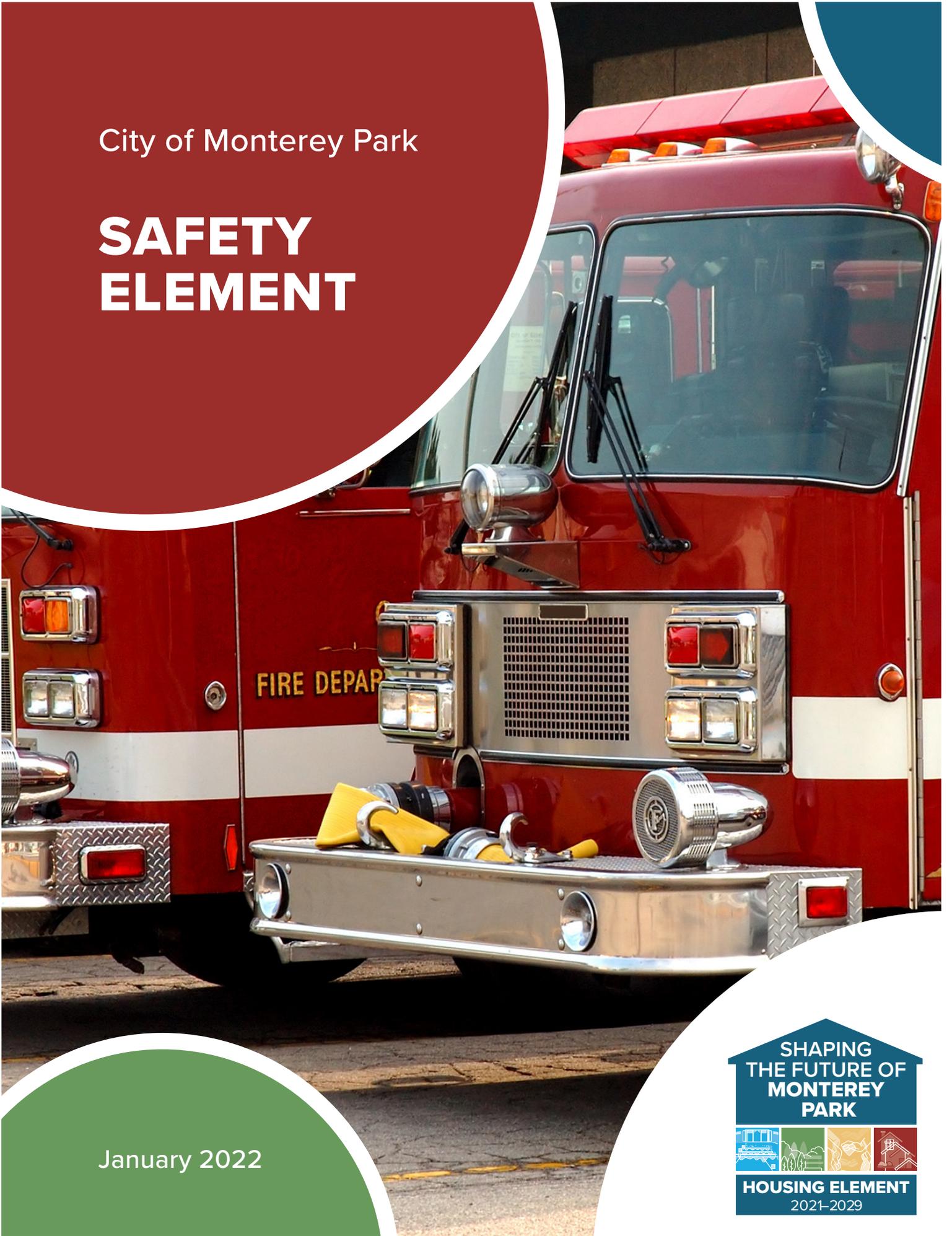


City of Monterey Park

# SAFETY ELEMENT



January 2022

SHAPING  
THE FUTURE OF  
MONTEREY  
PARK

HOUSING ELEMENT  
2021-2029

# Introduction



In Monterey Park, public safety represents a primary concern to the citizenry. People recognize that a low crime rate, outstanding emergency response services, and limited or controlled exposure to hazardous environmental conditions all contribute to the overall livability of their community.

Equally important contributors to community health and safety are the service systems and utility infrastructure. Reliable water and sewer systems, adequate storm drains and flood control facilities, and dependable refuse collection service guard against threats to public health.

## Scope and Content of the Safety and Community Services Element

The Safety and Community Services Element addresses hazards in the physical and built environments, and presents goals and policies focused on reducing the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from hazards. Hazards include climate change, earthquakes, dam or reservoir failure, excessive noise, and hazardous materials associated with commercial and industrial business activity. In addition, this Element addresses disaster preparedness and the fire and law enforcement services needed to safeguard the community.

Community safety and service issues relevant to Monterey Park are:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Climate Change Hazards
- Geologic and Seismic Hazards
- Flood Hazards
- Noise
- Hazardous Materials
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Fire and Police Protection
- Utilities and Service Systems

# Important Terms and Concepts



This Element uses the following technical terms to discuss earthquakes, noise, populations most at-risk to hazards, and climate change.

## Earthquake Magnitude

Monterey Park lies within a region where earthquakes are not an uncommon occurrence. Earthquakes result from a shift or movement along weak points or contacts of geologic formations or structures. Scientists use the term *magnitude* to describe the relative energy release by such movement. An earthquake's magnitude is based on the size of the earthquake's seismic waves, which are recorded on a seismograph. Magnitude generally is rated and expressed using a logarithmic scale. The most commonly known logarithmic measure of an earthquake's magnitude is the Richter scale. Each increase of one unit on the Richter scale represents a 10-fold increase in the magnitude of an earthquake.

The amount of energy released, for example, from a 6.0 earthquake is 10 times greater than that associated with a 5.0 event. Scientists consider a large earthquake as one having a magnitude of 7.0 or greater. For purposes of comparison, the 1987 Whittier earthquake registered a 5.9 magnitude, while the 1994 Northridge temblor measured 6.7 magnitude.

Magnitude differs from earthquake *intensity*, which is the physical, observable effects an earthquake has on structures and people. News media generally do not report earthquake intensity according to scales or

references; instead, the media rely upon pictures and comparisons to past events to show how an earthquake affects people and property. However, the Modified Mercalli scale has been developed to describe an earthquake's intensity relative to its magnitude. Table SCS-1 presents the Modified Mercalli scale.

The Modified Mercalli Scale represents a subjective measurement or description of ground shaking associated with a seismic event. The peak (maximum) horizontal ground acceleration, or PHGA, is used by seismologists to quantitatively measure ground shaking at particular locations. These values, expressed in units of  $g$ , which is a fraction or percentage of gravitational acceleration, provide useful information for determining how buildings must be constructed to withstand collapse or other damage in the event of an earthquake.

## Noise Metrics

Noise generally is defined as unwanted or intrusive sound. Because noise consists of pitch, loudness, and duration, describing noise with a single unit of measure presents a challenge. The A-weighted decibel scale (dBA) has been developed to describe the loudness of a sound or sound environment based on the sensitivity of the human ear.

Figure SCS-1 identifies typical noise levels associated with activities that occur in Monterey Park. Table SCS-12 shows criteria California has established to reduce adverse noise effects on human health.

**Table SCS-1 Modified Mercalli Scale for Describing Earthquake Intensity**

<b>Effects</b>		<b>Magnitude</b>
I	Not felt except by a very few, and only under special circumstances.	Below 3.0 magnitude on Richter Scale
II	Felt by persons at rest and on upper floors.	3.0-3.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
III	Felt indoors. Hanging objects swing slightly. Vibration feels like passing of light trucks. May not be recognized as an earthquake.	4.0-4.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
IV	Hanging objects swing noticeably. Vibration like passing of heavy trucks. Standing automobiles rock. Windows, dishes, doors rattle. Glasses clink. Wooden walls and frames creak.	4.0-4.9 magnitudes on Richter Scale
V	Felt outdoors by most people. Sleepers awakened. Liquids may spill. Small unstable objects displaced. Doors swing, close, open. Pictures move. Some breakage of plaster.	4.0-4.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
VI	Felt by all. Persons walk unsteadily. Windows, dishes, glassware broken. Objects, books, etc., off shelves. Pictures off walls. Furniture moved or overturned. Weak plaster and masonry cracked. Small bells ring (church, school). Trees, bushes shaken visibly.	5.0 -5.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
VII	Difficult to stand. Noticed by drivers of automobiles. Hanging objects shake. Furniture broken. Weak chimneys broken at roof line. Fall of plaster, loose bricks, stones, tiles, cornices; also unbraced parapets and architectural ornaments. Waves on ponds; water turbid with mud. Small slides and caving in along sand and gravel banks. Large bells ring. Concrete irrigation ditches damaged.	6.0-6.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
VIII	Steering of automobiles affected. Fall of stucco and some masonry walls. Twisting, fall of chimneys, factory stacks, monuments, towers, elevated tanks. Frame houses moved on foundation if not bolted down; loose panel walls thrown out. Branches broken from trees. Cracks in wet ground and on steep slopes.	6.0-6.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
IX	General panic. Masonry destroyed or heavily damaged. General damage to foundations. Frames cracked. Serious damage to reservoirs. Underground pipes broken. Conspicuous cracks in ground.	7.0-7.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
X	Most masonry and frame structures destroyed with their foundations. Some well-built wooden structures and bridges destroyed. Serious damage to dams, dikes, embankments. Large landslides. Water thrown on banks of canals, rivers, lakes, etc. Sand and mud shifted horizontally on beaches and flat land. Rails bent slightly.	7.0-7.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
XI	Rails bent greatly. Underground pipelines completely out of service. Damage severe to wood-frame structures, especially near shock centers. Few, if any, masonry structures remain standing. Large, well-built bridges destroyed by the wrecking of supporting piers or pillars.	8.0 8.9 magnitude on Richter Scale
XII	Damage nearly total. Large rock masses displaced. Lines of sight and level distorted. Objects thrown into air.	8.0-8.9 magnitude on Richter Scale

Figure SCS-1 Typical Noise in the Urban Environment

	<b>Over-all Level</b> (Noise level, dB(A))		<b>Community</b> (Outdoor)	<b>Home or Industry</b> (Indoor)	<b>Loudness</b> (Human Judgement of Different Sound Levels)
	120-130	Uncomfortably Loud	Military Jet Aircraft Take-Off With After-Burner From Aircraft Carrier @ 50 ft. (130)	Oxygen Torch (121)	32 times as loud as 70 dB(A)
	110-119		Turbo Fan Aircraft @ Take-Off Power @ 200 ft. (118)	Riveting Machine (110) Rock and Roll Band (108-114)	16 times as loud as 70 dB(A)
	100-109		Boeing 707, DC-8 @ 6080 ft. Before Landing (106), Jet Flyover @ 1000 ft. (103), Bell J-2A Helicopter @ 100 ft. (100)		8 times as loud as 70 dB(A)
	90-99	Very Loud	Power Mower (96) Boeing 707, CD-8 @ 6080 ft. Before Landing (97) Motorcycle @ 25 ft. (90)	Newspaper Press (97)	4 times as loud as 70 dB(A)
	80-89		Car Wash @ 20 ft. (89) Propellor Plane Flyover @ 1000 ft. (88) Diesel Truck, 40 mph @ 50 ft. (84) Diesel Train, 45 mph @ 100 ft. (83)	Food Blender (88) Milling Machine (85) Garbage Disposal (80)	2 times as loud as 70 dB(A)
	70-79	Moderately Loud	High Urban Ambient Sound (80) Passenger Car, 65 mph @ 25 ft. (77) Freeway @ 50 ft. From Pavement Edge @ 10 a.m. (76 +/- 6)	Living Room Music (76) TV-Audio, Vacuum Cleaner (70)	
	60-69		Air Conditioning Unit @ 100 ft. (60)	Cash Register @ 10 ft. (65-70)	1/2 as loud as 70 dB(A)
	50-59	Quiet	Large Transformers @ 100 ft. (50)		1/4 as loud as 70 dB(A)
	40-49		Bird Calls (44) Lower Limit of Urban Ambient Sound in daytime (40)		1/8 as loud as 70 dB(A)
		Just Audible	<b>dB(A) Scale Interrupted</b>		
	0-10	Threshold of Hearing			

Source: Adapted by CBA from Melville C. Branch and R. Dale Beland. *Outdoor Noise in the Metropolitan Environment*. City of Los Angeles. 1970.

**Table SCS-2 State Criteria for Minimizing Adverse Noise Effects on Humans**

Objective	dBA Range
Prevent Hearing Loss	75-80
Prevent Physiological Effects (other than hearing loss)	65-75
Prevent Speech Interference	50-60
Address People’s Subjective Preferences for Noise Control	45-50
Prevent Sleep Interruption	35-45

The dBA descriptor only reports noise from a single source or combination of sources at a point in time. To allow a more comprehensive description of a noise environment, federal and state agencies have established noise and land use compatibility guidelines that use averaging approaches to noise measurement. Two measurement scales commonly used in California are the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and the day-night level ( $L_{dn}$ ). To account for increased human sensitivity at night, the CNEL level includes a 5-decibel penalty on noise during the 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. time period and a 10-decibel penalty on noise during the 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. time period. The  $L_{dn}$  level includes only the ten-decibel weighting for late-night noise. These values are nearly identical for all but unusual noise sources.



# Climate Change

Climate change is accelerated by the human contribution of certain gases like carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. These gases, commonly known as greenhouse gases or GHGs, absorb and re-emit heat that has been discharged from the Earth's surface. This works to trap heat near the earth's surface, increasing the natural greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases from human activities have been collecting in the atmosphere since the 1800's and are increasing the average global temperature at a pace greater than natural phenomenon. The vast majority of scientific data demonstrate that this unprecedented rise in global average temperatures affects precipitation patterns, the severity of wildfires, the prevalence of extreme heat events and droughts, and more.

## Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations experience heightened risk and sensitivity to hazards. Vulnerable populations in a community can include the following: low-income individuals and families; people of color; women; the young; the elderly; people with disabilities; people with existing health issues, including mental health issues; people with limited English proficiency (LEP); immigrants and refugees; agricultural workers and day laborers; traditional native communities; people who are or have been incarcerated; people without a high school education; and other groups.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>See *e.g.*, Roos, Michelle. (E4 Strategic Solutions). 2018. Climate Justice Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Publication number: SUM-CCCA4-2018-012, p.9.

# Related Plans and Programs



Regional plans and programs related to public safety include the State Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Noise Insulation Standards (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Program. Other plans and programs are important to consider to ensure that the City has strong, comprehensive, and compatible tools to guide development decisions. Also, pursuant to California law, the City has developed a comprehensive emergency response plan.

## Standardized Emergency Management System

Monterey Park participates in the Standardized Emergency Management System, or SEMS, that provides a framework for coordinating multi-agency emergency responses. The City's SEMS incorporates mutual aid agreements, establishes lines of communication during emergencies, and standardizes incident command structures.

## Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

California's Seismic Hazards Mapping Act of 1990 requires the State Geologist to compile maps identifying and describing seismic hazards zones throughout California. Guidelines prepared by the State Mining and Geology Board identify the responsibilities of State and local agencies in the review of development within seismic hazard zones. Development on a site that has been designated as a seismic hazard zone requires a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of the policies and criteria established by the Mining and Geology Board. Over the years, the program has expanded to include mapping of seismic-related hazards such as landslide-prone areas.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The State legislature adopted CEQA in 1970 to ensure that environmental protection received due consideration in the planning and development process. CEQA requires an analysis of potential environmental consequences which could result from a development project or plan that guides future

development. CEQA provides a means by which City officials and the public can identify the potential impacts a project will have on a community, and to allow for mitigation or avoidance of such impacts.

## California Noise Insulation Standards (CCR Title 24)

In 1974, the California Commission on Housing and Community Development adopted noise insulation standards for residential buildings (Title 24, Part 2, California Code of Regulations). These regulations establish standards for interior room noise (attributable to outside noise sources). The regulations also specify that acoustical studies must be prepared whenever a residential building or structure is proposed to be located near an existing or adopted freeway route, expressway, parkway, major street, thoroughfare, rail line, rapid transit line, or industrial noise source, and where such noise source or sources create an exterior CNEL (or  $L_{dn}$ ) of 60 dB or greater. Such acoustical analysis must demonstrate that the residence has been designed to limit intruding noise to an interior CNEL (or  $L_{dn}$ ) of at least 45 dB.

## FEMA Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Act includes provisions for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Participating jurisdictions must exercise land use controls and purchase flood insurance as a prerequisite for receiving funds to purchase or build a structure in a flood hazard area. The NFIP provides federal flood insurance subsidies and federally financed loans for eligible property owners in flood-prone areas.

Monterey Park is identified on the National Flood Insurance Program's Flood Insurance Rate Maps as being within Zone X. Zone X is defined as an area subject to minimal flooding. Consequently, riverine flood hazards are not a concern in the City.

## Environmental Protection Agency Superfund

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged with the authority of identifying the nation's most polluted properties and developing strategies to clean up the sites. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA, to direct the EPA's efforts. In Monterey Park, the Operating Industries, Inc. landfill has been designated a Superfund site under CERCLA.

## California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Central Coast Region Report

Central Coast Region Report California's Climate Change Assessments form the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability and inform resilience action at the local scale. It also informs State policies and programs promoting effective and integrated action to protect the State from climate change. The Los Angeles Summary Report is part of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, published in 2018. The Los Angeles report presents an overview of climate science, specific strategies to adapt to climate impacts, and key research gaps needed to spur additional progress to safeguard the Los Angeles Region from climate change.

## **The City of Monterey Park Emergency Operations Plan**

The Emergency Operations Plan explains key concepts during an emergency, including warning and communications, evacuation, shelter and mass care, a hazard assessment, continuity of government, disaster recovery, family disaster preparedness guide, and volunteer management. The Emergency Operations Plan promotes prevention and response best practices. This can be achieved through cross-jurisdictional coordination with emergency service providers and public education opportunities.

## **Monterey Park Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

The CAP provides a comprehensive strategy to address GHG emissions related to land use, transportation, building design, energy use, water demand, and waste generation. Monterey Park's CAP is the City's roadmap to reducing community GHG emissions associated with existing and future actions and activities. The CAP focuses GHG-reducing efforts on areas that will have the most significant environmental benefit, have the least financial cost, and preserve the community's character. Monterey Park's CAP provides strategies and programs for government facilities, businesses and residents that can lead to a reduction of GHG emissions from daily activities. Strategies that would serve to increase resilience to hazards related to climate change include increasing building energy efficiency, improving local air quality through alternative modes of transportation, and conserving water through use of water-efficient irrigation equipment and native vegetation plantings.

## **City of Monterey Park Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP)**

The HMP provides a list of activities that assist Monterey Park in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues and activities for earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms. The HMP contains a five-year action plan matrix, background on the purpose and methodology used to develop the HMP, a profile of Monterey Park, and a description of natural hazards within the City. The HMP aims 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 safer community.

## **City of Monterey Park 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)**

The UWMP is a management action plan that ensures adequate water supplies for existing and future needs. The UWMP includes an analysis of sources of the current water supply, water needs, and provides water supply reliability determinations resulting from prolonged droughts, regulatory revisions, and changing climatic conditions.

Monterey Park's water supply comes from production wells located outside the City's jurisdiction. These wells are in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. In addition, the City purchases water from San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC), which also pumps groundwater from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater

Basin. The Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin receives untreated State Water Project water to replenish the Main Basin.

The City's current and projected water demands are provided in five-year increments over the next 25 years, including during a five consecutive year drought period. The City has a Water Shortage Contingency Plan that presents how the City intends to act or respond in the case of an actual water shortage. The Water Shortage Contingency Plan includes an Emergency Response Plan that addresses emergency situations such as catastrophic water shortages that result from natural disasters and system failures. During periods of water shortage, the plan identifies a target reduction percentage for water customers for six different water shortage levels.

# Disaster Preparedness



The goals and policies presented below are intended to maintain and improve the disaster preparedness efforts of Monterey Park. The policies aim to protect the community from harm by addressing the risks associated with natural and manmade hazards that may impact the community, such as climate change, seismic hazards, flooding, landslides, severe weather events, and fires.

Monterey Park has several neighborhoods with single vehicular entry/exit points, neighborhoods with gated access, and narrow or one-way roads which limit the ability for emergency response vehicles. These constraints could affect the ability for households to evacuate within a timely manner should a disaster occur. Figure SCS-2 illustrates roadways with single ingress/egress.

## Goals and Policies

### **Goal 1 The City of Monterey Park has the capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and is prepared for unavoidable disasters.**

- Policy 1.1** Periodically update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and local emergency management plans in a manner that is compliant with state and federal standards.
- Policy 1.2** Allocate funds to upgrade and maintain essential facilities (including Police/Fire Facilities, and City Hall) to make them more resilient to the potential impacts of natural disasters.
- Policy 1.3** Increase City employee capacity to respond to emergencies through the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant training drills to identify hazards, and assist in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

- Policy 1.4** Review, maintain, and periodically update the City’s emergency communication protocols, City media resources, emergency alert notification systems, and program advertising to provide information to the community prior to, during, or after events posing risk to community health safety, and welfare.
- Policy 1.5** Incorporate procedures into emergency and hazard mitigation plans to take care of the access and functional needs of vulnerable populations during hazardous events.
- Policy 1.6** Promote community-based programs in fire safety and emergency preparedness, including neighborhood-level and business programs and community volunteer groups such as CERT and Neighborhood Watch.

## **Goal 2 Monterey Park is resilient to hazards and recovers quickly and equitably following natural disasters.**

- Policy 2.1** Prioritize the City’s essential facilities when conducting post-disaster building evaluations.
- Policy 2.2** Ensure resources and recovery efforts are equitably distributed and that vulnerable populations receive adequate assistance to avoid permanent disruption or displacement after a disaster.
- Policy 2.3** Assist local and small businesses in planning for continuity of operations and emergency preparedness.
- Policy 2.4** Ensure that post-disaster recovery decisions enhance hazard resilience and optimize long-term community and economic benefits.
- Policy 2.5** Coordinate with local utility providers, including electricity, water, internet, and phone service providers, to ensure service reliability is consistent during emergencies.

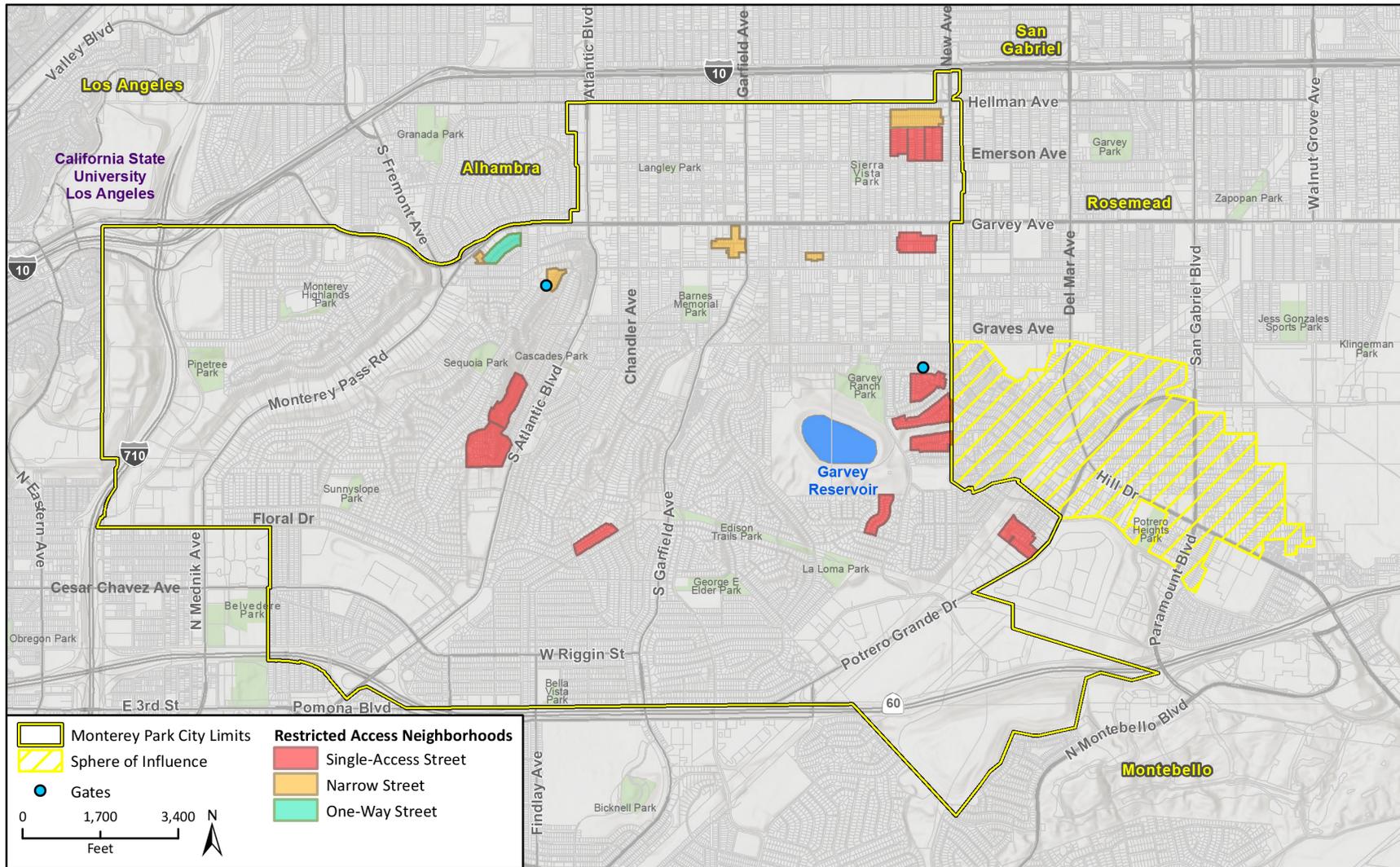
## **Goal 3 Residents of Monterey Park are protected from unreasonable risk of injury, loss of life is prevented, and property damage is minimized.**

- Policy 3.1** Increase public awareness of hazards, emergency response, and recovery resources through City communication resources and informational materials in multiple languages as appropriate.
- Policy 3.2** Periodically evaluate buildings and infrastructure for extreme heat, seismic, fire, flood, drought, and severe weather hazard risks; and minimize identified risks by complying with and enforcing California Building Code standards and other applicable regulations.
- Policy 3.3** Identify the peak load water requirements for Monterey Park and plan for adequate water supply and delivery in the event of a seismic, geologic, fire, or other hazard.
- Policy 3.4** Establish centralized internal procedures to coordinate efforts for securing funds that support risk reduction measures.

## **Goal 4 Strive to maintain the highest level of evacuation preparedness for natural and human caused disasters and threats.**

- Policy 4.1*** Maintain and update an Evacuation Plan every 8 years at a minimum to account for all types of emergencies.
- Policy 4.2*** Develop and employ evacuation alternatives and/or alternative emergency access routes in restricted access neighborhoods.
- Policy 4.3*** Develop and maintain evacuation options for residents with mobility challenges.
- Policy 4.4*** Designate safety zones or shelter-in-place locations as places of refuge when evacuation routes become blocked.
- Policy 4.5*** Develop neighborhood evacuation plans for areas with constrained access and prioritize improvements to ensure adequate evacuation capacity.

Figure SCS-2 Restricted Access Neighborhoods



# Climate Change Hazards



Based on the climate vulnerability assessment conducted for Monterey Park, the City is expected to experience more frequent extreme heat events and warmer summer nights, intense precipitation events, extended drought, and degraded air quality. Goals and policies included in this section are intended to increase resilience for vulnerable populations and natural and built assets at greatest risk to climate change impacts.

## Goals and Policies

### Goal 5 Increase Monterey Park's resiliency against the effects of climate change.

**Policy 5.1** Utilize green infrastructure projects to help reduce heat islands and energy demand during extreme heat events. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water and create healthier urban environments.

**Policy 5.2** Adapt cooling centers to also serve as refuges during bad air quality days.

**Policy 5.3** Partner with the Los Angeles County Health Department to develop and enhance disaster and emergency early warning systems to incorporate objective data and information for potential health threats such as heat-illness, and illnesses complicated by low air quality due to climate change hazards.

**Policy 5.4** Incorporate links and references on the City website and incorporate interpretive signage at transit facilities, parks, and community centers providing education on heat related illness and personal care steps.

**Policy 5.5** Require enhanced water conservation measures in new development and redesign of existing buildings to address the possibility of constrained future water supplies and price hikes from demand which burden low-income households.

## **Goal 6 Increase the ability of the City and its residents to adapt to climate change.**

**Policy 6.1** Invest in sustainable backup power sources to provide redundancy and continued services for critical facilities during periods of high demand during extreme heat events or possible outages as a result of safety power shut offs and power outages from extreme precipitation events.

**Policy 6.2** Adopt a flood resilience plan for people experiencing homelessness as well as other high impact populations to be evacuated to resilience hubs in the event of extreme precipitation and subsequent flooding.

**Policy 6.3** Develop a clean air program for the city that builds on existing state and local standards and provides public education focused on ways to reduce air pollution locally, including “spare the air days” involving burn bans and multi-modal commute incentives.

**Policy 6.4** Incorporate consideration of climate change impacts as part of infrastructure planning and operation. Identify projects as part of capital improvement programs that should consider climate adaptation priorities

**Policy 6.5** Adapt City parks and recreational facilities to serve as refuge from high heat days and be more resilient to climate change.

**Policy 6.6** Modify Monterey Park’s municipal code to require new development to incorporate best practices to mitigate the effects of climate.

# Geologic and Seismic Hazards



## Local Geologic Conditions

Monterey Park lies within a geologic region referred to as the Los Angeles Basin. The geology forming the basin is complex, comprised on several mountain ranges and hill formations and intervening valleys. Monterey Park's distinctive Repetto Hills form part of the San Gabriel Valley's southern boundary and provide evidence of significant geologic structures. Geologic formations underlying the City consist largely of ancient marine and river deposits characterized by sandy and clay-like soils.

On the level ground in northeast Monterey Park, these soil types do not pose any significant development constraints. In hillside areas, however, the soils can be unstable and susceptible to sliding. Beginning with the first hillside development in the 1920s, builders have encountered challenges and the need to utilize careful grading and slope stabilization techniques. Despite such efforts, the City has experienced several episodes of slope failure during significant rainstorms and because of earthquakes. Past experiences led the City to implement ever more stringent grading and slope stabilization regulations, so that slope failure no longer represents a significant public safety concern.

## Seismic Hazards

Southern California lies on the edge of the Pacific Plate, one of the many jigsaw puzzle pieces that fit together to comprise the

Earth's crust. The constant shifting, pushing, and shoving of these crustal plates – together with the complex interfacing of many varied geologic structures – create ruptures and crustal weaknesses geologists term *faults*. Movement along a fault release stored energy and tension, thereby producing earthquakes.

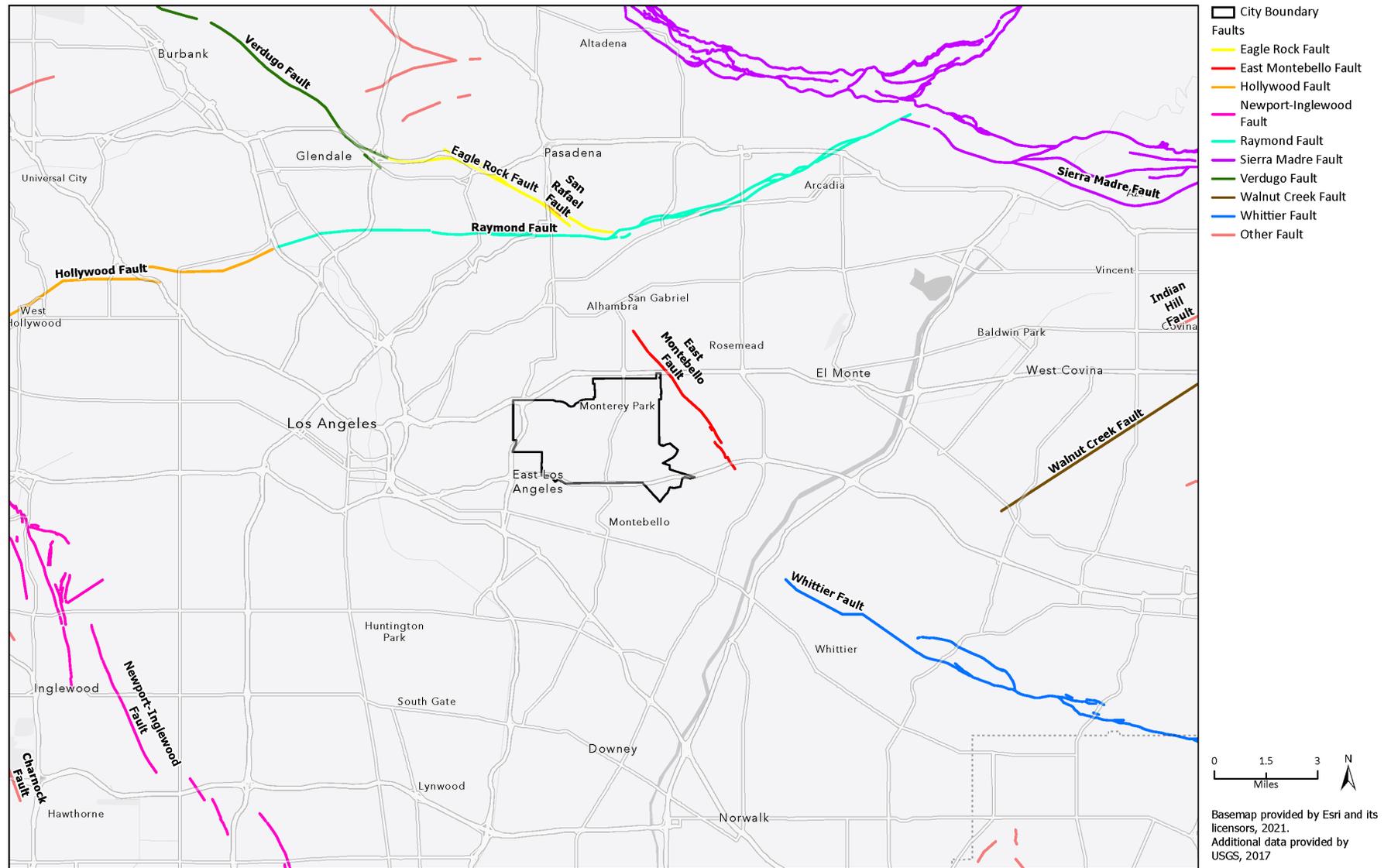
## Faults and Earthquakes

Monterey Park lies within a region with several active faults and therefore is subject to the risks and hazards associated with earthquakes. Figure SCS-3 shows the geographic relationship of the City to surrounding active and potentially active faults. No active faults have been identified at the ground surface within City limits, nor have any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones<sup>2</sup> been designated. However, the City overlies several *blind thrust faults*. The faults are referred to as blind because they do not intercept the ground surface and therefore cannot be detected visually. These northwest-dipping low-angle faults have been named the Puente Hills thrust, the Elysian Park thrust, and the East Los Angeles thrust (shallowest to deepest). The faults are capable of movement which could produce substantial ground shaking.

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<sup>2</sup> The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2621, et seq.) was adopted by the State legislature to provide for the mapping of surface traces of known active faults and to restrict development within so-called Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones.

Figure SCS-3 Earthquake Faults



Ground shaking potential can be expressed qualitatively using the Modified Mercalli Scale or quantitatively by the PGHA (peak horizontal ground acceleration). The PGHA value is calculated based upon the so-called *maximum credible earthquake*, or the seismic event considered likely to occur on an active fault affecting the City. In Monterey Park, the Los Angeles segment of the Puente Hills blind thrust fault represents the controlling force for calculating the PGHA. Assuming a magnitude 6.5 earthquake on this fault, the best PGHA estimate is 0.5 g for loose soils (alluvium) and 0.55 g for bedrock. This level of ground shaking translates to an approximate Modified Mercalli Scale intensity of IX for the entire City.

A major earthquake produced along any of the regional fault systems shown on Figure SCS-3 also has the potential to produce strong ground shaking in Monterey Park. Experience from the Whittier Narrows (1987) and Northridge (1994) earthquakes has shown that ridge top locations in the City and locations near the margins of alluvial basins may be susceptible to elevated levels of ground shaking.

## Seismic-related Hazards

Seismic risks associated with both regional fault systems and the local blind thrust faults underlying Monterey Park emphasize the need to ensure that all new development projects — and the retrofit of existing structures — incorporate appropriate design features to guard against widespread property damage and loss of life in the event of an earthquake.

Local geologic conditions can create additional hazards associated with seismic activity. Unstable soils on steep slopes may fail under the stress of a tremor. In locations where high groundwater levels interact with loose, unconsolidated soils, a condition called *liquefaction* can occur, whereby such soils lose cohesion — and their ability to support structures — when subjected to strong ground motion.

Historically, hillsides in Monterey Park have experienced slope failure due to earthquakes. Steep hillslopes along Abajo Drive failed as a result of the 1987 Whittier Earthquake and have continued to present concerns and threats to private properties and public streets (see Figure SCS-4).

Liquefaction hazards in Monterey Park are generally low due to low groundwater levels. However, there are limited areas of liquefaction potential located in the western portion of the City (see Figure SCS-5). Seismic related landsliding and slope failure have occurred on a larger scale in Monterey Park, with hazard areas dispersed throughout the City. The prior adoption of grading requirements in the Building Code and incorporation of slope landscaping requirements have addressed most of these problems.

Figure SCS-4 Landslide Hazard Areas

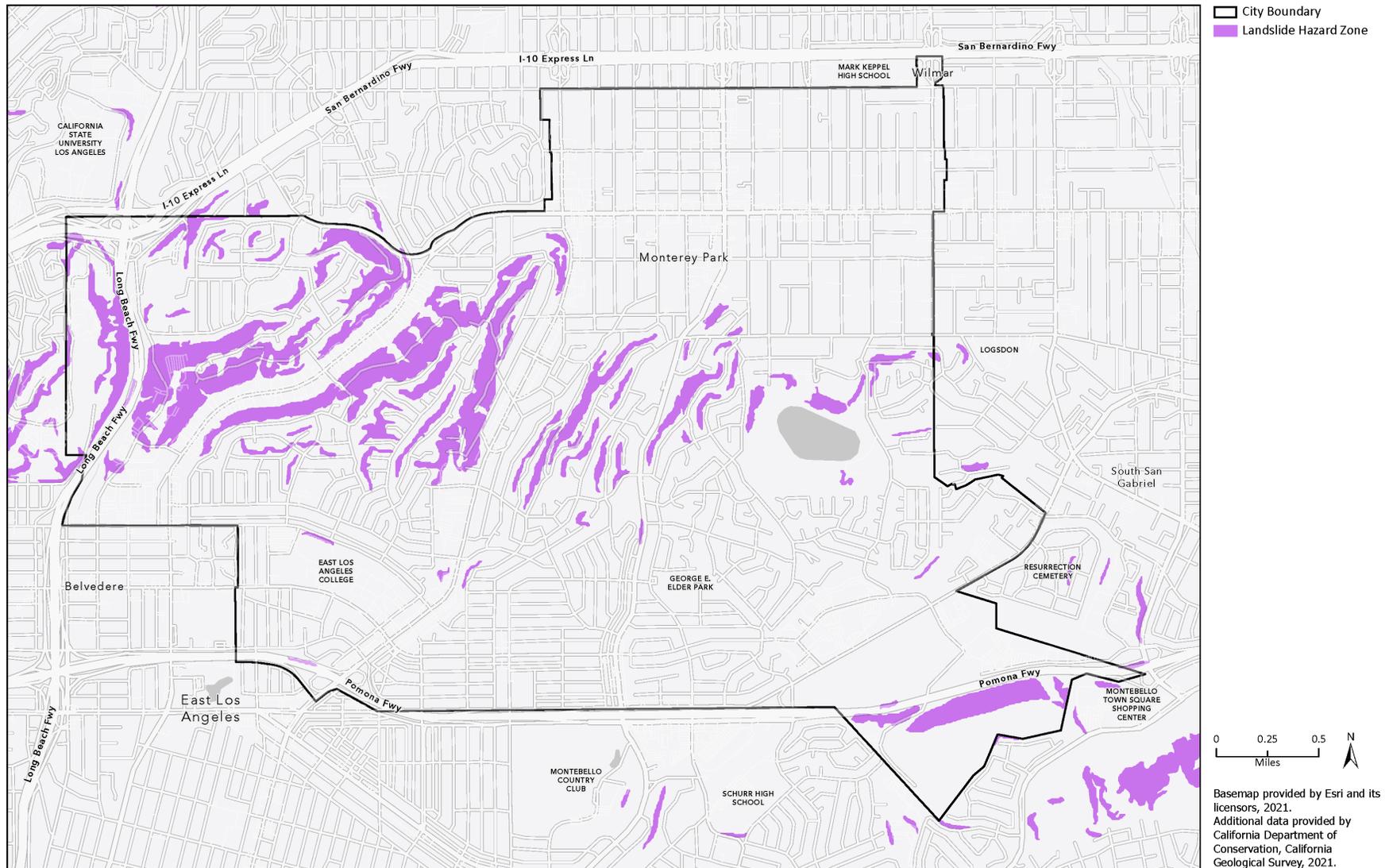
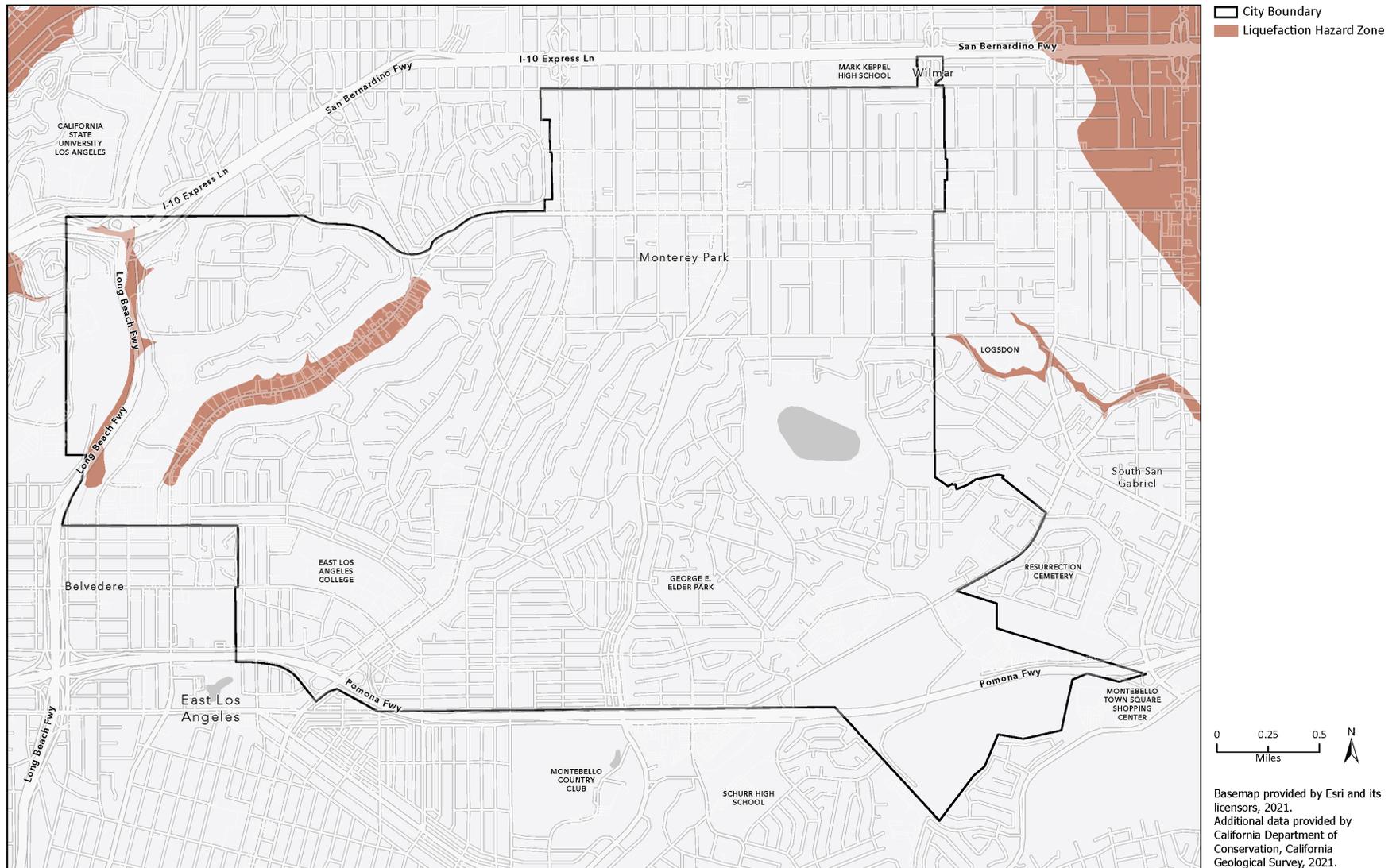


Figure SCS-5 Liquefaction Hazard Area



## Goals and Policies

### Goal 7 Minimize the potential damage to structures and loss of life that could result from earthquakes.

- Policy 7.1** Continue to implement California Building Code seismic safety standards for construction of new buildings. This contains the most recent seismic requirements for structural design of new development and redevelopment to minimize damage from earthquakes and other geologic activity.
- Policy 7.2** Establish an engineering evaluation process for existing buildings to identify the need for seismic retrofits. Require that corrections be made to buildings deemed unsafe.
- Policy 7.3** Encourage residential property owners to implement seismic safety improvements in older buildings, such as anchoring buildings to foundations, bolting water heaters to walls, and performing other preventative measures.
- Policy 7.4** Participate in local, county, and State-sponsored earthquake preparedness programs.
- Policy 7.5** Ensure adequate road widths and clearance around structures such that emergency evacuation and response are not hindered in the event of a seismic disaster.
- Policy 7.6** Limit the location of essential public facilities and resources within geologic hazard zones, as feasible.

### Goal 8 Ensure that all residents and business owners in Monterey Park have full and equal access to information regarding seismic hazards.

- Policy 8.1** Promote earthquake preparedness with publications available in the many languages spoken in the community.
- Policy 8.2** Provide earthquake preparedness information at City-sponsored events, and on the City website in multiple languages as appropriate.
- Policy 8.3** Promote greater public awareness of existing state incentive programs for earthquake retrofit, such as *Earthquake Brace and Bolt*, to help property owners make their homes more earthquake safe.

### Goal 9 Protect public and private properties from geologic hazards associated with steep slopes and unstable hillsides.

- Policy 9.1** Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the Property Maintenance, Urgency, and Grading regulations within the MPMC in preventing mud and debris flows.

- Policy 9.2** Require that hillside developments incorporate measures that mitigate slope failure potential and provide for long-term slope maintenance.
- Policy 9.3** Utilize the Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) to remediate hazards associated with unstable hillslopes in the vicinity of Abajo Drive.
- Policy 9.4** Mitigate landslide risks in Monterey Hills from increased precipitation associated with climate change by prioritizing the improvement of drainage, reconstructing aging retaining walls, installing netting and vegetation, avoiding clear cutting, and stabilizing the soil after tree clearing with compost and mulch.
- Policy 9.5** Improve landslide monitoring and forecasting programs with an integrated early warning system.
- Policy 9.6** Avoid constructing roads in landslide-prone terrain where increased precipitation associated with climate change may increase risk of slope failure.

# Flood and Dam Inundation Hazards



According to flood maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, no part of Monterey Park lies within a 100-year flood zone.<sup>3</sup> Regional drainage improvements adequately protect the City from flooding associated with major storm events. Also, the City's distance from the Pacific Ocean minimizes exposure to tidal wave (tsunami) hazards resulting from offshore earthquakes.

The only flood hazards of concern involve Garvey Reservoir and the Laguna Basin (see Figure SCS-6). Garvey Reservoir, owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), stores municipal water supplies for MWD customers. The Laguna Basin is a flood control facility integral to the regional system maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. A major seismic event has the potential result in dam failure or seiche conditions at these facilities. A seiche can occur because of ground vibrations initiating water wave motion. If wave amplitude is high enough, the water may slosh over the shore or barrier containing the water body and flow onto surrounding properties.

## Inundation Zones

Figure SCS-6 identifies the flood inundation areas for Garvey Reservoir and the Laguna Basin that would result from dam catastrophic failure. As illustrated for the Laguna Basin, the inundation area is limited to

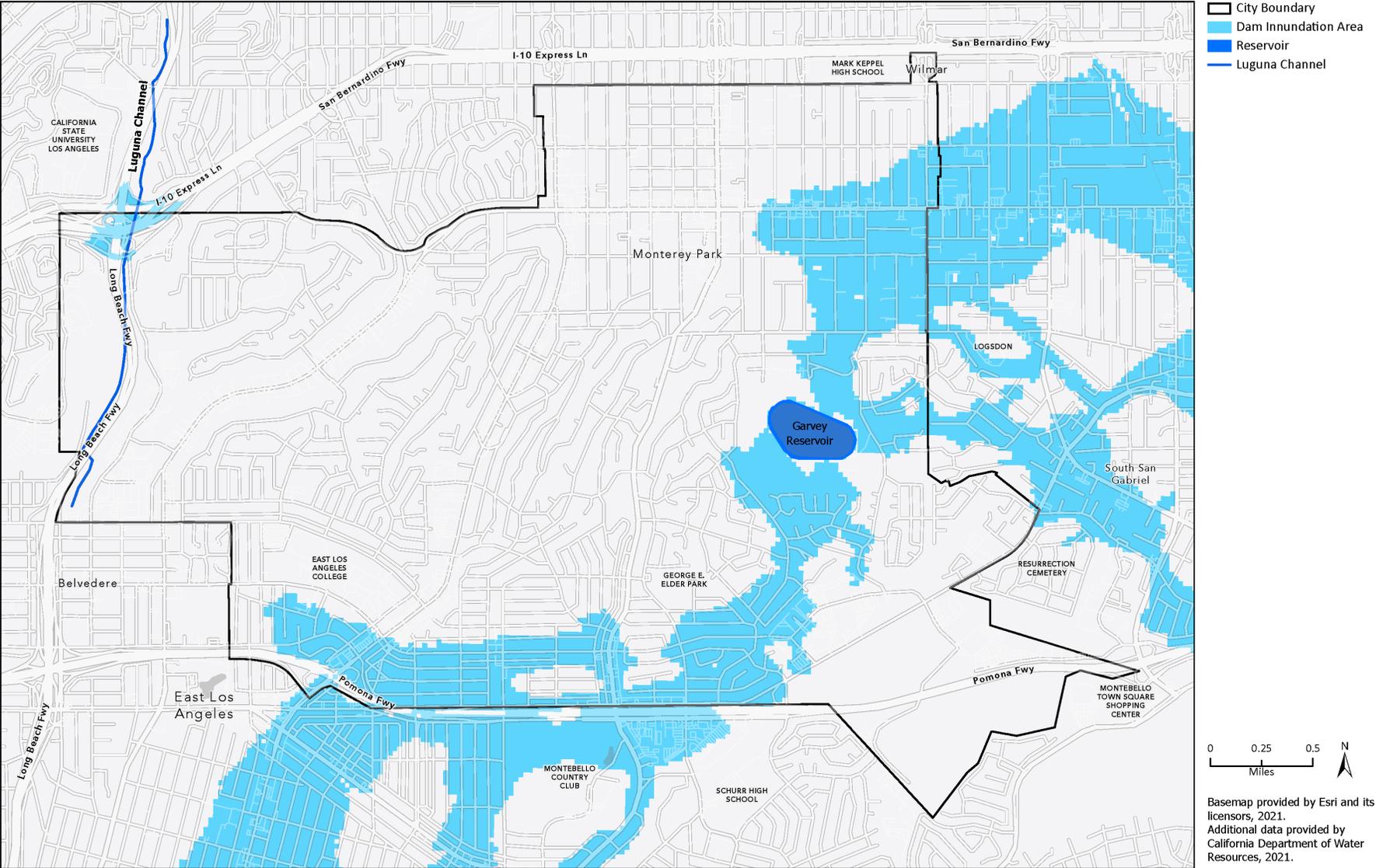
<sup>3</sup> The 100-year flood is defined as that major flood event that has a 1% or greater chance of occurrence in any one year. Flood hazard planning practices addresses such storms, as well as, for example, 50-year and 500-year events

the interchange of Interstate 710 (Long Beach Freeway) and Interstate 10 (San Bernardino Freeway). Thus, private property within the City is not threatened by this hazard.

Garvey Reservoir lies impounded behind a north dam and a south dam. MWD completed a substantial overhaul of the facility in 1999 to address seepage and ensure overall reservoir integrity. The State Department of Conservation, Division of Dam Safety conducts periodic dam inspections to verify the dams' ability to withstand seismic stresses. In the unlikely event of a conjectured catastrophic failure at Garvey Reservoir, properties to the north and south could be flooded. As Figure SCS-6 shows, failure of the north dam would create two flood zones: the first affecting the steep, undeveloped valley immediately east of the reservoir and the second flowing north, impacting properties roughly between Alhambra and New Avenues to Garvey Avenue. The estimated average flood depth is five feet.

If the south dam failed, flood waters of average depth six to seven feet would cascade down the slope bank and into the residential neighborhoods below. At the Pomona Freeway, the water would spread laterally along the north side of the freeway before flowing through freeway undercrossings.

Figure SCS-6 Flood Inundation Area, Garvey Reservoir and Laguna Basin



## Goals and Policies

### Goal 10 Public and private properties are protected from flood hazards associated with catastrophic dam failure at Garvey Reservoir and the Laguna Basin.

- Policy 10.1** Support efforts of the California Department of Conservation, Division of Dam Safety to conduct periodic inspections of Garvey Reservoir and the Laguna Basin.
- Policy 10.2** Continue to work with MWD of Southern California to ensure the City is provided with current information regarding reservoir and dam safety, and that MWD complies fully with the settlement agreement reached regarding Garvey Reservoir.
- Policy 10.3** Ensure that City emergency response plans include contingencies for catastrophic dam failure.
- Policy 10.4** Inform residents and businesses within the flood vulnerability area about flood response strategies in the case of dam failure.

### Goal 11 To the extent practicable, Monterey Park minimizes the risks to residents and property from storm flooding and drainage hazards.

- Policy 11.1** Encourage the use of permeable materials and surfaces in new development to decrease surface water runoff during storms.
- Policy 11.2** Ensure that City emergency response plans include contingencies for temporary and storm related flooding.
- Policy 11.3** Require that applications for new development account for projected precipitation changes and provide adequate protection or design accommodations to mitigate any increased flooding impacts on adjoining parcels, including use of permeable surfaces, or on-site retention of runoff.
- Policy 11.4** Periodically review federal flood hazard maps and other relevant floodplain data and update local resources as new data becomes available. Update maps and resources as appropriate.
- Policy 11.5** Regularly assess the City's storm water system and sewer system to identify infrastructure deficiencies and necessary improvements as warranted from climate change prediction models.
- Policy 11.6** Require that all new development meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Low Impact Development (LID) standards to limit peak runoff to pre-development rates.

# Noise



Noise in Monterey Park results primarily from street and freeway traffic and aircraft overflights. Industrial and commercial activity occurs largely within enclosed buildings and thus such activity does not generate excessive noise levels. Localized sources include typical residential neighborhood sounds such as lawnmowers, children at play, and barking dogs. The City controls localized noise through the noise ordinance, which is part of the Monterey Park Municipal Code.

In Monterey Park's urban environment, noise becomes a concern when it consistently interferes with a person's ability to conduct his or her everyday work and recreation activities. For example, residents exposed to constant freeway noise might find using their backyard less than enjoyable. Similar noise-sensitive uses like hospitals and schools may also find freeway noise disruptive to indoor and outdoor activity. Residents in homes beneath airport flight paths endure irksome, although not hazardous, noise levels. The planning for future land uses in Monterey Park requires that potentially problematic sources of noise be identified and that noise/land use conflicts be avoided to the extent possible, given the built-out character of the community.

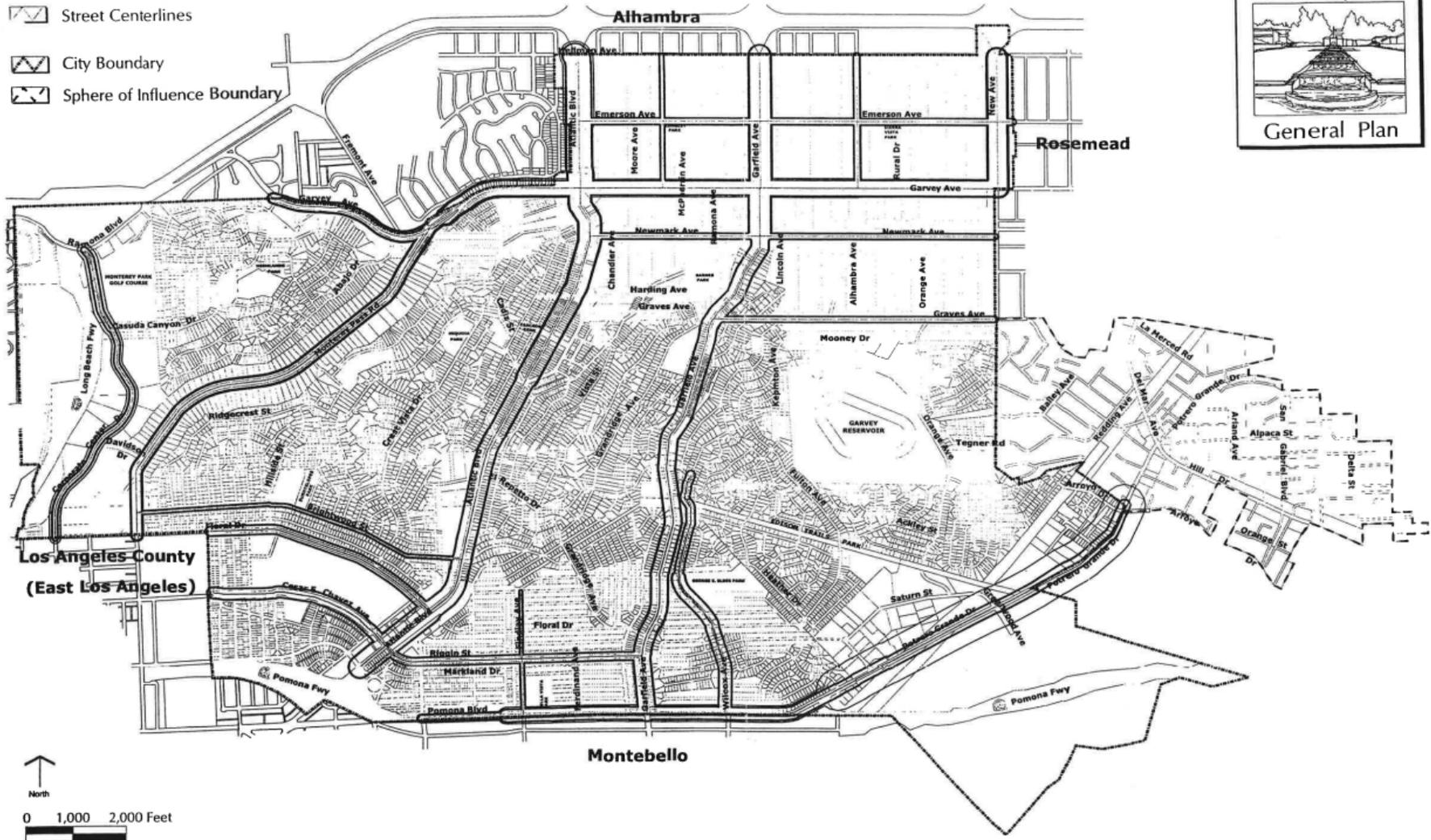
## Baseline Noise Environment

To establish a baseline against which to measure changes in the community noise environment over time, a noise modeling effort was performed, with year 2000 serving as the baseline year. Because traffic noise represents the dominant noise source in the community, the model focuses on traffic noise and the 24-hour ambient noise conditions resulting from this primary source. Figure SCS-7 shows 65 CNEL noise exposure contours for baseline year 2000. As Figure SCS-7 illustrates, the City's Principal and Minor Arterials represent the major source of traffic noise. Both commercial and residential uses along Principal and Minor Arterials (such as Atlantic Boulevard, Garfield Avenue, Pomona Boulevard, Garvey Avenue, and Graves Avenue) lie within the 65 CNEL noise contour. Several residential neighborhoods are also exposed to traffic noise from Minor Arterials, Collector, and Local streets.

The City has little direct control over noise produced by transportation sources because state noise regulations for motor vehicle noise preempt local regulations. Because the City cannot control noise at the source, City noise programs focus on reducing the impact of transportation noise on the community.

Figure SCS-7 Baseline Contours

-  Existing CNEL 65
-  Street Centerlines
-  City Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence Boundary



## Year 2040 Noise Environment

The Land Use Element provides that Monterey Park will accommodate limited growth through the year 2040. Accompanying this moderate growth will be a moderate increase in traffic volumes Citywide. Traffic volume increases represent the only anticipated measurable new noise source in the community over the long term. Land use policy discourages heavy industrial uses and similar business activities that produce noise.

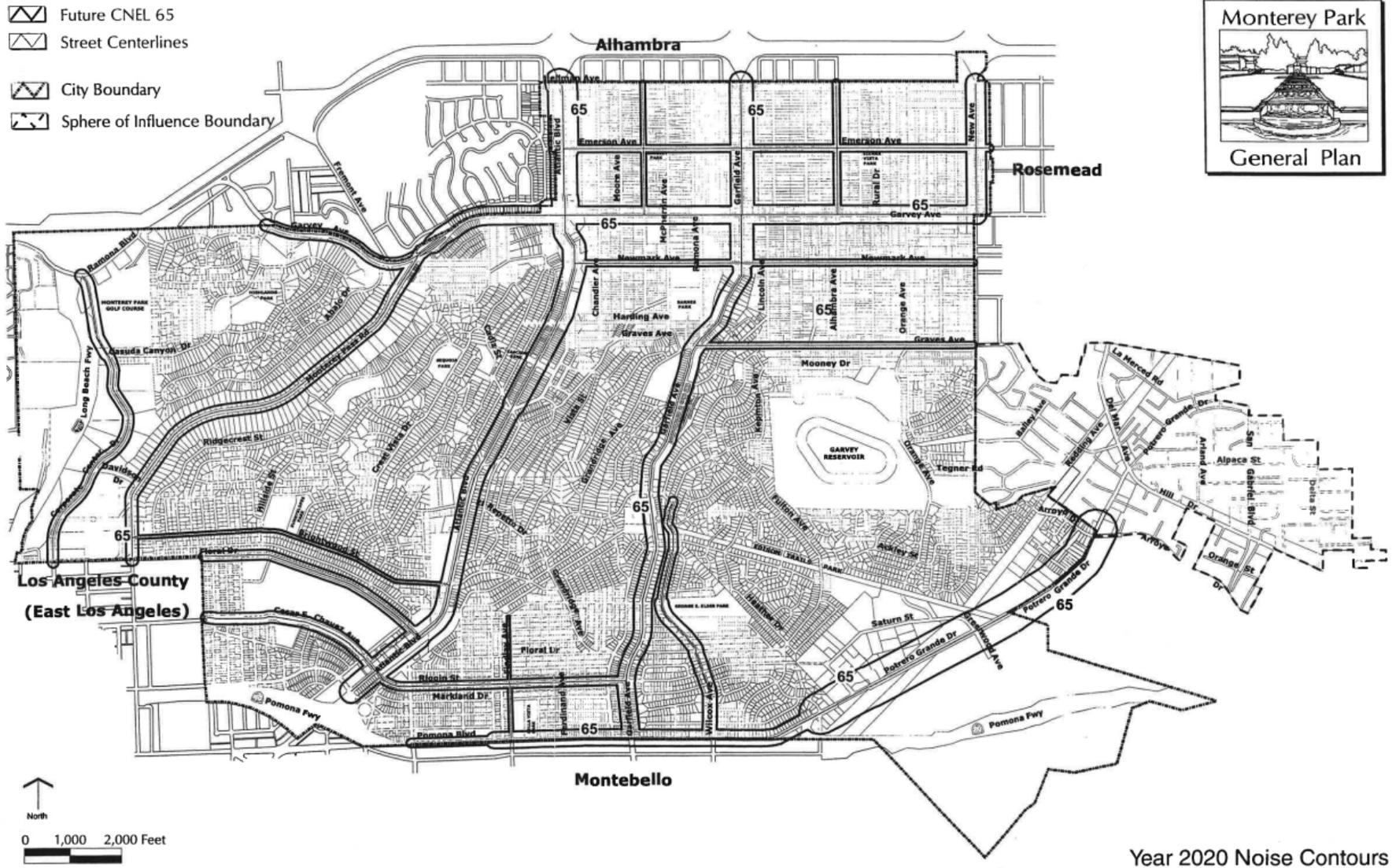
Potential future ambient noise levels can be estimated by modeling. Figure SCS-8 displays projected year 2040 noise contours based upon future traffic levels. The City will experience very little change in ambient noise levels due to traffic. For planning purposes, the change will be imperceptible. Along most of the roadways included in the noise model, the increase of noise exposure from the General Plan in comparison to the baseline year is extremely small. One perceptible noise increase is along Potrero Grande Drive between Markland Drive and Arroyo Drive. Higher noise levels in this area are due to increased traffic along Potrero Grande Drive resulting from redevelopment of the OII landfill site and Southern California Edison properties. No new residential uses are planned along Potrero Grande Drive.

## Aircraft Noise

Air traffic into and out of Los Angeles International Airport, located 25 miles west of Monterey Park, follows an east-west route directly over the middle of the City. Outbound aircraft in particular represent an intrusive noise source. Impacted uses include residential neighborhoods, three public elementary schools, Monterey Park Hospital on Atlantic Avenue, and several churches.

The Federal Aviation Administration has jurisdiction over aircraft and air traffic patterns. Monterey Park's ability to limit overflights and minimize aircraft noise impacts on the community lies solely within the political realm. Together with surrounding cities, Monterey Park must continue to impress upon local congresspersons and U.S. senators the need to improve aircraft noise standards and ensure that impacts created by airports are equally shared throughout the Los Angeles basin.

Figure SCS-8 Year 2020 Contours



## Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines

Monterey Park's primary goal regarding community noise is to minimize the exposure of residential neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals to excessive or unhealthy noise levels, to the extent possible due to the City's built out condition. Toward this end, this Element establishes noise/land use compatibility guidelines. These guidelines are based upon cumulative noise criteria for outdoor noise. Figure SCS-6 outlines the criteria the City will use in its review of development proposals. New residential development will comply with Title 24 standards. (Title 24 of the State Health and Safety Code establishes standards for interior noise levels for new residential development, requiring that sufficient insulation be provided to reduce interior ambient noise levels to 45 CNEL.) For existing residential development along Minor Arterials and Collectors experiencing high noise exposure, the City can implement the Neighborhood Traffic Control Program process outlined in the Circulation Element of this General Plan. Devices such as turn restrictions, traffic circles, and speed humps can relieve traffic and reduce traffic noise through residential neighborhoods.

Because land use patterns in Monterey Park are well established, little opportunity exists to relocate noise-sensitive uses to areas with lower ambient noise levels. Also, land use policy encourages new housing development within mixed-use areas along Garvey Avenue (between Garfield and New Avenues), where the 65 CNEL noise contour extends from approximately 183 to 194 feet from the street centerline. (Many California communities consider 65 CNEL to the maximum noise environment acceptable for multi-family housing.) Thus, the noise/land-use compatibility criteria in Tables SCS-6 respond to baseline noise conditions and City objectives to create a vibrant, mixed-use Downtown.



## Goals and Policies

### Goal 12 Minimize the impact of point-source noises and ambient noise levels throughout the community.

**Policy 12.1** Continue to enforce the noise regulations within the MPMC to control point-source noise.

**Policy 12.2** Incorporate noise impact considerations into the development review process, particularly the relationship of parking and ingress/egress, loading, and refuse collection areas to surrounding residential and other noise-sensitive land uses.

**Policy 12.3** Require that new multi-family residential developments incorporate design features and approaches which minimize the intrusion of ambient noise into private and common outdoor spaces.

**Policy 12.4** Enforce and revise as necessary City regulations regulating hours for construction activity.

**Policy 12.5** Direct the Police Department to prioritize enforcement of the California Motor Vehicle Code regulations governing vehicle noise.

**Policy 12.6** Support efforts of state and federal agencies to reduce motor vehicle noise in newer-model vehicles.

**Policy 12.7** Ensure that City-operated buses are maintained to minimize noise production.

### Goal 13 Minimize the noise impacts associated with the development of residential uses above or near commercial uses in mixed use developments.

**Policy 13.1** Require that mixed use structures be designed to prevent transfer of noise and vibration from the commercial to the residential use.

**Policy 13.2** Locate balconies and windows of residential units in mixed use projects away from the primary street and other major noise sources.

### Goal 14 Reduce aircraft noise impacts on Monterey Park residents and businesses.

**Policy 14.1** Work with surrounding jurisdictions to impress upon federal legislators and appointed officials the need to improve aircraft noise standards and ensure that the impacts created by airports are equally shared throughout the Los Angeles basin.

**Policy 14.2** Restrict the establishment of helipads to those areas of the City where overflights of residential neighborhoods can be avoided, except where such operations are needed to support critical medical and emergency response facilities.

# Hazardous Materials



In Monterey Park, commercial and industrial businesses that use hazardous materials include dry cleaners, film processors, auto service providers, landscape contractors, and computer component manufacturers, among others. Residences also generate household hazardous wastes in the form of paints, thinners, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.

Hazardous waste generators and users in the City are required to comply with regulations enforced by several federal, state, and county agencies. The regulations aim toward reducing risk associated with human exposure to hazardous materials and minimizing adverse environmental effects. The City's Fire Department coordinates with the Health Hazardous Materials Division of the Consolidated Fire Protection District (i.e., Los Angeles County Fire Department) to ensure appropriate reporting and compliance.

Despite all efforts to guard against health risks associated with hazardous materials, such materials can be released accidentally into the environment because of a natural disaster or improper storage and handling. The City's Standardized Emergency Management System, or SEMS, prepares City staff to react quickly and specifically to any hazardous materials accident, with the Fire Department leading the response team. The SEMS includes provisions for the Fire Department to maintain records of all hazardous materials stored and used at businesses in the community, thus ensuring appropriate response to any individual incident.

To address household hazardous wastes, the City cooperates with Los Angeles County to sponsor programs that heighten community awareness of household hazardous wastes and the importance of proper storage and disposal.

## Hazardous Waste Site Remediation

In 1948, landfill operations in Monterey Park began at a 190-acre site in the southeast portion of the City. The site, which was made up of a north parcel and south parcel, was purchased in 1952 by Operating Industries, Inc. (OII). Construction of the Pomona Freeway in 1968 physically divided the landfill into two areas. Over the years, many different types of residential, commercial, and hazardous wastes were  
Safety Element

deposited into the landfill. In 1984, the landfill, still owned by OII, stopped accepting wastes, and the site was placed on the EPA's National Priority List two years later.

Under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the EPA worked with Monterey Park and neighboring cities to develop long-term remediation for the site, which was designated by the EPA as a Superfund site. Cleanup is concentrated on soil, groundwater, and leachate contamination. Leachate forms from liquid industrial wastes as they mix with water and percolate into the soil. Cleanup is expected to continue until at least the year 2040, with cleanup efforts involving landfill cover and gas control systems. Specifically, a leachate treatment plant and landfill gas treatment system will be used to collect and destroys landfill gases.

The 45-acre north parcel was impacted to a much lesser degree from landfill operations than the south parcel. As a result, development of this parcel with commercial uses is possible and site remediation has been completed. The Land Use Policy Map of the Land Use Element designates the north parcel as *Commercial*; the south parcel is designated by the Land Use Policy Map as *Open Space*.

## Solid Waste

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) was enacted to reduce, recycle, and reuse solid waste generated in the state. Specifically, the Act required cities and counties to identify measures to divert 25 percent of the total solid waste stream from landfill disposal by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The state has continued to refine program goals and work toward preserving land resources for productive uses, not landfills.

The City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element identifies programs the City has and will continue to implement to meet waste diversion goals. These measures include curbside collection of recyclables, separation of yard and other "green" waste from non-biodegradable materials, and City purchasing practices that minimize production of excess packaging materials. Implementation of programs identified in the Source Reduction and Recycling Element and recommendations made by the Recycling Task Force will help the City to achieve its goals.

## Goals and Policies

### Goal 15 Protect residents and business employees from potential hazards associated with the use, storage, manufacture, and transportation of hazardous materials in and through the City.

- Policy 15.1** Continue participation in the Standardized Emergency Management System.
- Policy 15.2** Continue to partner with Los Angeles County to sponsor household hazardous waste disposal programs for residents to bring pesticides, cleaning fluids, paint cans, and other common household toxics to a centralized location for proper disposal.
- Policy 15.3** Educate the community regarding the proper storage, handling, use, and disposal of hazardous household materials, and include up-to-date information about these topics and waste disposal programs on the City website, in multiple languages as appropriate.
- Policy 15.4** Incorporate into the development review and business license issuance processes a means for ascertaining the materials and production methods used by a business and the potential

risks posed to adjacent and nearby residential neighborhoods, schools, and other sensitive land uses.

- Policy 15.5** Restrict the storage and processing of hazardous materials to areas where risks to residents are adequately minimized through setbacks or other measures.
- Policy 15.6** Review, update, and enforce specified travel routes for the transport of hazardous materials and wastes, and to the extent possible feasible routes should avoid residential and commercial areas.
- Policy 15.7** Enforce standards for storage and disposal of hazardous materials and waste, consistent with State and federal law.
- Policy 15.8** Coordinate with allied agencies to prepare for and respond to hazardous materials incidents, including the California Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health Services, the Monterey Park Fire Department, the Monterey Park Police Department, and other appropriate agencies in hazardous materials route planning and incident response.
- Policy 15.9** Thoroughly review and ensure mitigation for proposed development near facilities that store, use, or transport significant amounts of hazardous materials.

## **Goal 16 Protect the community from soil, groundwater, and leachate contamination from the OII site.**

- Policy 16.1** Cooperate with the EPA in efforts to remedy contamination at the south parcel and continue implementation of cleanup practices.
- Policy 16.2** Encourage commercial development on the north parcel.

## **Goal 17 Achieve and maintain a 50 percent reduction (from baseline year 1994) in solid waste produced by the City.**

- Policy 17.1** Continue to implement waste reduction programs identified in the Source Reduction and Recycling Element.
- Policy 17.2** Maintain a City Recycling Task Force and implement the recommendations of the Task Force as appropriate to achieve waste reduction goals.

# Fire and Police Protection



## Fire Protection

Building and other structure fires are the primary source of fire hazard in Monterey Park. Brush fires also pose a minimal threat to the City. There are no areas of high fire hazard severity zones located in or adjacent to the City boundaries.

Brush fires are most likely to occur on the steep hillsides adjacent to Monterey Pass Road, near the Garvey Reservoir, and at limited locations where the backyards of homes slope into undeveloped (and undevelopable) canyons. Fire Department weed abatement requirements minimize the potential for brush fires to flare up and endanger lives and property.

To provide residents and the business community with a high level of fire protection, the City maintains its own Fire Department. There are three Monterey Park Fire Department (MPFD) fire stations in the City, located on Monterey Pass Road (Station 63), Garfield Avenue (Station 62) and Newmark Avenue (City Hall, Station 61). As of 2013, the MPFD average response time for fire calls is 5.01 minutes, with an average of 4,300 calls per year. There are a variety of emergency call types that range between 5-minute-response times and 20-minute-response times. This level of protection has allowed the City to historically receive a very high rating from the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The City has currently achieved an ISO rating of Class 1 (on a 1 to 10 scale, with 1 representing the highest rating).

The Fire Department maintains strict standards to assist in fire prevention and protection throughout the City. These standards are from the most recent California Uniform Fire Code, which has been adopted by the City.

In addition to these standards, the Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture conducts an abatement program and inspections to minimize fire danger in the wildland urban interface areas of the City.

The three operating fire stations in the City are adequately sized to meet service demands.

## Police Services and Crime Prevention

The Monterey Park Police Department is headquartered at City Hall. As part of its annual budgeting process, the City Council allocates funding for police staffing and equipment based on need and available resources.

The City recognizes the importance of crime prevention in reducing service calls and associated property loss and injuries to citizens. One method of addressing prevention is *defensible space planning*. Defensible space is a design concept that promotes site planning and building design features which deter vandals and criminals, thereby improving safety and security. Defensible spaces are highly visible and well lighted areas. Defensible design can be incorporated into both industrial and commercial development, as well as housing.

For nonresidential development, effective defensible design features include:

- Well-lighted parking lots and driveways.
- Walkways that are well defined and connected to a particular building.
- Gates that help transition visitors and employees from the parking lot or street to the interior of the building.
- Exterior areas that are visible from the surrounding structures and businesses.

Residential defensible design features include:

- Well-lighted driveways and parking areas.
- Well-defined walkways that connect to a particular home or property.
- Gates that help transition visitors and residents from the driveway or street to the interior of the home.
- Entrances that are visible from the street and surrounding homes.
- Visible common recreation areas.

## Long-term Need for Fire and Police Services

Although the City is virtually built out, the population is expected to increase gradually over time. Demand for fire and police protection services will increase incrementally as well. Each year, the City will continue to assess response times and other indicators to ensure adequate fire and police protection.

## Goals and Policies

### Goal 18 Monterey Park provides residents and the business community with a high level of fire protection.

- Policy 18.1** Continue to fund maintenance and staffing to ensure a five- to six-minute fire response time Citywide.
- Policy 18.2** Maintain brush clearance and weed abatement programs to reduce the risk of fires.
- Policy 18.3** Provide adequate funding to allow the Fire Department to conduct regular inspections of businesses for compliance with fire safety codes.
- Policy 18.4** Maintain mutual aid agreements with fire departments from surrounding jurisdictions.

### Goal 19 Monterey Park provides City residents and the business community with a high level of protection from crime.

- Policy 19.1** Evaluate the number of officers, total population, and crime statistics on an annual basis to ensure that appropriate levels of police protection are provided Citywide.
- Policy 19.2** Encourage safety-promoting site design practices by incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements into the development review process.
- Policy 19.3** Ensure that all residences and businesses have visible and legible address signage to shorten the response times of law enforcement and other emergency personnel.
- Policy 19.4** Coordinate with local neighborhood groups and community-based organizations to encourage community-based crime prevention efforts.
- Policy 19.5** Require that all non-residential developments provide adequate exterior lighting to promote visibility to deter crime and support law enforcement surveillance efforts.
- Policy 19.6** Foster a positive relationship between the community and local law enforcement by employing community policing strategies to prevent crime.

# Public Utility Systems



City residents depend upon reliable sewer, water, and drainage systems to protect public health.

## Sewage Collection and Disposal

The sewage collection system, maintained by the Maintenance Services Division, is comprised of 11 subsystems, each of which outlets into regional transmission mains operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Around East Los Angeles Community College, sewer lines outlet into a collection system under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

The 2014 *Wastewater Collection System Master Plan* identifies and recommends means to address City sewer system deficiencies over a 10-year implementation period. The plan outlines existing deficiencies in the collection system and accounts for the anticipated impacts of projected demand on the system. Per the plan, an extensive number of upgrades are necessary to maintain the system and compensate for previous years of poor maintenance. These necessary upgrades and improvements are strategically outlined and classified based on priority and cost.

## Water Service

In the desert-like conditions of Southern California, water is a precious resource. Historically, growth throughout the region has been supported by imported water supplies, as local resources often fall far short of meeting urban water demands. Monterey Park represents an anomaly in that the City relies solely upon local groundwater supplies to meet customers' needs. For emergencies, the City can turn to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the California Water Services Company.

The 2012 *Water Master Plan* provides an assessment of the existing water production and transmission system in Monterey Park. The plan outlines projected demand/supply and identifies existing deficiencies in the City's aging water production and transmission system. The *Water Master Plan* outlines capital improvement programs to address water line maintenance and replacement needs to accommodate a gradual population increase and avoid contamination from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the future.

## Storm Drains

Most of the storm drain system in Monterey Park is municipally owned and operated; however, about 20 percent is managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The storm drain system handles run-off of storm water from all streets and parking facilities.

## Goals and Policies

### Goal 20 Provide adequate sewer, water, and drainage systems to meet the needs of City residents and businesses.

- Policy 20.1** Implement the capital improvement programs outlined within the 2014 Sewer Master Plan.
- Policy 20.2** Implement the capital improvement programs outlined within the 2012 Water Master Plan.
- Policy 20.3** Periodically survey and assess the City's storm drain system to identify necessary improvements.
- Policy 20.4** Prioritize the allocation of funding toward the mitigation of deficiencies in the City's storm drain, sewer, and water service systems.
- Policy 20.5** Utilize best management practices in the purveyance of water resources and the management of wastewater to reduce hazard potential associated with water pollutants.
- Policy 20.6** Ensure that utility lines (electric lines, water system, sewer system, and natural gas) are designed to withstand potential movement associated with earthquake ground shaking.

# Implementation Measures

Table SCS-3 identifies implementation measures for the Safety and Community Services Element.

Table SCS-3 Safety and Community Services Implementation Measures

Implementation Measure	Related Safety Element Policies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Funding Source(s)
<b>Disaster Preparedness</b>				
Seek grant funding to develop and maintain a database of critical City and community assets and periodically assess their vulnerability to geologic hazards, seismic hazards, climate change, fire risk, and flood hazards among others.	3.2	Intermediate	Building and Safety Division, Fire Chief, Public Works Director	General Fund
Conduct an evaluation of public buildings and structures that provide emergency services and response, such as fire and police facilities, as well as community facilities that serve as evacuation centers or refuge sites to identify retrofitting necessary to ensure the stability and safety of such facilities in the event of a disaster. Seek grants to implement necessary retrofits, including grants to upgrade buildings to operate on micro-grids, including generator power, solar, and wind turbine power sources and energy storage systems.	1.2, 3.2	Intermediate	Public Works Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Building and Safety Division	Grant programs
Regularly update the Emergency Operations Plan to incorporate new information and insights, lessons learned from major incidents, changes in operational resources, and changes in hazard or threat profile.	1.1, 1.5	Intermediate	Public Works Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief	General Fund
Evaluate evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios as part of the next update to the LHMP or emergency operation plan, in accordance with Government Code Section 65302.15. Update the Safety Element with new policies and programs to address evacuation constraints.	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5	High	Public Works Director, Community Development Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief	Grant programs, General Fund
Conduct regular evacuation trainings with residents and businesses located in limited evacuation access areas.	4.2, 4.3, 4.5	Intermediate	Fire and Police Chiefs	General Fund
Prioritize the maintenance of emergency roadways as part of capital improvement plans.	4.2	Short and Ongoing	Public Works Director	General Fund
Consider developing a program that would provide support to populations vulnerable to power outages or any other emergency through collaboration with transit providers, community-based		Intermediate	Fire Chief	Grant programs

Implementation Measure	Related Safety Element Policies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Funding Source(s)
organizations, regional agencies, Southern California Edison, and City Departments.				
Continue to provide and where appropriate expand public education programs to increase awareness of disaster preparedness protocols, procedures, and risk reduction strategies for the community; crime trends and personal safety awareness; potential landslide, seismic and dam inundation hazards, proper emergency preparation, and response strategies; hazardous event evacuation procedures; and methods to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials, including the disposal of hazardous materials. Educational programming should be offered in multiple languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese, and should include targeted outreach to vulnerable populations.	1.6, 2.3, 3.1, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3	Short and ongoing	Fire and Police Chiefs	General Fund
<b>Climate Change Hazards</b>				
Adapt existing cooling centers to support Monterey Park residents during poor air quality days. Consider providing other essential resources at cooling centers, such as health programming and resources, food, refrigeration, charging stations, basic medical supplies, and other emergency supplies.	5.2	Short	Public Works Director, Fire Chief, Recreation and Community Services Director	General Fund
Utilize the development review process to require that new large-scale projects incorporate best practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change through conditions of approval.	6.6	Intermediate	Community Development Director	General Fund
Develop standards and guidelines for City-owned landscaping to require native-cultivar drought tolerant landscaping with enough coverage to provide shade and reduce heat absorption.	6.5	Short	Public Works Director	General Fund
Evaluate Monterey Park's zoning ordinance and/or design guidelines to encourage awnings, canopies, arcades and/or colonnades that can encroach into required setbacks and public sidewalk areas to create shade for pedestrians in certain circumstances or in specific areas of the City.	6.6	Short	Public Works Director, Community Development Director	General Fund
Ensure all park and recreational facilities include tree canopy, shade structures and materials with low solar gain to improve usability on high heat days and reduce heat retention.	6.5	Intermediate	Public Works Director, Recreation and Community Services Director	Grant programs

<b>Implementation Measure</b>	<b>Related Safety Element Policies</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>
Adjust recreation program hours to discourage outdoor programming during peak warm periods and program outdoor activities in shady areas.	6.5	Intermediate	Recreation and Community Services Director	General Fund
Seek grant funding to develop an Urban Forestry Plan to improve and create a more sustainable and resilient tree canopy within the community to reduce the impacts of climate change through increased carbon sequestration, reducing heat impacts, improved air quality, and reduced mental stress and illness exacerbated by climate change stressors.	5.1	Short	Community Development Director, Public Works Director	Grant programs
Regularly evaluate capital improvement project list and consider opportunities to integrate sustainable and climate adaptation priorities.	6.4	Medium	Public Works Director	General Fund
Upon the next update to the UWMP, review the historical record to identify the longest recorded drought and consider a similar drought length in the UWMP analysis.	6.4	Medium	Public Works Director	Grant programs
Update existing City-run educational programs and campaigns to incorporate information regarding potential health effects of climate change, particularly associated with worsening air quality and extreme heat days, and personal care steps	3.1	Short	All Directors	General Fund
<b>Geologic and Seismic Hazards</b>				
Adopt and amend as needed updated versions of the California building code so that optimal earthquake-protection standards are used in construction and renovation projects	7.1	Short and ongoing	Building and Safety Division	General Fund
Seek grant funding to conduct a City-wide building survey to identify seismic vulnerable buildings.	7.2	Intermediate	Fire Chief, Building and Safety Division	Grant programs
Consider developing a program to encourage, assist or provide incentives to owners of single-family homes, small apartment buildings, and small commercial buildings in retrofitting their buildings for seismic safety.	7.3	Short	Fire Chief	Grant programs
Evaluate the Monterey Park Municipal Code requirements regarding hillside development and consider recommending changes to further reduce landslide risk, including managing peak stormwater runoff flows, impacts from increased runoff volumes associated with projected climate change conditions, and site design development standards.	9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.6	Short	Community Development Director, Building and Safety Division, Public Works Director	General Fund

<b>Implementation Measure</b>	<b>Related Safety Element Policies</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>
Consider the benefits of installing landslide early warning systems which would monitor one or more variables responsible for triggering landslides and generate timely warning information.	9.5	Intermediate	Fire Chief	General Fund
<b>Flood and Dam Inundation Hazards</b>				
Coordinate with Metropolitan Water District to maintain and regularly update the Garvey Reservoir Emergency Action Plan which details procedures to be implemented in the unlikely event of a dam failure.	10.2	Intermediate	Fire Chief	General Fund
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>				
Evaluate existing plans, policies, and procedures regarding response to large-scale hazardous materials emergencies, including the potential for spill during transport within and through the City, and identify necessary steps to improve City preparedness.	15.8	Intermediate	Fire Chief	General Fund
Maintain adequate staffing to conduct annual hazardous materials inspections of commercial businesses.	15.7	Short term and ongoing	Fire Chief	General Fund
<b>Fire and Police Protection</b>				
Continue to provide quality police and fire services for the community including achieving and maintaining appropriate response times; maintaining appropriate staffing levels; providing community education; communicating with the community; evaluating emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed; upgrading equipment with regard to changing technologies; and responding to hazardous materials incidents and releases.	18.1, 18.2, 19.1	Short term and ongoing	Police and Fire Chiefs	General Fund
<b>Public Utility Systems</b>				
Update the Sewer Master Plan and Water Master Plan every 5-7 years. Regularly incorporate improvement programs into the capital improvement plan.	20.1, 20.2, 20.4	Short term and ongoing	Public Works Director	General fund
Prepare a Stormwater Master Plan to identify improvements to the stormwater system. Update the Stormwater Master Plan every 5-7 years.	20.3	Intermediate	Public Works Director	General Fund
Explore developing a pilot project using permeable surfaces for street gutters and City-owned parking lot	20.5	Intermediate	Public Works Director	General Fund