

City of La Puente

# Community Safety Element

DRAFT



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## Introduction

A central responsibility of a local government is to ensure community safety and well-being. The primary way the City of La Puente fulfills this responsibility is by developing, maintaining, and implementing the Safety Element of the General Plan. The Safety Element sets forth long range City goals, policies, and actions to protect people and property from natural and human-caused hazards. La Puente's urban environment experiences a variety of hazards, both natural and related to human activity that can potentially endanger community safety. Residents and businesses look to City and County departments to protect the community from threats to public safety. Proactive hazard mitigation and reliable emergency response services contribute to the overall health and livability of La Puente.

## Scope and Content

California statute (Section 65302(g)) requires all communities to prepare a Safety Element as part of their General Plan. As required by state law, the Safety Element addresses hazards in La Puente and presents goals and policies to reduce the potential risks of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social disruption associated with hazards.

## Safety Element Updates

The Safety Element should be updated upon each update to the Housing Element, or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and at least once every eight years to identify new information pertaining to flood and fire hazards, and update climate adaptation and resilience strategies, as required by SB 1035.

Climate change has exacerbated existing hazards and introduced new hazards, such as extreme heat and extreme precipitation, in the City of La Puente. This update to the Safety Element evaluates potential changes in the frequency and severity of specific climate hazards resulting from climate change in the coming decades and identifies critical facilities and populations that are highly vulnerable to climate hazards. This update to the Safety Element also incorporates climate adaptation and resilience strategies, as required by California Senate Bill 379 (2015).

Increasing intensity and frequency of hazards has also increased the importance of evacuation route planning. This update to the Safety Element incorporates an analysis of existing evacuation routes, as well as identification of residential areas that lack sufficient access to evacuation routes as required by SB 747 and AB 99 (both 2019).

## Organization of Element

The Safety Element is organized by the following sections:

1. **Existing Land Use and Development.** This section describes the current state of land use in the La Puente region, focusing on both residential and commercial areas and covers the anticipated development of infill in the area.
2. **Facilities and Services.** This section describes the critical facilities and services that are necessary for maintaining public safety and welfare in the event of a disaster or emergency. The inventory of essential facilities includes hospitals, fire stations, police stations, critical infrastructure, and others. This section also outlines emergency response procedures for the facilities and services including disaster and evacuation routes and communication protocols to ensure their proper operation during disasters or emergencies.
3. **Hazard & Physical Vulnerability Assessment.** This section describes the hazards affecting La Puente, including those created or exacerbated by climate change. This section also examines public safety facilities that face risk of damage from hazards or concern.
4. **Social Vulnerability Assessment.** This section identifies populations that are highly vulnerable to hazards, as well as the ability of communities within the City to prepare for and recover from hazard events.
5. **Human Caused and Technological Hazards.** This section covers potential hazards from toxic waste, hazardous materials, and other human created environmental hazards and identifies potential sites of concern.
6. **Public Health Emergencies.** This section details the actions which may be necessary to prepare for and manage public health emergencies.
7. **Implementation.** This section includes goals, policies, and actions to facilitate the implementation of the Safety Element and maintain and improve community safety and resilience in the City of La Puente.

## Related Plans

## La Puente General Plan

The La Puente General Plan is a collection of policy documents that serve as a blueprint for the future of the City by informing land use decisions. The City of La Puente's General Plan contains the following elements: Community Development Element, Circulation and Infrastructure Element, Housing Element, Community Resources Element, and Community Safety Element, which also addresses Noise. This Safety Element excludes Noise and leaves that component of the original Community Safety Element in effect. This Safety Element also ties in with the other elements, but most frequently refers to the Housing Element.

## Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of La Puente planning area was developed in accordance with the Disaster mitigation Act of 2000 and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy, programs, projects and other activities.

## Los Angeles County Floodplain Management Plan

The overarching goal of the Los Angeles (LA) County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) is to minimize the negative effects of flood hazards in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County through a range of programs, initiatives, and actions. The FMP is designed to tackle the impacts of flooding and provide targeted measures to safeguard residents and properties. The most recent FMP for LA County was adopted in June 2021, in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program's requirement to update the plan every five years.

## Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

This Climate Vulnerability Assessment focuses on the vulnerability of Los Angeles County to climate risks, considering the diverse people and places within the unincorporated communities and 88 municipalities, including populations with higher susceptibility to climate impacts. To grasp the potential impact of climate hazards and adaptation strategies on different groups of people, the report analyzes structural inequities and other factors that could expose certain individuals to higher risks of negative consequences. This report was developed through the collaboration between the Chief Sustainability Office and various partners.

## Los Angeles County Safety Element

This Safety Element is a component of the General Plan that outlines objectives and principles aimed at lessening the likelihood of near and long-term consequences caused by earthquakes,

floods, and fires in Los Angeles County's unincorporated areas. To meet the requirements of California Senate Bill 379, LA County Planning revised the Safety Element to integrate climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The Safety Element Update was crafted in collaboration with community involvement, which focused on enhancing adaptation and resilience strategies to meet the mandate.

## Los Angeles County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has developed an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) in 2019 in response to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This plan assesses the risks posed by natural hazards and devises a mitigation strategy to minimize these risks in Unincorporated Los Angeles County. The 2019 AHMP replaces the AHMP that received approval in 2014.

## California State Hazard Mitigation Plan

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) is the primary hazard mitigation reference guide for California. It presents an account of the past and present hazards in California, sets out mitigation tactics and measures to tackle those hazards, and offers guidance to local authorities as they create their own hazard mitigation plans. The SHMP is reviewed every five years in accordance with U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 44, Section 201.4. The present SHMP was published in 2018 and will expire in September 2023.

# Existing Land Use and Development Patterns

As described in La Puente's 2021-2029 Housing Element, La Puente was developed as a community of single-family dwelling units and has primarily remained as such. Although multiple-family residential construction accelerated during the 1970s and 1980s it slowed from the 1990s on. The City's 2004 General Plan established a Mixed-Use land use designation that allowed the Downtown Business District Specific Plan, which was adopted in 1994, to remain consistent in implementing the Mixed-Use designation. Mixed use development in La Puente's Downtown is intended to encourage walking due to more compact development patterns and housing development that is near services and retail businesses. Because of the built-out nature of the City, future development, including mixed-use, will be infill that will maximize existing land and infrastructure resources and as a result promote housing affordability.

The Safety Element helps the City consider the location and type of new housing or other land use relative to known hazard areas and increases in the effects of climate change on those hazards. By coordinating the update of the Housing, Land Use and Safety Element, the City can

direct future development into areas that avoid or reduce unreasonable risk while also providing needed housing and advancing other community goals.

## Public Safety Facilities and Services

The City of La Puente provides numerous services and facilities that support community safety functions and operations before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster. Additional information on public facilities and services is in the Community Resources Element of the General Plan.

### Public Safety Facilities

There are several facilities that provide important services to the La Puente community. These facilities support a range of government and private utility functions and services. Damage to these facilities impair response and recovery operations and may lead to a disruption of services on which La Puente residents rely.

The City conducted public engagement for the 2023 update of the Community Safety Element. Through this engagement, community members identified public infrastructure for pedestrians as a concern. Specifically, community members noted the lack of sidewalks and streetlights in La Puente made walking to their destinations difficult and feel less safe. Additionally, community members shared that a lack of shade structures made walking in the heat an uncomfortable option. Community members suggested the City update pedestrian infrastructure and plant more trees or create other shade structures to improve pedestrian access to facilities.

Residents of La Puente were also asked what community locations they valued most. The most frequently valued places were parks and open spaces, followed by churches, community centers, senior centers, schools, and childcare centers followed on the list of important community locations.

Public Safety Facilities have been organized into the following groups:

#### Critical Facilities

These facilities are considered essential to the health and welfare of the whole population and are especially important following hazard events. It should be noted that two additional fire stations serve La Puente, Fire Station 43, located at 921 S. Stimson Ave in the City of Industry



and Fire Station 118, located at 17056 Gale Ave in the City of Industry, but as they fall outside of La Puente's jurisdiction, they are not being considered or analyzed in the scope of this Safety Element. The following are La Puente's critical facilities and their locations:

- LA County Fire Station 26, 15336 E. Elliott Avenue
- La Puente Public Works Maintenance Yard, 503 Glendora Avenue
- City Hall, 15900 E. Main Street
- LA County Health Services, La Puente Health Center, 15930 Central Ave
- LA County Department of Public Works - Building and Safety Division, 16005 Central Ave

Disruptions in utility services may occur in times of moderate to extreme weather events and other potential emergency scenarios. Utility locations are include below in the Utility System Facilities section. Several utilities which serve La Puente but are not located within the City are the following. As these facilities are not located within La Puente, they were not considered during analysis.

- La Puente Valley County Water, located at 112 N First Street in La Puente
- San Gabriel Valley Water, located at 11142 Garvey Avenue in El Monte
- Suburban Water Systems, located at 1325 N Grand Ave Suite 100 in Covina
- Valley Vista Services, located at 17445 E Railroad Street, in City of Industry

## Community Facilities

Many facilities which do not manage services that might be considered essential to public health and safety are still of high importance to the community and could be essential in the case of a public emergency. Schools, community centers, churches and other community locations can serve as important gathering spaces or points for distribution of resources and information. The following are La Puente's Community facilities considered to be critical facilities.

- La Puente Community Center, 501 Glendora Ave
- La Puente Library, 15920 Central Ave
- Sunkist Library, 840 Puente Ave
- La Puente City Park, 501 Glendora Ave
- Puente Creek Nature Educational Center, 14951 Nelson Ave
- Bassett High School, 755 N. Ardilla Ave
- Del Valle Elementary School, 801 Del Valle Ave
- Hurley Elementary School, 535 Dora Guzman Ave
- La Puente High School, 15615 Nelson Ave
- Lassalette School, 14333 Lassalette St
- Nelson Elementary School, 330 N. California Ave

- Sierra Vista Middle School, 15801 Sierra Vista Ct
- Saint Joseph School, 15650 Temple Ave
- Sunset Elementary School, 800 Tonopah Ave
- Saint Louis of France Catholic School, 630 Ardilla Ave
- Workman Elementary School, 16000 Workman St
- Fairgrove Academy, 15540 Fairgrove Ave
- Hudson Adult Learning Center, 445 Glendora Ave
- La Puente Senior Center, 16001 E. Main St
- First Fundamental Bible Church La Puente, 13925 Nelson Ave
- Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 550 Glendora Ave
- First United Methodist Church, 15701 Hill St
- Calvary Baptist Church, 420 Glendora Ave
- Hillside Bible Baptist Church, 400 N Sunset Ave
- First Presbyterian Church of Rosemead, 15302 Francisquito Ave
- La Puente Church of Nazarene, 15766 Fairgrove Ave
- St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 846 N Orange Ave
- Iglesia del Nazareno de La Puente, 418 N Orange Ave
- Hacienda Christian Fellowship, 1358 N Hacienda Blvd
- La Puente Valley Woman's Club, 200 N 1st St
- Delhaven Community Center, 15135 Fairgrove Ave

## Utility System Facilities

Locations which manage water, energy, or communications are critical to maintain the essential services needed for area residents. The following are the locations of utility systems facilities in La Puente.

- La Puente Valley County Water District, located at 112 N First St
- Suburban Water Systems Pumping Station, 14501 Temple Ave
- La Puente Valley County Water District Tanks, 16300 East Main St
- La Puente Valley County Water District Hudson Booster Station, 15629 Hudson Ave
- Suburban Water Systems Reservoir, 15605 Hudson Ave
- Frontier Communications, 15844 Workman St

All public safety facilities have been mapped and their vulnerability to climate hazards identified in the accompanying climate vulnerability assessment.

# Public Safety Services

La Puente residents and businesses depend on fire protection and law enforcement to provide a safe living and working environment. Police and fire protection contribute to the reduction of crime, promote foresight in the development process, and ensure effective enforcement, all of which foster the creation of a safer environment.

## Fire Services

Structural fires represent the primary fire hazard in La Puente. Structural fires are generally caused by faulty equipment or lack of knowledge of fire prevention precautions. The potential for fire hazards increases when flammable and explosive materials are improperly stored, handled, or used. Planning for adequate fire protection and suppression in a densely built community like La Puente becomes increasingly important due to aging buildings and proximity to commercial and industrial uses, particularly to the south in the neighboring City of Industry. In La Puente, residential and business interface areas may face higher fire risks than other neighborhoods. Buffers or land use controls may be appropriate for commercial properties located near residential areas.

Fire suppression services in La Puente are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Within the planning area, four fire stations are available to serve La Puente. However, two of these stations are located within the City of Industry and one in Bassett, as noted below, and do not fall under La Puente's jurisdiction and were therefore not considered in the public safety facilities list, nor in the climate vulnerability assessment.

- Station 26, located at 15336 E. Elliott Ave in La Puente (also has EMT services)
- Station 43, located at 921 S. Stimson Ave. in the City of Industry
- Station 87, located at 140 S Second Ave. in Bassett
- Station 118, located at 17056 Gale Ave. in the City of Industry

In addition to the above stations, any County fire unit may respond to incidents within the Planning Area<sup>1</sup> depending on need and availability. The City coordinates with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to implement fire hazard education and fire protection programs. In addition, the City coordinates with local water districts to ensure water pressure is adequate for firefighting purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined in the introduction to the General Plan on page I-3

The Los Angeles County Fire Department maintains compliance with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) recommended response times. NFPA Standard 1710<sup>2</sup> states that total response time to incidents should be less than 80 seconds for turnout time and 240 seconds for travel time. This makes an overall response time standard of 5 minutes and 20 seconds for no less than 90% of incidents. The Fire Code of Los Angeles County Code is adopted by reference and may be cited as the City of La Puente's Fire Code.<sup>3</sup> The Los Angeles County Fire Code has adopted by reference the California Fire Code and International Fire Code, except where noted.<sup>4</sup> To minimize fire hazards, the California Fire Code requires new construction to comply with the Uniform Fire Code, and for Fire Department staff inspects properties for compliance. The California Fire Code requires minimum road widths of no less than 20 ft for fire vehicle access and fire protection flows of at least 1,500 gallons per minute.<sup>5</sup>

## Law Enforcement

Law enforcement services within the Planning Area are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, located at 150 Hudson Ave, in the City of Industry, outside of the City of La Puente's jurisdiction. In addition to providing patrol and investigative services, the Sheriff's Department offers a broad range of support services that are readily available from nearby Industry Station. Local control is facilitated through close cooperation between the Station Captain and City officials.

During the public engagement effort in 2023 to update this element, some community members shared that personal safety is an ongoing concern. Community members noted that some of the City areas lack well-lit streets, which contributes to residents and youth feeling unsafe outside at night. Safety in schools, as well as drug and gang violence were also described as safety concerns by La Puente residents. Homelessness was identified several times among community members as a major concern including as a contributing factor to residents choosing to drive rather than walk around their neighborhoods. Community members also believe there is a link between the unhoused population and cleanliness and safety concerns.

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<sup>2</sup> "NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments" National Fire Protection Association. <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=1710>

<sup>3</sup> La Puente municipal code section 9.04.010: "Title 32-Fire Code of the Los Angeles County Code, as amended and in effect on March 1, 2017, adopting the California Fire Code, 2016 Edition is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth below and shall be known and may be cited as the Fire Code of the City of La Puente.

<sup>4</sup> " Title 32 - Fire Code" County of Los Angeles. [https://library.municode.com/ca/los\\_angeles\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances/379113?nodeId=TIT32FICO](https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances/379113?nodeId=TIT32FICO)

<sup>5</sup> "Appendix B: Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings, California Fire Code 2016." *UpCodes*, <https://up.codes/viewer/california/ca-fire-code-2016/chapter/B/fire-flow-requirements-for-buildings#B>

La Puente also provides programs to improve public safety. The Youth Activities League offers a variety of programs facilitated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Industry Station, which are accessible to La Puente students. These programs encourage good relationships with law enforcement and show students alternative pathways that do not involve criminal activity. These programs include summer camps, martial arts, scuba diving, team sports, and their "Explorers" volunteer program for youth interested in a career in law enforcement.<sup>6</sup> The Neighborhood Watch Committee in the City of La Puente is a community-led group dedicated to promoting safety and preventing crime. Through regular meetings and outreach efforts, the committee works closely with local law enforcement to identify and address concerns within the community. Working together with our partners will provide the highest level of public safety for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

## Emergency Response

Emergency response efforts are essential to prevent or minimize potential loss of life or property damage and to respond effectively to safety hazards, accidents, and natural disasters. Businesses and residents in La Puente are subject to potential hazards associated with earthquakes, hazardous materials incidents, fires, and other conditions that may impact infrastructure and impede emergency response. Each type of disaster requires clean up, recovery, and planning to prevent future damage. The period after a disaster is often very difficult for communities and at times as devastating as the disaster itself. Cities that prepare ahead of time can reduce the fear, confusion, and loss that comes with disaster. Planning that ensures access to public safety facilities such as utilities, freeways, roadways, schools, and emergency care facilities can minimize the loss of life and property damage should a disaster occur.

La Puente participates in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) that provides a statewide framework for coordinating multi-agency responses to emergencies and disasters. SEMS is the cornerstone of California's emergency response system and the fundamental structure for the response phase of emergency management. The system unifies all elements of California's emergency management community into a single integrated system and standardizes key elements. The City's SEMS incorporates mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions, establishes lines of communication during emergencies, and standardizes incident command structures.

Los Angeles County has self-governing Disaster Management Areas created by Joint Powers Agreements between cities and the County Board of Supervisors. These Disaster Management Areas are run by Area Coordinators who support planning, training, emergency exercises, and

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<sup>6</sup> Industry Sheriff's Youth Activities League. <https://www.industryal.org/home>.

public education for earthquakes, fires, floods, severe weather events, and epidemics, among other types of emergencies. The City of La Puente is a member of Disaster Management Area D. Disaster Management Area D runs certification programs for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and hosts training events, test events, and coordination meetings.

Local emergency services providers include the Los Angeles County Sheriff and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. To provide an additional level of readiness and protection, the City also offers a program to train volunteers to provide basic emergency response skills. The City will continue to work toward establishing a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate efforts of residents, businesses, and service providers.

## Emergency Preparedness and Education

Residents interviewed during the 2023 public engagement effort stressed the importance of inclusive preparation for natural disasters. The interviewees emphasized that the City needs to be more intentional when working with the community by providing more language access services as well as including diverse community groups.<sup>7</sup> Interviewees asked for more collaboration and communication between the City and community partners to create space for dialogue around emergency preparedness. Additionally, interviewees expressed the need for better collaboration with community leaders.

Residents shared that education is important in preparing for disasters and cited social media as a way they stay informed about disasters. Youth also stay informed through in-class teacher announcements in addition to social media. Overall, community members recognized that these concerns and needs could not be addressed in isolation, and called for the City to be more intentional about collaborating with local organizations and community leaders to ensure that the needs of all residents were met.

When asked where they go during natural disasters such as a heat wave, most residents indicated they stay home. This may result from a lack of adequate places to meet residents' needs during a hazard event or a lack of knowledge of where to go. The second most frequently mentioned place where residents go in heat wave were stores or a nearby mall, likely due to the air conditioning offered in these spaces.

When residents were asked how the City could help them prepare for or recover from hazard events, the most frequent responses centered on community education and awareness. Residents asked especially for education and training for community members on disaster awareness and preparedness. They also asked for more communication from the City on hazard events and updates around power availability, locations of shelters, and actions the City is

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<sup>7</sup> The City currently offers English and Spanish interpretation services at workshops and city council .

taking. Additional responses request that the City provide resources in the form of financial assistance, disaster preparedness items such as sandbags, and notifications on where these resources can be obtained.

## Emergency Operations Center

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management undertakes emergency preparedness for the entire area of Los Angeles County. Key tasks include responsibility for maintaining an emergency response plan, support to incorporated jurisdictions for disaster planning and preparation, and maintenance of the readiness of the County Emergency Operations Center<sup>8</sup>. The County's Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (2012) identifies a plan for emergency organization for the entire county, including incorporated cities. This plan also outlines the responsible authorities and mutual aid processes for the entire operational area of Los Angeles County.

## Emergency Notifications

Emergency information is broadcasted directly by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. For emergency events and conditions of widespread concern, a broadcast message is disseminated to the public via radio and television stations. In the event of an emergency, Los Angeles County implements Alert Los Angeles County, an emergency mass notification system that contacts County residents and businesses. The system sends text messages, voice mail messages, and e-mail messages to alert the community of emergency events.<sup>9</sup> The responsibility for emergency notification services throughout the county is held by the County Office of the Sheriff. As further described by the County, the Office of the Sheriff also has responsibility to issue calls for evacuation. If emergency shelters are necessary, the County Department of Public Social Services is responsible for the activation and coordination of shelters with jurisdictions throughout the county. In the case of a devastating brushfire, the Los Angeles County Fire Department has the "Ready, Set, Go" program, which is designed to provide steps to ensure residents are prepared in the case of an approaching wildfire.

La Puente residents surveyed during the public engagement for the 2023 Safety Element update were asked how they would like to receive emergency notifications. Responses were minimal, but included text, email, and via the City's marquee.

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<sup>8</sup> "Emergency Management." Los Angeles County, 28 June 2022, <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/emergency-management/>.

<sup>9</sup> "Alerts" *Ready LA County*, 15 Nov. 2022, <https://ready.lacounty.gov/alerts/>

## Disaster and Evacuation Routes

AB 747 (2019) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. In the City of La Puente, evacuation routes are determined by emergency responders who decide at the time of the emergency the routes that should be used for evacuation after assessing the conditions and location of the emergency.

Table 1 lists the roads that are classified by Los Angeles County as *disaster routes*, by road type and number of lanes. There are five high-capacity evacuation routes that can accommodate residents in the event of a hazard event. Arterial roads are high-capacity roads delivering traffic from collector roads to freeways and expressways and between urban centers. Figure 1 below identifies roads that are public, paved and through-ways, classified as disaster routes, which may be used for evacuation if they are viable routes during an emergency.

*Table 1 Disaster Routes by Type and Capacity*

Disaster Route	Road Classification	Number of lanes <sup>10</sup>
Francisquito Ave	Secondary Highway	4-Lane Divided
Hacienda Blvd.	Major Highway	4-Lane Divided
Valley Blvd.	Major Highway	6-Lane Divided
Azusa Ave.	Major Highway	4-Lane Divided
North Puente Ave.	Major Highway	4-Lane Divided

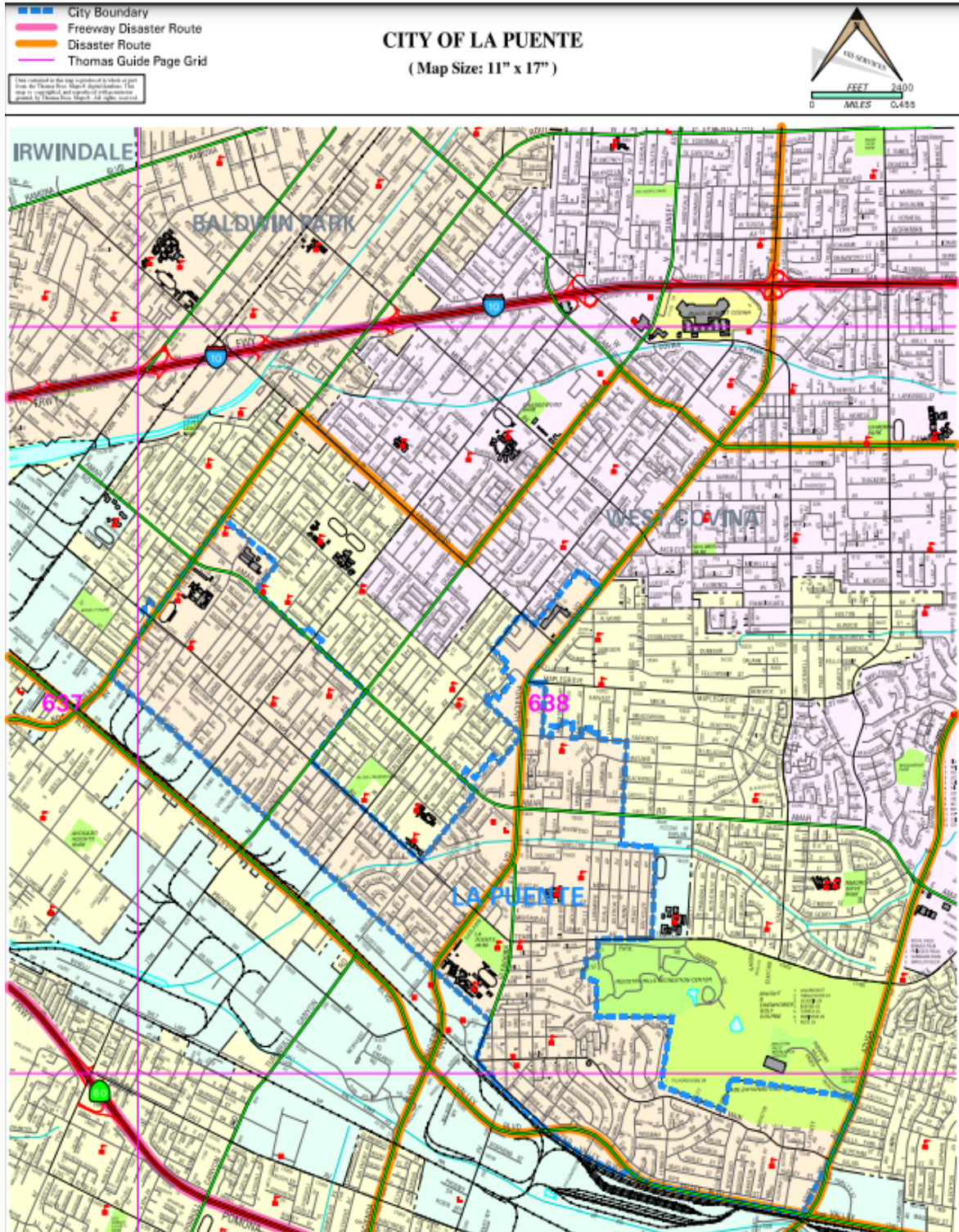
The hazard areas within the City boundaries that intersect residential land uses are dam inundation, landslides, and liquefaction areas. There are no residential parcels that intersect flood zones and fire hazard severity zones within the City. The City of La Puente is urban, with evacuation routes surrounding residential developments. The following map, Figure 1, shows La Puente's disaster routes.

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<sup>10</sup> *City of La Puente*. "Engineering & Traffic Survey: Radar Speed Survey." July 14, 2009. [https://lapuente.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=722&meta\\_id=100706](https://lapuente.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=722&meta_id=100706).



Figure 1 City of La Puente Disaster Routes<sup>11</sup>



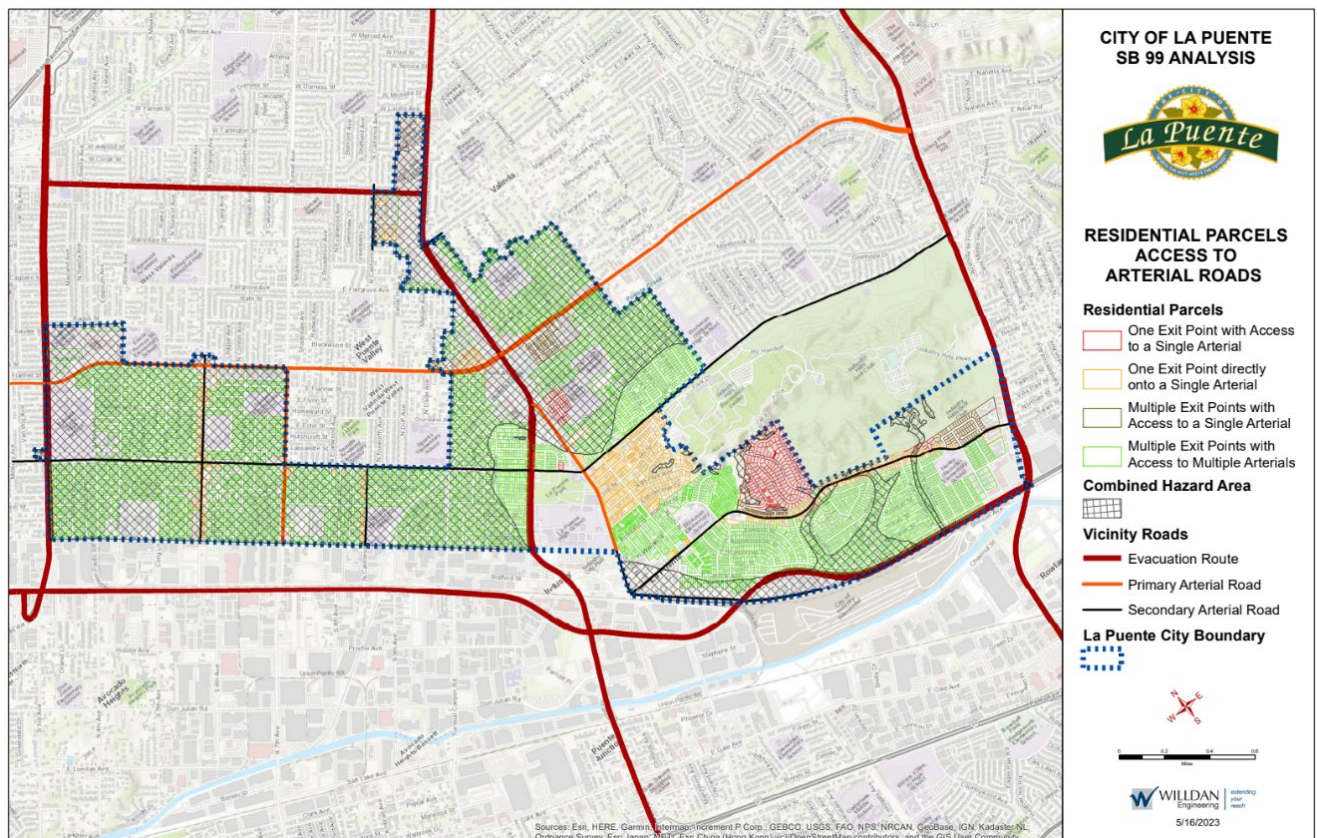
<sup>11</sup> Los Angeles County Public Works. "Disaster Route Maps (by City)".  
<https://pw.lacounty.gov/dsg/disasterroutes/map/La%20Puente.pdf>



Senate Bill 99 requires the City to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. Evacuation route access for La Puente’s residential areas was determined using a Geographic Information System based analysis.<sup>12</sup> Residential developments in hazard areas were identified by running a location query to find the parcels within residential general plan designations that intersect the Combined Hazard Area.<sup>13</sup> The goal of the analysis was to find at least two separate points of exit from residential neighborhoods by following a rudimentary roadway network in which vehicles move from Minor/Residential Roads to Arterial, and eventually to an evacuation route. Residential parcels within the Combined Hazard Area were assigned to one of the four categories, as shown in Figure 2:

1. One Exit Point with Access to Single Arterial
2. One Exit Point directly onto a Single Arterial
3. Multiple Exit Points with Access to a Single Arterial
4. Multiple Exit Points with Access to Multiple Arterials

Figure 2 City of La Puente Residential Parcel Access to Arterial Roads



<sup>12</sup> De Novo Planning Group, “City of Rancho Santa Margarita SB 99 Analysis White Paper.” August 2021. [https://www.cityofrsm.org/DocumentCenter/View/7589/2021-Updated-Safety-Element\\_SB99\\_Evacuation-Route-Mapping-White-Paper\\_Public-Draft](https://www.cityofrsm.org/DocumentCenter/View/7589/2021-Updated-Safety-Element_SB99_Evacuation-Route-Mapping-White-Paper_Public-Draft)

<sup>13</sup> Areas with the potential to be affected by landslide, liquefaction, and/or dam inundation.

The evacuation area of most concern is the neighborhood immediately to the west of the Industry Hills Golf Course. This residential area, with parcels outlined in red, has one exit point with access to a single arterial road and is in a potential landslide hazard area zone. Other, smaller areas with one exit point with access to a single arterial road can be found to the west of Sierra Vista Middle School and south of the Industry Hills Golf Course. Disaster routes within the City limits that could be impacted by the hazards listed in the Combined Hazard Areas are Hacienda Blvd and Puente Avenue.

## Hazard & Physical Vulnerability Assessment

This section describes the hazards affecting La Puente, including those created or exacerbated by climate change. The Southern California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide (SoCal APG) outlines an overview of climate impacts both occurring and anticipated in Southern California, describes adaptation principles for the region, and outlines a general process of adaptation planning for member jurisdictions.<sup>14</sup> The City of La Puente referenced the SoCal APG, along with other tools including Cal-adapt and the California Heat Assessment Tool to assess the range of climate change hazards that the City is likely to face in the coming decades. The region is likely to see more extreme oscillations in precipitation and temperature, increased number of wildfires and storms, as well as rising seas.<sup>15</sup> All of these initial climate impacts may likely produce secondary effects in the form of more intense droughts, more landslides and risk of debris flows. These climate impacts are detailed further in this section. This section also examines public safety facilities that are vulnerable to damage from identified hazards.

### Drought

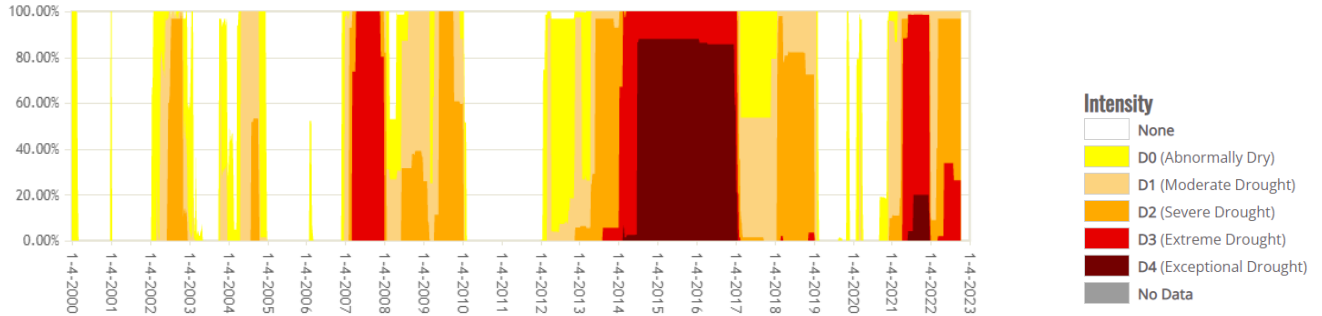
A drought is a long-term shortage of water, usually caused by extended periods with little or no precipitation. California has been experiencing drought conditions statewide since 2012. In 2022, most of Los Angeles County, including La Puente, was classified by the US Drought Monitor as experiencing severe drought conditions (2022). Figure 3 highlights the percent of Los Angeles County that has experienced drought conditions (by intensity) between 2000 and 2023.

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<sup>14</sup> "Southern California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide", *Southern California Council of Governments*, October 2020. [https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socaladaptationplanningguide\\_oct2020\\_0.pdf](https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socaladaptationplanningguide_oct2020_0.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> "Southern California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide", *Southern California Council of Governments*, October 2020. [https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socaladaptationplanningguide\\_oct2020\\_0.pdf](https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socaladaptationplanningguide_oct2020_0.pdf)

Figure 3 Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



## Local Water Supply

Drought conditions primarily impact the City’s local water supply, which is locally pumped groundwater. This water source is managed by the La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD). In 2022, LPVCWD Board of Directors declared a Stage 2 Water Supply Emergency and have also adopted permanent water conservation measures. LPVCWD manages three active wells that produce water from the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin to meet the needs of La Puente residents. The annual water demand of the system is approximately 1,600 acre-feet, which equates to 521 million gallons.<sup>16</sup> Since 1924, the District has relied on its well field located on Puente Avenue in the City of Baldwin Park as its primary source of water. The wells located at this site pump water out of the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster is the key agency responsible for the management and protection of groundwater resources. Aside from local groundwater courtesy of the snow melt from the San Gabriel Mountains and the rain that flows through the San Gabriel River, water recycling and watershed protection are key efforts in helping the groundwater basins meet local demands.

## Imported Water Supply

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, which serves the planning area, averages imports of 30,000 acre-feet per year.<sup>17</sup> This number is affected by many factors such as drought, legal and regulatory constraints, costs, and more. The Upper District’s primary point of delivery service connection is in the San Gabriel Canyon, which imports water for groundwater replenishment.

The wholesale water agency of the Upper District is the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Metropolitan Water District imports water from the conveyance systems of the

<sup>16</sup> “District Water Supply.” *La Puente Valley County Water District*, <https://lapuentewater.com/your-water/>.

<sup>17</sup> “Imported Water.” *Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District*, <https://upperdistrict.org/imported-water/>.

State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct. The Upper District's primary source of imported water is State Water Project water which is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The water is delivered from the Bay Delta in Northern California to the areas in the Central Valley and Southern California.

## 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 geological structures - creates ruptures and crustal weaknesses known as faults. Movement along a fault release stored energy and tension, thereby producing earthquakes. Powerful and widespread rupture or shaking ground can cause buildings to move off their foundations or collapse; damage buildings and other structures, roads, and other public infrastructure; damage utility lines and set off fires; and threaten the lives of people and animals. The damage to structures presents the greatest risk to life and property. Issues relevant to La Puente include the potential for earthquakes and secondary hazards related to earthquakes that may occur in the region.

## Earthquakes

La Puente lies within a region of several active faults and therefore is subject to the risks and hazards associated with earthquakes. Eleven major faults impact the Los Angeles region. The California Geological Survey classifies seven of these faults as "active." Several major faults within a 50-mile radius of La Puente can produce substantial effects from ground shaking. These faults include the San Andreas, Whittier-Elsinore, Chino, Sierra Madre-Cucamonga, Puente Hills and San Fernando faults. A major earthquake produced along any of these faults has the potential to produce strong ground shaking in La Puente. During an earthquake, the ground can shake violently. Rapid back-and-forth motion can cause buildings to fall off foundations, resulting in major structural damage and sometimes total collapse of buildings.

La Puente's LHMP uses data generated using the HAZUS-MH program for earthquakes to estimate the intensity of the ground shaking, the number of buildings damaged, the number of casualties, the amount of damage to transportation systems and utilities, the number of people displaced from their homes, and the estimated cost of repair and clean up.

No active faults have been identified at the ground surface within the city limits, nor have any Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zones<sup>18</sup> been designated.<sup>19</sup> However, La Puente is near the

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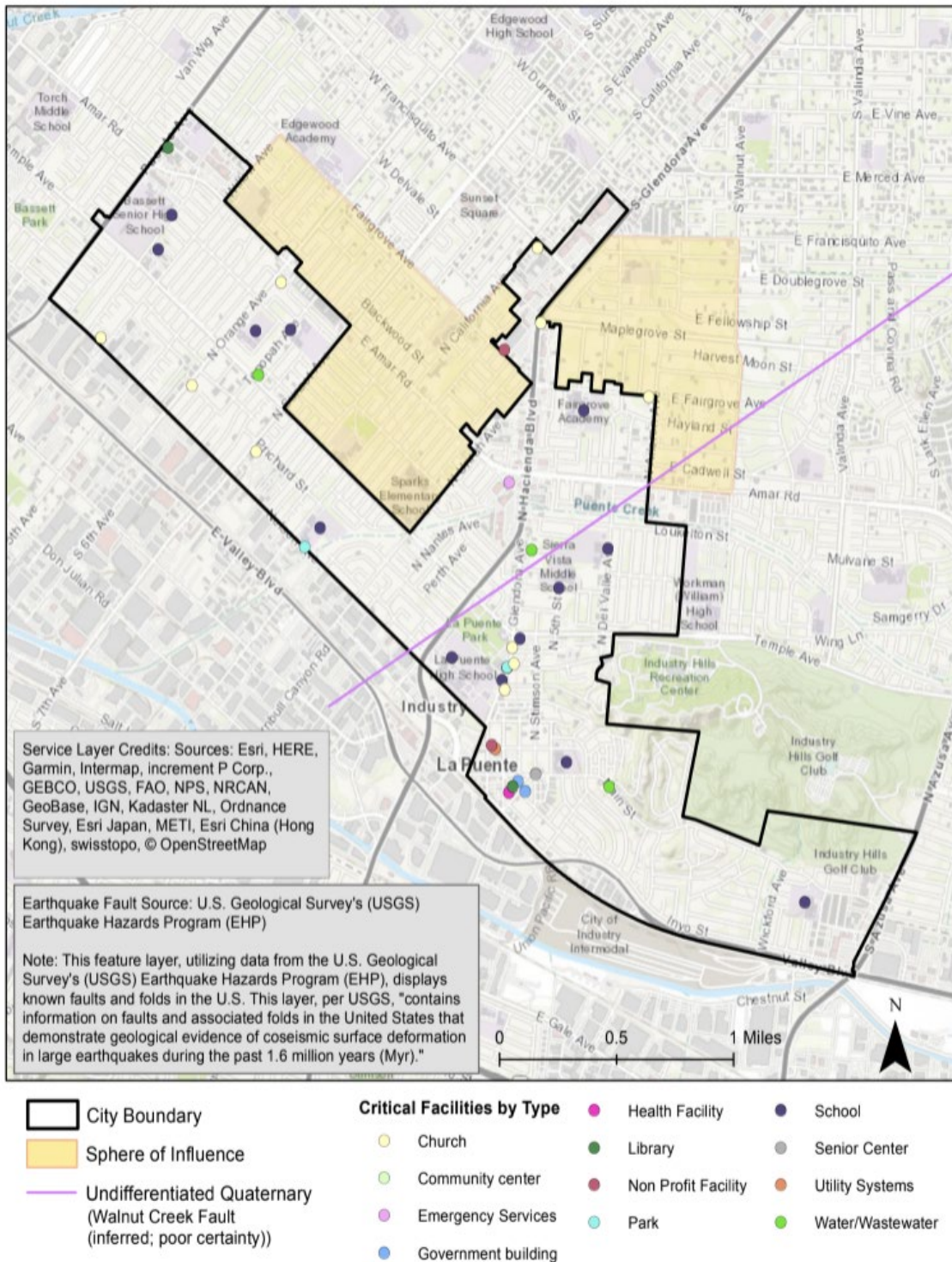
<sup>18</sup> Regulatory zones surrounding the surface traces of active faults in California.

<sup>19</sup> California Department of Conservation. "Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones." <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/alquist->





Figure 4 Earthquake Faults Relative to Public Safety Facilities



## Expansive Soils

As in much of California, expansive type soils are prevalent in La Puente. Expansive soils made of fine-grained clay act like a sponge; as they absorb water, they swell and as they lose water, they shrink. Expansive soil occurs naturally and can be found in large and small areas throughout the Los Angeles region. Expansive soils may become unstable during ground shaking and are one of the most prevalent causes of earthquake damage to buildings. Damage caused by expansive soil includes disfiguring and structural damage due to cracking walls, ceilings, driveways, sidewalks, and basement floors. Minor damage to doors and windows may cause them to function erratically. To minimize damage to wood frame structures foundations can be made more flexible, with reinforced or post-tensioned slabs.

Structural design of new buildings should consider the potential effects of expansive soils on selected building materials. If for instance, the structure contains masonry walls, which are intolerant to even small movements, a rigid foundation or one that will isolate the structure should be used. Site preparation may include prewetting, removal of the expansive soil and replacement with non-expanding soils, chemical treatments of the soil or other methods. Grading and drainage should be designed so that excess surface water is collected and safely discharged off the building pad.

## Liquefaction

Liquefaction occurs when groundwater mixes with soil and this mixture temporarily becomes a fluid and loses its strength, which may in turn cause buildings and other structures built on or in it to tilt, collapse, or otherwise suffer damage. Liquefaction can occur during seismic events. Many areas in the Los Angeles Basin have sandy soils that are subject to liquefaction. Liquefaction generally occurs during significant earthquake activity, and structures located on soils such as silt or sand may experience significant damage during an earthquake due to the instability of structural foundations and the moving earth. 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. Liquefaction can also occur independently of an earthquake, if any other sudden and significant stress causes the mixing of groundwater and soil. Factors such as the height of the groundwater table and soil types also determine an area's vulnerability.

California law requires identification of liquefaction zones, where the stability of foundation soils must be investigated, and landslide zones, where the stability of hill slopes must be evaluated. Figure 5 shows areas susceptible to seismically induced liquefaction and landslides in La Puente. Within these areas, geologic studies must be completed, and countermeasures undertaken in the design and construction of buildings for human occupancy. California law

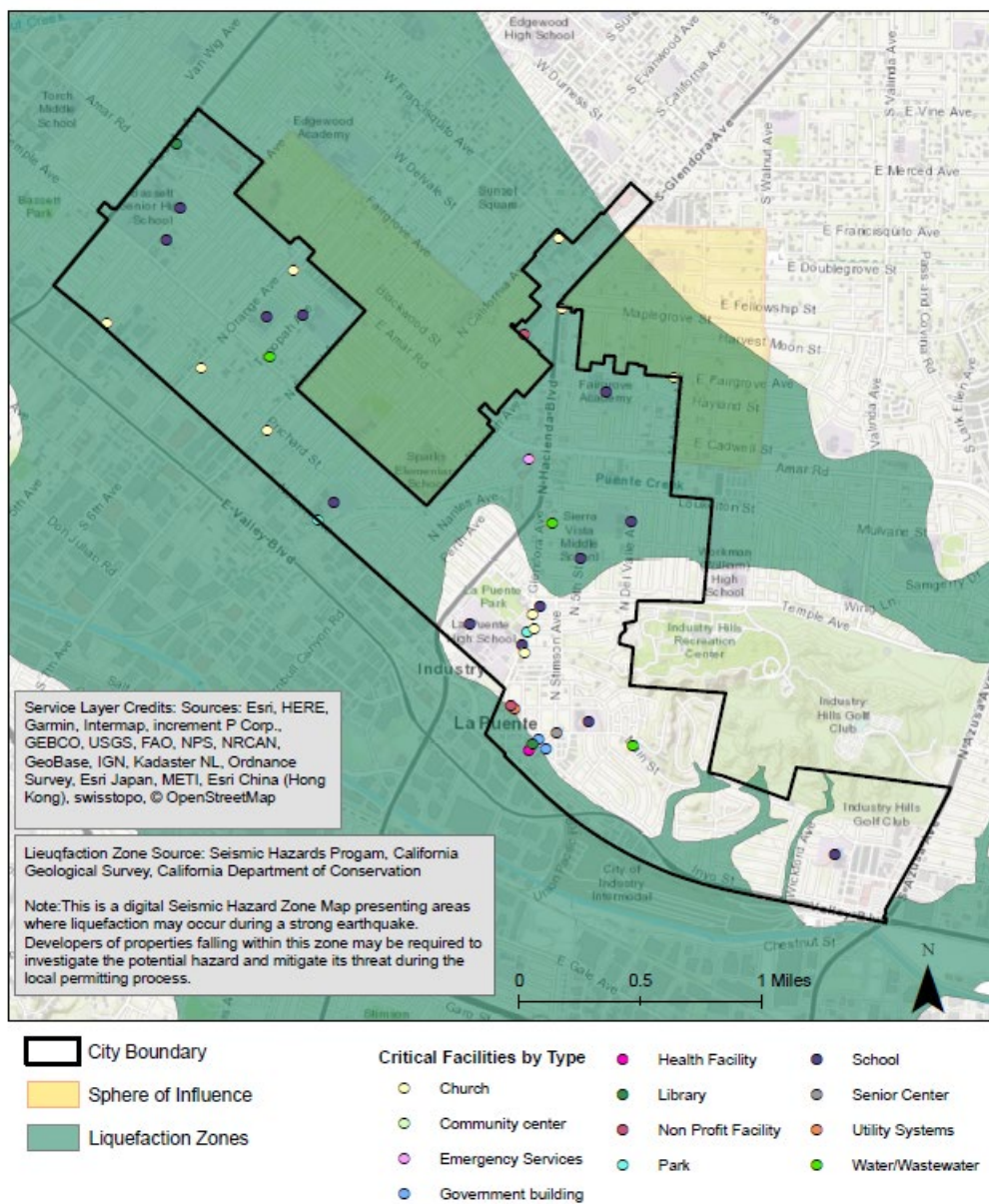


also requires disclosure of liquefaction or landslide zone status as a part of all real estate transactions within identified areas.

As shown in Figure 5, most of La Puente is subject to liquefaction excluding the south and southeast portions of the City surrounding the Industry Hills Golf Club. Within these liquefaction areas, geologic studies must be completed, and countermeasures undertaken in the design and construction of buildings for human occupancy.

Figure 5 Liquefaction Zones in La Puente

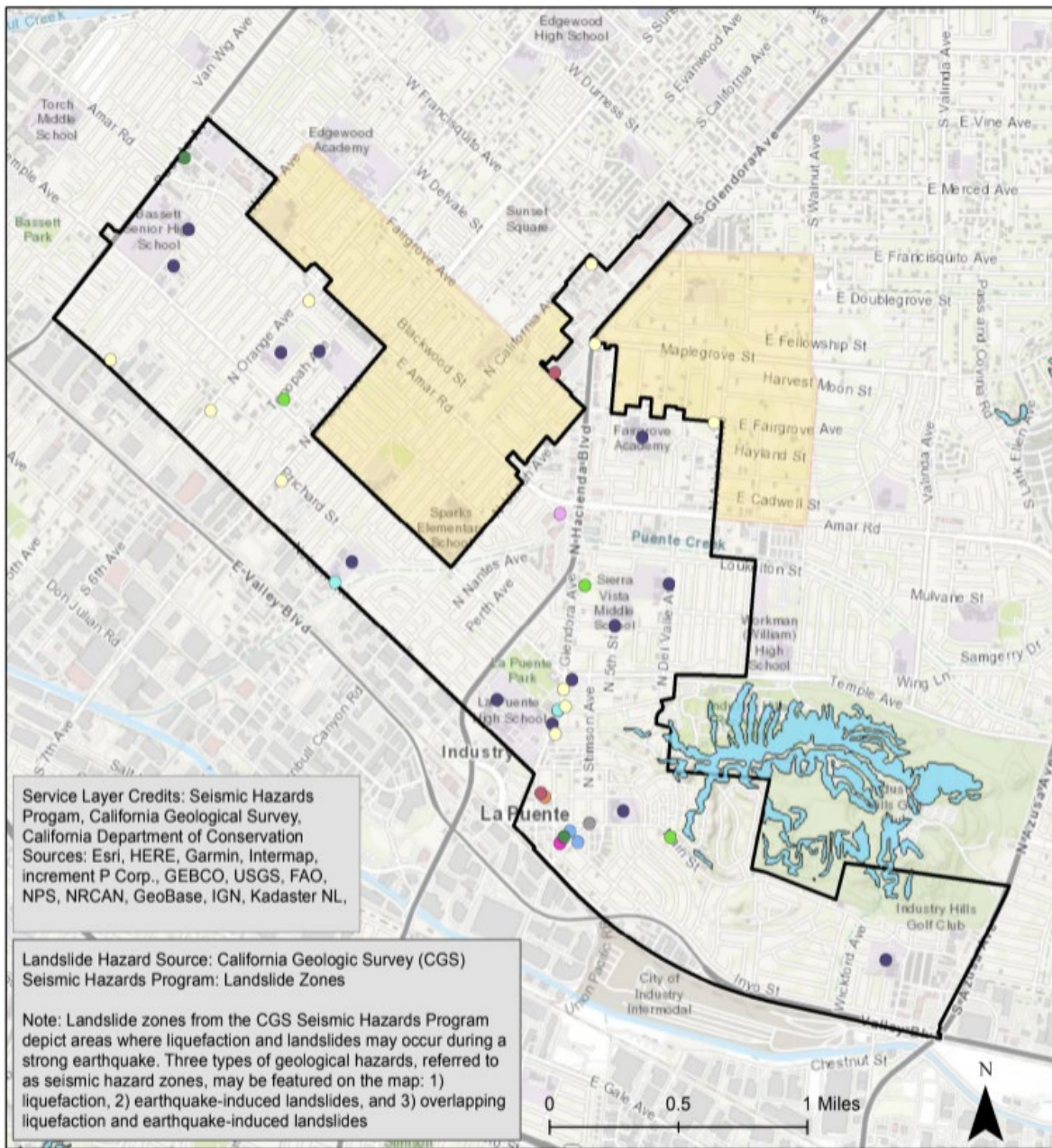
### Liquefaction Zones in the City of La Puente with Critical Facilities



## Landslides

As rainwater soaks into hillsides and builds up, it destabilizes the soil and increases the pressure downward which may result in the movement of soil down the hills. The City of La Puente also has areas susceptible to earthquake-induced landslides. Figure 6 identifies landslide hazard zones within the City of La Puente in relation to public safety facilities. There are a few public safety facilities that are closely adjacent to the landslide zone. The closest facility to the landslide zone is a water facility, La Puente Valley County Water District Tanks, that is less than a quarter mile to the landslide zone. Two schools, Hurley Elementary School, and Workman Elementary School are within a third of a mile to the landslide zone. Small areas in the southeast of the City close to the Industry Hills Recreation Center and portions of the Industry Hills Golf Course at Pacific Palms Resort are subject to earthquake-induced landslides due to the area's steep hill slopes. There is potential for permanent ground displacement in this area. Some of the landslide zones are inside city limits, affecting areas such as Main Street and other southeast areas of the City.

Figure 6 Landslide Susceptibility Area Relative to Public Safety Facilities



- |                     |                                    |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| City Boundary       | <b>Critical Facilities by Type</b> | Health Facility     | School           |
| Sphere of Influence | Church                             | Library             | Senior Center    |
| Landslide Zones     | Community center                   | Non Profit Facility | Utility Systems  |
|                     | Emergency Services                 | Park                | Water/Wastewater |
|                     | Government building                |                     |                  |



# Flood Hazards

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, La Puente is not located within either a 100- or 500-year flood zone, and as such, is not susceptible to riverine flooding. The City’s distance from the Pacific Ocean minimizes exposure to tidal wave (tsunami) hazards resulting from offshore earthquakes. However, the City is still susceptible to urban flooding from extreme precipitation events. Urban flooding is when land or structures in developed areas cannot absorb excess water and becomes flooded due to rainfall exceeding the drainage capacity of systems like storm sewers. The City does on occasion experience localized flooding on certain roadways during significant rain or storm events. Specific urban/localized flooding includes Valley Boulevard between Old Valley Boulevard and Ferrero Lane and Nelson Avenue between N. California Avenue and N. Hacienda Boulevard.

Research suggests that for much of the state, wet years will become wetter, and the dry years will become drier. Precipitation will likely be delivered in more intense storms and within a shorter wet season. Table 3 below provides a snapshot of Maximum one-day precipitation (the greatest amount of daily rain) for three 30-year time periods under a medium emission (RCP 4.5) and high emission (RCP 8.5) scenario.<sup>21</sup>

*Table 2 Maximum 1-Day Precipitation Projections for La Puente*

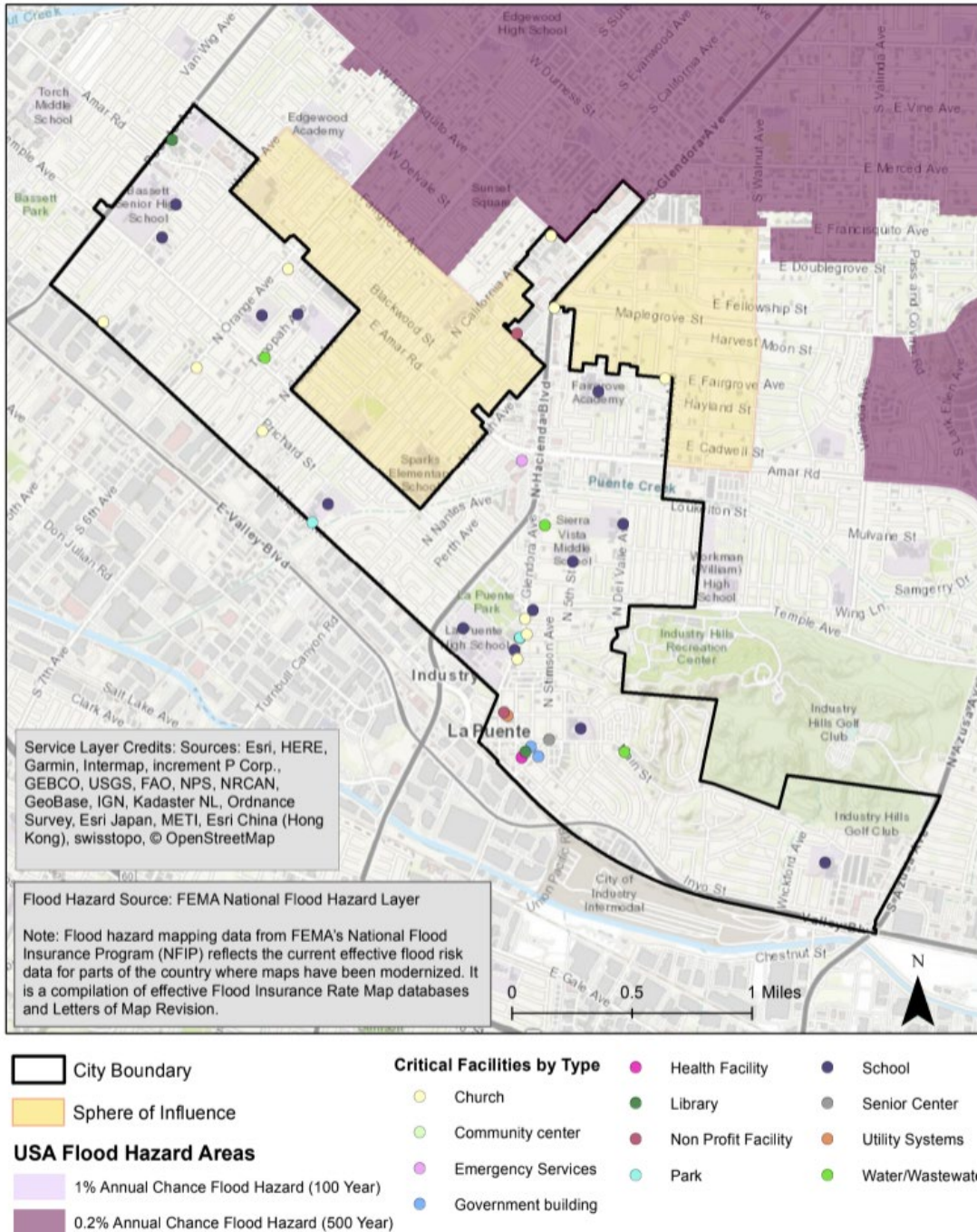
		30yr Average	30yr Range
<b>Baseline (1961-1990)</b>			
MODELED HISTORICAL	-	1.598 inches	1.444 - 1.796 inches
<b>Mid-Century (2035-2064)</b>			
MEDIUM EMISSIONS (RCP 4.5)	+0.104 inches	1.702 inches	1.445 - 2.166 inches
HIGH EMISSIONS (RCP 8.5)	+0.112 inches	1.710 inches	1.461 - 1.983 inches
<b>End-Century (2070-2099)</b>			
MEDIUM EMISSIONS (RCP 4.5)	+0.152 inches	1.750 inches	1.393 - 2.238 inches
HIGH EMISSIONS (RCP 8.5)	+0.247 inches	1.845 inches	1.380 - 2.362 inches

Source: Cal-Adapt 2023

<sup>21</sup> Emissions scenarios (or Representative Concentration Pathways) try to capture future trends; they make predictions of how concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere will change as a result of human activities. Current emissions are tracking close to the RCP8.5 pathway.

The City has taken steps to mitigate flooding impacts with ongoing maintenance and installation of catch basins and stormwater drains. Figure 7 shows flood hazard areas relative to public safety facilities in La Puente.

Figure 7 Flood Hazard Areas Relative to Public Safety Facilities



According to Figure 7, the 0.2 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500 Year) only slightly borders the northeast border of La Puente. There is some bordering of this zone with the sphere of influence zone. There is no 1 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100 Year) zone near the City of La Puente nor near the sphere of influence. There are a few public safety facilities that are closely adjacent to the 0.2 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard zone. The closest facility is a church, First Presbyterian Church, which is located on the border of the 0.2 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard zone. Two other churches, Hacienda Christian Fellowship and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of La Puente are close to the same zone, as well as a non-profit facility, Delhaven Community Center.

## Extreme Heat Hazards

Extreme heat events are commonly defined in California as a day where the high temperature exceeds the average high temperatures of 98 percent of the historic days between April and October. According to the Cal-Adapt online tool, the temperature threshold for an extreme heat event is 101.1°F.<sup>22</sup> Four extreme heat days in a row is considered a heat wave. A Heat Health Event (HHE) refers to any heat event that produces adverse effects on public health, irrespective of the actual temperature.

Extreme heat and heat waves emerged as one of the major concerns among community members surveyed. Community members noted that there are not enough cooling centers or shade structures to provide relief from high temperatures. Students also responded that school yards also lack trees and shade structures. When participants were asked where they go during heat events, many responded that shopping malls were a good place to escape heat. Participants suggested that planting trees, creating more shade structures, providing cooling centers or zones and centers that provide resources to veterans and families were potential options to provide relief from heat.

Historically (1960-1990), the City of La Puente has experienced on average four extreme heat days, when the daily maximum temperature exceeded 101.1°F. Between 2035 and 2064, the City can expect to experience between 15 and 20 extreme heat days per year. Extreme heat events are also projected to last longer. Historically, extreme heat events have lasted an average of two days. Between 2035 and 2064, it is projected that extreme heat events will last an average of six days.

The greatest impacts from extreme heat events are health related. The air conditioning penetration rate (the ratio of homes with air conditioning to total homes per area in the dataset)

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<sup>22</sup> Cal-Adapt Tool. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/local-climate-change-snapshot>

for the City of La Puente is approximately 60-80 percent.<sup>23</sup> While some heat-related illnesses are often minor and temporary, including heat rash and heat exhaustion, extreme heat can overwhelm the body's ability to maintain a safe internal temperature. If a person's internal temperature rises to 104 °F or above, heatstroke can occur. Heatstroke can cause fainting, seizures, and mental impairment. If left untreated, heatstroke may lead to permanent organ damage, coma, or death.<sup>24</sup>

The threat of extreme heat can be higher in urban, inland areas such as La Puente, where a lack of vegetation and a high percentage of dark-colored impervious surfaces lead to higher air temperatures. Existing tree canopy in the City of La Puente occupies 19 percent of land, one percent higher than LA County average (18 percent). Possible Tree Canopy includes areas that are theoretically available for the establishment of tree canopy. It is estimated that in the City of La Puente, Possible Tree Canopy is 46 percent of land. This category includes both pervious and impervious areas (asphalt or concrete surfaces, excluding roads and buildings) where improvements could ostensibly be made to accommodate additional trees. Figure 8 shows tree canopy cover in the City of La Puente.

The figure indicates Tree Canopy cover is between one and 25 percent in the City of La Puente, with the densest coverage in La Puente Park and the southeast region within City limits. Adjacent to City limits in the Industry Hills Golf Club, the Tree Canopy Cover is between 25 and 50 percent.

More than half of the public safety facilities are located southeast of North Hacienda Blvd. where the densest tree canopy cover is within the City, indicating potential reprieve from extreme heat events. However, many schools and churches are in the western areas with minimal tree canopy cover which could have impacts on many of the citizens of the City of La Puente.

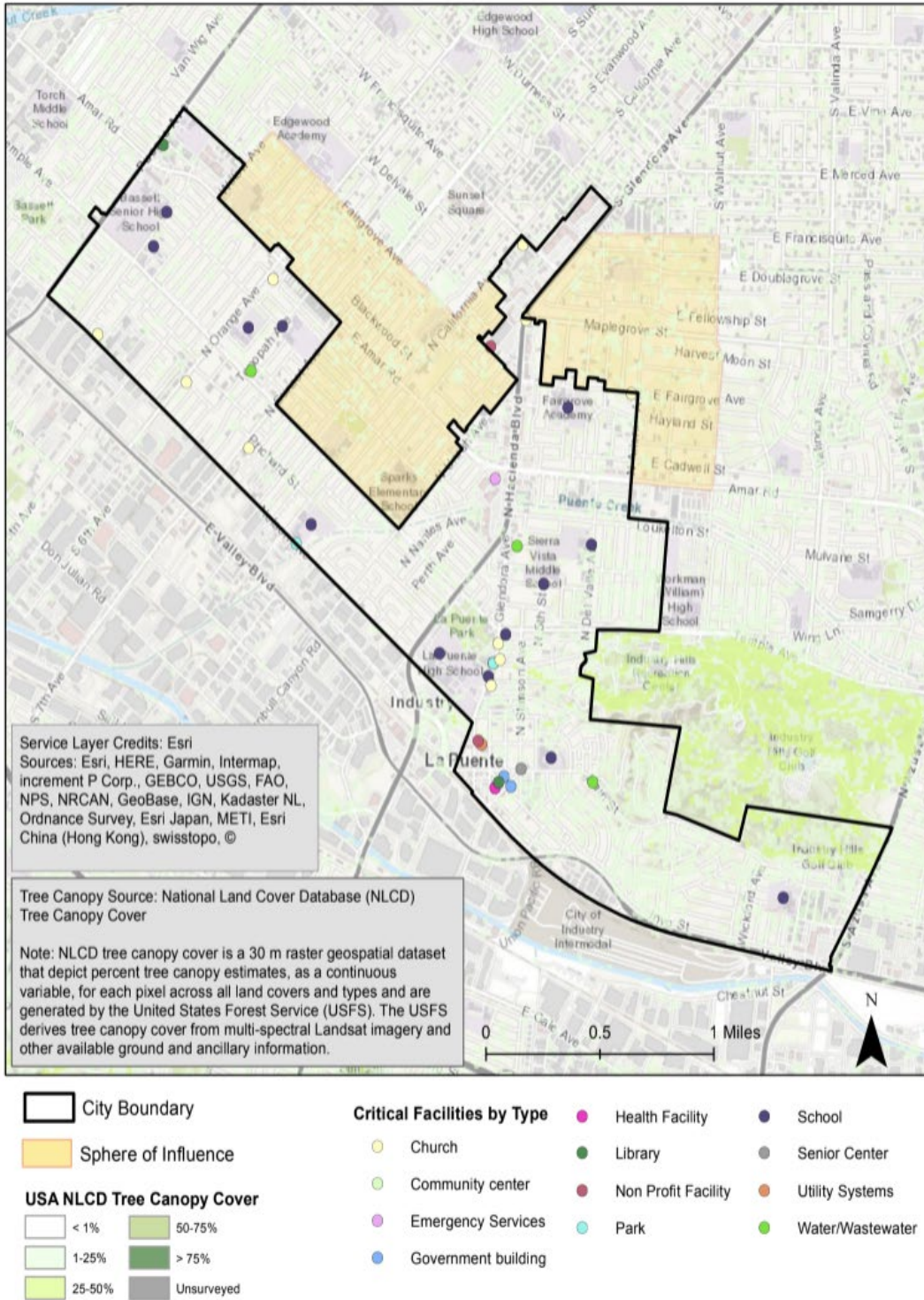
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<sup>23</sup> Chien, Mo; Sanders, Kelly T; Ban-Weiss, George A, "A new method utilizing smart meter data for identifying the existence of air conditioning in residential homes" Environmental Research Letters, Vol.14 (9) , 2019 <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab35a8>

<sup>24</sup> "Heatstroke", May Clinic, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/heat-stroke/symptoms-causes/syc-20353581>



Figure 8 Tree Canopy Cover in La Puente





## Dam Inundation

There are 103 dams in Los Angeles County, owned by 23 agencies or organizations, ranging from the federal government to homeowner associations. These dams hold billions of gallons of water in reservoirs. Releases of water from the major reservoirs are designed to protect Southern California from flood waters and to store domestic water. Seismic activity can compromise the dam structures, and the resultant flooding could cause catastrophic 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 near the City of La Puente.

The City of La Puente has not recently been affected by a release/failure of any of the dams near the City, identified in the last LHMP, listed as Santa Fe Dam, Whittier Narrows Dam, and Puddingstone Reservoir. The US Army Corps of Engineers has assessed the risk level of the three dams in La Puente's vicinity, as described below.

### Whittier Narrows Dam

Whittier Narrows Dam and Legg Lake are located near the intersection of the Pomona Freeway (SR-60) and Interstate 605, and the dam is owned and operated by the Los Angeles District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. In the event of a dam failure at Whittier Narrows Dam, upstream floodwaters would reach portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County adjacent to the Planning Area, just west of Puente Avenue. In 2019, USACE completed a safety study of Whittier Narrows Dam and classified the risk as extremely high in the case of dam failure.<sup>25</sup> Although unlikely, a couple of dam failure scenarios triggered by rare, extremely high rainfall events, could lead to significant downstream flooding. If a dam failure were to occur, it could impact many major roadways and highways that are considered evacuation routes.

### Santa Fe Dam

Santa Fe Dam and Reservoir are located on the San Gabriel River, in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County, north of La Puente. It is owned and operated by the Los Angeles District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Santa Fe Dam's downstream floodplain includes a

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<sup>25</sup> "Whittier Narrows Dam" National Inventory of Dams, *US Army Corps of Engineers*  
<https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CA10027/risk>

very small portion of the La Puente Planning Area. In the unlikely event of a dam failure, floodwaters would extend to the northwest corner of the West Puente Valley area within one and one-half hours. The Santa Fe Dam was last inspected in 2017 and has an Emergency Action Plan prepared, which was last reviewed in 2019.<sup>26</sup>

The Santa Fe dam was authorized to provide flood risk management for the densely populated area between the dam site and the downstream Whittier Narrows Reservoir. The Santa Fe Dam and Reservoir is dry unless a significant rainfall event occurs, normally between the months of November and April. A risk assessment of the Santa Fe Dam was completed by USACE in 2016. The risks identified during this study determined the dam to be a moderate risk due to the combination of life, economic, or environmental consequences with likelihood of failure to be unacceptable except in unusual circumstances. The project risk is driven by the high population at risk immediately downstream of the dam as well as identified potential failure modes. The primary risk drivers for Santa Fe Dam are internal erosion of the earthen embankment adjacent to the outlet conduit and impacts on the structure due to an earthquake event. The primary consequence centers are the cities of Irwindale, Baldwin Park, El Monte, and South El Monte which are located downstream and between the Santa Fe Dam and Whittier Narrows Dam. These areas are heavily developed and will be significantly impacted as a result of flooding scenarios. The impact to La Puente would likely only include flooding in the far northwest portion of the City.

To ensure USACE is taking all steps to reduce the risk to the public, USACE will continue to work closely with state and local emergency managers, conducting emergency exercises and incorporating any new information into our Emergency Action Plan. USACE regularly inspects and monitors instruments to check the health of the dam and increases this monitoring during lake level rises. Regular maintenance and repairs are performed as needed to keep the dam functioning properly. Future risk communication activities include updates to the Emergency Action Plan and coordinating these plans with first responders and development of a formal Risk Communication Plan.

## Puddingstone Creek Dam

The Puddingstone Reservoir is in the City of San Dimas near the junction of SR-57 and I-10. In the unlikely event of catastrophic failure or breach of the Puddingstone Dam, floodwaters would extend throughout most of north and west La Puente within two to three hours. Puddingstone Creek Dam is owned by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and was last inspected on Oct 26, 2021. The US Army Corps of Engineers has is determined this

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<sup>26</sup> "Santa Fe Dam" National Inventory of Dams, *US Army Corps of Engineers*  
<https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CA10024/summary>

dam's risk to be high in the event of a dam failure and it has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prepared which was last reviewed in 2022.<sup>27</sup> Figure 9 from the California Department of Water Resources shows the potential flooding impacts from failure of both Puddingstone Creek Dam and Santa Fe Dam, however Puddingstone Creek represents the largest area of flooding.

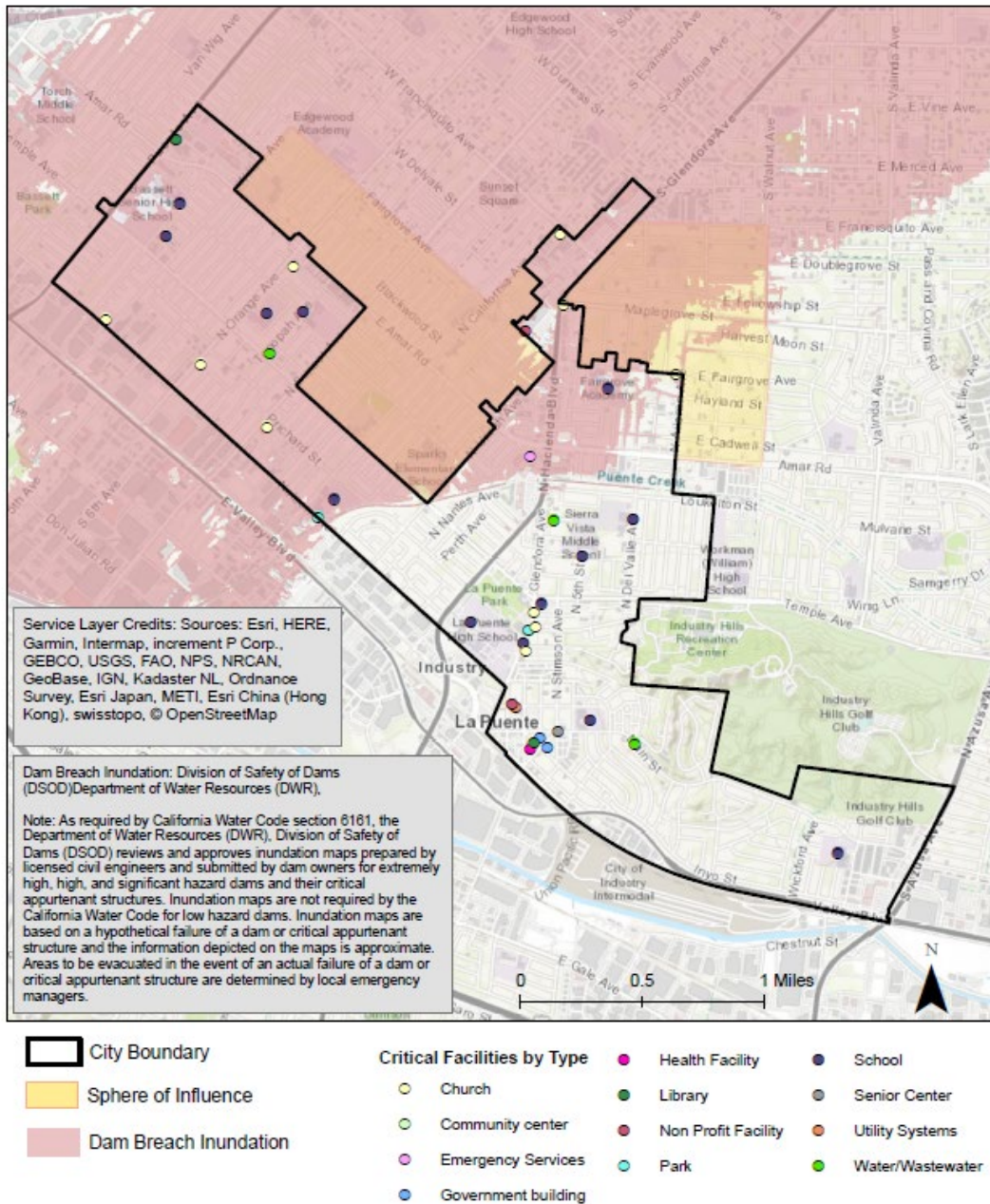
Figure 9, below, depicts the potential areas of impact for all nearby dams, although the furthest extent of inundation could result from a failure at Puddingstone Creek dam. As depicted below, a large portion of north and west La Puente would be impacted by flood waters if Puddingstone Creek Dam were to fail. The flood waters would also affect disaster routes on the western side of La Puente. Inundation is shown as likely to not move past La Puente Creek. On the northwest side of La Puente, Bassett Senior High School is shown as potentially raised enough to avoid inundation.

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<sup>27</sup> "Puddingstone Creek Dam" National Inventory of Dams, *US Army Corps of Engineers*.  
<https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CA00194/summary>

Figure 9 Dam Breach Inundation in La Puente<sup>28</sup>

### Dam Breach Inundation in the City of La Puente with Critical Facilities



<sup>28</sup> Dam Breach Inundation Map Web Publisher, CA Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). [https://fmds.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=dam\\_prototype\\_v2](https://fmds.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=dam_prototype_v2)

## Wildfire

Within the City of La Puente, there are no parcels inside the Fire Hazard Severity Zone within the City. However, there are several large areas of California Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) around La Puente in both Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) and State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). The FHSZs do not intersect the City of La Puente and are mostly in surrounding parks and open spaces to the east and south of the City. Wildfires in these areas may affect air quality through wildfire smoke or disaster routes in the case of evacuation.

## Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability and adaptive capacity describe people's sensitivity and ability to adapt to changing conditions. While climate change and environmental factors can increase people's risk of harm, there are many factors that make certain populations susceptible to harm than others including: inequities in infrastructure, environment, and living conditions; differences in health condition, age, and ability; access to education, economic opportunities, social capital, healthcare; historic and institutionalized bias and exclusion from decision-making; and many other potential factors.

According to the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), all census tracts in La Puente are designated a disadvantaged community.<sup>29</sup> Disadvantaged communities refer to areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens.<sup>30</sup> Based on the CalEnviroScreen data, La Puente experiences higher rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and low educational attainment than most other regions of California. These factors can lead to higher social vulnerability. Census tracts of La Puente scored between the 61 and 94 percentiles, meaning that these tracts experience more population characteristics that lead to social vulnerability than 61 and 94 percent of other California census tracts.

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<sup>29</sup> "SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities." *California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*.  
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>

<sup>30</sup> "Disadvantaged Communities." *California Public Utilities Commission*, <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities#:~:text=What%20is%20a%20Disadvantaged%20Community,%2C%20health%2C%20and%20environmental%20burdens>.

The County of Los Angeles performed their own social vulnerability analysis which included La Puente.<sup>31</sup> In the County's analysis, they describe social vulnerability as the conditions that affect people's sensitivity and exposure to the impacts of climate change. Vulnerability is not an indicator of an individual's weakness or of a lack of capacity to cope with change, but rather an indicator of the many factors, often outside an individual's control, that put them at greater risk for negative impacts from disasters, climate change, and other stressors. Climate hazards pose a risk to all County residents, but various factors can make certain populations more susceptible than others.

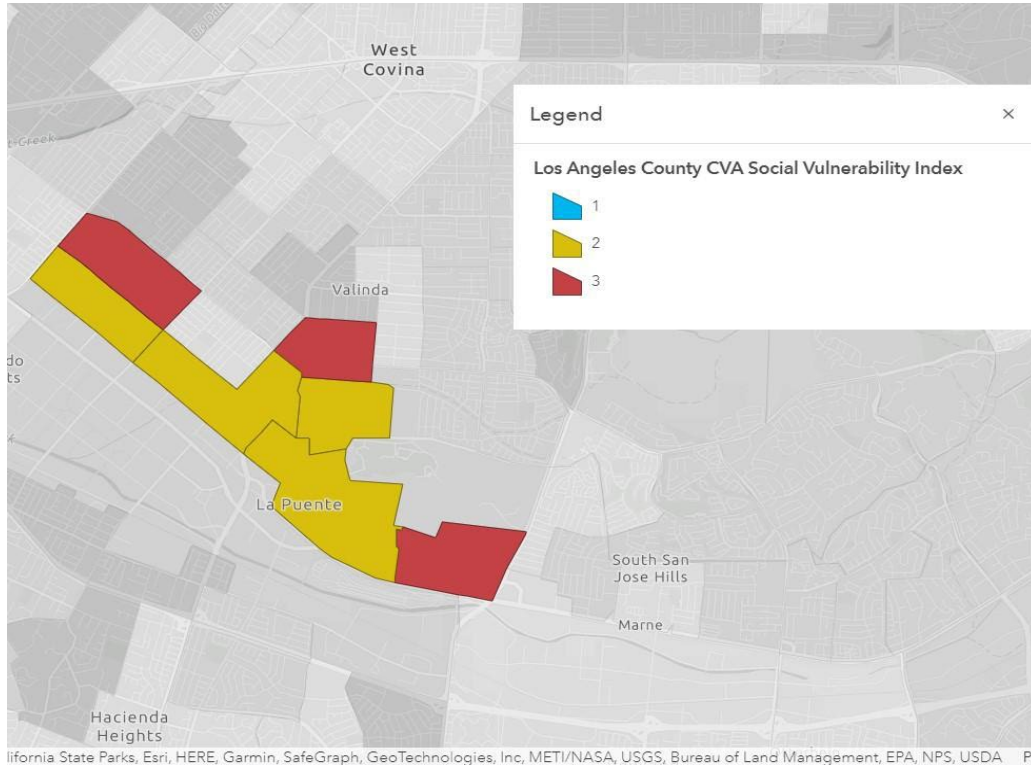
Los Angeles County developed their social sensitivity index using 29 data indicators. Each indicator represents a characteristic that increases an individual's sensitivity to climate hazards. There are ten categories of social sensitivity indicators: age, community and language, education, health, housing, income and wealth, occupation, transportation, access to information, and race/ethnicity. A full list of categories can be found in the County's Climate Vulnerability Analysis.<sup>32</sup> The County used the index to analyze where communities with people who might be climate-sensitive live. This helped illustrate which geographic areas have high proportions of climate-sensitive residents. The County divided all census tracts into three categories of vulnerability with "1" being the least socially vulnerable and "3" and being the most. The map below shows the vulnerability mapping of La Puente, using census tracts, which do not correlate exactly with City boundaries, but do provide an overall picture of La Puente.

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<sup>31</sup> "LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment." *County of Los Angeles*, Oct. 2021, <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LA-County-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-1.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> "LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment." *County of Los Angeles*, Oct. 2021, <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LA-County-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-1.pdf>

Figure 11 Social Vulnerability Index for La Puente (2021) <sup>33</sup>



As illustrated in Figure 11, three census tracts of La Puente ranked among the most socially vulnerable of Los Angeles County. Census tracts 4077.01 just south of the Industry Hills Golf Course, 4071.01 on the far northwest of the City and 4076.01, near Valinda are all shown as the next most socially sensitive areas. The rest of the City is in the middle third of social vulnerability for Los Angeles County.

## Human Caused and Technological Hazards

The California Health and Safety Code defines a hazardous material as any material that, due to quantity, concentration, physical, or chemical characteristics, poses a significant potential hazard to public health and safety or to the environment. The manufacturing, use, and transport of hazardous materials are considered potential human activity hazards. City cleanliness was a

<sup>33</sup> "Los Angeles County CVA Social Sensitivity Index." *County of Los Angeles Open Data*, [https://data.lacounty.gov/datasets/709afd7548f6491eb74c2928e6ce06df\\_0/explore?filters=eyJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QiOlsiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiLCJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QgNDA3MS4wMiIsIkNlbnN1cyBUcmFjdCA0MDcyliwiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiLCJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QgNDA3Ni4wMSIsIkNlbnN1cyBUcmFjdCA0MDc3LjAxliwiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiXX0%3D&location=34.035912%2C-117.940370%2C12.00](https://data.lacounty.gov/datasets/709afd7548f6491eb74c2928e6ce06df_0/explore?filters=eyJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QiOlsiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiLCJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QgNDA3MS4wMiIsIkNlbnN1cyBUcmFjdCA0MDcyliwiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiLCJkZW5zdXNfVHJhY3QgNDA3Ni4wMSIsIkNlbnN1cyBUcmFjdCA0MDc3LjAxliwiQ2Vuc3VzIFRyYWNoeUwzcuMDIiXX0%3D&location=34.035912%2C-117.940370%2C12.00)

recurring theme in survey responses and interviews with community members. Residents reported concern over litter and dumping in the streets.

Commercial and industrial businesses located in La Puente and nearby communities use hazardous materials, including such businesses as dry cleaners, film processors, auto service providers, landscape contractors, and paint shops. Larger businesses, primarily in industrial areas, can generate, use, and/or store large quantities of hazardous products. The current regulatory environment provides a high level of protection from hazardous materials manufactured, transported to businesses, and stored within La Puente. Federal, State, and County agencies enforce regulations for hazardous waste generators and users. Approximately 100 hazardous waste generators exist in the vicinity of La Puente. Most are in the City of Industry and adjacent unincorporated areas.

La Puente's land use pattern separates industry from residential uses. However, commercial freight carriers transporting hazardous substances along the Pomona Freeway or along the railway's present potential hazards. The City contracts with the LA County Fire Department's Emergency Operations Section for 24-hour emergency response services to hazardous materials incidents. Emergency responders identify unknown substances, monitor spills and releases for safe and immediate mitigation, and identify responsible parties for payment of cleanup costs. The LA County Fire Department also runs the Health Hazardous Materials which is the Certified Unified Public Agency (CUPA) for Los Angeles County. Health Hazardous Materials administers the following programs within Los Angeles County; the Hazardous Waste Generator Program, the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Program, the California Accidental Release Prevention Program (Cal-ARP), the Aboveground Storage Tank Program and the Underground Storage Tank Program.<sup>34</sup>

The Inspection Division of the Fire Department's Emergency Operation section inspects hazardous material handling and hazardous waste-generating businesses to assure compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Additionally, Inspection Division staff respond to medical waste emergencies, assist law enforcement agencies with response to illegal drug labs and investigate resident and business complaints.

Residents also use a range of household hazardous products. To address household hazardous wastes, the City, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Public Works Dept and the LA County Sanitation Districts, sponsors programs that raise awareness of proper use, storage, and disposal of household hazardous wastes and hosts an annual household hazardous waste events so residents may safely dispose of household hazardous items. These efforts also support the City's commitment to minimize pollutants in urban runoff.

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<sup>34</sup> Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), *County of Los Angeles Fire Department*, <https://fire.lacounty.gov/cupa-programs/>



The following topics related to human caused and technological hazards are described and analyzed using CalEnviroScreen, and further explored in the City's Environmental Justice Element.

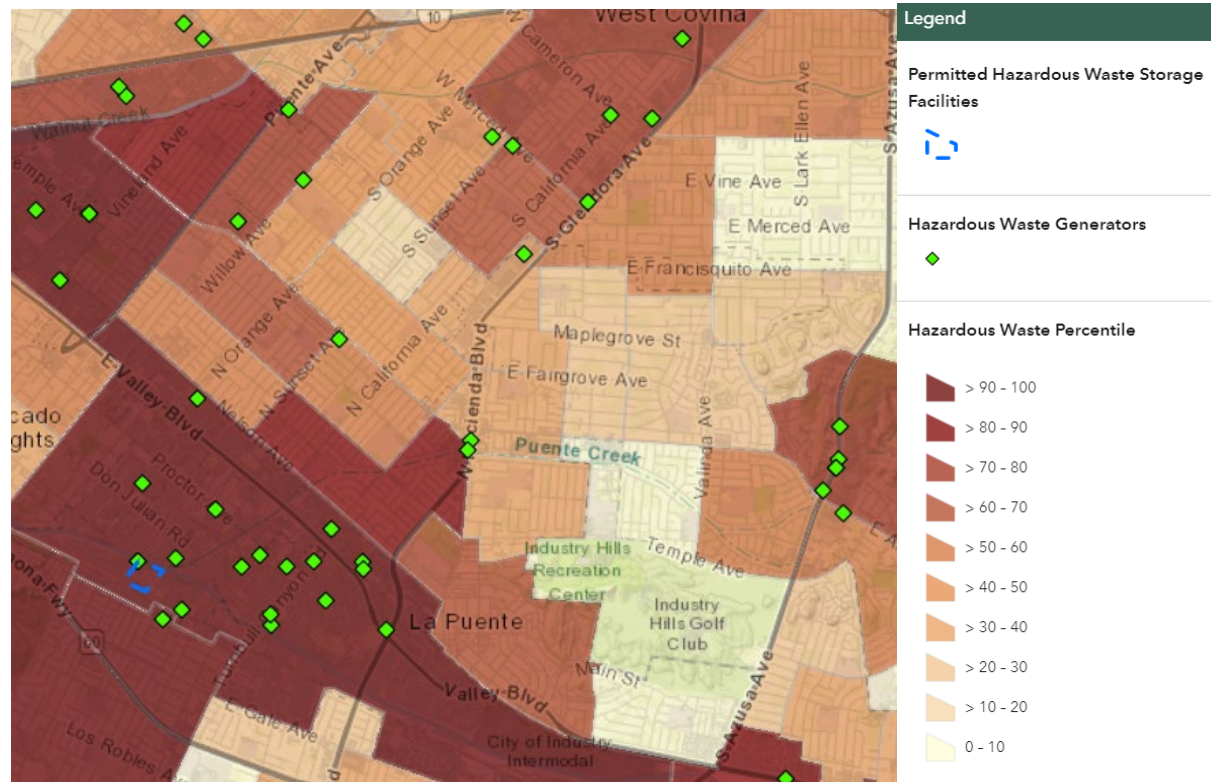
## Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste differs from standard waste in that it contains chemicals that may be harmful to health. Only select facilities are allowed to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. A variety of substances are considered to be hazardous waste, including used automotive oil, highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses, and other substances. When hazardous materials become waste, they are transported from businesses that generate the waste to permitted facilities for recycling, treatment, storage, or disposal. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poor neighborhoods and communities of color. Hazardous waste facilities often are cause for concerns about effects on health and the environment in the communities where they operate.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department, Health Hazardous Materials Division tracks hazardous materials handlers to ensure appropriate reporting and compliance. The Division inspects businesses that generate hazardous waste, conducts criminal investigations, provides site mitigation oversight, and undertakes emergency response operations. Such inspections reduce risks associated with exposure to hazardous materials and adverse effects on the environment.

To assess hazardous waste exposure, CalEnviroScreen generates their indicator score by considering the number of permitted Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities, large generators of hazardous waste or chrome plating facilities, and the distance to the census tract from 2018-2020. Figure 12 below shows the hazardous waste sites and scores for La Puente and surrounding areas.

Figure 12 Hazardous Waste Sites and Scores for La Puente and Surrounding Area<sup>35</sup>



La Puente received a wide variety of hazardous waste scores, with the lowest score of seven in census tract ending in 7701 and the highest score of 85 in census tract ending in 7200. This means that residents of La Puente south of the Industry Hill Golf Club have less hazardous waste exposure than seven percent of California census tracts, while residents of central La Puente have more hazardous waste exposure than 85 percent of census tracts in the state. Numerous hazardous waste sites are located south of the City and the hazardous sites located within the City are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Hazardous Waste Sites in La Puente

Facility Name	EPA ID
CVS PHARMACY # 4065	CAR000232744
CVS PHARMACY # 9629	CAR000237768
KAISER PERMANENTE LA PUENTE HACIENDA MEDICAL OFFICES	CAL000414653

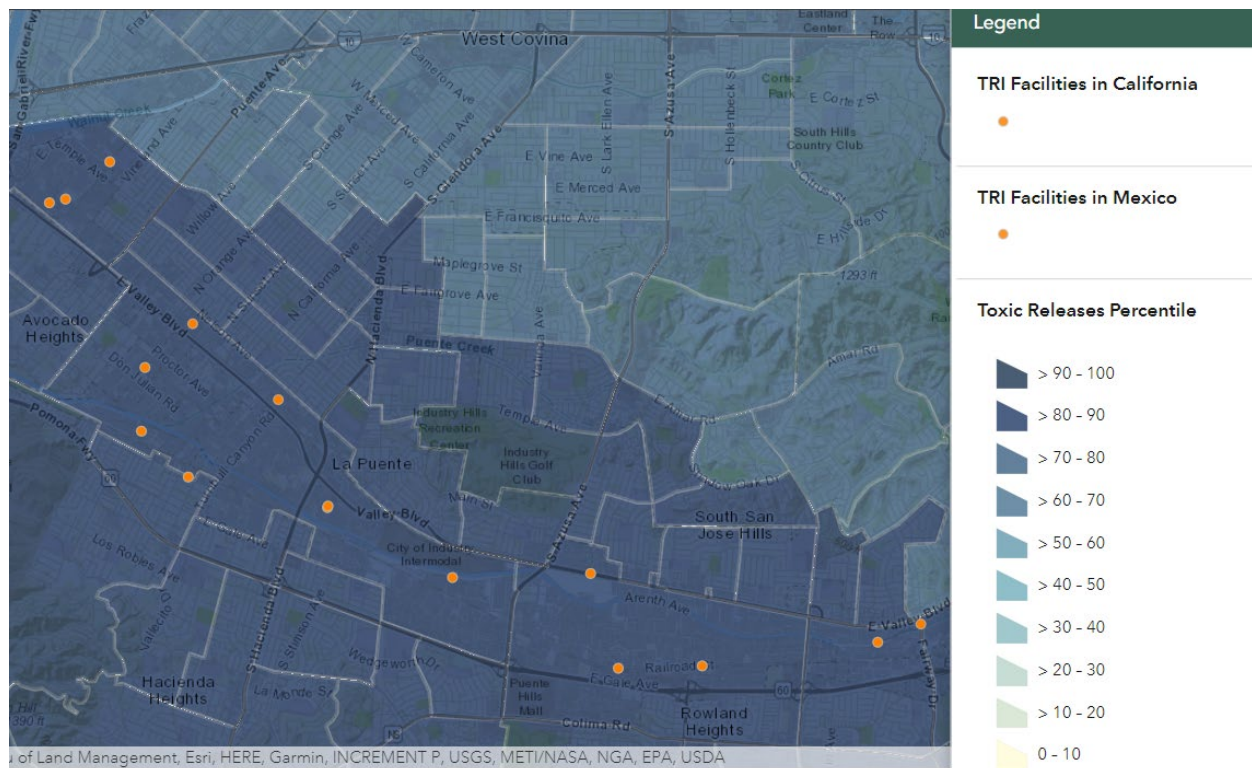
<sup>35</sup> "Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities." CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/hazardous-waste-generators-and-facilities>

## Toxic Release

Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air, which can be harmful to human and environmental health. Exposure to toxic chemical releases can cause both short term and long-term negative impacts, including serious health conditions. These chemicals are sometimes detected in the air of communities nearby. People living near facilities may breathe contaminated air regularly or if contaminants are released during an accident.

CalEnviroScreen evaluates toxic release by modeling air concentration of chemical releases from the emissions of large facilities and averaging them over 2017 to 2019. This indicator takes the air concentration and toxicity of the chemicals to determine the toxic release score. The map below shows the toxic release scores and facilities for La Puente and surrounding areas.

Figure 13 Toxic Release Sites and Scores for La Puente and Surrounding Areas<sup>36</sup>



<sup>36</sup> "CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Indicator Maps." *CalEnviroScreen*,

[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data\\_id=widget\\_313\\_output\\_0%3A0%2CdataSource\\_41-17c4bf84f3f-layer-2%3A6322&views=Toxic-Releases-from-Facilities](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=widget_313_output_0%3A0%2CdataSource_41-17c4bf84f3f-layer-2%3A6322&views=Toxic-Releases-from-Facilities)

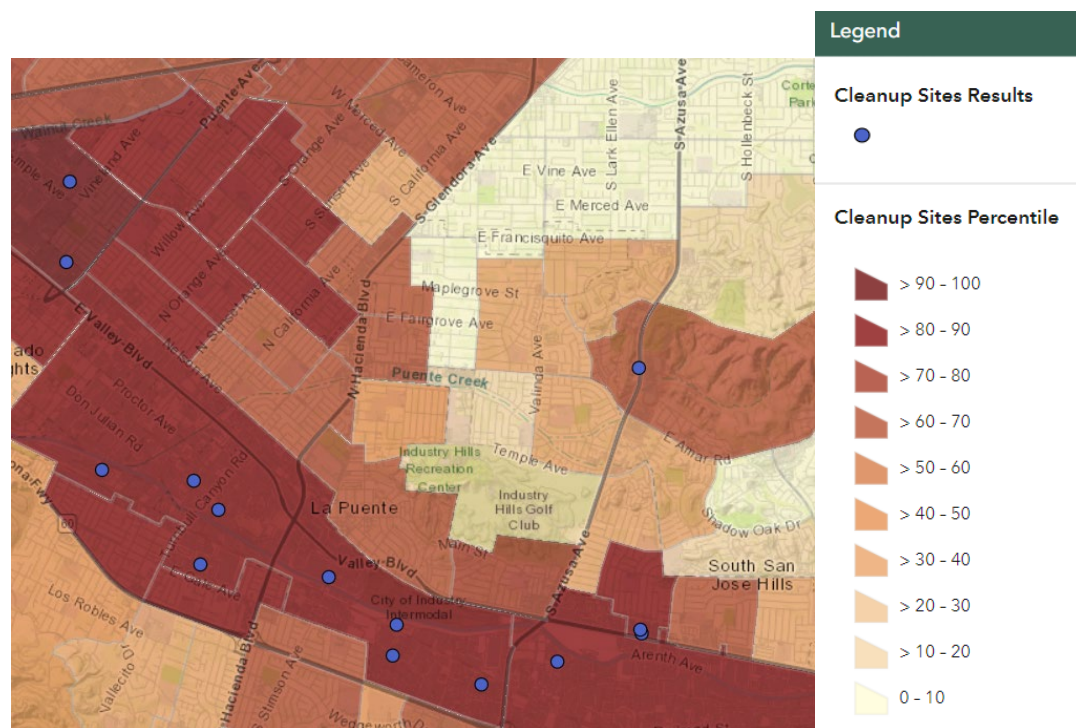
The toxic release percentile for the census tracts of La Puente ranges from 81 to 84, meaning that there is more toxic release impacts in La Puente than in 81 to 84 percent of other California census tracts. While there are no toxic release sites in La Puente itself, there are numerous sites south and west of the City. These toxic release sites negatively impact La Puente’s citizens.

## Cleanup Sites

Cleanup sites are locations that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals and require cleanup of those materials by the property owners or the government. If left untreated, chemicals at these sites can move through the air or groundwater, spreading contamination to adjacent areas. Communities near cleanup sites are more likely to be exposed to these harmful chemicals. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods. Cleaning up these sites can be a lengthy process that may take many years or even decades to complete.

To assess cleanup sites scores, CalEnviroScreen calculates the number of cleanup sites including Superfund sites on the National Priorities List, the type of site, and the distance to the census tract being assessed as of July 2021. The map below shows these cleanup sites and scores for La Puente and surrounding areas.

Figure 14 Cleanup Sites and Scores for La Puente and Surrounding Areas<sup>37</sup>



<sup>37</sup> "Cleanup Sites." OEHHA, <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/indicator/cleanup-sites>

The cleanup site percentile for the census tracts of La Puente ranges from 46 to 88, meaning that there are more toxic release impacts in La Puente than in 46 to 88 percent of other California census tracts. While CalEnviroScreen does not list any cleanup sites in La Puente there is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Superfund site in the City which is not on the National Priorities List, and, there are numerous sites south and west of the City. The far northwest census tracts of La Puente had the highest cleanup scores in the City.

The EPA Superfund site in La Puente is named San Gabriel Valley (Area 4) and is located at Stimson Ave and Old Valley Blvd.<sup>38</sup> The site is a five-square-mile area of contaminated groundwater. Remedial design and remedy construction activities are ongoing at this site. The most recent EPA review of the site was done in 2016. According to that review, the remedy proposed for the site is anticipated to be protective of human and environmental health once completed. The remedial activities completed to date have controlled exposure pathways, and continued protectiveness of the site requires the remedial design and activities to be completed.

## Groundwater Threats

Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks, but leaks from storage containers can lead to the contamination of soil and groundwater. Common pollutants that threaten groundwater and soil include gasoline or diesel fuels at gas stations, solvents, heavy metals, or pesticides.

In the 1990s, the State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control aggressively pursued a program to identify and force remediation of leaking underground storage tanks throughout the state. Fuel leaks from these storage tanks can result in substantial soil and groundwater contamination. Most of the contaminated sites identified in La Puente are gasoline stations.

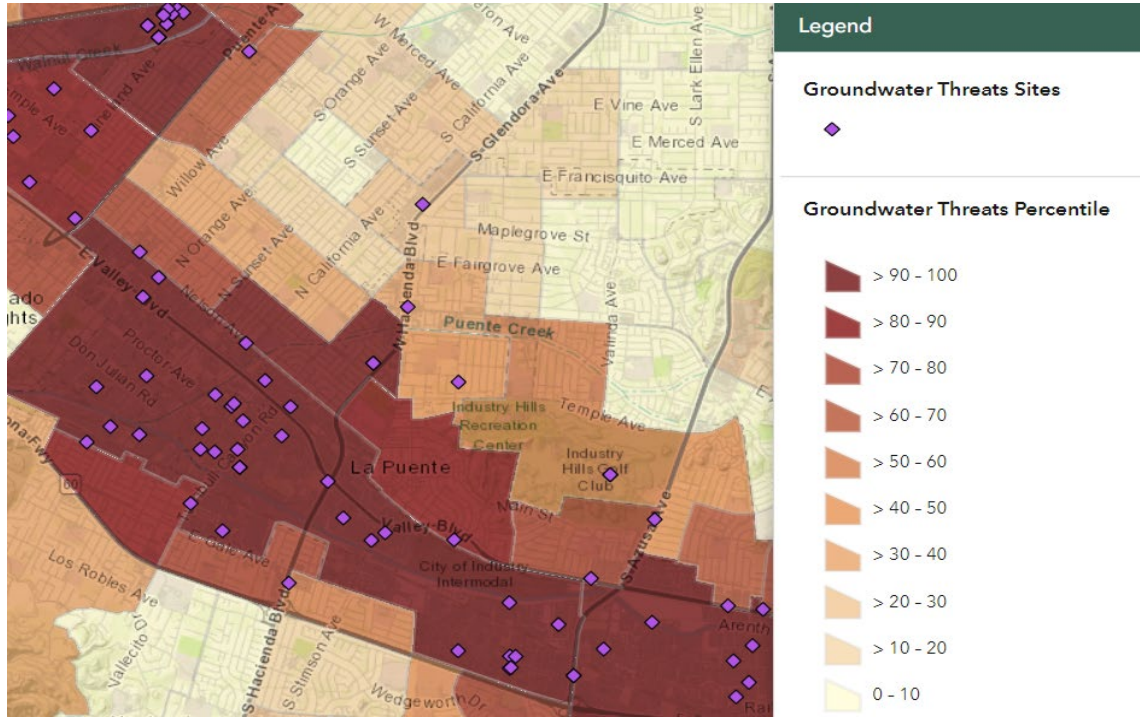
The CalEnviroScreen indicator which assesses groundwater threats is calculated by consideration of the number of groundwater cleanup sites, the type of site, and the distance to the census tract as of July 2021. The groundwater threats percentiles for La Puente range from 38-92 depending on census tract. This means that the number and type of groundwater threats is higher than 38-92 percent of the census tracts in California (Figure 15).

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<sup>38</sup> "San Gabriel Valley (Area 4) La Puente, CA" *United States Environmental Protection Agency*. <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902091>



Figure 15 Groundwater Threat Sites in and near La Puente<sup>39</sup>



Within the City are relatively few groundwater threats, however, there are numerous sites south and northwest of La Puente which may impact La Puente residents. The six groundwater threats identified by CalEnviroScreen that are located in La Puente are listed in Table 4.

Table 4 Groundwater Threat Sites in La Puente

Facility Name	Type	Site ID	Status	Potential Contaminants of Concern
Kamdat Investment, Inc. <sup>40</sup>	LUST Cleanup Site	T10000013891	Open - Site Assessment	Waste oil / Motor / Hydraulic / Lubricating

<sup>39</sup> "CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Indicator Maps." CalEnviroScreen,

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Groundwater-Threats>

<sup>40</sup> "Kamdat Investment, Inc. (T10000013891)." CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker,

[https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000013891](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000013891)

Mobil #18-M5R (Former) <sup>41</sup>	LUST Cleanup Site	T0603703031	Open - Remediation	Gasoline
Liberty Cleaners <sup>42</sup>	Cleanup Program Site	T10000014829	Open - Inactive	None specified
Oil & Solvent Process Company <sup>43</sup>	Cleanup Program Site	SL603798554	Open - Inactive	Volatile Organic Compounds
Alternative Auto Engineering <sup>44</sup>	Cleanup Program Site	T10000015520	Open - Inactive	None specified
La Puente Gas Station and Food Mart <sup>45</sup>	LUST Cleanup Site	T0603705543	Open - Remediation	Gasoline

## Solid Waste Sites

Solid waste sites are locations where household garbage and other waste are collected, processed, or stored. These sites include landfills, composting, and recycling facilities. This waste may come from homes, factories, or businesses. Regulated facilities as well as non-permitted sites which are out of compliance with the law can potentially harm the environment and expose people to hazardous substances. Solid waste facilities can also raise community concern about odors, vermin, and truck traffic.

To assess solid waste exposure, CalEnviroScreen calculates their indicator by considering the number of solid waste facilities, including illegal sites, type of site, and the distance to the census tract, as of July 2021. The solid waste percentile for La Puente ranges from 0 to 64. The census tract that scores 64 indicates that that census tract has more exposure to solid waste sites than 64 percent of the census tracts in California. As shown in Figure 16 below, no solid waste sites are located directly in the City of La Puente.

<sup>41</sup> "Mobil #18-M5R (Former)(T0603703031)." *CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker*, [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0603703031](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603703031)

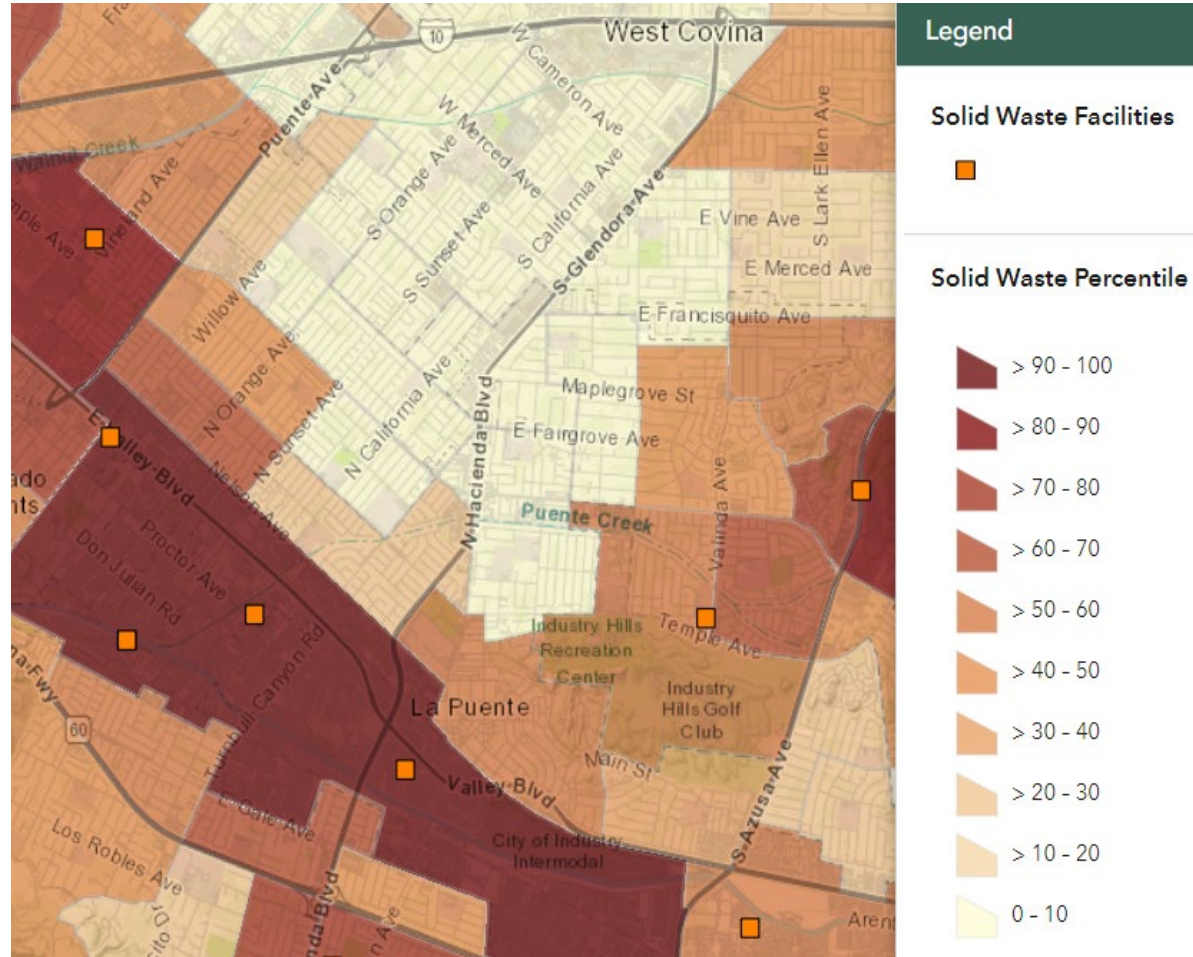
<sup>42</sup> "Liberty Cleaners (T10000014829)." *CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker*, [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000014829](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000014829)

<sup>43</sup> "Oil & Solvent Process Company (SL603798554)" *CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker*, [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=SL603798554](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL603798554)

<sup>44</sup> "Alternative Auto. Engineering (T10000015520)" *CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker*, [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000015520](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000015520)

<sup>45</sup> "La Puente Gas Sta & Food Mart (T0603705543)" *CA State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker*, [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0603705543](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603705543)

Figure 16 Solid Waste Facilities and Solid Waste Percentiles Scores in La Puente



## Public Health Emergencies

Public health emergency hazards include transmittable diseases and environmental hazards, including adverse weather conditions. The City of La Puente does not have a health department, but the County of Los Angeles’s Department of Public Health provides public health services and resources. The County’s coronavirus response plan provides guidance applicable to multiple types of public health emergencies including encouraging residents to wear facial masks, get vaccinated against infectious diseases, limit exposure to sick individuals, increase ventilation in indoor spaces, and wash hands regularly.<sup>46</sup> Businesses are encouraged to provide signage outlining their guidelines on masking, maintaining social distance to limit exposure and other considerations, and to assist their employees in complying with these

<sup>46</sup> “Best Practices to Prevent COVID-19: Guidance for Businesses and Employers.” *County of Los Angeles Public Health*, <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/BestPractices/>



recommendations through the provision of free masks, or allowed time off for vaccination appointments.

There are many ways to prepare for public health emergencies, as outlined in the City of Los Angeles's LHMP.<sup>47</sup> These measures include prevention through vaccination and personal emergency and disaster preparation, which can help to reduce the impacts of human health hazards. Additionally, it is crucial to integrate medical and response personnel into a unified command to provide care when needed in response to human health hazards.

To ensure effective response to public health emergencies, it is vital that medical and response personnel are adequately trained and supplied. Furthermore, all-hazard contingency planning should be regularly updated and functional to address any possible emergencies that may arise. To keep the public informed about human health hazards, a system should be in place to deliver a unified message. Health agencies and facilities also need to have surge capacity management and adapt to the increasing number and needs of the region.

## Goals, Policies, and Actions

This section provides goals, objectives, and actions to build adaptive capacity and increase resilience to natural hazards, including those exacerbated by climate change, human caused hazards, and public health emergencies. The following list of goals, objectives and actions are meant to augment mitigation and preparedness policies in the existing General plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Many policies and actions in this section work to address multiple hazards and are indicated by hazard icons. Special consideration is given to addressing policy gaps to better protect the City of La Puente's socially vulnerable populations and communities.

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<sup>47</sup> "City of Los Angeles 2018 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan." *City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department*, January 2018, [https://emergency.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1791/files/2021-10/2018\\_LA\\_HMP\\_Final\\_with\\_maps\\_2018-02-09.pdf](https://emergency.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1791/files/2021-10/2018_LA_HMP_Final_with_maps_2018-02-09.pdf)

## Goal 1: Reduce risk from earthquakes, liquefaction, flooding, and dam inundation hazards.

Policy 1.1 Require appropriate geotechnical studies or require standard building and remediation measures for all new proposed development projects on properties identified as subject to liquefaction or landslides.

### *Actions*

- 1.1.1 Implement Los Angeles County Building Code seismic safety standards for construction of new buildings and update the City's code as needed in response to new information and standards developed at the State level.
- 1.1.2 Encourage the upgrading of older buildings, including unreinforced masonry buildings, to comply with current Los Angeles County Building Codes.
- 1.1.3 Apply and enforce development standards and building construction codes pursuant to California state codes.

Policy 1.2 Apply and enforce earthquake safety standards for buildings, focusing on areas with expansive soils and unreinforced masonry buildings.

### *Actions*

- 1.2.1 Continue a regular schedule of reviewing and updating the City's building codes and adopting the Los Angeles County Building Code every three years.

## Goal 2: Safe use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy 2.1 Coordinate with federal, State, and County agencies to reduce risks to residents associated with the use or transport of hazardous materials.

### *Actions*

- 2.1.1 Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in its efforts to monitor businesses that transport, handle, and generate hazardous materials to ensure proper disposal.
- 2.1.2 Continue to coordinate with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to identify sites with fuel leaks from underground storage tanks and other hazardous waste contamination and facilitate appropriate remediation efforts per the requirements of California Department of Toxic Substances Control and Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- 2.1.3 Work in partnership with the County and neighboring jurisdictions to collaboratively reduce risks from hazardous materials across jurisdictional boundaries.

Policy 2.2 Educate the community regarding the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.

### *Actions*

- 2.2.1 Provide information through the City's website and other publications about commonly used hazardous materials; safe recycling and disposal methods; and the location and hours of the nearest household hazardous waste collection center or event.

Policy 2.3 Continue to contract with experienced and well-qualified service providers for hazardous materials response.

### *Actions*

- 2.3.1 Maintain communication with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Certified Unified Public Agency to stay up to date with the guidance on hazardous materials response issued by their Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials program and obtain a list of well-qualified service providers.

## Goal 3: Provide adequate emergency response to public health and safety threats.

Policy 3.1 Plan for emergencies in coordination with emergency response agencies.

### *Actions*

- 3.1.1 Seek funding opportunities to prepare and adopt an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in coordination with the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments and the Los Angeles District Army Corps of Engineers, as well as adjacent cities. Review and update the EOP biennially.
- 3.1.2 Work with local organizations and school districts to identify emergency shelters and equipment.

Policy 3.2 Promote public awareness of emergency procedures for residents, the business community, City staff, and public officials.

### *Actions*

- 3.2.1 Coordinate community workshops where residents can learn about safety concerns and learn about the City's efforts to mitigate risk to people and property.
- 3.2.2 Consider implementing a volunteer training program to provide basic emergency response skills through the federal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and to establish a program in collaboration with community groups to educate other community members of emergency procedures and how to prepare for disaster events.
- 3.2.3 Create a brochure about emergency response procedures routes. Make the brochure available to businesses, community groups, and schools in both English and Spanish. Post the brochure and other safety tips on the City's website. Provide links to other emergency education sites.

## Goal 4: Maintain a high level of fire and police protection for residents, businesses, and visitors in La Puente

Policy 4.1 Solicit and support community participation in crime prevention through local programs.

### *Actions*

- 4.1.1 Support and collaborate with local crime prevention programs.
- 4.1.2 Work with property owners to address and abate vandalism on private property and encourage property owners and residents to participate in crime prevention through the City's online reporting application.
- 4.1.3 Review all new development proposals for sensitivity to crime prevention through project design. Encourage incorporation of design features that employ adequate lighting and place increased emphasis on public areas.

Policy 4.2 Support development of community and recreational facilities and programs to reduce the potential for criminal activity among youth through coordination with the County, community groups, and other regional organizations that provide activities for youth.

### *Actions*

- 4.2.1 Work with the School Districts to increase sports programs and other activities to reduce criminal activity among youth. Distribute information on youth programs at all City-sponsored events.
- 4.2.2 Encourage community groups to provide safe activities for youth after school and throughout the weekend.
- 4.2.3 Properly maintain and operate the grounds and facilities of La Puente Park to minimize vandalism and crime at the Park and maximize public use and enjoyment.

Policy 4.3 Periodically evaluate police and fire services to ensure public safety.

*Actions*

- 4.3.1 Strive to minimize police response time by patrol officers by providing adequate numbers of sworn officers, special bicycle and foot patrols, patrols in response to criminal activity, and patrols that manage special events.
- 4.3.2 Annually evaluate the City's mutual aid agreements to ensure that adequate police and fire protection services are provided in the event of an emergency.

Policy 4.4 Provide public information about fire, crime, and emergency preparedness to residents, schools, and community organizations.

*Actions*

- 4.4.1 Provide information concerning crime prevention through physical design on the City's website, social media, public counter, and distribute a brochure to institutions and neighborhood organizations.
- 4.4.2 Work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to encourage open dialog between City residents and the Sheriff's Department to help bridge any gaps in communication that may exist between these two groups and reinforce community policing practices.

Policy 4.5 Provide the level of funding necessary for high level of police and fire protection.

*Actions*

- 4.5.1 Seek out grants as they become available for police, fire, and emergency services.
- 4.5.2 When the City renews service contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, evaluate the number of officers, total population, response times, and crime statistics to ensure that appropriate levels of law enforcement are provided citywide.



## Goal 5: Prepare current and future communities for climate impacts.

### Policy 5.1 Reduce risk to buildings and infrastructure in hazard areas.

#### *Actions*

- 5.1.1 Review standards to ensure that new developments and substantial remodels in at-risk areas incorporate low-impact, resilient, infrastructure and are protected from potential impacts of flooding and significant storm events.

### Policy 5.2 Increase access to information, awareness and education around climate hazards

#### *Actions*

- 5.2.1 Consider developing policies that require residential property managers and landlords to disclose hazard risk information to renters in a manner similar to that required when residential properties are sold, including if the property is listed on a fragile housing inventory.
- 5.2.2 Work with community partners to develop an awareness and education program for city residents for natural disaster and hazard events, including providing information on the City's website and through social media channels on preparing for natural disaster and hazard events.

### Policy 5.3 Encourage incorporation of green infrastructure in future development.

#### *Actions*

- 5.3.1 Require and/or incentivize green infrastructure in future developments and, when possible, use green infrastructure as a preferred alternative.
- 5.3.2 Design roadway projects to include trees and landscape buffer areas.

## Policy 5.4 Increase the community's preparedness and resilience to extreme heat.

### *Actions*

- 5.4.1 Establish cooling centers to reduce La Puente residents' vulnerability to extreme heat events.
- 5.4.2 Support critical facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and cooling centers to operate on micro-grids, which use various redundant backup systems including generator power and solar power sources.
- 5.4.3 Coordinate with LA County Department of Public Health to distribute information on climate impacts to vulnerable populations including actions they can take to reduce exposure to unhealthy conditions.
- 5.4.4 Shade public parks, open spaces, and provide shade structures along transportation routes, including bus shelters.
- 5.4.5 Support residential energy efficiency and weatherization programs.
- 5.4.6 Increase the City's urban tree canopy to provide shade to residential neighborhoods.
- 5.4.7 Promote the use of cooling techniques to reduce the heat retention of pavement and other outdoor surfaces.
- 5.4.8 Coordinate with Los Angeles County's Planning department to support regional approach to heat mitigation consistent with the County's 2022 Safety Element.
- 5.4.9 Increase the resilience capacity of La Puente's most vulnerable communities by focusing planning and implementation in these communities and ensure representatives of those communities have a role in the decision-making process.

## Policy 5.5 Reduce residential and municipal water use.

### *Actions*

- 5.5.1 Continue to implement the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- 5.5.2 Consider programs to educate and increase awareness among the community of water conservation measures and water efficient landscaping.
- 5.5.3 Coordinate with water providers in the City to inform residents of existing water conservation programs, resources, and rebates.

Policy 5.6 Reduce the risk to property from urban flooding.

*Actions*

- 5.6.1 Continue the City’s sandbag distribution program to provide residents access to sandbags in advance of upcoming storms.
- 5.6.2 Infiltrate runoff from developments on-site, where feasible, to minimize potential increases in stormwater flows.

## Implementation Actions and Programs

The following table (Table 3) demonstrates how the City will implement the Safety Element Goals, Policies and Actions by various departments. Some are currently implemented by the entities indicated in the table while others represent safety and resilience best practices that the City hopes to put in place on an ongoing, short, medium, or long-term basis.

*Table 3 Implementation Actions*

Action #	Description	Time Frame	Funding Source	Responsible Department(s)
1.1.1	Implement Los Angeles County Building Code seismic safety standards for construction of new buildings and update the City’s code as needed in response to new information and standards developed at the State level.	Ongoing	Special assessments or fees, general fund allocation, building permit fees	Building and Safety
1.1.2	Encourage the upgrading of older buildings, including unreinforced masonry buildings, to comply with current Los Angeles County building codes.	Medium-Term	Tax incentives or rebates, low-interest loans, public-private partnerships	Building and Safety
1.1.3	Apply and enforce development standards and building construction codes pursuant to the Los Angeles Building Code.	Ongoing	Code enforcement fees, fines and penalties, grants or partnerships	Building and Safety

1.2.1	Continue a regular schedule of reviewing and updating the City's building codes and adopting the Los Angeles Building Code every three years.	Ongoing	General fund allocation, state or federal grants	Building and Safety
2.1.1	Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works in its efforts to monitor businesses that transport, handle, and generate hazardous materials to ensure proper disposal.	Ongoing	Compliance fees	Public Works
2.1.2	Continue to coordinate with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to identify sites with fuel leaks from underground storage tanks and other hazardous waste contamination and facilitate appropriate remediation efforts per the requirements of California Department of Toxic Substances Control and Regional Water Quality Control Board.	Long-Term	State grants, environmental protection funds	Public Works
2.1.3	Work in partnership with the County, and neighboring jurisdictions to collaboratively reduce risks from hazardous materials across jurisdictional boundaries.	Ongoing	Intergovernmental grants, joint funding agreements	City Manager's Office
2.2.1	Provide information through the City's website and other publications about commonly used hazardous materials; safe recycling and disposal methods; and the location and hours of the nearest household hazardous waste collection center or event.	Medium-Term	Public awareness grant funding	Public Works
2.3.1	Maintain communication with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Certified Unified Public Agency to stay up to date with the guidance on hazardous materials response issued by their	Ongoing	Department budget allocation, cooperative agreements	City Manager's Office

	Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials program and obtain list of well-qualified service providers.			
3.1.1	Seek funding opportunities to prepare and adopt an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in coordination with the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments and the Los Angeles District Army Corps of Engineers, as well as adjacent cities. Review and update the EOP biennially.	Long-Term	Emergency management grants	Planning
3.1.2	Work with local organizations and school districts to identify emergency shelters and equipment.	Medium-Term	Community development grants, partnerships and sponsorships	Building and Safety
3.2.1	Coordinate community workshops where residents can learn about safety concerns and learn about the City's efforts to mitigate risk to people and property	Short to Medium-Term	Community development grants	Community Services
3.2.2	Consider implementing a volunteer training program to provide basic emergency response skills through the federal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and establish a program in collaboration with community groups, to educate other community members of emergency procedures, and how to prepare for disaster events.	Ongoing	Volunteer grants, donations and sponsorships	Community Services
3.2.3	Create a brochure about emergency response procedures routes. Make the brochure available to businesses, community groups, and schools in both English and Spanish. Post the brochure and other safety tips on the City's website. Provide links to other emergency education sites.	Short-Term	Communication and outreach budget	Community Services

4.1.1	Support and collaborate with local crime prevention programs.	Ongoing	Community development grants	Community Services
4.1.2	Work with property owners to address and abate vandalism on private property and encourage property owners to use building materials that are resistant to graffiti yet are consistent with the City's design policies.	Ongoing	Community cleanup grants	Building and Safety/Public Works
4.1.3	Review all new development proposals for sensitivity to crime prevention through project design. Encourage incorporation of design features that employ adequate lighting and place increased emphasis on public areas.	Ongoing	Planning development fees, collaboration with developers	Building and Safety
4.2.1	Work with the School Districts to increase sports programs and other activities to reduce criminal activity among youth. Distribute information on youth programs at all City-sponsored events.	Long-term	Education grants, joint funding agreements	Community Services
4.2.2	Encourage community groups to provide safe activities for youth after school and throughout the weekend.	Long-term	Community grants	Community Services
4.2.3	Properly maintain and operate the grounds and facilities of La Puente Park to minimize vandalism and crime at the Park and maximize public use and enjoyment.	Ongoing	City budget allocation, park improvement grants, park district funding, community development block grants, park user fees	Parks
4.3.1	Strive to minimize police response time by patrol officers by providing adequate numbers of sworn officers, special bicycle and foot patrols, patrols in response to criminal activity, and patrols that manage special events.	Short-term	Public safety budget, grant opportunities	Community Services



4.3.2	Annually evaluate the City's mutual aid agreements to ensure that adequate police and fire protection services are provided in the event of an emergency.	Ongoing	General fund allocation	City Manager's Office
4.4.1	Provide information concerning crime prevention through physical design on the City's website, social media, public counter, and distribute a brochure to institutions and neighborhood organizations.	Short-term	Communication and outreach budget, public safety grants	Community Services
4.4.2	Work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to encourage open dialog between City residents and the Sheriff's Department to help bridge any gaps in communication that may exist between these two groups and reinforce community policing practice.	Ongoing	Community engagement grants	Community Services
4.5.1	Seek out grants as they become available for police, fire and emergency services.	Ongoing	Specific federal grants, state grants, Community development block grants, local government funding, regional and county funding	City Manager's Office
4.5.2	When the City renews service contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, evaluate the number of officers, total population, response times, and crime statistics to ensure that appropriate levels of law enforcement are provided citywide.	Long-term	Contract negotiation, performance-based funding	City Manager's Office
5.1.1	Review standards to ensure that new developments and substantial remodels in at-risk areas incorporate low-impact, resilient, infrastructure and are protected from potential impacts of flooding and significant storm events.	Ongoing	Climate resilience grants, planning and development fees	Building and Safety

5.2.1	Consider developing policies that require residential property managers and landlords to disclose hazard risk information to renters in a manner similar to that required when residential properties are sold, including if the property is listed on a fragile housing inventory.	Short-term	Housing and community development grants	Housing/Building and Safety
5.2.2	Work with community partners to develop an awareness and education program for city residents for natural disaster and hazard events, including providing information on the City's website and through social media channels on preparing for natural disaster and hazard events.	Medium-term	Climate resilience grants	City Manager's Office
5.3.1	Require and/or incentivize green infrastructure in future developments and, when possible, use green infrastructure as a preferred alternative.	Medium-term	California Strategic Growth Council, green infrastructure grants, development incentive programs	Building and Safety/Public Works
5.3.2	Design roadway projects to include trees and landscape buffer areas	Long-term	California Strategic Growth Council, Transportation and infrastructure budget, state and federal grants	Public Works
5.4.1	Establish cooling centers to reduce La Puente residents' vulnerability to extreme heat events	Short-term	OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program, California Strategic Growth Council, climate resilience centers grants, public health grants	Community Services
5.4.2	Support critical facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and cooling centers to operate on micro-grids, which use various redundant backup systems including generator power and solar power sources.	Medium-term	OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Strategic Growth	Public Works

			Council, energy efficiency grants	
5.4.3	Coordinate with LA County department of public health to distribute information on climate impacts to vulnerable populations including actions they can take to reduce exposure to unhealthy conditions	Short-term	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), public health budget, public health and environmental grants	Community Services
5.4.4	Shade public parks, open spaces, and provide shade structures along transportation routes, including bus shelters	Short-term	California Strategic Growth Council, parks and recreation budget, environmental grants	Public Works
5.4.5	Support residential energy efficiency and weatherization programs.	Ongoing	California Strategic Growth Council, utility company programs, energy efficiency grants	Building and Safety/Housing
5.4.6	Increase the City's urban tree canopy to provide shade to residential neighborhoods	Medium-term	Environmental grants, tree planting grants and partnerships	Public Works
5.4.7	Promote the use of cooling techniques to reduce the heat retention of pavement and other outdoor surfaces.	Medium-term	State and federal grants (e.g., CEC, EPA, DOE), sustainability and climate resilience funds	Public Works/Building and Safety
5.4.8	Coordinate with Los Angeles County's Planning department to support regional approach to heat mitigation consistent with the County's 2022 Safety Element.	Ongoing	County grants and partnerships, collaborative municipal funding	Planning
5.4.9	Increase the resilience capacity of La Puente's most vulnerable communities by focusing planning and implementation in these communities and ensure representatives of those	Ongoing	Community development block grants, local initiatives, and budget allocation	Public Works/Planning

	communities have a role in the decision-making process.			
5.5.1	Continue to implement the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.	Short-term	Environmental grants	Public Works
5.5.2	Consider programs to educate and increase awareness among the community of water conservation measures and water efficient landscaping.	Medium-term	Water district grants, state and federal grants (e.g., DWR, EPA, DOE)	Public Works
5.5.3	Coordinate with water providers in the City to inform residents of existing water conservation programs, resources and rebates	Medium-term	Water district partnerships, water conservation grants	Public Works
5.6.1	Continue the City's sandbag distribution program to provide residents access to sandbags in advance of upcoming storms	Ongoing	OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program, emergency preparedness budget, disaster preparedness grants	Public Works
5.6.2	Infiltrate runoff from developments on-site, where feasible, to minimize potential increases in stormwater flows.	Medium-Term	Stormwater management grants, municipal funding, infrastructure grants	Building and Safety/Public Works