



Introduction to Public Safety

The goal of La Verne's Public Safety Element is to reduce the risk of death, injury, property damage, economic loss, and harm due to natural and manmade disasters. This element will view risks on both a short-term and long-term basis, and will place a special emphasis on local and regional risk factors.

The Public Safety Element closely relates to the Community Facilities and Services Element and other elements in the General Plan and provides the foundation for the City's adopted Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which seeks to implement the Goals and Policies of the General Plan Public Safety Element. The long-term risks associated with Climate Change will be addressed in the [to be determined] Element.

Organization of Element

The Public Safety Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to La Verne. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- Fire Safety
- Flooding
- Seismic Safety and Geologic Hazards
- Severe Weather Hazards
- Hazardous Waste and Magerials
- Aircraft
- Noise
- Emergency Operations and Facilities

Contents:

- Fire Safety
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GOAL PS-1 FIRE SAFETY

A community that is minimally impacted by wildland and urban fires through implementation of proactive fire hazard abatement strategies.

Policies

- PS-1.1 **Services and Facilities.** Provide adequate fire prevention services and facilities.
- PS-1.2 **Fire Hazard Identification.** Maintain and regularly update the City's fire hazard overlay map for changes in fire hazard severity districts consistent with changes in hazard designations by CAL FIRE.
- PS-1.3 **Very High Fire Hazard Zone.** Require that all development in areas subject to wildfire meet Very High Fire Hazard Zone standards as adopted by City Ordinance.
- PS-1.4 **Fire Protection Buffers.** Require fire protection buffers between natural areas and developed areas susceptible to wildland fires; fire protection buffers shall be maintained at private expense and on private property according to the applicable standards and regulations of the La Verne Fire Department.
- PS-1.5 **Adequate Water Supply.** Require development to prove conclusively that it can be served with adequate water capacity to support fire protection services.
- PS-1.6 **Response Time.** Prohibit new development if located outside of an accepted fire service response time, as determined by the La Verne Fire Department.
- PS-1.7 **Access.** Require sufficient ingress/egress access points in all new development to support firefighting activities, as determined by the La Verne Fire Department.
- PS-1.8 **Education.** Educate the community (residents, builders, property owners, and employers) on fire hazards, fire safety measures, and local, regional, state, and federal assistance programs.
- PS-1.9 **Permit Approvals.** Ensure compliance with the Subdivision Map Act requirements for structural fire protection and suppression services, subdivision requirements for on/off-site improvements, ingress and egress, street standards, and other concerns.
- PS-1.10 **Fire Codes.** Require adherence to applicable fire codes for buildings and structures, fire access, and other standards in accordance with the California Fire Code and municipal codes.
- PS-1.11 **Critical Facilities and Structures.** Locate, design, maintain, and upgrade critical facilities, structures, and infrastructure (police stations, roads, utilities, reservoirs, etc.) to minimize exposure to fire hazards.
- PS-1.12 **Sustainable Ecological Management.** Encourage implementation of wildfire mitigation activities in a manner consistent with the goals of promoting sustainable ecological management and community stability.



GOAL PS-2 FLOODING

A community that is protected from the dangers of flood and inundation hazards.

Policies

- PS-2.1 **Flood Hazard Identification.** Maintain and continuously update the City's floodplain safety hazards map in concert with FEMA map amendments and improvements to local drainage facilities.
- PS-2.2 **New Development.** Avoid and minimize flood risks for new development.
- PS-2.3 **Areas Susceptible to Flooding.** Reduce flood hazards in developed areas susceptible to flooding (such as the 100-year floodplain and areas known to the city to flood during intense or prolonged rainfall events) and require new development in these areas to incorporate mitigation measures designed to mitigate flood hazards.
- PS-2.4 **Education.** Educate the community regarding flood prevention information and notify residents and motorists of impending flood hazards and evacuation procedures using the most efficient and modern technology appropriate.
- PS-2.5 **Joint Use of Flood Control Facilities.** Develop flood control facilities as parks, nature trails, equestrian parks, golf courses, or other types of recreational facilities or joint-use facilities that can withstand periodic inundation, to the extent feasible.
- PS-2.6 **Interagency Coordination.** Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and public agencies responsible for flood protection to consider the impact to flooding and flood control measures on properties within La Verne resulting from development in other jurisdictions.
- PS-2.7 **Stormwater Runoff.** Require new developments that add substantial amounts of impervious surfaces to integrate low impact development best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff.
- PS-2.8 **Critical Facilities.** Prohibit development of new essential and critical facilities and lifeline services in the 100-year floodplain.
- PS-2.9 **Aquifer Recharge.** Provide opportunities for aquifer recharge.
- PS-2.10 **Open Space Area.** Preserve open space areas for flood mitigation when possible.



GOAL PS-3 SEISMIC SAFETY AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

A community that has reduced risk from geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, and liquefaction.

Policies

- PS-3.1 **Geologic Hazard Identification.** Maintain and continuously update the City's geologic and seismic hazards map in concert with updates from the California Geologic Survey and local surveys.
- PS-3.2 **Hillside Development.** In Hillside Development areas (as shown in Map PS-X), require a full site-specific geologic study to consider effects of the proposed development on adjacent upslope and downslope areas as well as on the site itself.
- PS-3.3 **Alquist-Priolo Act.** Enforce development requirements, such as seismic study analyses, project siting, and project design features for proposed developments near active faults pursuant to the Alquist-Priolo Act.
- PS-3.4 **Building Codes.** Adhere to the latest California Building Codes and regulations regulating earth work and grading during construction, and hillside grading guidelines to minimize erosion; update local codes periodically for the latest advances.
- PS-3.5 **Cluster Development.** Encourage the clustering of dwelling units within a project area to reduce the amount of land disturbed on a given site.
- PS-3.6 **Bare Soils.** Limit acreage of bare soils exposed at any one time.
- PS-3.7 **Critical Infrastructure and Facilities.** Require that critical infrastructure and facilities that exist or may be built in the city (e.g., police, medical facilities, fire, roads, reservoirs, etc.), incorporate site specific seismic structural design.
- PS-3.8 **Liquefaction.** Require special site-specific studies in areas potentially subject to liquefaction (shown in Map PS-X) to determine the nature and extent of possible liquefaction and to identify engineering and development siting measures to permit development to occur.
- PS-3.9 **Education.** Compile and distribute earthquake preparedness information to residents, business owners, and schools; work with partners to conduct periodic inspections and preparedness events.
- PS-3.10 **Retrofitting Buildings.** Encourage owners of potentially hazardous buildings (e.g., mobile homes) to assess seismic vulnerability and conduct seismic retrofitting as necessary to improve resistance to earthquakes.
- PS-3.11 **Historic Hazards.** Discourage development in identified potential and historical landslide and flood plain areas which cannot be mitigated through regulation.



GOAL PS-4 HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MATERIALS

A community that is protected from the potential for hazardous waste and materials contamination.

Policies

- PS-4.1 **Regulations.** Enforce the Uniform Fire Code as it controls the use of hazardous materials, seeing that appropriate laws are followed and precautions are taken for the type and amount of hazard being created.
- PS-4.2 **Mitigation Measures.** Require facilities that handle hazardous waste and materials to implement mitigation measures that reduce the risks associated with hazardous material production, storage, and disposal; incorporate the standards of the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan in regards to siting, development controls, and review procedures.
- PS-4.3 **Transport.** Restrict the transport of hazardous waste and materials to designated routes.
- PS-4.4 **Railroad Safety.** Work with railroads to ensure rail safety along lines used to transport hazardous materials including emergency response procedures in the event of a rail accident involving hazardous materials.
- PS-4.5 **Emergency Response.** Ensure that the La Verne Fire Department can continue to respond safely and effectively to a hazardous materials incident in the city, whether it is a spill at a permitted facility, or the result of an accident along a section of the freeway or railroads that extend across the City.
- PS-4.6 **Regional Compliance.** Continue to comply with the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
- PS-4.7 **City Plans.** Ensure continued implementation of the proposed Hazardous Materials Release Plans and Hazardous Materials Inventories of the City of La Verne.
- PS-4.8 **Education.** Prepare and distribute educational materials to the community regarding illegal dumping, the dangers of hazardous waste, and city and county hazardous waste management plans.



GOAL PS-5 SEVERE WEATHER

A community with minimized impacts from severe weather conditions on residents, businesses, and visitors.

Policies

- PS-5.1 **Wind Protective Features.** Promote the installation of protective wind barriers on homes and buildings, such as vegetation walls, glass panel windscreens, roof clips, hedges, or rows of trees.
- PS-5.2 **Public Trees and Landscaping.** Adequately maintain public trees and landscaping to reduce damage to infrastructure during periods of high winds; select resilient tree species that can withstand high wind and severe storm hazards in public landscapes.
- PS-5.3 **Private Landscaping.** Require adequate maintenance of private landscaping that could otherwise interfere with utility infrastructure in severe weather conditions.
- PS-5.4 **Signage.** Require all signage and moving structures susceptible to high wind damage to be tied down appropriately, or brought down or covered when high wind alerts are in effect.
- PS-5.5 **Cooling Centers.** Designate public buildings, specific private buildings, or institutions with air conditioning as public cooling shelters; extend hours at air-conditioned sites during periods of extreme heat and power outage.
- PS-5.6 **Storms.** Continue to provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) as feasible at designated public facilities during and after extreme weather events.
- PS-5.7 **Special Assistance.** Address the needs of individuals with limited mobility or limited access to transportation for access to safe and comfortable shelter during extreme heat events or other severe weather events.
- PS-5.8 **Public Education.** Educate the community about the importance of regular tree maintenance near structures and power lines to minimize risk of downed trees, branches, and power lines during windstorms.



GOAL PS-6 AIRCRAFT

A community that is protected from the impacts and potential risks of aircraft activity at Brackett Field.

Policies

- PS-6.1 **Land Use Compatibility.** Maintain compatibility of development with airport operations in the area surrounding the airport in accordance with the adopted Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUP).
- PS-6.2 **Master Plan.** Require that all development at Brackett Field adhere to a Master Plan (to be reviewed by the City) and all local and regional applicable noise ordinances.
- PS-6.3 **Airport Operations Monitoring.** Maintain regular communication and coordination with Los Angeles County and Brackett Field, and request advance notice of any operations that could adversely impact the community, even if those impacts are temporary.
- PS-6.4 **Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77.** Do not approve buildings and structures that would penetrate Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 Imaginary Obstruction Surfaces for Brackett Field unless found consistent by the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). Additionally, in accordance with FAR Part 77, require applicants proposing buildings or structures that penetrate the 100:1 Notification Surface to file a Form 7460-1 Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and provide a copy of the FAA determination to the City and the ALUC.
- PS-6.5 **Structures above 200 Feet.** For development projects with structures higher than 200 feet above existing grade, the City shall inform the ALUC and submit materials to the ALUC for review. Proposed projects that would exceed a height of 200 feet above existing grade shall be required to file Form 7460-1 with the FAA.
- PS-6.6 **Heliport/Helistop Approval and Requirements.** Approve the development of a heliport or helistop only if it complies with the AELUP for heliports. Ensure that each applicant seeking a conditional use permit or similar approval for the construction or operation of a heliport or helistop complies fully with the state permit procedure provided by law and with all conditions of approval imposed or recommended by the FAA, Los Angeles County ALUC, and Caltrans/Division of Aeronautics. This requirement shall be in addition to all other City development requirements
- PS-6.7 **Sheriff's Aerobureau.** Require full environmental review should the Sheriff's Aerobureau relocate to the Brackett facility.



GOAL PS-7 NOISE

A community with minimized harmful effects of noise on sensitive uses, and reduced noise coming from freeways, motor vehicle traffic, trains, Brackett Field, and the Fairplex.

Policies

- PS-7.1 **Planning Decisions.** Consider existing and future noise levels when making land use planning decisions and require mitigation of all significant noise impacts to the extent feasible.
- PS-7.2 **Sensitive Facilities.** Locate sensitive facilities such as residential uses, schools, medical facilities, libraries, churches, and convalescent homes way from areas of excessive noise unless proper mitigation measures are in place.
- PS-7.3 **Site Design.** Protect noise-sensitive uses from excessive noise levels by incorporating site planning and project design techniques to minimize noise impacts. The use of noise barriers shall be considered after all practical design-related noise measures have been integrated into the project. In cases where sound walls are necessary, they should help create an attractive setting with features such as setbacks, changes in alignment, detail and texture, murals, pedestrian access (if appropriate), and landscaping.
- PS-7.4 **Mixed-Use Development.** Ensure that mixed-use structures and projects be designed to prevent transfer of noise and vibration from nonresidential areas to residential areas.
- PS-7.5 **Special Events.** Specific events which generate noise in excess of local noise standards may be considered on a case-by-case basis when they contribute to the quality of life of the La Verne community.
- PS-7.6 **Noise Control.** Utilize innovative noise abatement, design techniques, and other mitigation strategies—including staggered operating hours, insulation, building setbacks, noise barriers, insulation, placement of parking and utility areas, and building orientation—to ensure that noise levels do not exceed the limits in the La Verne Municipal Code.
- PS-7.7 **Roadway Noise.** Encourage nonmotorized transportation alternatives for local trips and the implementation of noise sensitivity measures in the public realm, including traffic-calming road design, lateral separation, natural buffers, and setbacks to decrease excessive motor vehicle noise along major arterials.
- PS-7.8 **Highway Noise.** Continue to coordinate with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to achieve maximum noise abatement in the design of new highway projects or improvements along SR-210; abatement techniques could include alignment, barriers, lateral separation, or other innovative techniques.
- PS-7.9 **Railroad Noise.** Continue to coordinate with railroad companies and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (regarding construction and operation of the Gold Line) to support and maintain reasonable limits on rail



traffic, the use of bells and whistles, and the speed and hours of rail operation in affected areas of the City, and maintain adequate setbacks and buffer zones along rail lines to reduce adverse noise impacts on sensitive receptors.

- PS-7.10 **Vehicles and Trucks.** Monitor and enforce existing speed limits and motor vehicle codes requiring adequate mufflers on all types of vehicles traveling through the city and compliance with designate truck routes.
- PS-7.11 **Airport Noise.** Work with Los Angeles County and Brackett Field to monitor aircraft noise, implement noise-reducing operation measures, promote pilot awareness of noise impacts, and maintain noise from the airport at its current level.
- PS-7.12 **Fairplex Noise.** Coordinate with Los Angeles County Fairplex officials on a regular basis to apply and update the noise mitigation measures as needed in the Comprehensive Sound Management Plan for Pomona Raceway and ensure that noise impacts on the local community are adequately considered by all parties when planning events at the facility.
- PS-7.13 **Interjurisdictional Coordination.** Coordinate with Los Angeles County and neighboring cities to minimize noise conflicts between land uses along the City's boundaries.

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GOAL PS-8 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

A community that is prepared for and responds effectively to natural and human-induced disasters and emergencies, minimizing loss of life, injury, property damage, and disruption of vital services.

Policies

- PS-8.1 **Critical Facilities.** Coordinate with service providers to ensure the resilience of critical facilities, lifeline services, and infrastructure, and plan for the use of critical facilities during post-disaster response and recovery
- PS-8.2 **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Update La Verne's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) on a regular basis in order to reflect changing conditions, best practices, regulatory environment, and advancements in knowledge; and to maintain eligibility for public assistance grants.
- PS-8.3 **Communication.** Maintain proper communication protocols and procedures among emergency service providers; local, state, and federal government agencies; businesses; schools; utilities; and other relevant parties to ensure quick and efficient response in the event of an emergency.
- PS-8.4 **Education.** Prepare our community for comprehensive and efficient emergency response including safe and secure evacuation routes.
- PS-8.5 **Automatic and Mutual Aid.** Continue to participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements with adjacent service providers to ensure efficient and adequate resources, facilities, and support services during and after emergencies.
- PS-8.6 **Emergency Evacuation Routes and Access.** Maintain, update, and regularly exercise emergency access, protocols, warning systems, and evacuation routes to assess their effectiveness.
- PS-8.7 **Emergency Shelters.** Periodically review emergency shelters to ensure that necessary equipment supplies are available in case of emergency.
- PS-8.8 **Collaboration.** Strengthen emergency services preparedness and response by linking emergency services with natural hazard mitigation programs, and enhancing public education on a regional scale.
- PS-8.9 **Institutions.** Regularly coordinate with the City's major institutions, schools, employers, and homeowners associations regarding emergency response procedures.
- PS-8.10 **CERT.** Continue to support the City of La Verne Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training program as a valuable asset to the community.

