

## 3.11 HUMAN MADE HAZARDS

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section provides information on hazardous materials and waste management in the City's Planning Area along with human-made hazards (e.g., wildland fires). The current conditions of hazardous materials sites, wildland fire protection, and emergency preparedness and response are presented in the Existing Conditions section. Implementation of the General Plan will provide goals, objectives and policies that reduce potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials to the public or environment within the City's Planning Area to a less than significant level. Additionally, the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies will provide improved emergency response and emergency evacuation plans throughout the City's Planning Area. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land within the OVOV Planning Area boundaries that is outside the City's boundaries and adopted SOI. Together the City and the County Planning Areas comprise the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### **Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous materials include any substance or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, or characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to humans and/or the environment. These materials may include pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals and chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and nuclear fuels.

Within the City's Planning Area, a hazardous materials release or spill would most likely involve transportation of materials by railroad or truck, use of hazardous materials at a business, or illegal dumping by hazardous wastes. Hazardous materials are transported to and through the City's Planning Area by vehicles using Interstate (I) 5, State Routes (SR) 14 and 126, and the Union Pacific Railroad.

#### ***Sites with Known Contamination***

Business practices and the laws that regulate them have changed dramatically over the years. Many businesses through intentional action, lack of awareness or accidental occurrences have caused contamination on and around their properties. The City's Planning Area contains properties that were once contaminated and are now clean as well as a few properties that are contaminated with a cleanup process underway. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) maintains a list of all

contaminated sites in the nation that are currently, or have in the past, undergoing cleanup activities. This list is known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) also maintains a list of all contaminated sites in the state for which it is providing oversight and enforcement of cleanup activities. This list is known as the Cal-Sites Database. **Table 3.11-1, Hazardous Materials Sites in the City of Santa Clarita Planning Area**, lists the sites in the City's Planning Area that are currently active in cleanup activities. This information was gathered through use of the aforementioned databases through the internet. Additionally, **Figure 3.11-1, Hazardous Material Sites in the City's Planning Area**, shows the location of these sites within the City's Planning Area boundaries.

**Table 3.11-1  
Hazardous Materials Sites in the City of Santa Clarita Planning Area**

Company	Location/Address	National Priorities List <sup>1</sup> (NPL) Status	Site Type	Cleanup Status
<b>CERCLIS Sites</b>				
National Technical Systems	20970 Centre Pointe Parkway Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	Voluntary Cleanup	Active
<b>Cal-Sites</b>				
National Technical Systems	20970 Centre Pointe Parkway Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	Voluntary Cleanup	Active
Saugus Industrial Center (former Keysor-Century Corp)	26000 Springbrook Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	Voluntary Cleanup	Active
Saugus Swap Meet Property	22500 Soledad Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	Voluntary Cleanup	Inactive-Action Required
SOS - Placerita Canyon	25977 Sand Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91387	No	State Response	Certified/Operation and Maintenance
Whittaker Off-site Groundwater/CLWA (Castaic Lake Water Agency)	Area west and north of 22116 Soledad Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	Voluntary Cleanup	Active
Whittaker Bermite/Rail Station – Site A	22116 Soledad Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	State Response	Active
Whittaker/Bermite Facility	22116 Soledad Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350	No	State Response	Active

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor Database 2008  
US EPA Website, Superfund Site Information <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/srchsites.cfm> 2008.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Sites are listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) upon completion of Hazard Ranking System (HRS) screening, solicitation of comments about the proposed site, and after all comments have been addressed. The NPL serves as an information and management tool for the Superfund clean up process.



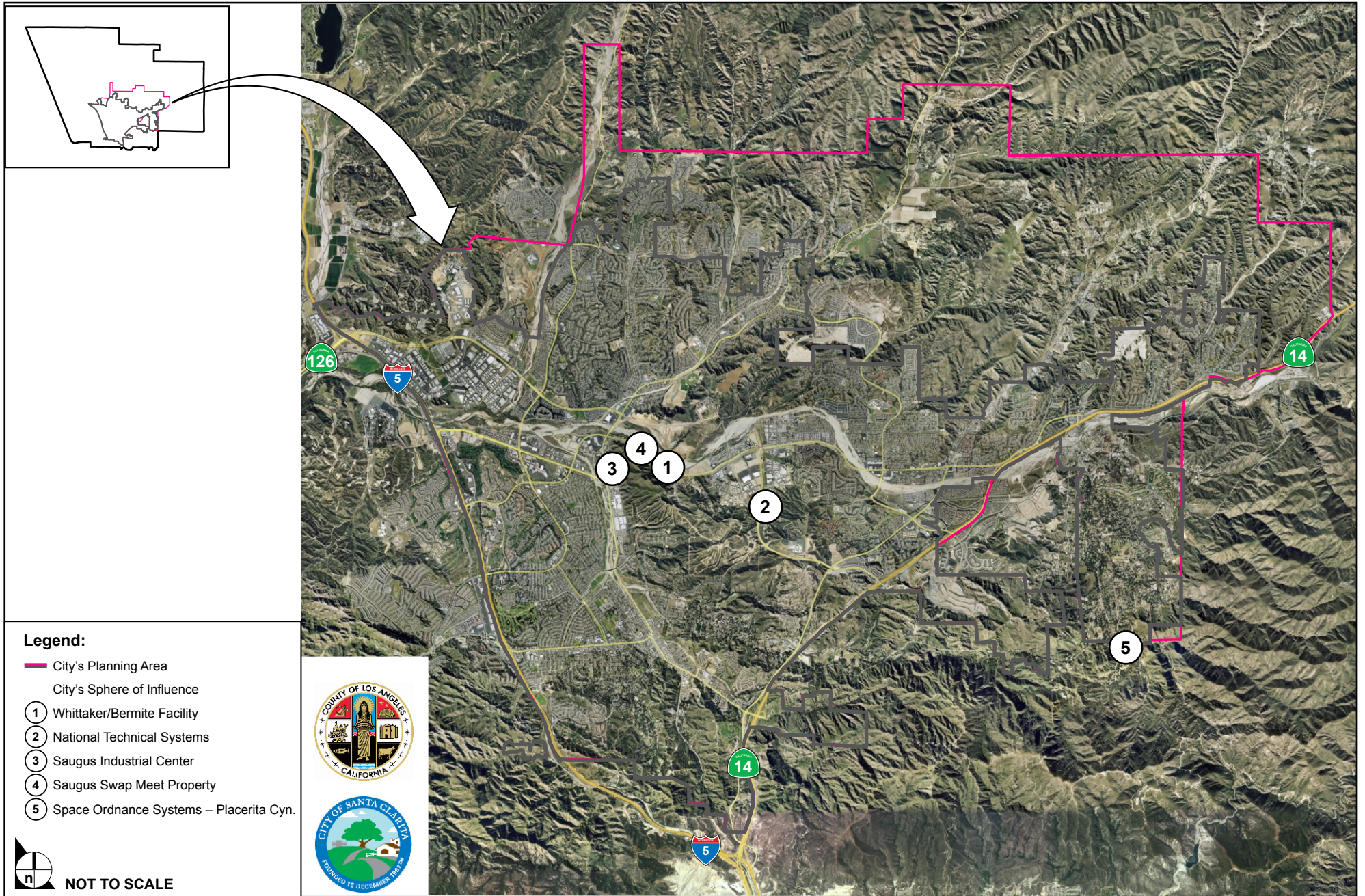


FIGURE 3.11-1

Hazardous Material Sites in the City's Planning Area



## Whittaker-Bermite

### *“Brownfield” Defined*

The term “brownfield” originally referred to contaminated abandoned or underutilized commercial and industrial properties in urban centers, and came to prominence primarily in industrialized cities in the northeast and steel belt. The brownfields concept has evolved so that it now refers to any effort to sell or redevelop environmentally impaired property, typically through the use of a risk-based approach to cleanup (i.e., evaluation of risks in light of the planned future use of the property) and creative financing and liability release mechanisms.

### **Site Background**

At the core of the City of Santa Clarita lies a brownfield site known as Whittaker-Bermite, which is approximately 2.5 miles east of Interstate 5 Freeway and approximately 1.5 miles northwest of State Route 14 in northwestern Los Angeles County. The 996-acre site is currently undeveloped and is owned by Remediation Financial Inc., (RFI). The property currently allows no public access and has no public rights-of-way. Aging and vacant facilities, demolished structures or cleared building sites related to former site uses are found in many locations; the remainder is natural open space. An area along Soledad Canyon Road is leased from RFI by the City for MTA’s Santa Clarita Metrolink station and related parking. The primary route into the site is from Soledad Canyon Road via a paved road through a tunnel immediately east of the Santa Clarita Metrolink station parking lot.

Topographic relief in the project area consists of an approximate 560-foot range, with elevations ranging from approximately 1,175 to 1,737 feet; a high, northwesterly trending ridge exists on-site with flanking steep, smaller ridges or noses that face northeasterly or northerly with intervening steep canyons or draws. The ridge bisects the site into two distinct drainage areas, each with multiple drainage subareas. The northerly area drains generally north to the Santa Clara River. The southerly area drains to Placerita Creek, then westerly to the South Fork of the Santa Clara River, which joins the Santa Clara River approximately 1 mile northwest of the site.

From the early 1900s until 1987, the site was used as a manufacturing and testing facility for ammunitions, explosives, and flares. Approximately, 85 acres (9 percent) of the soils have been contaminated with various chemical compounds, some of which have traveled downward into the Valley’s groundwater system. Extensive site cleanup is needed to reduce the risk to public health and to allow the project area to be used in the future. There are no ongoing land use activities on the site except site security and hazardous materials remediation.



### *Cleanup Progress*

Perchlorate contamination resulting from the Whittaker-Bermite site has been detected in the Saugus formation (refer to **Section 3.12, Hydrology and Water Quality**, for an explanation of the Saugus formation), and to a lesser extent, in the Alluvium formation (refer to **Section 3.12, Hydrology and Water Quality**, for an explanation of the Alluvium formation) in the East Subbasin. Extensive investigation of the extent of the perchlorate contamination, in combination with groundwater modeling, has led to the current plan for control of contamination migration and restoration of impacted pumping (well) capacity.<sup>1</sup> The short-term response plan for the protection of other alluvial wells, down gradient from the Whittaker-Bermite site, includes the installation of wellhead treatment to ensure adequate water supplies. This plan complements the longer-term source control actions being undertaken by the Whittaker-Bermite property owner under supervision of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to address perchlorate contamination in the northern Alluvium (to the north of the former Whittaker-Bermite site). The long-term plan also includes the CLWA groundwater containment, treatment and restoration project to prevent further downstream migration of perchlorate, the treatment of water extracted as part of the containment process, and the recovery of lost local groundwater production from the Saugus Formation, which the DTSC approved and is currently implementing.

There are four Saugus wells contaminated by perchlorate. The four contaminated wells consist of two owned by Santa Clarita Water District (SCWD), one owned by Newhall County Water District, and Valencia Water Company (VWC) Well 157, which has been sealed and abandoned, and replaced by VWC's Well 206 in a non-impacted part of the Basin. These four wells represent a total of 7,900 gallons per minute of pumping capacity (or full-time source capacity of about 12,700 acre-feet per year) inactivated due to perchlorate contamination. The two SCWD wells are closed due to perchlorate contamination. These wells were returned to service as part of the pump and treat containment project.

The Whittaker Corporation, as the former site operator and polluter, is a "responsible party" as defined in environmental regulations. The DTSC is responsible for overseeing the soil and groundwater remedial investigation and cleanup of chemical contaminants at the site that may pose a risk to human health and the environment. Because of the potential risk from chemicals that spilled or leaked during historic operations on the site, the DTSC issued a unilateral order to the Whittaker Corporation on November 27, 2002, to begin a remedial investigation and clean up the site on DTSC's terms and schedule. On December 20, 2005, Whitaker prepared a work plan for Unexploded Ordnance/Ordnance and Explosives Investigation Clearance, and Construction. DTSC issued approval letters for the Sitewide Remedial

---

<sup>1</sup> 2005 *Urban Water Management Plan*, prepared for Castaic Lake Water Agency, CLWA's Santa Clarita Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36, prepared by Black & Veatch, Nancy Clemm, Kennedy Jenks Consultants, Jeff Lambert, Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Richard Slade and Associates, November 2005. (2005 UWMP)

Investigation Reports prepared for some of the contaminated sites on July 7, 2007. On June 13, 2008, Whitaker prepared a Site Investigation/Characterization Workplan Project Wide Report for the cleanup progress, project wide. On January 10, 2008 Environ International Corporation submitted the *Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Report, Operable Unit 7* to the California Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with Technical Memorandum No. 5 dated May 30, 2003, and Draft Technical Memorandum No. 6 dated July 10, 2003. The continued groundwater monitoring event for this report included the measurement of groundwater elevations in a total of 163 wells on the site; quarterly sampling and chemical analysis of groundwater from 140 wells; and sampling and chemical analysis of four soil vapor probes and one soil vapor extraction (SVE) well that currently contain groundwater on site. The next step for the entire Whittaker-Bermite site in the cleanup process is the submittal of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP).<sup>2</sup> The RAP will authorize the party performing the remedial action to treat, store or dispose of hazardous remediation waste generated within or in close proximity to the contaminated area. The RAP is the document that allows the effort to reduce site contamination to minimize health risks or negative environmental impacts. The Whittaker-Bermite facility, on issuance of the RAP will perform cleanup, removal, containment, isolation or treatment of the hazardous substances that are present on-site.

## Wildland Fire Protection

Wildland fire refers to a fire that occurs in a suburban or rural area that contains uncultivated lands, timber, range, watershed, brush, or grasslands, including areas in which there is a mingling of developed and undeveloped lands. For thousands of years, fires have been a natural part of the Southern California ecosystem. However, as urban development has spread throughout hillside areas of the region, wildland fires have come to represent a significant hazard to life and property.<sup>3</sup>

The classic “wildland/urban interface” exists where well-defined urban and suburban development presses up against open expanses of wildland areas. Certain conditions must be present for significant interface fires to occur, including hot, dry, windy weather; the inability of fire protection forces to contain or suppress the fire; the occurrence of multiple fires that overwhelm committed resources; and a large fuel load (dense vegetation). Once such a fire has started, several conditions influence its behavior, including fuel load, topography, weather, drought, and development patterns. Southern California has two distinct areas of risk for wildland fires<sup>4</sup>:

- the foothills and lower mountain areas, typically covered with scrub brush or chaparral; and

---

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor, Whittaker-Bermite Facility, [http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=19281087](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19281087).

<sup>3</sup> City of Santa Clarita, “Safety Element”, City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, S-20.

<sup>4</sup> City of Santa Clarita, “Safety Element”, City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, S-20.

- the higher elevations of mountains, covered with heavily forested terrain.

Historical records kept by the US Department of Forestry indicate that wildland fires occur regularly within the City's Planning Area, with large fires occurring approximately every 10 years. Fire danger rises based on the age and amount of vegetation; therefore, fire incidents tend to be cyclical in an area as vegetation intensity increases with age, and dead vegetation accumulates. The fall of 2003 was the most destructive wildfire season in California history. In a 10-day period, 12 separate fires raged across Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties, burning almost 750,000 acres and resulting in the loss of 22 lives and 4,812 homes. The magnitude of the 2003 fires resulted from a combination of factors, including extended drought followed by thunderstorms, lightning strikes and windy conditions; an infestation of bark beetles that killed thousands of mature trees; and the practice of suppressing wildfires over the last century that has led to a buildup of brush and highly flammable fuel loads.<sup>5</sup>

Wildland fires can require evacuation of portions of the population, revised traffic patterns to accommodate emergency response vehicle operations, and restrictions on water usage during the emergency. Health hazards may exist for elderly or disabled persons who cannot evacuate or succumb to smoke and heat. The loss of utilities, and increased demand on medical services, can also be anticipated.<sup>6</sup>

The City's Planning Area is susceptible to wildland fires because of its hilly terrain, dry weather conditions, and native vegetation. Steep slopes, which contribute to the quick spread of flames during fires, pose difficulty for fire suppression due to access problems for firefighting equipment. Late summer and fall months are critical times of the year when wildland fires typically occur, when the Santa Ana winds deliver hot, dry desert air into the region of the City's Planning Area. Highly flammable plant communities consisting of variable mixtures of woody shrubs and herbaceous species, such as chaparral and sage vegetation, allow fires to spread easily on hillsides and in canyons. According to the Fire Department that serves the City's Planning Area, 80 to 90 percent of the City's Planning Area is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This zone is the highest classification for areas subject to wildfires.<sup>7</sup>

The potential wildland fire hazard areas within the City's Planning Area are shown on **Figure 3.11-2, Wildfire Hazard Zones within the City's Planning Area**. Areas subject to wildland fire danger include portions of Newhall and Canyon Country, Sand Canyon, Bouquet Canyon and all areas along the interface between urban development and natural vegetation in hillside areas.<sup>8</sup> The majority of the area

---

<sup>5</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, S-20.

<sup>6</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, S-20.

<sup>7</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

<sup>8</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.



around and along the Santa Clara River within the City's boundaries is not considered a Fire Hazard Zone. Fire hazards increase with any drought periods, and are highest for structures at the fringe of forested or wildland areas. In addition to the damage caused directly by a foothill fire, further damage may be caused by resulting mudslides during subsequent rains.<sup>9</sup>

In 2007 and 2008, wildfires again swept through southern California, including the Santa Clarita Valley. Emergency response procedures, such as better notification and evacuation procedures, put into place after the 2003 fires reduced losses.<sup>10</sup>

Quick action by the state and federal governments to declare an emergency and provide suppression support. Within the Santa Clarita Valley, the location of the 2007 fires and acreage burned is as follows:<sup>11</sup>

- Buckweed Fire, 38,256 acres;
- Magic Fire, 1,750 acres;
- Newhall Fire, 40 acres; and the
- Ranch Fire, 55,756 acres, which started near Castaic and burned primarily wildland areas.

Additionally, a 2008 fire burned approximately 20 acres located in Whitney Canyon area.<sup>12</sup>

To respond to these fires the City set up a telephone bank that handled thousands of phone calls, and transformed Central Park into a Fire Department base camp for firefighters. Local Assistance Centers were set up to help residents file Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claims, and the nonprofit Santa Clarita Valley Disaster Coalition solicited and disbursed funds for fire victim relief.<sup>13</sup>

Twenty-one homes were destroyed and 15 homes damaged by the Buckweed fire, but no lives were lost. Local fire response sources include:<sup>14</sup>

- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Fire services mutual aid system
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

---

<sup>9</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

<sup>10</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

<sup>11</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

<sup>12</sup> California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Incident Information, [http://www.fire.ca.gov/index\\_incidents\\_info.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/index_incidents_info.php). Accessed March 11, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

<sup>14</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

- United States Forest Service

The combination of forces applied will depend upon the severity of the fire, other fires in progress, and the availability of resources. Suppression efforts can involve fire equipment, heavy construction equipment, and air fire bombardment aircraft, in addition to hand crews<sup>15</sup>.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department operates 14 fire stations with 12 engine companies, one assessment engine company, five paramedic squads, one hazardous materials squad, and two ladder trucks that serve within the existing City's boundaries and the City's adopted SOI.<sup>16</sup> The location of the 14 fire stations are depicted in **Section 3.14, Public Services**, of this EIR. The nine-person Hazardous Materials Task Force (comprised of a four-person engine and a five-person hazardous materials squad) operates out of Station 76, which responds throughout the City's Planning Area and nearby surrounding areas (County's Planning Area).<sup>17</sup> In 2007, units from Station 76 responded to a total of 726 incidents, or approximately 60 incidents per month.<sup>18</sup> The Fire Department within the existing City's Planning Area uses national guidelines of a 5-minute response time for the 1<sup>st</sup> arriving unit to an incident and 8 minutes for the advanced life support (paramedic) unit.<sup>19</sup> However, response distance and times vary because the City's Planning Area contains both urbanized territory (existing City's boundaries) and large stretches of rural undeveloped land (City's SOI).<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Safety Element", City of Santa Clarita Draft General Plan, April 4, 2008, p. S-23.

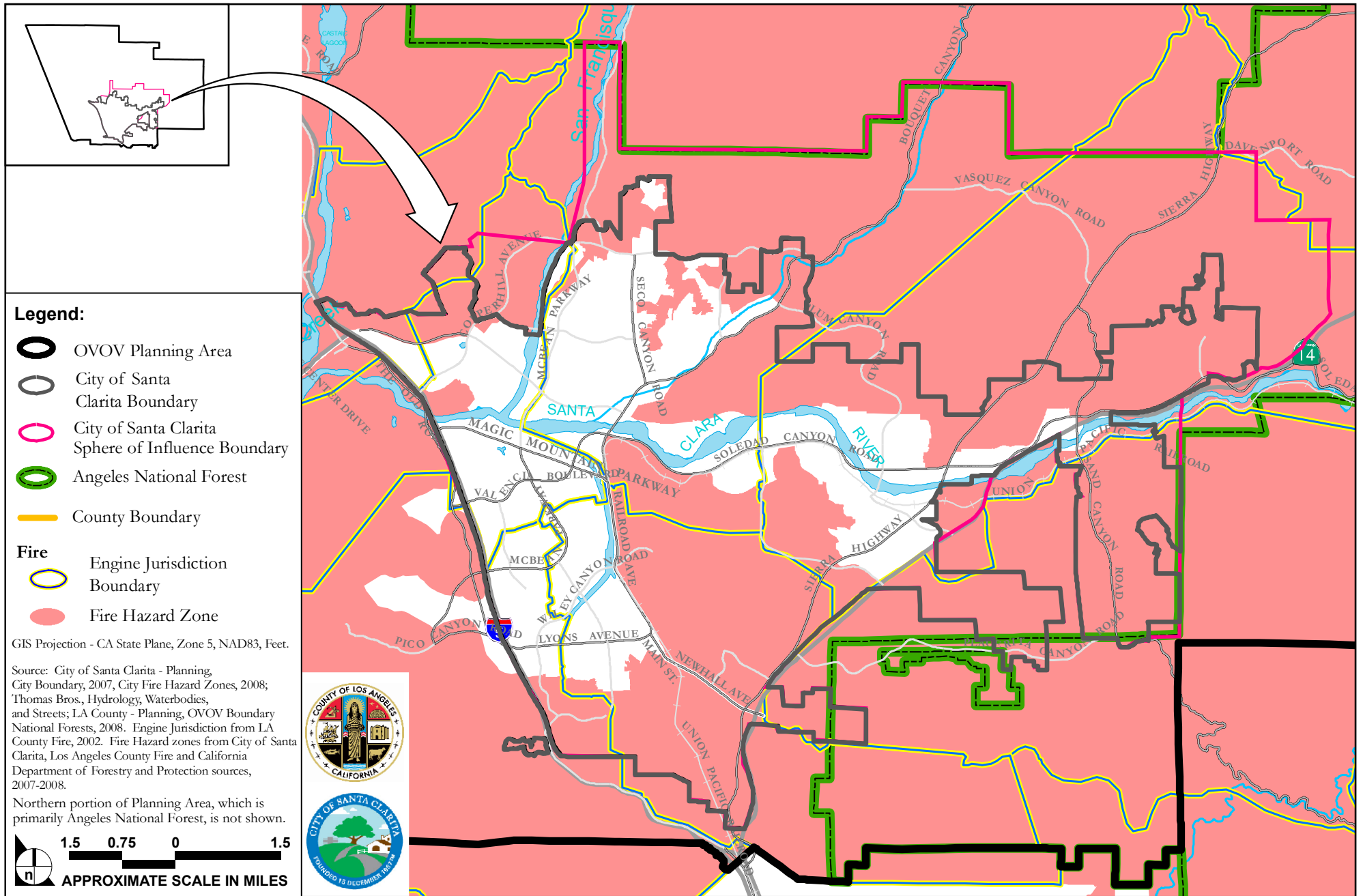
<sup>16</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department Community Services Liaison, Division III Fire Station 73, letter from Stephanie English (LACOFD) to Sara Morton (Impact Sciences, Inc), March 7, 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department Community Services Liaison, Division III Fire Station 73, letter from Stephanie English (LACOFD) to Sara Morton (Impact Sciences, Inc), March 7, 2008.

<sup>18</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department Community Services Liaison, Division III Fire Station 73, letter from Stephanie English (LACOFD) to Sara Morton (Impact Sciences, Inc), March 7, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department Community Services Liaison, Division III Fire Station 73, letter from Stephanie English (LACOFD) to Sara Morton (Impact Sciences, Inc), March 7, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Los Angeles County Fire Department Community Services Liaison, Division III Fire Station 73, letter from Stephanie English (LACOFD) to Sara Morton (Impact Sciences, Inc), March 7, 2008.



SOURCE: City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, Valleywide General Plan - March 2008

FIGURE 3.11-2

## Wildfire Hazard Zones within the City's Planning Area



The Los Angeles County Fire Department operates 10 fire suppression camps assigned to the Air and Wildland Division, of which four camps employ paid personal and six camps are staffed with inmate crews from detention facilities. Wildland fire crews are used for fire protection, prevention, and suppression activities. They control wildland fires by cutting a control line around the perimeter of a fire, coordinating activities of bulldozers, and use of water-dropping helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, as deemed appropriate. The Fire Department also oversees vegetation management for fuel reduction, and provides response to other emergency incidents as required.

Under a mutual aid agreement covering federal forest lands, responsibility for non-structure fires within the National Forest belongs to the US Forest Service (USFS), while the Fire Department has the responsibility for suppressing structure fires. In practice, each agency cooperates in fighting both wildland and structural fires during actual fire emergencies. There are no USFS fire stations located within the City's Planning Area.

In addition to suppression activities, the Fire Department has adopted programs directed at wildland fire prevention, including adoption of the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. Proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas. The City teams with the County to provide training to residents on fire prevention and response, through the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, and other educational programs.

Residents with homes located in urban/wildland interface areas must bear some of the responsibility for preventing the spread of wildland fires. Houses surrounded by brushy growth rather than cleared space allow for greater continuity of fuel and increase the fire's ability to spread. Homeowners should also consider whether their home is located near a fire station, has adequate access for fire suppression vehicles, has adequate water supply for fire flow, is located away from slopes or canyons which act to draw fires upward, and is constructed with fire-resistant materials and design features, such as non-combustible roofing and boxed eaves. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has issued guidelines for fuel reduction and other fire safety measures in urban/wildland interface areas. These guidelines were issued in response to recent changes to Public Resources Code Section 4291 that increased space clearance requirement from 30 feet to 100 feet around structures. For fire protection purposes, "defensible space" means the area within the perimeter or a parcel where basic wildfire protection practices are implemented. This area is characterized by adequate emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures. Fuel reduction through vegetation management around homes is the key to saving homes in hillside areas. The City and Fire Department will continue to provide public education programs about fire prevention strategies for residents in interface areas.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

### *Emergency Preparedness Plans*

In an emergency, local governments must provide emergency response services in addition to maintaining normal day-to-day duties, to the fullest extent possible. The California Code of Regulations establishes the standard response structure and basic procedures to be used by local governments for emergency response and recovery. As required by state law, the City had adopted the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional emergencies, and to facilitate communications and coordination among all levels of government and affected agencies. SEMS establishes organizational levels for managing emergencies, standardized emergency management methods, and standardized training for responders and managers. When fully activated, SEMS activities occur at five levels:

- Field response
- Local government
- Operational areas (countwide)
- Mutual Aid Regions
- State

The City's Planning Area emergency plan provides operational concepts, describe responsibilities, and outline procedures for emergency response. The City's 2003 SEMS Multihazard Functional Plan addresses planned response to emergencies associated with natural disasters and technological incidents, including both peacetime and wartime nuclear defense operations. The plan also addresses response procedures for a major airplane crash, train derailment, truck incident, Metrolink incident or collision, civil unrest, terrorism, and nuclear attack. Emphasis is given to emergency planning; assuring the adequacy and availability of sufficient resource to cope with emergencies. The plan also identifies appropriate land use, design, and construction regulations to reduce losses from disasters. The City's SEMS plan addresses the following four phases of emergency response:

- Preparedness phase, requiring increased readiness for emergency through preparation of emergency plans and procedures, providing information and training, inspection of critical facilities, recruitment of disaster personnel, mobilization of resources, and testing systems.
- Response phase, which may require evacuation of threatened populations, dissemination of public information about the disaster, coordination with other agencies, obtaining mutual aid, declaration of a Local Emergency, evaluation of damage, establishment of care and shelter operations, and restoration of vital services and utilities.

- Recovery phase, which may include coordinating assistance programs and support priorities, rejoining affected families, providing essential services, restoring property, identifying residual hazards, mitigating future hazards, and recovering costs.
- Mitigation phase, designed to mitigate impacts after the disaster through updating local ordinances and codes, upgrading structures, recovering costs, providing information and training, and revising land use plans as needed.

In 2004, the City adopted a five-year Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan as a collaborative effort between the City staff and citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional and state agencies. The plan provides a list of events, including earthquakes, floods, hazardous material spills, landslides and earth movement, severe weather, and wildland fires. The plan contains a five-year action matrix based on the following mission statement: "To promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural hazards. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the City's Planning Area toward building a safer, more sustainable community." The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan also identifies all critical facilities and infrastructure and establishes goals to increase emergency response and enhance recovery.

On January 11, 2006, the City adopted and implemented the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to comply with Federal Department of Homeland Security requirements, based on Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), Management of Domestic Incidents.<sup>21</sup> This directive required a phase-in adoption and implementation of NIMS by state and local governments as a condition of receipt of federal preparedness funding, including Homeland Security grants. HSPD-5 requires all federal, state, local and tribal jurisdictions to adopt NIMS and use it in their individual domestic incident management, emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. NIMS does not replace SEMS, but will rather be integrated into SEMS by emergency personnel. Because the federal government modeled NIMS after SEMS, the two systems use similar terminology and procedures; NIMS also includes new requirements for reporting and qualifications.

Agencies within the City's Planning Area have implemented "reverse 9-1-1" telephone notification systems, under which a telephone call is placed to each household within the notification areas with information about potential evacuations or other emergency information. The City's notification system

---

<sup>21</sup> The NIMS was issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on March 1, 2004, to provide a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all hazard incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines.



includes the incorporated City limits as well as areas outside the City. In the event of evacuations, the Fire Department directs the Sheriff's Department regarding areas that need to be evacuated. That information is then shared with the City's Emergency Operations Center, and emergency notification is then conveyed to residents.

### *Community Preparedness and Training*

The City has implemented comprehensive programs for emergency preparedness, including community involvement and training. To educate the public about emergency response, the City cooperates with the County of Los Angeles to offer residents training through the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, which focuses on effective disaster/emergency response techniques. The CERT program is designed to:

- help families with disaster and emergency response techniques,
- help families neighborhoods, schools and businesses prepare for effective disaster and emergency response through training and pre-planning.

Program material covers earthquakes, fires, floods, hazardous materials incidents, and other life-threatening situations. Participants attend seven weekly classes designed to:

- help them recognize potential hazards and take appropriate actions,
- identify, organize and utilize available resources and people; and
- treat victims of life-threatening conditions through Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START).

A second class is also offered to graduates of the basic CERT course, which provides more in-depth training on critical incident stress management, handling animals during disasters, community traffic safety, and the Incident Command System. From 1997 through 2007, more than 1,100 City of Santa Clarita residents were trained in the CERT program.

In 2001, the CERT program was expanded with another level of training, the CERT II. The training provided in the CERT II program was developed and implemented based on the emergency response issues of the City of Santa Clarita, and includes classes on Community Traffic Safety; Psychological First Aid (Critical Incident Stress Management); SEMS, NIMS; and Incident Command; and Animal Preparedness.

Once a year the City also presents an Emergency Expo, attended by several thousand residents, at which residents are provided with information materials on emergency preparedness. Over 60 agencies and

vendors participate in this event, in an effort to provide relevant information with an interactive approach. The City promotes the CERT program at the Emergency Expo by using CERT-Trained volunteers to provide information at various booths and activities.

Through its emergency management program, the City also provides ongoing training and outreach to schools, businesses, faith-based institutions, seniors, and the special needs community. The City uses its website, City Hall, and local libraries as locations to distribute information on disaster preparedness and response to residents.

Since 2006, the City has collaborated with the College of the Canyons, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Sheriff's Department, and CERT volunteers to develop and adopt a Point of Dispensing (POD) plan to respond to bioterrorism, pandemic flu epidemics, or similar public health threats. The plan is based on a multi-agency approach using the NIMS model, and included conducting a drive-through medication dispensing exercise such as might be used in the event of a mass quantity of medications needs to be distributed to the public within a short period of time. In 2006 and 2007, trained student nurses from College of the Canyons worked side by side with Public Health personnel administering flu shots, in order to test the drive-through model.

In spite of these programs and the outreach efforts by the City, many residents are not adequately prepared for emergencies. In a major disaster each household may need to survive on its own resources for several days before help arrives. It is necessary for each family and head of household to proactively prepare for emergencies by developing a plan and stockpiling adequate supplies.

### ***Emergency Response***

Emergency response to accidents in the City's Planning Area associated with hazardous waste material is usually undertaken by LACoFD and its Health Hazardous Materials Division. Fire stations serving the City's Planning Area are responsible for cleanup and evacuation procedures.

Depending on the situation and location of a hazardous waste incident, agencies other than the LACoFD would also help provide emergency response. The agencies may include, but are not limited to the following:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Transportation

- California Department of Transportation
- California Highway Patrol
- Southern California Air Quality Management District
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- City of Santa Clarita

As the City's Planning Area continues to undergo further urbanization and industrialization, the risks associated with hazardous waste/materials transportation through populated areas would also increase due to the establishment of new facilities in the City's Planning Area. Therefore, the agencies listed above would help provide emergency response to the City when their services are required by the LACoFD and its Health Hazardous Materials Division.

## **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

California law provides the general framework for regulation of hazardous wastes by the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) passed in 1972. The DTSC is the state's leading agency in implementing the HWCL. The HWCL provides for state regulation of existing hazardous waste facilities, which include "any structure, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for treatment, transfer, storage, resource recovery, disposal, or recycling of hazardous wastes," and requires permits for, and inspections of, facilities involved in generation and/or treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. HWCL is discussed in detail below.

Although there are numerous state policies dealing with hazardous waste materials, the most comprehensive is the Tanner Act (AB2948) that was adopted in 1986. The Tanner Act governs the preparation of hazardous waste management plans and the siting of hazardous waste facilities in the State of California. The act also mandates that each county adopt a Hazardous Waste Management Plan. To be in compliance with the Tanner Act, local or regional hazardous waste management plans need to include provisions that define the:

- planning process for waste management,
- permit process for new and expanded facilities, and
- appeal process to the State available for certain local decision.

## **Agency with Regulatory Responsibility**

The regulatory responsibility of hazardous waste in the City's Planning Area belongs primarily to the LACoFD. LACoFD's Health Hazardous Material Division (HHMD) has authority as the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in the City of Santa Clarita Planning Area. As the CUPA, HHMD directly administers programs related to waste generation, hazardous materials inventories, and risk management. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is a participating agency under the LACoFD CUPA and implements the underground storage tank program.

There are three Los Angeles County fire stations that handle hazardous materials incidents (known as Haz Mat stations), one of which, Station 76, is located in Valencia and serves the City of Santa Clarita. In addition, HHMD's mission is to protect the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental release and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous material and wastes through coordinated efforts of inspections, emergency response, enforcement, and site mitigation oversight. Furthermore, depending on the issue, situation, or conditions, there are also other federal, state, and local regulatory authorities that are involved with hazardous waste. Additionally, existing policies and regulations issued by federal and state governments regarding hazardous materials are described below:

### ***Federal***

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act**

Discovery of environmental health damage from disposal sites, prompted the US Congress to pass the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). The purpose of CERCLA is to identify and clean up chemically contaminated sites that pose a significant environmental health threat. The Hazard Ranking System is used to determine whether a site should be placed on the National Priorities List for cleanup activities.

### **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) pertains primarily to emergency management of accidental releases. It requires formation of state and local emergency planning

committees, which are responsible for collecting material handling and transportation data for use as a basis for planning. Chemical inventory data is made available to the community at large under the “right-to-know” provision of the law. In addition, SARA also requires annual reporting of continuous emissions and accidental release of specified compounds. These annual submissions are compiled into a nationwide Toxics Release Inventory.

### **Hazardous Materials Transportation Act**

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act is the statutory basis for the extensive body of regulations aimed at ensuring the safe transport of hazardous materials on water, rail, highways, through air, or in pipelines. It includes provisions for material classification, packaging, marking, labeling, placarding, and shipping documentation.

### **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**

The RCRA Subtitle C addresses hazardous waste generation, handling, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal. It includes requirements for a system that uses hazardous waste manifests to track the movement of waste from its site of generation to its ultimate disposition. The 1984 amendments to RCRA created a national priority for waste minimization. Subtitle D establishes national minimum requirements for solid waste disposal sites and practices. It requires states to develop plans for the management of wastes within their jurisdictions. Subtitle I requires monitoring and containment systems for underground storage tanks that hold hazardous materials. Owners of tanks must demonstrate financial assurance for the cleanup of a potential leaking tank.

### ***State***

- California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)
- California Air Resources Board (ARB)
- State Board of Equalization (BOE)
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

### **The California Hazardous Waste Control Law**

The Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) is the primary hazardous waste statute in the State of California. The HWCL implements RCRA as a “cradle-to-grave” waste management system in the State of California. HWCL specifies that generators have the primary duty to determine whether their wastes are hazardous and to ensure their proper management. The HWCL also establishes criteria for the reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes used or reused as raw materials. The HWCL exceeds federal requirements by mandating source reduction planning, and a much broader requirement for permitting facilities that treat hazardous waste. It also regulates a number of types of wastes and waste management activities that are not covered by Federal law with RCRA.

### **California Code of Regulations**

Most state and federal regulations and requirements that apply to hazardous waste are spelled out in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Title 22 contains the detailed compliance requirements for hazardous waste generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Because California is a fully authorized state according to RCRA, most RCRA regulations (those contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 260 et seq.) have been duplicated and integrated into Title 22. However, because the DTSC regulates hazardous waste more stringently than the US EPA, the integration of California and federal hazardous waste regulations that make up Title 22 do not contain as many exemptions or exclusions as does 40 CFR 260. As with the California Health and Safety Code, Title 22 also regulates a wider range of waste types and waste management activities than does the RCRA regulations in 40 CFR 260. To aid the regulated community, California compiled hazardous materials, waste and toxics-related regulations contained in CCR, Titles 3, 8, 13, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, and 27 into one consolidated CCR Title 26 ‘Toxics.’ However, the California Hazardous waste regulations are still commonly referred to as Title 22.

### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

The role of the DTSC, a Division of Cal/EPA, is to protect the state of California and Californians from exposures to hazardous wastes by regulating hazardous waste, cleaning up existing contamination, and looking for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. The DTSC regulates hazardous waste in California primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, and the California Health and Safety Code. Other laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning. In addition, DTSC reviews and monitors legislation to ensure that the position reflects the



DTSC's goals. From these laws, DTSC's major program areas develop regulations and consistent program policies and procedures. The regulations spell out what those who handle hazardous waste must do to comply with the laws. Under RCRA, DTSC has the authority to implement permitting, inspection, compliance, and corrective action programs to ensure that people who manage hazardous waste follow state and federal requirements. As such, the management of hazardous waste in the City's Planning Area would be under regulation by the DTSC to ensure that state and federal requirements pertaining to hazardous waste are complied with.

### **Transportation of Hazardous Materials**

The transport of hazardous materials and explosives through the City's Planning Area is regulated by the State Department of Transportation. Hazardous materials are transported to and through the City's Planning Area by vehicles using I-5, SR-14, and SR-126, and the Union Pacific Railroad. The risk of hazardous material spills during transport exists and may increase with continued industrial development in the City's Planning Area.

### ***Local***

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Los Angeles County Flood Control
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
- City of Santa Clarita Environmental Services Division

### **Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan**

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, untreated hazardous waste is shipped to distant disposal facilities in other counties and states. However, federal and state restrictions/regulations may preclude the County's continued reliance on distant disposal as its principal waste management method. There is no known hazardous waste treatment facilities located in the City of Santa Clarita Planning Area.

Currently, Los Angeles County has a Hazardous Waste Management Plan describing and defining existing and future hazardous waste conditions, needed off-site management facilities, and

recommended action programs on a countywide basis. It pertains to all of Los Angeles County, which includes the City's Planning Area. Specific components of the plan include the following:

- Data regarding current hazardous waste generation
- Descriptions of current hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Feasibility of recycling or reducing hazardous waste generation
- Consideration of household and small generator hazardous waste
- Determination of the need for additional off-site hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Identification of facilities that can be expanded and general areas for future disposal of hazardous wastes or criteria for selecting sites
- A schedule to implement the County Hazardous Waste Management Plans

The plan also establishes siting criteria for development of needed off-site hazardous waste management facilities and designates general geographic areas within the City's areas where the siting criteria might be met. However, specific sites for hazardous waste management facilities are not identified because any future proponents of off-site hazardous waste management facilities must show a proposed project to be consistent with the plan. In addition, each off-site hazardous waste management project must undergo a rigorous site-specific assessment and permitting process at local, state, and federal levels, including addressing all environmental concerns as mandated by CEQA.

The following objectives must be taken into consideration when deciding the location for a new hazardous waste management facility:

- Protect residents
- Ensure structural stability and safety of the facility
- Protect surface water
- Protect groundwater
- Protect air quality
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Ensure safe transportation of hazardous waste
- Protect the social and economic development goals of the community

## THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *State CEQA Guidelines*, Appendix G identify criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially adverse change in physical conditions.

- There will be a potentially significant impact if the project were to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment
- There will be a potentially significant impact if the project were to be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment
- There will be a potentially significant impact if the project were to impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan
- There will be a potentially significant impact if the project were to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on human-made hazards within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

**Impact 3.11-1                    There will be a potentially significant impact if the project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release, transport or disposal of hazardous materials into the environment**

The City's Planning Area is governed by the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, which deals with foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment (**Policy S 4.1.2**). The City of Santa Clarita adopted the Household Hazardous Waste Element in 1991 which was focused on reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, thus fulfilling AB 939, and helping in the City's effort to clean up the solid waste stream. While the City adopted an HHWE it is focused more on solid waste management throughout the City, as where the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan is more comprehensive and focuses more on the management of hazardous wastes throughout the County. The Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan

provides direction for the proper management of all hazardous waste in the County of Los Angeles and 38 contract cities (this includes the City's Planning Area), including data on hazardous waste generation, existing treatment facilities, household and other small generator waste, and siting criteria for hazardous waste management facilities (**Goal S 4, Objective S 4.1, Policy S 4.1.2, Objective S 4.2, Policy S 4.2.1, Policy S 4.2.2, Policy S 4.2.3, Policy S 4.2.4**). The potential for future residents and employees of the City's Planning Area to encounter accidental exposure from hazardous materials would increase with the expected buildout described in the General Plan. The addition of new residential housing and commercial/industrial businesses would involve development on land that is currently vacant, or that has had existing residential or commercial/industrial businesses on site in the past. There is the potential for some of this land to contain hazardous materials. The General Plan's goals, objectives and policies require the identification of hazardous wastes (**Objective S 4.1**) and remediation of contamination of soil and groundwater, and require that contaminants be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the City and other responsible agencies (**Policy S 4.1.2**) as well as the proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials (**Objective S 4.2**), which will protect residents and employees from increased exposure of hazardous materials. The potential for hazardous impacts from future projects implemented as a result of the General Plan will be evaluated on a project by project basis (**Policies S 4.2.2 and S 4.2.3**).

Implementation of **Policy S 4.2.4** and **Policy S 4.2.3** will provide direction for businesses and households within the City's Planning Area in developing efficient ways to store use and dispose of hazardous materials, along with providing educational opportunities on why hazardous wastes are dangerous, and how to dispose of small quantities and amounts of these wastes by Santa Clarita Valley residents. **Policy S 4.2.1** and **Policy S 4.2.2**, will provide decision makers, and developers with the ability to restrict future locations on the Land Use Map of industries or businesses using hazardous materials to minimize impacts on residents and other sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident, and to provide guidance on what types of buffers and setbacks could be used to reduce possible hazardous waste exposure to residents.

### ***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

**Goal S 4:** Protection of public safety and property from hazardous materials.

**Objective S 4.1:** Identify sites that are contaminated with chemicals and other hazardous materials, and promote clean-up efforts.

**Policy S 4.1.2:** Coordinate with other agencies to address contamination of soil and groundwater from hazardous materials on various sites, and

require that contamination be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the City and other responsible agencies prior to issuance of any permits for new development.

**Objective S 4.2:** Cooperate with other agencies to ensure proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

**Policy S 4.2.1:** On the Land Use Map, restrict the areas in which activities that use or generate large amounts of hazardous materials may locate, to minimize impacts to residents and other sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

**Policy S 4.2.2:** Through the development review process, ensure that any new development proposed in the vicinity of a use that stores or generates large amounts of hazardous materials provides adequate design features, setbacks, and buffers to mitigate impacts to sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

**Policy S 4.2.3:** Require businesses to verify procedures for storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.

**Policy S 4.2.4:** Cooperate with other agencies to hold regular events to promote safe disposal of small amounts of household hazardous waste, including e-waste, by Santa Clarita Valley residents.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

The above goals, objectives and polices, are designed to reduce potentially significant impacts from hazards and hazardous materials to the public or the environment from the accidental release of hazardous materials. The goals, objectives, and policies will help guide future development and provide protection of public safety and property by identifying sites within the City's Planning Area that may contain hazardous materials, and require cleanup. They also provide guidance on handling hazardous waste by local citizens and businesses. There will be guidance for the development of residential and business areas near known hazardous waste sites, by promoting design buffers to separate sensitive areas from known hazardous materials sites, and by providing restriction to the area where activities that produce large amounts of hazardous waste can be located. Implementation of these goals, objectives, and

policies will minimize the potential impacts involving the release of hazardous impacts into the environment to a less than significant level.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies intended to minimize hazardous materials impacts. However, the Proposed General Plan proposes policies that would actively consider new development located near known hazardous sites and to mitigate potential impacts. The proposed General Plan employs more comprehensive policies with regard to the location, use and transportation of hazardous materials.

**Impact 3.11-2**                    **There will be a potentially significant impact if the project is located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public, school or the environment.**

Government Code Section 65962.5 states that the DTSC shall compile and update, on an annual basis, (1) hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action, (2) land designated as hazardous waste property, (3) waste disposal sites, and, (4) sites included in the Abandoned Site Assessment Program. As described above in **Table 4.8-1** the City's Planning Area contains sites that have been identified as containing hazardous materials that could potentially impact residents and employees (**Goal S 4, Objective S 4.1** and **Policy S 4.1.2**). These sites, including the most significant site, the Whittaker-Bermite property, are currently undergoing remediation which will require that contamination be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the City and other responsible agencies (**Policy S 4.1.2**). Although the City is actively pursuing cleanup efforts on these above described sites, the potential for more hazardous materials sites to be identified could increase with buildout of the City's Planning Area. The intent of **Goal S 4** is to protect public safety and property from hazardous materials through **Objective S 4.1** and **Policy 4.1.2**. **Policy 4.2.1** enables decision makers to restrict the locations, on the Land Use Map, of business or industries that would use or generate large amounts of hazardous waste, and **Policy 4.2.2** ensures that the development review process provides adequate design features, setbacks, and buffers to mitigate impacts on sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident from any new development.



### *Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies*

**Policy S 4.1.1:** Continue to support clean-up efforts and re-use plans for the Whittaker-Bermite property.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies*

**Policy S 4.1.1** is site specific to the Whittaker-Bermite property located within the center of the City to continue to support the cleanup efforts and re-use plans for the property. The buildout of the City's Planning Area has the potential to uncover sites containing hazardous materials. **Goal S 4, Objective S 4.1, Policy S 4.1.2** and **Policies S 4.2.1 through S 4.2.3** require the City to identify other sites potentially containing hazardous materials and to evaluate potential hazardous waste impacts on a project by project basis following implementation of the General Plan. **Policy S 4.1.2** requires that contaminants be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the agency having jurisdiction prior to issuance of any permits for new development to the satisfaction of the City. Implementation of these goals, objectives and policies, would reduce potential impacts from a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or a newly identified site from creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Implementation of these goals, objectives, and policies would reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies identifying hazardous materials sites within the community. A policy is included in the proposed General Plan that specifically identifies the Whittaker-Bermite site, which was not addressed in a Policy in the existing General Plan. Impacts would be similar under both Plans.

**Impact 3.11-3**                    **There will be a potentially significant impact if the project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan**

The City's Planning Area is located in an area of Southern California that has the potential for residents and employees to encounter human-made hazards and natural hazards. These hazards could have the potential to cause undo hardship to residents and employees. Human-made hazards include the potential release of hazardous materials, the potential for biological, nuclear and chemical attacks from foreign and domestic terrorism, and the potential for fires started by humans. Natural hazards include flooding, seismic activity, extreme weather conditions and fires that are started naturally.

**Goal S 7** protects the public through planning for disaster response and recovery in order to minimize damage from emergency incidents. **Objective S 7.1** would adopt, maintain, and implement plans and procedures to prepare for disaster response. The City has:

- Adopted a SEMS, for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional emergencies, and to facilitate communications and coordination among all levels of government and affected agencies. SEMS establishes organizational levels for managing emergencies, standardized emergency management methods, and standardized training for responders and managers.
- Adopted the 2003 *SEMS Multihazard Functional Plan* which addresses planned response to emergencies associated with natural disasters and technological incidents, including both peacetime and wartime nuclear defense operations.
- Adopted a five-year Natural Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. The Plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City in reducing high risk and preventing loss from natural hazard events, including earthquakes, floods, hazardous materials spills, landslides and earth movements, severe weather, and wildland fires, both within the City's boundaries and the City's SOI. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan also identifies all critical facilities and infrastructure and establishes goals to increase emergency response and enhance recovery.
- Adopted and implemented the NIMS to comply with the Federal Department of Homeland Security requirements.

During development review process, emergency access is evaluated for all pending development projects within the City's Planning Area. Two means of ingress and egress are required for all major development projects, including subdivisions and commercial/industrial sites. Adequate road and driveway widths are required to provide access to fire trucks, along with turnouts and turnaround areas where deemed necessary. Traffic control during evacuation procedures will be based upon the nature of the emergency and the condition of the roads within the City's Planning Area. Temporary signage will be placed by the City's Public Works Department to ensure evacuation routes are clearly marked for motorists.

Although the City provides a number of emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans as described above, the buildout of the City's Planning Area will increase the amount of residents and employees within the City's Planning Area. With this increase in population, there is potential for increased interference with the above discussed adopted emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plan. Implementation of **Policies S 7.1.1** through **S 7.1.4** will regularly update and provide further standards to help better implement the City's existing emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans to provide consistency with State plans.

**Goal S 3** is the protection of public safety and property from fires. **Objective 3.3** requires maintenance of acceptable emergency response times throughout the City's Planning Area. Implementation of **Policies S 3.3.1** to **S 3.3.3** achieve this goal and objective by requiring specific response times of 5 minutes in urban

areas, 8 minutes in suburban areas, and 12 minutes in rural areas, requiring installation and maintenance of street name signs on all new development, and requiring posting of address numbers on all homes and businesses so they are clearly visible from adjacent streets. These policies will also assist other emergency responders with visible street signs and address numbers.

Recovery from emergency incidents and minimization of economic and social disruption is the focus of **Goal S 7** and **Objective S 7.2**. **Policies S 7.2.1** through **7.2.4** promote agency cooperation in planning for temporary shelters, expedited plan check, permitting and inspection programs to aid in the rebuilding of damaged structures; proper record-keeping procedures for obtaining reimbursement from state and federal agencies, and the purchasing of disaster and recovery supplies locally to assist local businesses in their recovery efforts.

***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies***

**Goal S 3:** Protection of public safety and property from fires.

**Objective S 3.3:** Maintain acceptable emergency response times throughout the planning area.

**Policy S 3.3.1:** Plan for fire response times of five minutes in urban areas, eight minutes in suburban areas, and 12 minutes in rural areas.

**Policy S 3.3.2:** Require the installation and maintenance of street name signs on all new development.

**Policy S 3.3.3:** Require the posting of address numbers on all homes and businesses that are clearly visible from adjacent streets.

**Goal S 7:** Protection of the public through planning for disaster response and recovery, in order to minimize damage from emergency incidents or terrorist activities.

**Objective S 7.1:** Maintain and implement plans and procedures to prepare for disaster response and terrorist activities.

**Policy S 7.1.1:** Regularly update emergency preparedness and response plans that are consistent with State plans.

**Policy S 7.1.2:** Continue to provide regular training to public officials and the public on emergency procedures.

- Policy S 7.1.3:** Ensure that evacuation routes are clearly posted throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.
- Policy S 7.1.4:** Strengthen communication and cooperation between agencies, citizens and non-profit groups to plan for disaster response.
- Objective S 7.2:** Plan for ways to minimize economic and social disruption, and expedite recovery from emergency incidents.
- Policy S 7.2.1:** In cooperation with other agencies, plan for temporary shelters for residents displaced by disasters and emergency incidents.
- Policy S 7.2.2:** Plan for expedited plan check, permitting, and inspection programs to aid recovery efforts involving the rebuilding of damaged structures.
- Policy S 7.2.3:** Ensure that proper record-keeping procedures are in place for purposes of obtaining reimbursement from State and Federal agencies.
- Policy S 7.2.4:** Purchase disaster and recovery supplies locally to assist local businesses in their recovery efforts.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies***

The proposed goals, objectives, and policies discussed above are designed to provide guidance on adopting any future emergency response plans or evacuation plans that will be complementary to the proposed General Plan. Additionally, these goals, objectives, and policies provide direction and strengthen the City's existing emergency response plans or evacuation plans. Since the above goals, objectives and policies would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, but strengthen these plans and any future adopted plans, potential impacts on emergency or evacuation plans from implementation of the proposed General Plan would be less than significant.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts to safety and evacuation plans. Impacts would be similar under both Plans.

**Impact 3.11-4**            **There will be a potentially significant impact if the project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**

The City's Planning Area currently has six fire stations within its boundaries and three temporary fire stations, as further described in **Section 4.14, Public Services**, of this programmatic EIR (**Goal S 3**). Some fire stations in the City's Planning Area are geared toward providing urban fire protection services, while others in outlying areas respond to brush fires along the urban-wildland interface (**Objective S 3.2**). The City's Planning Area is susceptible to wildland fires because of its hilly terrain, dry weather conditions, and native vegetation. The City's Planning Area is even more susceptible to wildland fires due to the urban/wildland interface areas along its boundaries. Historical records kept by the USFS indicate that wildland fires occur regularly within the City's Planning Area, with large fires occurring approximately every 10 years. The combination of local fire forces applied to a wildland fire will depend upon the severity of the fire, other fires in progress, and the availability of resources. Suppression efforts can involve fire equipment, heavy construction equipment, and air fire bombardment aircraft, in addition to hand crews. The LACoFD which serves the existing City's boundaries and the City's SOI, has adopted programs directed at wildland fire prevention, including adoption of the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road widths, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas within the existing City boundaries and City's SOI. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas. The City teams with the County to provide training to residents on fire prevention and response, through the CERT program, and other educational programs (**Policy S 3.2.7**). Although the City provides these safety measures, and the associated fire departments are specialized in regards to battling fires in a wildland/urbanized interface region, the implementation of the proposed General Plan will increase the population and employee count within the City's Planning Area, as full buildout approaches. This could cause an increase in encroachment into wildland areas that are currently uninhabited. With the encroachment of residents and businesses into wildland areas, the potential for risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires will increase.

**Objective S 3.2** specifically promotes provision of specialized needs of fire protection service in both urban and wildland interface areas. This objective promotes such things as mapping areas within the existing City's boundaries and the City's SOI that are prone to or near wildland fire areas and identifying the risks associated with development occurring in these areas. Implementation of **Policies S 3.2.1**

through S 3.2.7 provide for the identification of areas in the Santa Clarita Valley which are prone to wildland fire hazards and their inclusion in fire safety plans (**Policy 3.2.1**), enforce standards for maintaining defensible spacing around structures through clearing of dry brush and vegetation (**Policy S 3.3.3**), establish landscape guidelines (**Policy S 3.2.3**), require sprinkler systems, fire resistant building materials and other construction materials and provide this information to builders and the public (**Policy S 3.2.4**), and ensure adequate secondary and emergency access for fire apparatus (**Policy S 3.2.5**). Additionally, implementation of **Policy S 3.2.7** will act as a first line of defense, to allow residents within the urban/wildland interface to prepare their residences and business in wildland interface areas to help reduce the spread of wildfires into the existing City’s boundaries and the City’s SOI.

***Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies***

**Goal S 3:** Protection of public safety and property from fires.

**Objective S 3.2:** Provide for the specialized needs of fire protection services in both urban and wildland interface areas.

**Policy S 3.2.1:** Identify areas of the Santa Clarita Valley that are prone to wildland fire hazards, and address these areas in fire safety plans.

**Policy S 3.2.2:** Enforce standards for maintaining defensible space around structures through clearing of dry brush and vegetation.

**Policy S 3.2.3:** Establish landscape guidelines for fire-prone areas with recommended plant materials, and provide this information to builders and members of the public.

**Policy S 3.2.4:** Require sprinkler systems, fire resistant building materials, and other construction measures deemed necessary to prevent loss of life and property from wildland fires.

**Policy S 3.2.5:** Ensure adequate secondary and emergency access for fire apparatus, which includes minimum requirements for road width, surface material, grade, and staging areas.

**Policy S 3.2.7:** Continue to provide information and training to the public on fire safety in wildland interface areas.



### ***Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies***

The proposed goals, objectives, and policies are designed to guide the City in taking preventive measures against wildland fires. Since the existing City boundaries and the City's SOI contain and are adjacent to high hazard wildland fires areas appropriate measures must be taken to avoid the risk of a conflagration spreading into the City's Planning Area. The above goals, objectives and policies offers ways in which to address the problems associated with the possibility of wildland fires occurring within the City's Planning Area. With their implementation, potential impacts from wildland fires would be reduced to a less than significant level

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed General Plans contain policies intended to minimize impacts as a result of wildland fire hazards. Impacts would be similar under both plans.

### **MITIGATION FRAMEWORK**

No mitigation measures area required.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT WITH MITIGATION FRAMEWORK**

Potential impacts from wildland fires would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.