

Authority

California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires a general plan to address the protection of community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically-induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mud slides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction, floods and flood hazards; urban fires, climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, and an identification of residential developments in any hazard area that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. Gardena's Public Safety Plan constitutes the state-mandated Safety Element.

Purpose

The purpose of the Public Safety Plan is to identify potential hazards that can significantly impact the City. The policies of this Plan focus on protecting life and property from hazardous conditions. Emphasis is placed on emergency preparedness and response in the event of a disaster, and this Plan addresses the fire and law enforcement services needed to safeguard and enhance the overall livability of the community. Specific policies addressing climate adaptation and resiliency are also included to reduce potential impacts of hazards that can be exacerbated by climate change.

Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

State Standardized Emergency Management System

The State Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is required by Government Code Section 8607(a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS consists of five organizational levels that are activated as necessary: field response, local government, operational areas, regional and State. The SEMS help unify all elements of the state's emergency management organization into a single integrated system. Its use is required for State response agencies. Local government agencies must use SEMS to be eligible for State funding of certain response related personnel costs resulting from a disaster.

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City of Gardena Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) plans responses to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The City's EOP establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, and specifies policies and general procedures. The EOP is designed to include Gardena in the overall California SEMS which provides a framework for coordinating multi-agency emergency responses.

Seismic Hazard Maps

The California Geological Survey compiles maps identifying seismic hazard zones throughout California including known active faults such as the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and areas of potential liquefaction and seismically induced landslides. Guidelines prepared by the State Mining and Geology Board identify the responsibilities of State and local agencies in the review of development within seismic hazard zones..

Hazardous Waste

There are various national, state and local data sources that identify sites of potential hazardous waste, including the following:

- SEMS – The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains this database of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites (also called Superfund sites) in the U.S. These are contaminated sites slated for cleanup.
- National Priority List (NPL) – This is a list of sites of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the U.S. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.
- EnviroStor – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains this database for tracking cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or potential contamination. It includes sites from the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (aka Cortese List).
- GeoTracker – GeoTracker is the State Water Resources Control Board's data management system for sites that impact, or have the potential to impact, water quality in California, with emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites.

City of Gardena Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

The City of Gardena prepared an LHMP in conjunction with the City of Hawthorne that was adopted in 2013. The City of Hawthorne prepared an updated plan specific to Hawthorne's jurisdiction that was adopted in 2020; Gardena is currently in the process of preparing its own update. The LHMP fulfills Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements and provides direction and guidance on implementing hazard mitigation action items on a hazard-level, probability, and cost-priority basis. The overall goal of the LHMP is to reduce the potential for damage to critical assets from natural hazards. The LHMP also describes past and current hazard mitigation activities and philosophies and outlines future mitigation goals and strategies.

City of Gardena Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The City of Gardena EOP was adopted in 2017 and is a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of extraordinary incident, disaster, or emergency situations within the City of Gardena. The plan provides the concepts, processes, and structures necessary when carrying out assigned roles and functional responsibilities to departments and agencies consistent with California's Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System.

City of Gardena General Plan

Gardena's General Plan is a broad, long-range policy document that serves as a blueprint for future development in the City.

City of Gardena Zoning Code

The City's Zoning Code implements the goals and policies of the City's General Plan by regulating the uses of land and structures within Gardena in accordance with the Land Use Plan. The Zoning Code is codified in Title 18 of the Municipal Code.

City of Gardena Fire Code

The City's Fire Code is codified in Chapter 8.08 of the Municipal Code. The purpose of Fire Code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing premises, and to provide safety and assistance to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

City of Gardena Building Code

The City's Building Code is codified in Title 15 of the Municipal Code. The Building Code regulates construction and property use to ensure safe, healthy, and accessible structures for human occupancy.

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Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The City, in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the City. The City's CAP serves as a guide for action by setting GHG emission reduction goals and establishing strategies and policy to achieve desired outcomes over the next 20 years.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)

The City prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) in 2021 to inform City policies, plans, programs, and guidance to promote effective and integrated action to safeguard from climate change. In addition to increasing global average temperature, climate change has the effect of intensifying the effects of many natural hazards, adding to concerns otherwise addressed in hazard mitigation planning. Climate change results in an increase in variance of climate patterns. The increase in variance means that extreme events exhibit changes in severity, frequency, and location. For example, increased variance in climate patterns result in more frequent incidence of severe events such as extreme rainfall, wind, wildfire, extreme heat, and extended drought. The increased variance therefore creates challenges for hazards planning, which previously used historic recurrence rates to predict future events, and now must incorporate changes to frequency, severity, and location due to climate change influences. The CVA is included as Appendix A.

County of Los Angeles All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP)

The AHMP was adopted in 2014 and conforms to the requirements of FEMA Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The AHMP is currently being updated and a public draft was made available in 2019. The county developed the AHMP to cover mitigation responsibilities of county departments, including Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The plan helps ensure the most effective allocation of resources for the maximum benefit and protection of the public in times of emergency.

Los Angeles County Fire Department 2020 Strategic Fire Plan

The Strategic Fire Plan outlines goals focused on enhancing the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from fire, as well as improving environmental resilience to fires through local, state, federal, and private partnerships. The 2020 Plan is focused on three primary goals: emergency operations, public service, and organizational effectiveness.

Los Angeles County Fire District Facilities Master Plan

The Master Plan was prepared in 2020 as a collaborative effort between the LA County Fire District and the LA County Chief Executive Office. The Plan evaluates the current capacity, condition, and functionality of the Fire District's facilities and then projecting future capacity deficits utilizing Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) population growth projections and methodologies.

Plan Organization

This Public Safety Plan includes goals and policies addressing the following issue areas:

1. Emergency Operations
2. Fire Protection
3. Geologic and Seismic Hazards
4. Hazardous Waste
5. Flood Hazards
6. Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

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Goals and Policies

1. Emergency Operations

PS Goal 1	A community that is highly prepared and equipped to handle emergency situations in order to minimize loss of life, injury, property damage, and disruption of vital services.
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Advanced emergency planning and preparedness is essential in responding to natural and human-caused disasters with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities. The City supports a high level of multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency planning and response management.

The City of Gardena maintains a contractual agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to provide fire protection and emergency medical services for the City. Within Gardena, the LACoFD operates Fire Station 158, located at 1650 West 162nd Street, and Fire Station 159, located at 2030 West 135th Street. Emergency response within the City is divided into two districts, with Marine Avenue as the division line. Areas north of Marine Avenue are covered by Fire Station 159 and areas south of Marine Avenue are covered by Fire Station 158. A description and location of both fire stations within the City are presented in Table PS-1 and illustrated in Figure PS-1.

The Gardena Police Department, (PD), located within the Civic Center, provides police protection and law enforcement services to the City. There are currently 87 police officers, 19 full-time and 18 part-time employees. This includes 27 marked units, 2 canine units, and 14 unmarked units. Response time for emergency calls throughout the City is four minutes.

Major arterials generally serve as the primary routes for evacuation; however, evacuation routes will depend upon the emergency event and area affected. Law enforcement will identify the appropriate routes and assist residents leaving the City in the event an evacuation of all or part of the City is required. The City prepared an analysis, referred to as a White Paper, consistent with Senate Bill 99 to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The White Paper includes definitions and data sources as well as assumptions and methodology used to map the evacuation routes, and is included as Appendix B. The analysis identified two parcels in a high hazard zone (as defined in the White Paper) that warranted further study. Upon further analysis, both parcels were determined to have access to a loop road with at least two exit points. While all residential developments meet City standards, the City will continue to coordinate with LACoFD and Gardena PD to provide ongoing education to residents about how to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency.

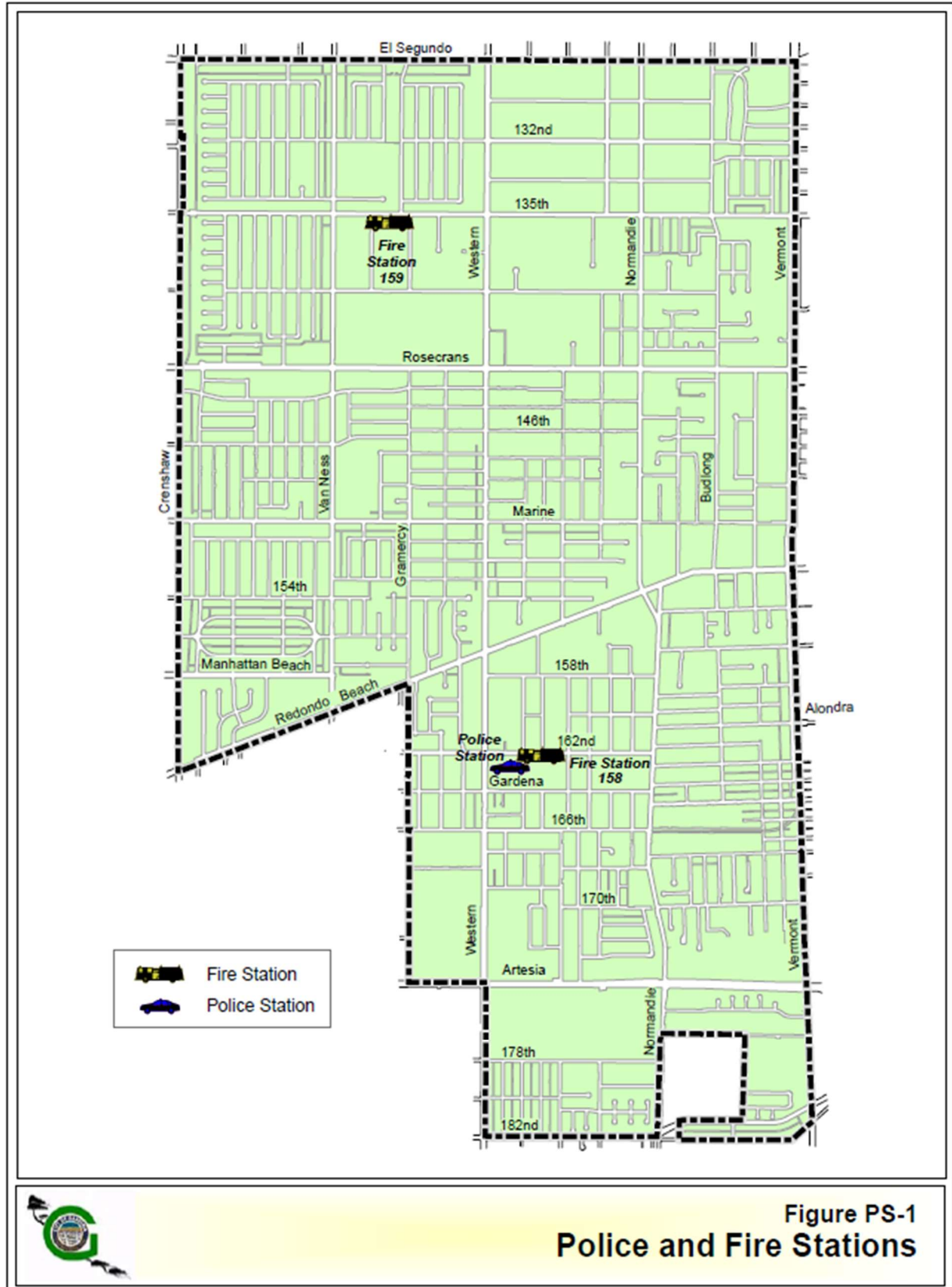
Table PS-1
LACoFD Fire Stations

Location	Service and Equipment	Staffing per Shift
Station No. 158 1650 W. 162 nd Street (310) 217-8351	Fire Engine, Paramedic mobile aid van, Squad car and Fire engine on reserve.	5 uniform personnel, 1 secretary, 1 Community Service Representative, 1 Division Nurse Coordinator.
Station No. 159 2030 W. 135 th Street (310) 217-7066	Quint, Fire truck.	4 uniform personnel

Source: LACoFD, October 2021

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Policies

PS 1.1: Emergency Planning. Maintain an updated Emergency Operations Plan to adequately respond to natural disasters and human-induced emergencies and its aftermaths.

PS 1.2: Emergency Coordination. Cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other local, state, and federal agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response.

PS 1.3: Local Stakeholder Coordination. Coordinate with local key stakeholders (officials, schools, businesses, and organizations) within the community to make them aware of their role in the emergency plan and the necessary requirements in case of emergency.

PS 1.4: Law Enforcement. Maintain a high level of law enforcement activities and expand crime suppression activities in collaboration with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

PS 1.5: Sufficient Funding. Provide funding levels necessary for high level of police, fire protection, and building inspections, and code enforcement.

PS 1.6: Adequate Facilities and Personnel. Require that adequate police and fire service facilities and personnel be maintained to provide services at sufficient levels.

PS 1.7: Development Review. Ensure that law enforcement, crime prevention, and fire safety concerns are considered in the review of planning and development proposals in the City.

PS 1.8: 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 1.9: Automatic and Mutual Aid. Participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements with adjacent service providers to ensure efficient and adequate resources, facilities, and support services before, during, and after emergencies.

PS 1.10: Communications. Evaluate the potential to utilize a comprehensive emergency communication system that allows for efficient connection and communications in cases of emergency.

PS 1.11: Emergency Evacuation Routes and Access. Work with LACoFD and the Gardena Police Department to define minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas and to maintain, update, and regularly exercise emergency access, protocols, and evacuation routes to assess their effectiveness under a range of emergency scenarios. If areas with inadequate evacuation routes are identified, develop appropriate mitigation measures, improvement plans, or education programs to ensure safe evacuation.

PS 1.12: Emergency Shelters. Periodically coordinate with emergency shelter providers to ensure that necessary equipment supplies are available in case of emergency.

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PS 1.13: Disaster Recovery. Work with emergency service providers to implement post-disaster recovery plans to return public services to a state of normalcy, address ongoing hazard-specific mitigations, and assist community members in recovering from disasters.

PS 1.14: Public Information. Provide public safety information regarding crime, fire, natural disasters, and emergency preparedness.

PS 1.15: Community Training and Volunteer Programs. Promote community participation in crime prevention, fire safety, and other emergency training and volunteer programs as a valuable asset to the community.

PS 1.16: School Safety. Coordinate with local schools related to their programs and practices regarding emergency preparedness.

PS 1.17: Multi-family Residential Property Management. Promote professional management of multi-family residential buildings.

2. Fire Protection

PS Goal 2 A City that is adequately prepared for fire emergencies.

Due to its geographic location and topography, the City of Gardena is not subject to wildland fires. The following policies are intended to protect against urban fire hazards.

Policies

PS 2.1: Fire Protection Services. Reduce the risk of fire to the community by coordination for emergency preparedness with the LACoFD.

PS 2.2: Building and Fire Codes. Require that all buildings and facilities within Gardena comply with local, state, and federal regulatory standards such as the California Building and Fire Codes as well as other applicable fire safety standards.

PS 2.3: Fire Hazard Identification. Work with LACoFD to maintain an inventory of high-risk fire hazards within the City.

PS 2.4: Urban Fire Risks. Work with LACoFD to maintain an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with multifamily development, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings.

PS. 2.5: Water Supply. Coordinate with applicable water providers and LACoFD to ensure that water supply and pressure for new and existing development is adequate for structural fire suppression.

PS 2.6: Regional Coordination. Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles, neighboring cities, and other fire protection agencies to reduce the potential for fire hazards in Gardena.

PS 2.7: New Development.

- a. Require adequate fire protection services, fire protection plans, and emergency vehicle access for new development.
- b. Locate, design, and construct new development to minimize the risk of structural loss from fires.
- c. Install visible home and street addressing and signage.



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PS 2.8: Hazard Mitigation Plans. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to update emergency, evacuation, and hazard mitigation plans, as necessary.

PS 2.9: Essential Public Facilities and Infrastructure. Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities and infrastructure outside of hazardous areas, including but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, fire stations, emergency command centers, emergency communication facilities, and utilities or identify construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities must be located in hazardous areas.

PS 2.10: Public Education. Work with LACoFD to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, such as evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations.

3. Geologic and Seismic Hazards

PS Goal 3 Protect the community from dangers associated with geologic instability, seismic hazards and other natural hazards.

Southern California is a region of high seismic activity. The City, which is located in the southwestern portion of the region, is subject to risks and hazards associated with potentially destructive earthquakes. Faults that could affect the City include the regional San Andreas and San Jacinto faults and the local Newport-Inglewood, Palos Verdes, Whittier-Elsinore, Sierra Madre-Cucamonga, San Fernando and Raymond Hill fault systems. These regional and local fault systems have the potential to generate the highest site acceleration when considering the maximum expected earthquake for each fault. According to the California Department of Conservation, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is located at the northeast portion of the City in the vicinity of El Segundo Boulevard and Vermont Avenue. This is a known active fault zone delineated by the State Geologist and is considered part of the Newport-Inglewood fault system. The potential impacts related to fault rupture within the City are significant, as this fault is active.

The area located along Artesia Boulevard and the Dominguez Flood Control Channel in the southern portion of the City is located within a liquefaction zone identified in the Seismic Hazard Zones Map prepared by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (Inglewood Quadrangle 1999 and Torrance Quadrangle 1999). Figure PS-2 illustrates the area subject to potential liquefaction and seismic activity. According to the definition of the liquefaction zone, this is an area where historic occurrence of liquefaction, or local geological, geotechnical and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements such that mitigation as defined in Public Resources Code Section 26931 would be required. Liquefaction is caused by a shock or strain from an earthquake and involves the sudden loss of soil strength and cohesion and the temporary transformation of soil into a fluid mass. Therefore, older structures within the liquefaction areas of the City that were not constructed or reinforced to meet earthquake standards are vulnerable to structural damage.

Policies

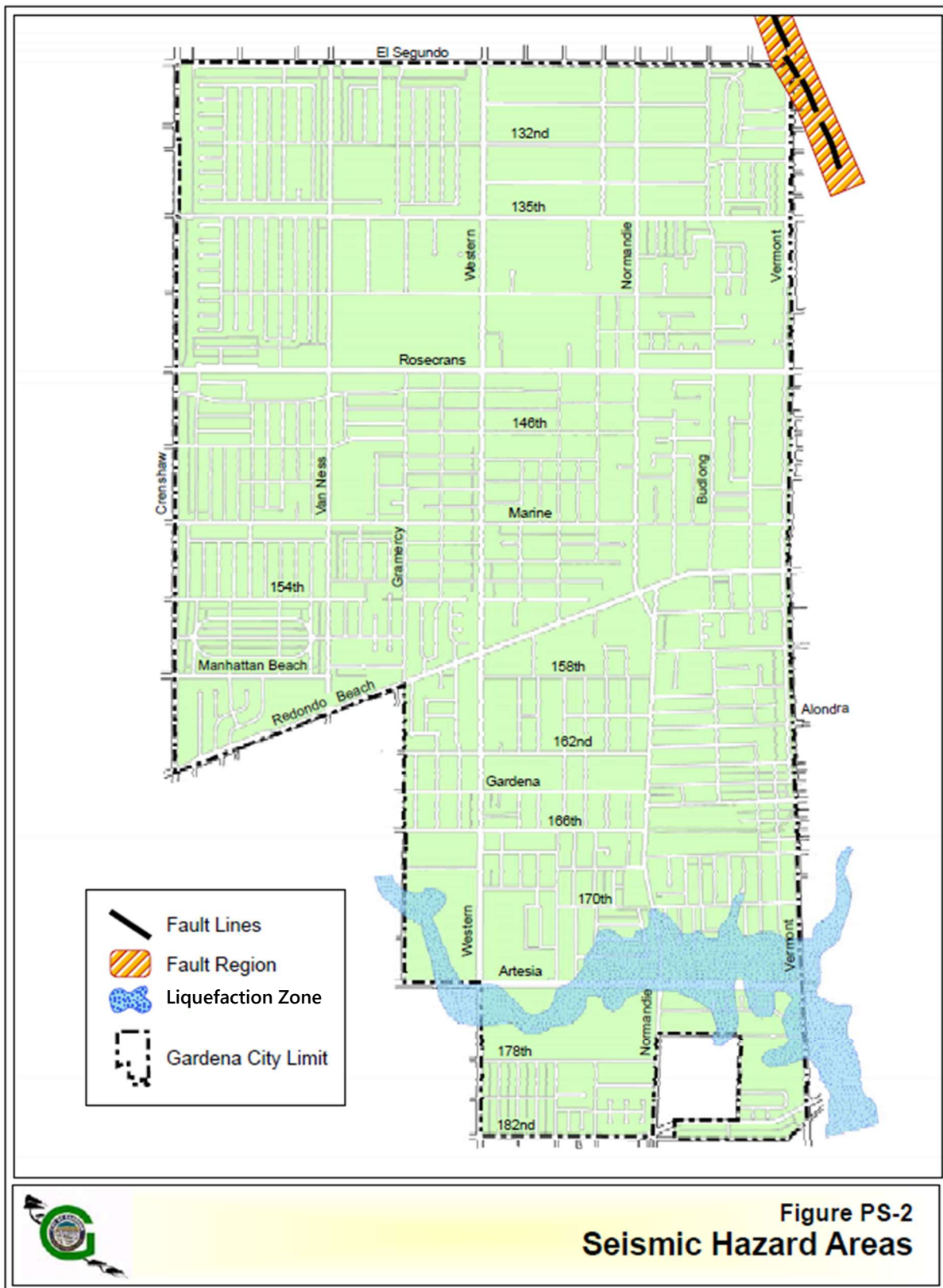
PS 3.1: California Building Code. Require compliance with seismic safety standards in the California Building Code, as adopted and amended.

PS 3.2: Geotechnical Studies. Require geotechnical studies for all new development projects in the City, including those located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or areas subject to liquefaction.

PS 3.3: Seismic Retrofitting. Seek possible funding sources to assist in seismic retrofitting of potentially hazardous structures.

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4. Hazardous Waste

PS Goal 4 Protect public health, safety, and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and other dangers.

According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database and California Water Resources Control Board Geotracker Database, as of 2021 there are 38 hazardous waste sites in the City of Gardena that are currently under evaluation or active cleanup. These sites are generally clustered in the northern portion of the City, which is predominately industrial. More information can be found in Appendix A of the Environmental Justice Element.



Policies

PS 4.1: Sensitive Receptors. Ensure that the storage, processing, and transfer of hazardous materials are not located in areas that could potentially harm residents and other sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, parks, hospitals) and are adequately buffered from environmentally sensitive areas.

PS 4.2: Alternative Sources. Encourage and support innovative technologies that treat and dispose of hazardous waste or use alternative sources to hazardous materials.

PS 4.3: Updated Inventory. Maintain an updated inventory of businesses that handle, store, process, and transport hazardous materials and waste within the City.

PS 4.4: Planning Procedures. Maintain planning procedures for the handling and transportation of hazardous materials and ensure that the procedures are in compliance with applicable county, state and federal regulations.

PS 4.5: Land Uses. Require a conditional use permit for land uses that generate, use, store, or process hazardous materials.

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5. Flood Hazards

PS Goal 5 A community that is protected from flood hazards.

Figure PS-3 shows FEMA 100- and 500-year flood zones in and near the City. The 100-year flood zone has a 1% probability (1 in 100) of flooding in a given year, and the 500-year flood zone has a 0.2% probability (1 in 500) of flooding in a given year. The Dominguez Channel is located in the western and southern portions of the City and is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. The channel flows to the Pacific Ocean through the Port of Los Angeles. A part of the channel that runs through the southern portion of the City is within the 100-year flood zone. A portion of the Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve is within the 500-year flood zone north of W. Artesia Boulevard and west of S. Vermont Avenue.

As an urbanized area, Gardena is vulnerable to flooding due to the large areas of impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete which prevent stormwater from absorbing into the ground and causing runoff. The following policies are intended to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and protect the community from flood hazards.

Policies

PS 5.1: Regulatory Compliance. Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the City's regulations related to flood control are in compliance with federal, state, and local standards.

PS 5.2: FEMA Coordination. Coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that Federal Insurance Rate Maps correctly depict flood hazards in the City.

PS 5.3: Municipal Code. Implement the standards and requirements defined in the Municipal Code to reduce flood hazards and address flood-prone areas within the City.

PS 5.4: California Building Code. Adhere to the latest building, site, and design codes in the California Building Code and FEMA flood control guidelines to avoid or minimize the risk of flooding hazards for new development in the City.

PS 5.5: Stormwater Runoff. Encourage new developments that add substantial amounts of impervious surfaces to integrate low impact development (LID) to reduce stormwater runoff.

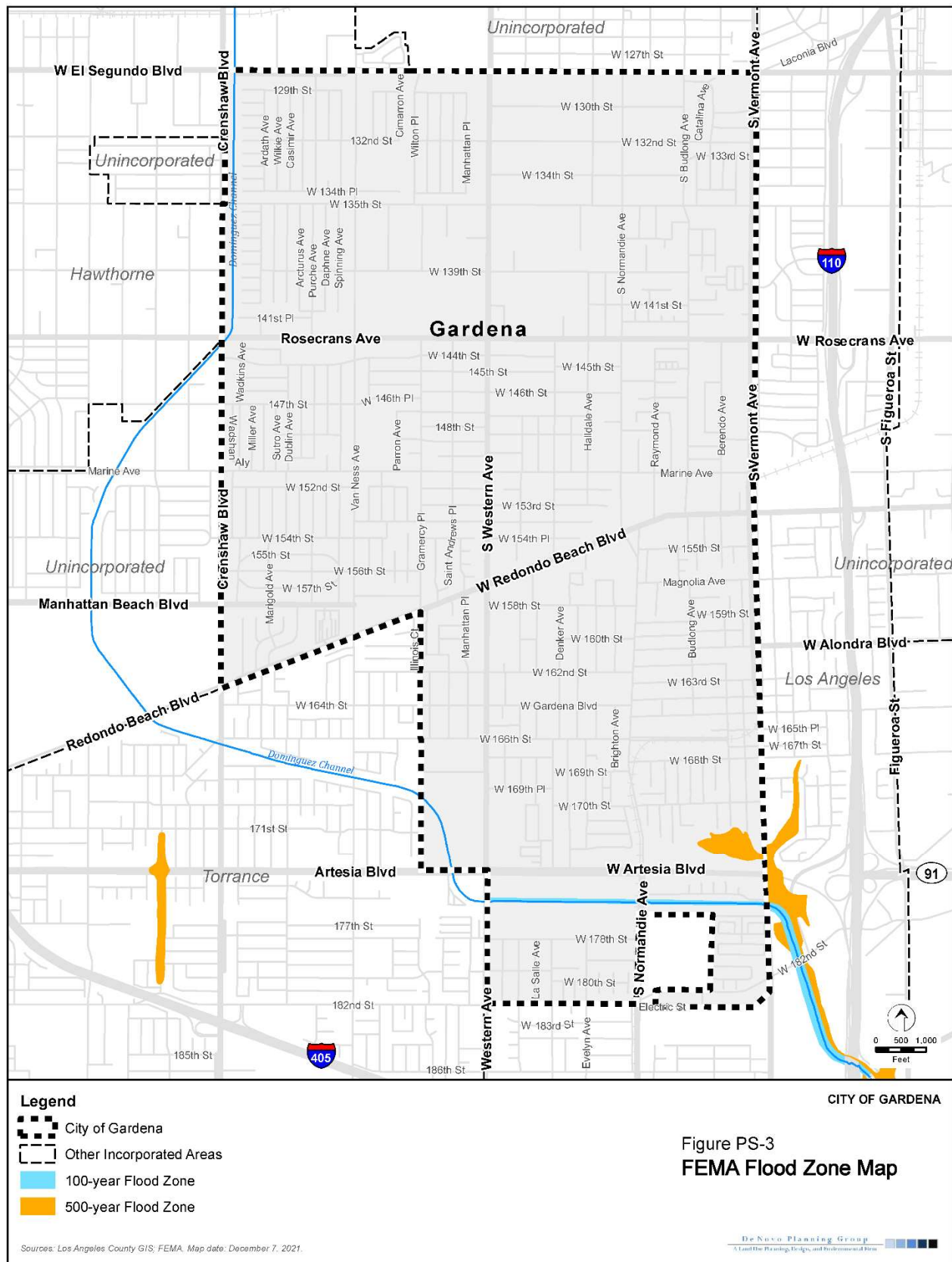
PS 5.6: Regional Coordination. Maintain dialogue with the County of Los Angeles regarding regional flood facilities.

PS 5.7: Changing Conditions. Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Flood Control and Water Conservation Districts.

PS 5.8: Adequate Infrastructure. Maintain and regularly assess the status of local storm drainage infrastructure to ensure that the system is functioning properly.

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6. Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

PS Goal 6 A resilient, sustainable, and equitable community where risks to life, property, the economy, and the environment resulting from climate change, including extreme weather events, are minimized.

As a result of climate change, California is experiencing more intense and frequent heat waves, drought, wildfires, severe storms and extreme weather events. In addition to climate change imperatives, resiliency planning is becoming necessary on its own merits. Senate Bill 379 requires each city in California to update their Safety Element to consider climate impacts facing the state as well as methods to adapt and increase resiliency to climate change at the city level.

The City developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within Gardena. The City's CAP serves as a guide for action by setting GHG emission reduction goals and establishing strategies and policy to achieve desired outcomes over the next 20 years.

The City also prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) in 2021 to inform City policies, plans, programs, and guidance to promote effective and integrated action to safeguard from climate change. Policies are included below to address the key findings of the CVA.

Policies

PS 6.1: Community Preparedness. A well-prepared City that can effectively overcome natural disasters and scarcity of resources due to climate change.

PS 6.2: Collaboration. Collaborate with local, regional, state and/or federal jurisdictions and agencies on climate resiliency and adaptation strategies.

PS 6.3: Water Supply. Promote plans and programs and collaborate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to increase sustainable water sources and protect water infrastructure.

PS 6.4: Vulnerable Populations, Areas, and Infrastructure. Implement necessary actions and programs to improve preparation and response for the most vulnerable community members and areas, and infrastructure.

PS 6.5: 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 or power outage (if the site is supported by a backup generator).

PS 6.6: Energy Supply. Promote plans and programs that increase sustainable energy sources.

PS 6.7: Storms. Provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) at designated public facilities before and during extreme weather events.

PS 6.8: 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 6.9: Greenhouse Gas Reductions. Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions locally by actively supporting regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

PS 6.10: Extreme Heat Vulnerabilities. Encourage new developments, major remodels, and redevelopments address urban heat island issues and reduce urban heat island effects for the proposed project site and adjacent properties in accordance with the City's amendments to the California Building Code set forth in Gardena Municipal Code section 15.04.060.

PS 6.11: Urban Forestry Plan. Minimize damage associated with wind-related hazards and address climate change and urban heat island effects through the development of an urban forestry plan.

PS 6.12: Climate Resiliency Plan. Develop a climate resiliency plan that integrates and builds upon the strategies identified in the General Plan and Climate Action Plan.