

# CHAPTER 6

## SAFETY ELEMENT

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Safety Element is “to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage and the economic and social dislocation resulting from hazards such as fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides and other hazards”.<sup>1</sup> It serves as a guide for the City government and public for understanding the hazards facing the City of Cerritos and how to reduce the impacts of these hazards.

### 2.0 AUTHORITY FOR THE ELEMENT

The State of California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that a General Plan include:

*“...a safety element for the protection of the 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 mudslides and landslides; subsidence, liquefaction and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with §2690) of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wild land and urban fires.”*

Policies and information for this element are contained in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Public Resources Code Section 2621, et seq.), the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (Public Resources Code Section 2690, et seq.), and the Unreinforced Masonry Law (Government Code Section 8875, et seq.).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: State of California, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, 1998 General Plan Guidelines, November 1998, page 76.

## 3.0 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 3.1 CITY PLANS AND PROGRAMS

#### MULTI-HAZARD FUNCTIONAL PLAN

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2, Section 2443, requires compliance with the SEMS to.... "be documented in the areas of planning, training, exercise, and performance." To be in compliance, emergency plans should address five SEMS functions:

- Management;
- Operations;
- Logistics;
- Planning/Intelligence; and
- Finance/Administration.

The plan also addresses mutual aid, operational areas and multi/inter-agency coordination.

Cerritos has prepared a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan for emergency response within the City. The Plan meets the Standardized Emergency Management System requirements of State law. The City also complies with the Los Angeles County Emergency Management Plan.

Emergency response and threats are thoroughly described and outlined in the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan. Key points of the plan include the identification of critical areas in the City that represent both dangers, as well as areas for meeting and staging in an emergency event, communications and emergency evacuation. Parks and other large areas are identified as emergency shelter and meeting locations. An Emergency Operation Center (EOC), fully equipped with emergency communication equipment and cooking, showering and sleeping facilities is provided adjacent to City Hall for seismic and other disaster situations. A citywide Ham operating system has been implemented to maintain communications should other systems fail. Finally, emergency evacuation routes have been identified as shown in Exhibit SAF-1, Emergency Evacuation Routes.

The City is fortunate in having two major freeways that would serve as potential evacuation routes during a disaster. Arterial streets with right-of-way widths of from 80 to 100 feet form a grid pattern throughout the City at one-half mile intervals. The right-of-way width of local streets ranges from 56 to 60 feet. Street widths and clearance around structures are reviewed by City Staff and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department at the time of application for development permits.

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Link to Exhibit SAF -1, *Emergency Evacuation Routes*

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## CITY OF CERRITOS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Cerritos conducts an annual review and update of its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Capital Improvement Program provides the primary planning and budget mechanism for improvement projects throughout the City. The CIP must provide consistency with City policies as set forth in the City's General Plan. Projects within the CIP typically include water, recycled water, sewer, storm drains and public right-of-way improvements.

## CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE

The Cerritos Municipal Code contains all Ordinances adopted by the Cerritos City Council. Many of these chapters provide direct relevance to policies and programs in the Safety Element. Relevant Code sections include:

- Title 6: Health and Sanitation;
- Title 9: Public Peace, Safety and Morals;
- Title 13: Water and Sewers; and
- Title 15: Buildings and Construction.

## 3.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Safety Element specifically addresses both natural and man-made hazards. Natural hazards include flooding, seismic activity, geology and soils and wind. Man-made hazards include fire, crime, hazardous materials and aircraft overflight. This section of the Safety Element addresses the existing conditions of these hazards and the programs currently in place to address them.

### 3.2.1 NATURAL HAZARDS

Geologic, hydrologic, seismic and soil conditions present in the City have been evaluated in order to identify potential seismic hazards, such as surface faulting (ground rupture), ground shaking, liquefaction, ground lurching, differential compaction, ground cracking and seismically induced landslides. These data were used to evaluate potential seismic hazards to existing public and private facilities, and future land development.

#### 3.2.1.1 Geology

Cerritos lies in the northeastern portion of the coastal plain, where sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the subsurface attain great thicknesses. This portion of the plain is immediately underlain by a sequence of alluvial deposits about 1,000 feet in thickness, consisting predominantly of marine

and non-marine sand and silt. Newer alluvial deposits exist along the San Gabriel River. According to the Geologic Map of California, Long Beach Sheet, 1978, the City of Cerritos is underlain by alluvium<sup>2</sup>, Qal, which stands for alluvium deposited in the Quaternary period.

Groundwater-producing zones (aquifers) lie at various depths below the ground surface. The highest historical depth for groundwater in Cerritos ranges from 20 to 100 feet. Perched water is present within several feet of the surface in many areas of the City, giving indication that hazards related to liquefaction effects (ground failure) constitute a primary seismic concern throughout the City limits. Refer to Exhibit SAF -2, *Geologic Conditions*.

### 3.2.1.2 Seismic Hazards

The following section describes seismic hazards present in the City of Cerritos including earthquake faults, surface rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, hazardous buildings and seismic response.

#### Earthquake Faults

Active faults, structural zones and historically destructive earthquakes are characteristic of Southern California. The San Andreas Fault is 50 miles to the northeast of Cerritos. Northwest trending faults lie to the northeast and southwest of the City, but there are no identified Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City limits. The closest fault to Cerritos is the projected trace of the buried Norwalk Fault, which lies approximately one mile to the north. A map illustrating the location of faults in Southern California is shown in Exhibit SAF-3, *Regional Fault Map*.

An earthquake along the San Andreas fault zone could affect most of Southern California, and an earthquake on the Newport-Inglewood fault zone could affect the entire Los Angeles Basin. Earthquakes on other active faults are likely to have more localized effects. Geology, soils and groundwater conditions are similar throughout Cerritos, so that no firm geographical distinction can be made as to earthquake effects in different parts of the City. The level of seismicity in Cerritos, both as to maximum credible earthquake intensity and likely earthquake occurrences, is considered to be approximately the same as for the Los Angeles Basin.

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<sup>2</sup> Alluvium: sediments deposited by running water of streams and rivers. It may occur on terraces well above present streams, on the present flood plains or deltas, or as a fan at the base of a slope. Source: Glossary of Soil Science Terms, Soil Science Society of America, [www.soils.org/sssagloss](http://www.soils.org/sssagloss).

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[Link to Exhibit SAF-2, \*Geologic Conditions\*](#)

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Link to Exhibit SAF -3, *Regional Fault Map*  
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**Newport-Inglewood Structural Zone.** The Newport-Inglewood Structural Zone consists of northwesterly trending folded hills and echelon faults extending over 40 miles from the Santa Monica Mountains to Newport Beach where it projects offshore for an unknown distance. This zone is seismically active with numerous recorded earthquakes. The largest and most completely documented was the Long Beach earthquake of 1933 (6.3M), which resulted in strong shaking throughout the Cerritos area and Southern California. Fault segments of this structural zone include:

- Charnock Fault;
- Overland Avenue Fault;
- Inglewood Fault;
- Portrero Fault;
- Avalon-Compton Fault;
- Cherry Hill Fault; and
- Seal Beach Fault.

**Whittier-Elsinore Fault.** The Whittier fault extends over 20 miles from the Whittier Narrows near Whittier, southeasterly to the Santa Ana River where it merges with the southeasterly trending Elsinore fault. Collectively, these two faults combined with smaller faults are known as the Whittier-Elsinore fault zone. No major or moderate size earthquakes have occurred along the Whittier fault in historic time; however, microseismic data show clustering of events along its trace demonstrates that it is seismically active. On October 1, 1987, an earthquake seriously impacted the Whittier area, but did not occur on the Whittier fault. This 5.9 magnitude earthquake occurred along a previously unidentified fault located in Los Angeles. The fault has since been named the Elysian Hills fault.

**Norwalk Fault.** The Norwalk fault is approximately 16 miles long and is located generally to the north of Cerritos. Seismic activity has occurred along this fault and may have been the cause of a recent 4.7 magnitude earthquake.

**Elysian Park Fault.** The Elysian Park Fault, situated in the Montebello and Monterey Park areas, is located approximately 15 miles north of the City. This fault was the origin of the 5.9 magnitude Whittier Narrows earthquake.

### **Liquefaction Hazards**

The entire City is in a liquefaction hazard zone according to the *Seismic Hazard Evaluations of the Los Alamitos 7.5 Minute Quadrangle* (March 1999) prepared by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (refer to Exhibit SAF-4, Potential Liquefaction Areas). These reports and maps are prepared by the State and updated regularly as new information comes available. The City receives these maps as they are updated, which are available for review at Cerritos City Hall.

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[Link to Exhibit SAF -4, \*Potential Liquefaction Areas\*](#)

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Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking or other events. Liquefaction occurs in saturated soils, which are soils in which the space between individual soil particles is completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. Prior to an earthquake, the water pressure is relatively low. However, earthquake shaking can cause the water pressure to increase to the point where the soil particles can readily move with respect to each other. Because liquefaction only occurs in saturated soil, its effects are most commonly observed in low-lying areas. These features indicate that hazards related to liquefaction effects (ground failure) constitute a primary seismic concern throughout the City.

### Landslide Hazards

According to the Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology's report, *Seismic Hazard Evaluations of the Los Alamitos 7.5 Minute Quadrangle (March 1999)*, the City of Cerritos does not have the potential for landslides.

### Structure Failure

Cerritos is fortunate that most of its buildings have been built under recent building codes and design criteria. In fact, a substantial amount of construction has occurred in Cerritos under design standards that take into account some of the lessons of the 1971 San Fernando earthquake.

### Seismic Response

Because most of the structures and infrastructure in Cerritos have recently been built under modern building codes, it is possible to survive the maximum expected earthquake with relatively moderate losses. Possible geologic effects of a likely major earthquake on Cerritos include:

- Rupture of the ground surface associated directly with movement on geologic faults (not likely to occur within the City).
- Ground failure due to liquefaction (a momentary quick condition, similar to quicksand) could occur in Cerritos wherever the right combination of perched water and low density, sandy material exists. Liquefaction conditions may occur at any location within the City.
- Ground shaking with moderate to high lateral accelerations would be the primary seismic effect in the City.

- In general, complete collapse of buildings is not likely to occur and building damage is likely to be only moderate. However, partial to total collapse could occur among the very few pre-1933 buildings still existing, and partial collapse of some tilt-up and concrete block buildings built prior to March 1972 must be counted as a possibility, based on the evidence of the San Fernando earthquake. The majority of construction has been under modern building codes. Where current state-of-the-art seismic evaluations can enter into all future development, and where disaster preparedness is being maintained, it is possible to survive the maximum expected earthquake with relatively moderate losses.

Possible impacts to the City from a major seismic event include:

- Injuries and loss of life;
- Economic losses;
- Property damage;
- Economic disruption – loss of jobs, loss of productive time, interference with trade, transportation, communication and other utilities;
- Social disruption;
- Housing dislocation;
- Interference with community activities and services;
- Emergency welfare requirements – shelter, food, communications, financial assistance; or
- Psychological trauma – especially among young children.

However, the full extent of these impacts will be influenced by many factors.

### 3.2.1.3 Flooding

According to Federal Guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the built areas of the City are in Flood Zone C, meaning that the area has a moderate or minimal hazard of flooding. FEMA maps showing areas that require flood insurance are maintained at City Hall.

Two flood channels run through the City: the San Gabriel River Channel and Coyote Creek Wash. Both channels are concrete-lined channels designated as floodways to serve the region. Access to these channels is limited at all times for public safety.

### 3.2.1.4 Dam Inundation

Dam inundation is flooding that occurs due to structural failure of a dam. Failure of a dam may be caused by seismic activity, severe flooding that

causes water to exceed the capacity of the dam or landslides that flow into a reservoir displacing the water.

The City of Cerritos faces a potential hazard from dam inundation resulting from the failure of either of two dams: Whittier Narrows Dam and Prado Dam. It is considered unlikely that either dam would fail during a catastrophic event.<sup>3</sup> The SEMS Multi-Hazard Functional Plan prepared by the City of Cerritos outlines the City's response for dam failure.

**Whittier Narrows Dam.** The Whittier Narrows Dam is owned and operated by the Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers. It is located in Los Angeles County on the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers approximately three miles south of the City of El Monte, three miles northwest of the City of Whittier, and approximately 7.5 miles downstream of the Santa Fe flood control channel. The City of Cerritos is approximately 11 miles downstream of the Dam. It is normally empty, except during or immediately after periods of significant runoff.

Should a breach occur, the water would flow southerly toward the City of Long Beach. All of Cerritos, excluding the area north of the SR-91 freeway and east of Bloomfield Avenue, is within the dam's floodplain/inundation path. The affected area is comprised of commercial, industrial, educational and residential uses. Exhibit SAF-5, *Dam Inundation Areas*, shows the area that would be affected by a dam failure. If a breach occurred, the flood wave would reach the City in approximately 15 hours and would be about four feet deep.

**Prado Dam.** The Prado Dam is owned and operated by the Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers. It is located south of the City of Corona on the Santa Ana River adjacent to State Route 91 (Riverside Freeway) in Riverside County. The City of Cerritos is about 27 miles downstream of the Dam. It is normally empty, except during or immediately after periods of significant runoff.

Should a breach occur, the water would flow south along the Santa Ana River inundating most of Orange County. A small portion of Los Angeles County would be affected. In Cerritos, the water would first affect the northeastern area and then travel southwesterly through the City. Commercial, industrial, educational and residential uses would be affected by the inundation. Exhibit SAF-5, *Dam Inundation Areas*, shows the areas that would be affected by a dam failure. If a breach occurred, the flood wave would reach the City in approximately 8½ hours and would be about seven feet deep.

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<sup>3</sup> City of Cerritos, *SEMS Multi-Hazard Functional Plan*, page 60, 1998.

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[Link to Exhibit SAF-5, \*Dam Inundation Areas\*](#)

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## 3.2.2 MAN-MADE HAZARDS

### 3.2.2.1 Hazardous and Toxic Materials

Hazardous materials are 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. Local governments have little control over the production and use of these materials because they are part of our society. Even household wastes can be hazardous materials.

Emergency response plans are in place with the City per the SEMS Multi-Hazard Functional Plan in the case that a hazardous or toxic materials event occurs. In addition, the County of Los Angeles Fire Department provides emergency response to hazardous materials. The County provides two engines, one hazardous materials task force, one squad and a battalion chief that directly respond to hazardous materials incidents.

#### Transport of Hazardous Materials

In Cerritos, a hazardous chemical release would most likely occur as a result of either transportation of chemicals by railroad or truck, use of chemicals at a business or illegal dumping of chemical waste. Interstates 5 and 605 (I-5 and I-605) and the SR-91 freeway are heavily traveled by trucks and thus, represent the most likely location of a release.

**Fixed Facility.** The second most likely threat from hazardous materials comes from the potential of an accidental spill and/or incident at one of the estimated 119 known facilities that manufacture, warehouse and process toxic chemicals and/or generate hazardous waste materials within or next to the City. This potential also exists at former facilities, such as abandoned service stations or industrial businesses. The threat is significantly lessened though, because of required plan contingency and evacuation plans.

**Clandestine Dumping.** Clandestine dumping of hazardous materials is a criminal act and could pose a threat. The City anticipates that there will be an increase in dumping as costs to legally dump materials at designation hazardous waste disposal sites increases, but cannot anticipate if or when such an act would occur.

**Pipelines.** Nine underground pipelines cross through the City of Cerritos. Exhibit SAF-6, *Potentially Hazardous Pipelines*, illustrates the locations of each of these facilities. Pipelines represent a hazard due to the contents of the pipelines and the potential for them to rupture causing chemical leaks, explosions or fires.

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Link to Exhibit SAF -6, *Potentially Hazardous Pipelines*

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**Household Hazardous Waste.** Household hazardous waste poses a risk to the City. Cerritos participates in the Los Angeles County sponsored monthly Household Hazardous Waste Roundups for County residents.

### 3.3 CRIME, FIRE AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Crime and fire hazards can result in injury and even death and in property damage. Medical emergencies require quick and effective response. The fire and police departments are prepared to service most emergencies. Cerritos also supports many programs to provide for citizen education and organization that can do the most to prevent panic, preserve order and alleviate hardships in case of a major disaster.

#### 3.3.1 FIRE PROTECTION

The City of Cerritos addresses fire protection through contracted services by the Los Angeles County Fire Protection District, land use regulations and building and fire codes. Regulations, standards and codes consider the degree of fire risk associated with various occupancies and land uses.

##### Fire Protection Services

The Los Angeles County Fire Protection District contracts with the City of Cerritos to provide fire and emergency response to the City. Four fire stations provide services to the City of Cerritos (refer to Table SAF-1, Fire Stations Serving Cerritos and Exhibit SAF-7, Fire Stations In Cerritos).

In addition to fire-fighting, the Fire Protection District is responsible for inspection of structures and properties with regard to prevention of fires and for the enforcement of applicable fire-related ordinances of the City of Cerritos and the State of California. The Fire Protection District also investigates, gathers and preserves evidence, educates the public on fire prevention, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and first aid. The Fire Protection District also provides temporary emergency paramedical care for life-threatening or traumatic injuries.

**Fire District Response Times.** The Los Angeles County Fire Protection District has a standard average response time of four minutes. Although no officially adopted standards for response are in effect, the Fire Protection District has identified no deficiencies in their ability to respond within the four minute response window.

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Link to Exhibit SAF-7  
Fire Stations In Cerritos

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Table SAF-1  
Fire Stations Serving Cerritos

Station	Number of Personnel	Equipment
Station No. 30 19030 S. Pioneer Boulevard	27	6 Captains 6 Firefighter Specialists 15 Firefighters (9 Paramedics) One Engine, One Tiller Quint One Paramedic Squad
Station No. 35 13717 E. Artesia Boulevard	9	3 Captains 3 Firefighter Specialists 3 Firefighters One Engine
Station No. 34 <sup>(1)</sup> 21207 S. Norwalk Boulevard (serves portion of Cerritos)	9	3 Captains 3 Firefighter Specialists 3 Firefighters One Engine
Station No. 115 <sup>(2)</sup> 11317 Alondra Boulevard (serves portion of Cerritos)		3 Captains 3 Engineers 6 Firefighters One Engine
Source: Los Angeles County Fire Protection District, July 2001. (1) Station No. 34 is located in the City of Hawaiian Gardens. (2) Station No. 115 is located in the City of Norwalk.		

**Medical.** Mobile medical response in Cerritos is provided by Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) units at Fire Station 35 and by paramedic unit at Station 30. An EMT unit responds quickly, but is not equipped with an ambulance. Only the paramedic units have an ambulance. A variety of hospitals and trauma centers are utilized by Cerritos fire personnel, depending on the type and severity of injury.

**Annual Fire Safety Inspections.** The Los Angeles County Fire Protection District provides annual safety review of all occupancies in the City except single-family dwellings. Inspections are conducted by Los Angeles County Fire Protection District Personnel.

### 3.3.2 POLICE PROTECTION

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center provides law enforcement services to Cerritos. The state-of-the-art Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center was opened in 1997 to provide a full range of public safety services for Cerritos residents, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The Station serves as headquarters for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department personnel serving Cerritos and the City's Community Safety Division. Emergency 911 dispatching for the City is also located at this facility.

Located adjacent to Cerritos City Hall, the public entrance to the building is on the top floor of the facility. The City's Community Safety Division is located on this floor, along with the Sheriff's service counter, a communications center and meeting rooms.

The second floor contains Sheriff's Department operations, including a training/briefing room, booking and custody areas, holding cells and lockers. Some 14,000 square feet of secured parking for Sheriff's personnel is also located on this level. The bottom floor consists of parking for City staff.

The Sheriff's Department employs approximately 59 Sworn and 24 non-sworn personnel, based at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center. Among the services offered to Cerritos residents and business owners are:

- Community Programs (DARE, Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Police Academy)
- Home and Business Security Inspections
- Crime Prevention Training
- Vacation Security Checks
- Outreach to At-Risk Youth
- Police Reports
- Fingerprinting for Children and Adults

In order to continue to provide the highest quality service, the Sheriff's Department documents response times. The following table (Table SAF-2, Sheriff's Department Response Times) illustrates the Department's response times based on the type of call.

**Table SAF-2  
Sheriff's Department Response Times**

Call Type	2000 Average Response Time	Target Response Time
Routine	20.4 Minutes	30.0 Minutes
Priority	8.0 Minutes	8.0 Minutes
Emergency	4.2 Minutes	4.5 Minutes

Source: Sheriff's Department, Cerritos Station Operations, July 2001.

### Animal Control

The Cerritos Sheriff's Community Safety Center is under contract with Long Beach Animal Control for a variety of services. Animal Control is available

on a 24-hour emergency call basis to pick up stray, injured or dead animals.

### 3.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION SERVICES

The Community Safety Division counter is staffed from 7:00 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and from 7:00 p.m. to midnight Saturday and Sunday, and provides the following services:

- Administration of Sheriff's contract and services;
- Liaison to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department;
- Overnight parking permits and parking enforcement;
- Personal property engraving devices on loan;
- Neighborhood Watch program;
- Emergency preparedness information;
- Animal control information, including dog licenses; and
- School crossing guards.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Cerritos residents contribute to the safety of the community by serving as volunteers at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center. Volunteers perform a number of non-hazardous duties within the facility, including filing reports, entering computer data, providing services at the front counter and assisting Station personnel with a variety of public-safety related tasks. Additional volunteer opportunities with the Community Safety Division include Cerritos Volunteers on Patrol, Cerritos Sheriff's Explorer Program and the Sheriff's Reserve Program.

#### Cerritos Volunteers on Patrol

Volunteers on Patrol is a program that allows community members to become trained volunteers for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Cerritos benefits from Volunteers on Patrol participants as they contribute their time and skills to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station by performing a variety of tasks, including:

- Residential vacation checks;
- Monitoring areas with graffiti;
- Checking on the welfare of shut-ins;
- Security checks of parks and schools; and
- Conducting business watches.

The law enforcement service provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is enhanced by the efforts of Volunteers on Patrol. Volunteers

provide valuable information to the Cerritos deputies based on their observations and interaction with the community.

### **Cerritos Sheriff's Explorer Program**

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station Law Enforcement Explorer Program provides a means by which young men and women can determine, through actual experience, if they would like to pursue a career in law enforcement as adults.

### **Sheriff's Reserve Program**

The Reserve Company has recently been established with nine deputies assisting the community by performing law enforcement duties, including responding to calls, crime prevention and investigation, traffic control and foreign language translation for victims and witnesses of crimes.

Volunteer application forms are available in the Community Safety Division at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station. All applicants undergo a routine limited background investigation, including a fingerprint search. Volunteers must be at least 18 and in reasonably good health.

## **3.5    AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHT**

While the City of Cerritos is not within the direct flight paths of any particular airport, aircraft fly over the City throughout the day and night because of the high number of airports in the region. Because of the large number of flights over the City, there is the risk of an air disaster resulting from a variety of aircraft situations. The major airports in the area include: Los Angeles International Airport, Long Beach Airport, John Wayne Airport, Ontario Airport and Burbank Airport. There are also a number of smaller private and military airports in the region that could affect the City.

The City of Cerritos Multi-Hazard Functional Plan provides the policies and procedures addressing emergency response to air disasters.

Aircraft flying over Cerritos are located in the Los Angeles Terminal Control Area (TCA). The TCA is airspace restricted to large, commercial airliners. Each TCA has an established maximum and minimum altitude in which a large aircraft must travel. Smaller aircraft desiring to transit the TCA may do so by obtaining Air Traffic Control clearance. The aircraft may then proceed to transit when traffic conditions permit. Aircraft departing from other than LAX, whose route of flight would penetrate the TCA, are required to give this information to Air Traffic Control on appropriate frequencies. Pilots operating small aircraft often rely on landmarks, rather than charts, to indicate their locations. If a pilot is unfamiliar with the geographical

landmarks within the Southern California Basin, he/she could inadvertently enter the restricted TCA airspace. This misunderstanding could result in a mid-air collision.

## 4.0 PLANNING FACTORS, GOALS AND POLICIES

### FLOODING

#### Planning Factor

Flooding has the potential to significantly affect the safety of Cerritos residents and severely impact the economic integrity of the City. Therefore, it is important to ensure that facilities and programs are maintained and operable to prevent excessive flood damage.

**Goal**      SAF-1      *Protect Cerritos residents from potential flood hazards, including dam inundation.*

**Policies**    SAF-1.1    Manage development activity so that flooding damage will be avoided.

SAF-1.2    Minimize potential flood damage through the identification of necessary storm drain improvements.

SAF-1.3    Provide an annual review of the Standardized Emergency Management System Multi-Hazard Functional Plan to ensure evacuation routes are sufficient in the event of flooding.

SAF-1.4    Continue the maintenance of flood control facilities within Cerritos to ensure their efficient operation.

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### SEISMIC SAFETY

#### Planning Factor

The threat of earthquakes is a concern to all California residents. The City's location in an active seismic region underlies the importance of seismic safety. Cerritos seeks to protect its residents from the effects of seismic activity to reduce the potential for loss of life, injuries and property damage. Employing strategies and specific actions toward reducing this potential is of the utmost concern to the City of Cerritos.

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| <b>Goal</b>     | SAF-2   | <i>Protect Cerritos residents from potential harm due to a seismic event.</i>  |
| <b>Policies</b> | SAF-2.1 | Provide instructional materials, classes and other educational resources to ensure residents and the day-time population are knowledgeable of the risks and methods to reduce such risks, as well as involve the residents and community groups in the City's annual emergency preparedness event. |
|                 | SAF-2.2 | Ensure building code standards are enforced and maintained so that that new development shall be located, designed and operated to reduce the effects of a seismic event.  |
|                 | SAF-2.3 | Identify and correct potential areas of deficiencies in the level of safety present in existing structures and facilities.   |

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## TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### Planning Factor

**Cerritos is aware hazardous waste is produced as the by-product of a variety of industrial activities and is present in many common household products. The potential threat to the community by these hazards must be addressed through precautionary actions and contingency plans.**

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|-----------------|---------|--|
| <b>Goal</b>     | SAF-3   | <i>Minimize the threat of life and property associated with the transport, use, storage and disposal of toxic and/or hazardous materials.</i>                                |
| <b>Policies</b> | SAF-3.1 | Encourage the proper disposal of household hazardous waste through the dissemination of information through educational and outreach activities.                             |
|                 | SAF-3.2 | Monitor facilities or businesses that utilize, store or handle hazardous materials to ensure practices and procedures will reduce the threat of damage to life and property. |
|                 | SAF-3.3 | Enforce Federal, State, and local laws and regulations relating to the use, storage, transport and   |

clean-up of toxic, explosive and other hazardous materials to prevent unauthorized discharges.

SAF-3.4 Identify specific routes, both street and railroad systems, for the safe transport of hazardous materials in and through the City.

SAF-3.5 Continue to support regional and State efforts in controlling point and non-point sources of water pollution.



**HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**Planning Factor**

The City of Cerritos understands that hazardous materials are present in many commercial, industrial and residential activities. These materials do pose a threat to residents within the City, but when the appropriate precautions are administered regarding their handling, use and/or transportation, this threat can be greatly reduced.

**Goal**      SAF-4      *Eliminate or significantly reduce the impacts associated with the creation, handling, storage, transport and disposal of hazardous materials.*

**Policies**      SAF-4.1      Continue to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in organizing regular collection of household hazardous waste.

SAF-4.2      Provide educational and outreach materials to Cerritos residents and businesses that address hazardous materials.

SAF-4.3      Continuously monitor facilities that utilize, handle or store hazardous materials.

SAF-4.4      Provide educational materials for residents regarding used oil collection and disposal.

SAF-4.5      Enforce federal, State and local laws and regulations relating to the use, storage and transportation of toxic, explosive and other hazardous materials to prevent unauthorized discharges.



## PIPELINES

### Planning Factor

Underground pipelines and utilities pose a threat to residents of Cerritos. The transport of potentially hazardous materials through the network of underground pipelines increases the likelihood of an emergency event. Therefore, the City of Cerritos considers the implementation of a variety of safety controls a critical component to ensure the safe operation and maintenance of pipeline facilities.

- |          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| Goal     | SAF-5   | <i>Reduce the potential for injury and property damage associated with the failure, damage or rupture of underground pipelines.</i>   |
| Policies | SAF-5.1 | Ensure that disaster response agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Fire Protection District have access to data related to pipeline routing, locations, depth and shut-off information. |
|          | SAF-5.2 | Ensure the accuracy of existing as-built plans indicating pipeline locations.   |
|          | SAF-5.3 | Utilize GIS as a tool to accurately record the location of all potential underground pipeline hazards.  |
|          | SAF-5.4 | Coordinate with agencies operating underground lines to determine potential threats of rupture.   |
|          | SAF-5.5 | Require all underground pipeline and related structures be designed, constructed and maintained to resist stress caused by lateral forces during periods of seismic activity.               |
|          | SAF-5.6 | Coordinate the abandonment and/or removal of outdated and unused pipelines with required regulations.   |

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## POLICE PROTECTION

### Planning Factor

Cerritos is perceived as a safe community. Cerritos residents enjoy this sense of safety and value it as an important quality of life indicator.

Therefore, employing methods and strategies to maintain the sense of safety is a primary goal of the City of Cerritos.

**Goal**      SAF-6      *Maintain the high-quality of services provided by the Sheriff's Department.*

**Policies**      SAF-6.1      Ensure services provided by the Sheriff's Department are not impacted by development, traffic congestion and other growth-related issues.

SAF-6.2      Utilize the development review process for new projects to provide a review of and comment on potential impacts to the provision of emergency services.

SAF-6.3      Provide periodic reviews of response times to ensure emergency response reflects department standards.

SAF-6.4      Ensure proper protection and visibility of law enforcement at major commercial centers in the City.

**Goal**      SAF-7      *Maintain and expand public outreach activities related to crime prevention and public safety.*

**Policies**      SAF-7.1      Continue to maintain and expand services offered at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center.

SAF-7.2      Focus crime prevention educational activities towards Cerritos' youth population.

SAF-7.3      Continue to promote citizen involvement in crime prevention and public safety through programs, education and other methods.

SAF-7.4      Support cooperative arrangements between the Sheriff's department and local organizations, such as schools, business organizations and other appropriate groups.



## FIRE PROTECTION

### Planning Factor

Protecting the health, safety and welfare of Cerritos residents is the City's highest priority. High-quality fire protection services contributes to the overall protection of health, safety and welfare.

**Goal** SAF-8 *Protect Cerritos residents, employees and visitors from the threat of urban fires.*

**Policies** SAF-8.1 Ensure fire response times meet or exceed established County of Los Angeles standards.

SAF-8.2 Ensure the adequacy of fire suppression equipment.

SAF-8.3 Ensure City building codes and standards related to the use and maintenance of building materials meet or exceed established state standards related to the reduction of fire risk.

SAF-8.4 Continue Los Angeles County Fire Protection District review of development proposals to determine fire prevention and fire operational needs are met prior to construction.

SAF-8.5 Provide annual inspections of manufacturing, industrial commercial, public facilities and non-residential facilities to ensure fire prevention devices and practices meet or exceed state standards.

SAF-8.6 Continue to utilize mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions to ensure an adequate level of fire protection services.

SAF-8.7 Continue to maintain adequate water pressure throughout the City and provide adequate water storage to meet peak fire demand.



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

### Planning Factor

The City of Cerritos values the life and property of its residents. The appropriate level of preparedness in the event of an emergency, therefore, is critical in protecting life and property within the City.

**Goal**      SAF-9      *Seek to attain the minimum loss of life, injury and property damage in the event of an emergency.*

**Policies**    SAF-9.1    Implement the strategies and plans in the City's Multi-Hazard Functional Plan.

SAF-9.2    Prepare for and support multi-jurisdictional emergency response.

SAF-9.3    Continue to work cooperatively with adjacent jurisdictions and regional agencies to address emergency preparedness.

SAF-9.4    Ensure compliance with the Los Angeles County Emergency Management Plan.

SAF-9.5    Coordinate with Regional, State and Federal Agencies to prepare for and respond to potential terrorism threats.

SAF-9.6    Ensure the community is aware of home-based emergency preparedness procedures.



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